

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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Annual Directors' Dinner Honors Board Members



John Pisturino, Ranch Manager for Rancho Santa Maria (L) was honored for being the only board member with perfect attendance this year. Not only was John's attendance perfect this year, it is the sixth year in a row. He was also presented with a Service Appreciation Award as John's term expires this year. John is pictured here with director Steve Auten, Ranch Operations Manager for Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch (C) and director and ranch owner, Frank Estrada (R)

The Annual Directors' Dinner/Meeting was held on November 5, 2015 at Best Western Seacliff Inn in Aptos. The evening's theme was "western" and guests dined on a delicious Texas BBQ dinner.

President David Van Lennep highlighted the 2014/2015 year. He spoke of our work within the county to ensure growth is planned in a responsible way not to impact ongoing farming operations adjacent to developments and a local effort to designate part of the Coast Dairies property as a national monument by bypassing Congress, which is of great concern to us. He also spoke of our leadership in bringing local law enforcement agencies together to help reduce rural crime in areas of our North County.

President Van Lennep also talked about the awards the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau will be receiving from the California Farm Bureau Federation at its 97th Annual Meeting. The county was selected "County of the Year" and will also receive five County Activities of Excellence Awards. Plus, we have been named as one of four finalists for the Innovator Award for our work with the Down to Earth Women Luncheon.

A thank you went out to all of those who sponsor, attend and support all of our special events which were very successful this year. They not only raise funds for the organization but are a great tool to make the public aware about agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCCFB.COM



President's Message

DAVID VAN LENEP, PRESIDENT

National Treasure or Political Homage

As the push to designate the 5,800 acre former Coast Dairies properties moves forward, North Coast residents are still waiting for answers. A recent meeting with Congressional Representatives did little to address the questions raised by local residents about the impacts that a National Monument designation will likely bring, concisely coined "Trash, Traffic and Trauma".

A curious part of this issue is the considerable effort put forth to designate this piece of land now owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), currently possessing significant protections, as a National Monument. This designation, according to proponents, may or may not provide a few more dollars for management, staff and stewardship. It will, most certainly, add stressors to the already underserved North Coast in terms of traffic, law enforcement and public safety needs, and environmental impacts in various forms. Currently our local BLM office, based in Hollister, has 34 employees on staff. This staff covers nearly 278,000 acres and eight counties. That works out to about 8,400 acres per staff person. Presumably some of those 34 are administrative, which unbalances the equation further when considering increased public safety needs alone.

County Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution to help ensure that any Monument

designation would include adequate staff resources, infrastructure support and specific measures to address resident's concerns. All of this was incorporated into the legislation carried by Congresswoman Eshoo. This legislation seems destined to fail on the floor for lack of support, usually the end of the story.

All the while, a parallel track was being pursued. This option would allow the President to utilize the Antiquities Act to designate the area as a National Monument at the stroke of a pen. No conditions, no provisions and no help for the locals. The County and surrounding neighbors will bear

President's Message - Continued on Page 9

"This designation, according to proponents, may or may not provide a few more dollars for management, staff and stewardship. It will, most certainly, add stressors to the already underserved North Coast in terms of traffic, law enforcement and public safety needs, and environmental impacts in various forms. ."

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ASK LAURA

Mark Bolda, County Director and Farm Advisor, Strawberries & Caneberries, UCCE

Broad Mites

Q. Can you tell me a little bit more about broad mite? I know it has been in Southern California for some time, but I've been hearing it's up here now also.

A. You have been hearing correctly, and yes we have confirmed finds of broad mite on the Central Coast of California. I have received samples of them here at my office and have been told of more finds out in the field.

Broad mites, *Polyphagotarsonemus latus*, are very small mites that one generally will find on the newer leaves of blackberry (in fact, I've heard of them only on primocane blackberries, and have not seen them on raspberries nor strawberries) late in the season. This corresponds with initial finds of these mites on primocane blackberries in Arkansas and the American Southwest several years ago.

The colonization of these mites on the leaves gives them a rumpled appearance that some experienced growers might associate with damage from Round Up (glyphosate) herbicide. In severe cases observed

elsewhere, broad mite infestations can lead to aborted flower buds and reduced leaf area.

Broad mites are yellowish in color and the females have a white stripe on the back. The eggs of broad mites are quite distinctive, being translucent, distinctively dimpled and covered in white speckles (see Picture 1 below).

Interestingly and importantly, broad mites are associated with warm humid conditions very much like that found in greenhouses and the weather that we have as a matter of fact been having on the Central Coast until recently. Also, it would not be totally unexpected to have these mites overwinter here, since our winters are rather mild.

