

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

DECEMBER 2021
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INSIDE this issue

- 4 Water Nanny**
Wondrous
- 5 Recipe**
Raspberry Cheesecake
Bars
- 12 Calendar**



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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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2021 Poetry Contest winner
Alme Shelby with her mother
Sari Partanen

Save the Date!

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

\$50 per person
Paddy Smith Park

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
2601 E. Lake Ave., Watsonville

Presentations:
Al Smith Friend of Agriculture
Poster Contest Winner
Poetry Contest Winner
Scholarship Winners



2021 Poster Contest winner
Oliver Nakazawa Hewitt

2022 Scholarship Applications Available

Four scholarships are available through the educational organization, Agri-Culture, Inc., in 2022. The scholarship applications must be completed and received at the Agri-Culture office before closing time on Friday, January 28, 2022. The scholarships are:

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship
Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship
Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship
JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Application deadline is Friday, January 28, 2022

For more information, contact

Agri-Culture
141 Monte Vista Avenue
Watsonville, CA 95076
Phone: (831) 722-6622

or visit www.agri-culture.us

Applications are available on our website



2021 Scholarship winners
(L-R) Cole Donart and Anisa Velasco

See your President's Message on Page 8

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Annual Directors' Dinner

The Annual Directors' Dinner, an evening of celebration and appreciation, was held at the Crow's Nest Restaurant on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

Perfect Attendance Awards were presented to:

Geri Prevedelli-Lathrop
Cynthia Mathiesen
Amanda Peixoto-Castro

Certificates of Appreciation for board service:

Adriana Silva
John E. Eiskamp
Nishah Moutafian

New Directors' terms effective November 1, 2021:

1st term - 2 years: Lucas Flowers, berries
2nd term - 3 years: Anselmo Rivas, bees/Honey
David Van Lennep, timber

*To all of you
From all of us at the
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau*

*We hope you have a very
Happy, Healthy and Safe
Holiday Season!*



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THE WATER NANNY

Wondrous

I gave voluminous thanks last month as I survived the blood beaver full moon eclipse, not drowned in the pineapple express propelled atmospheric river and avoided another month of king tides and sneaker waves. Every peril we face, and have faced throughout our lives, has been promoted to a calamity. It is as if the nightly news and weather writers receive bonuses for inflated adjectives. We are lucky the weatherman does not do traffic, or we would be terrified of our daily commute to work.

Our reality, here along the Monterey Bay, is usually far from the Facebook narrative. While I continue to be thankful that I did not encounter killer bees, or a bear in my local 7/11, we really need to put these inspired fears aside and celebrate our achievements this past year, for they were many and great.

Our Farm Bureau gave itself a deserved pat on the back for the wondrous success (another hyperbolic adjective) of the Covid Task Force. The Task Force rang all the bells with the vaccine outreach, event scheduling and percent participation. It achieved its success in the field, the old fashion way, not through a TikTok video. While it is unusual for farmers, who disdain committees, to name one of their own as Farmer of the Year, it was well deserved, and an opportunity to publicly praise those who accomplished this task.

Produce did not collapse, only our sales people have more gray hairs, as food service and restaurant closures were made up for with a swing to home cooking and retail sales. Farmers' markets are thriving and growers continue to give produce to the Food Bank.

Sustainable Groundwater is, and will be, a major factor in farm communities throughout the state. Kern County will see 30% of irrigated land go fallow for a lack of long term water. Not so here. The recent PVWMA adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Update 2022 shows we are well on our way to reaching sustainability within the 2040 time line, meaning we will have reliable groundwater for irrigation, even in droughts, into the future.

A great New Year lies ahead. Yes, there are many things to do, there are always many things to do, for we are farmers after all. We have yet to reach social and economic nirvana, and never will. Now I am off to record my new rhyming rap song on TikTok "More to