Control of broad mites can be difficult. The UC IPM guidelines recommend the use of sulfur or oils to control them in citrus, but these have yet to be tried in blackberries. It is expected that repeated applications will be necessary to bring these under some modicum of control.



Picture 1: Broad mite adult. Note dimpled eggs surrounding the adult.

THE WATER NANNY

Yule Festivities

Whether it is Christmas time or the Holiday season, we are in for a crush of festivities, gatherings and remembrances of Christmases past. Our urban friends seem more focused on red coffee cups this season to notice that much of what we celebrate ties us to our distant agrarian past. If we travel back in time to before there were clocks, when there were just days and seasons, time was marked with festival and religious, even pagan, events. Why so many now? Even back then the days were short, weather cold, and it was best to be near a warm fire.

Yule Log is not a big practice now as the Air Resources Control Board frowns on festival fires, but a big event of yore. Ritual bonfires starting in November marked winter and the New Year. You truly notice the shortness of days if you live in Scandinavia or Scotland, with a latitude best suited for reindeer, long nights, little sun, no farming. The Winter Solstice celebrated the onset of longer days (an early PR spin on it being the shortest day), clearly a time to celebrate by burning a great log to light your humble abode. Even the ancient Persians celebrated *Sadeh* as the beginning of a long winter with bonfire to defeat the spirits of darkness and cold.



Santa Claus traces his heritage way back to St. Nicholas, a 4th century Greek Bishop, who brought gifts to the poor. His festival day was December 6th. His long robes and beard somehow

merged with the Germanic myth of Odin who can still be seen in winter constellations chasing a boar through the cold Yule night sky, later becoming Santa Claus. Martin Luther co-opted St. Nick and moved gift giving into a Christmas tradition on December 25th.

We should all be thankful that seasonal gifting comes with Christian blessings. Our consumer society depends on this ritual exhaustion of family treasury. Here on the Central Coast we have much to be thankful for, not only is it still raining,

the season past was good for growers. We now have another season of faith, that our winter preparations save our fields from erosion and the rivers from flooding.

Right Jolly Old Fellow this season is Congressman Sam Farr. It only seems in the Christmas spirit that his year we honor our Congressman. Seldom would I call him old, but now that he has announced his retirement at age 74 (who knew) it is only good journalism. Sam, like Leon before him, was, and still is, on a first name basis with most of his diverse constituents.

He knew us, and our priorities, which he well represented through 22 years in Congress. Unlike many west coast lawmakers, he flies home almost every weekend, to be with his family and meet with his neighbors. Somehow he managed to be supported by environmentalists from Carmel and farmers in the Pajaro and Salinas Valleys. For all of his many accolades, defense of agriculture should be toward the top. Congressman Farr even made personal appearances on behalf of local farmers before the Regional Water Board to forcefully critique the proposed, now adopted, Ag Waiver in 2011.

Sam Farr has been in office so long that there are pages of his best quotes on the internet. My favorite is: *"To make agriculture sustainable, the grower has got to be able to make a profit."* May you and your families all enjoy Christmas and the seasonal festivities. Be well rested for the New Year, because we have a lot of work to do in 2016.



Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.

...Anonymous



FAVORITE RECIPES

Balsamic-Roasted Brussels Sprouts

Editor's Note: I found this recipe one year after I had come home from Agri-Culture's Progressive Dinner with Brussels sprouts and a family that was not particularly fond of the vegetable. I was determined to change their mind so I went searching for recipes that would do exactly that...and I found it. I made a couple of changes which I will make note of at the end of the recipe, but it is still delicious and goes well with big holiday dinners. The recipe is from Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa. The Brussels sprouts are so fresh and delicious this time of year it is the perfect time to prepare this recipe. Hope you'll try it and enjoy!

Ingredients:

1 1/2 pounds Brussels sprouts, trimmed and cut in half through the core

4 ounces pancetta, 1/4-inch-diced

1/4 cup good olive oil

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon syrupy balsamic vinegar

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place the Brussels sprouts on a sheet pan, including some of the loose leaves, which get crispy when they're roasted. Add the pancetta, olive oil, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper, toss with your hands, and spread out in a single layer. Roast the Brussels sprouts for 20 to 30 minutes, until they're tender and nicely browned and the pancetta is cooked. Toss once during roasting. Remove from the oven, drizzle immediately with the balsamic vinegar, and toss again. Taste for seasonings, and serve hot.

Note: I have used pancetta and I have used bacon. Both are equally good in this recipe. However, both tend to be somewhat salty, so I have cut way back on the salt. I usually add about a 1/2 teaspoon as I can always add more if necessary before serving.

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Through Nationwide's We Stand For You® advocacy efforts, we show farmers and agribusinesses that we support them — and do what's right for the members we serve.

That's why we helped create the Stand Up award program to honor farmers making a difference in their communities — farmers like Matt DeMatteo.

In collaboration with the Nationwide-sponsored "Small Town Big Deal" — a weekly RFD-TV program that celebrates the stories of rural American life — the award was created to highlight the great work being done by farmers across the nation.

Promoted on Small Town Big Deal throughout 2014, community members could nominate Stand Up award recipients online. Of the more than 300 nominations received, DeMatteo's story struck a chord.

For the 23-year-old resident of New Philadelphia, OH, farming was a lifelong dream. After graduating from Ohio State, he returned to the family farm where he works with his brother and volunteers with the local fire department.

After his farming mentor tragically lost his life in a tractor rollover just weeks before harvest, DeMatteo rallied his community in support. He led a tractor tribute and, with the help of other local farmers, harvested the farmer's crops.

"This young man is always doing good things," says his Nationwide Agent Lynette Dauch. "He has become someone that people look up to. The impact of this on the community will never be measured; bringing together family, friends and acquaintances to mourn and share grief is a big task. Matt made it happen. We need more young adults like Matt in this world."

DeMatteo was featured on "Small Town Big Deal" on Nov. 12, where he shared his story and received the Stand Up award. Check the show's website for details about where to watch.

"Partnering with the most-watched show on a network that targets rural audiences and those involved in agriculture allows us to tap into the creativity, innovation and resourcefulness

of rural Americans," says Brad Liggett, agribusiness president for Nationwide. "And highlighting the work of individuals like Matt DeMatteo is just one of the ways we continue to stand for our members and for the entire agricultural community."

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Important Challenge to California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act's Mandatory Mediation and Conciliation Provision To Be Heard by California Supreme Court



An important agricultural labor case is now being briefed for hearing before the California Supreme Court. *Gerawan Farming v Agricultural Labor Relations Board (United Farm Workers of America)* S227243. Gerawan Farming claims the "Mandatory Mediation

and Conciliation" process in California Labor Code §§ 1164-1164.13 (1) violates the equal protection clauses of the state and federal constitutions and (2) is an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power. Gerawan also asserts the union "abandoned" the bargaining unit.

California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975 was signed 40 years ago by newly elected Governor Jerry Brown. (California Labor Code §§ 1140-1166.3) The Act established a legal right to secret ballot elections for agricultural workers. The Legislature amended the Act in 2002 to permit mandatory mediation and conciliation (MMC) in cases of initial-contract bargaining impasse. California Labor Code §§ 1164-1164.13. The 2002 law allows the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to impose collective bargaining agreements based on a mediator's report.

Gerawan Farming is the largest peach grower in the United States and a big producer of nectarines, plums, apricots and table grapes. The family owned business directly employs 5,000 workers and many more contract laborers to hand pick fruit during harvest.

The UFW apparently won an election with Gerawan in 1990 but contract negotiations broke off in 1995. Gerawan and the UFW went to mediation after the UFW invoked MMC in 2012. Gerawan and the UFW met ten times before the UFW asked the ALRB to declare impasse and order mandatory mediation.

The ALRB imposed a contract effective in November, 2013 which resulted in this lawsuit.

The California Court of Appeal's Fifth District in Fresno agreed with Gerawan Farming and ruled in May 2015 that MMC violates equal protection principles, improperly

delegates legislative authority and said a union with "little or no contact with the employees or the employer over many years (here, decades) would be unlikely to have an adequate working knowledge of the employee's situation or their wishes"

The chair of the ALRB is Stanford Law School Professor Bill Gould, a former chair of the National Labor Relations Board and one of the nation's leading labor law scholars. Professor Gould states the need to "redeem the promise that was contained in this very important piece of (MMC) legislation".

The UFW petitioned the California Supreme Court for review and on August 19, 2015, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal from the Fifth District.

The Supreme Court ordered briefing limited to the issues raised in the petitions for review so the Supreme Court will make its decision based on the three issues identified above.

Here is the UFW webpage for the Gerawan issues: <http://www.ufw.org/page.php?menu=organizing&inc=page.php?menu=organizing&inc=gerawan.html>

And here is the Gerawan webpage. <http://www.prima.com/learn-the-facts.php>

And finally, here is the California Supreme Court's webpage for the Gerawan case. http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/mainCaseScreen.cfm?dist=0&doc_id=2112422&doc_no=S227243

There is much interest in this case. There apparently are other "old certifications" where unions have won elections but never negotiated a contract.



"I changed my password everywhere to 'incorrect.' That way when I forget it, it always reminds me, 'Your password is incorrect.'"

...Anonymous

FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

By Mary Lou Nicoletti, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner

FAREWELL



This will be my last article in *Between the Furrows* as I am retiring around the middle of December. It is a bittersweet feeling to be leaving after a total of nearly thirty years with the office of the Agricultural Commissioner. It seems like

only yesterday that I returned from my first retirement to become the Agricultural Commissioner and yet it has been over five years. I am happy that soon I will be able to have more balance in my life, and yet I am also quite sad.

Last night I attended the Farm Bureau Annual Directors' Dinner meeting. As each person spoke, I reflected on how much I had come to like and enjoy him or her. I realized how much I will miss our friendship and interactions.

It has been a great pleasure serving as the County Agricultural Commissioner! Of course there have been headaches and challenges. But the experience of working with so many dedicated, knowledgeable, and supportive people, sometimes being able to help solve problems or resolve issues, has been very gratifying. I have learned so much about agriculture, and truly admire the men and

women who work in this industry. I more fully understand how difficult it is to be a farmer and appreciate how many issues growers must deal with every day. We were able to quantify, through our 2013 report titled "Economic Contributions of Santa Cruz County Agriculture", the extent to which the industry benefits our local economy. This kind of information is very important and I hope that updated reports will be prepared periodically.

It has always been my goal to help people navigate the regulatory environment and to find ways to assist people to comply. I believe this sentiment is shared by everyone employed in the office of the Agricultural Commissioner. For example, we all wish we could make the light brown apple moth regulations go away. We cannot do this, but we advocate for our growers with the agencies that write the regulations, express our concerns and encourage industry members to make their voices heard by those governmental agencies. As for my staff at our office, I feel privileged to work with people that care about those they serve, that listen and try to help and are willing to work to get the job done. I will miss my co-workers very much. I will miss all of you very much. But I look forward to seeing you from time to time: at the County Fair, Ag Day Luncheon and at on-farm events and functions. Be well, my friends, and thank you for the opportunity to work with you and get to know you!

President's Message - Continued from Page 2


the brunt of this inexplicable push to elevate the status of this scenic coastal pasture to that of Mount Rushmore, Fort McHenry or the Grand Canyon. To suggest Coast Dairies, or whatever it will be named, is on par with true national treasures is objectionable to many.

There seems to be no real benefit in the designation. In this small county we have 52,000 acres of existing park land, and are not in need of more. Santa Cruz is already a tourist destination, the environment will not be improved with the additional impacts, any additional ancillary revenue to the

County will not likely offset the cost and the neighbors will gain "Trash, Traffic and Trauma".

It is unclear who will gain from aggrandizing this former Dairy; but the effort continues despite the very real concerns of the surrounding residents, County Supervisors and the Farm Bureau to name a few. This sweeping Presidential decree may be coming, but with no specific provisions for stewarding, protecting or policing the area after it is opened to the public.

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NRCS NEWS

By Rich Casale & Eric Cissna, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Do You Have a Backup Plan?

With the promise of a strong El Niño on the horizon this winter, countless Monterey Bay Area farmers are scrambling to do everything they can to prepare for the largest anticipated storm event in nearly 20 years and after four years of a historic drought. However, farmers often run a greater risk by not incorporating a "Plan B" in their preparation attempts. Practices that focus on controlling or diverting water often have a limited design capacity for a specific storm event such as a 10 or 25 year storm and often fail during times of more intense runoff events.

Culverts, underground drains, basins, ditches and other structures are not designed to withstand El Niño events because of the infrequency with which they occur. If these water control structures are the "Plan A" defense for the farm, then there should always be a "Plan B". For example, farm access roads may erode, flood, or washout when road culverts reach capacity and overtop without a "Plan B". A backup plan in this case could be something as simple as a rolling dip installed near the culvert crossing to accommodate any overflow and prevent damage.

There are many other practices that can be incorporated on the farm to help lessen the impact of intense El Niño rainfall events, many of which are eligible for funding under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) administered by National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). To learn more about EQIP and other practices that can help reduce runoff and erosion issues this winter contact the Capitola NRCS office at: 475-1967 Ext. 101.

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WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 9**
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Reno, NV

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 21
Winter Begins

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day
Office Closed

FRIDAY - JANUARY 1
New Year's Day
Office Closed

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 6

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

MONDAY - JANUARY 4
Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 12
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

MONDAY - JANUARY 18
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s. Day
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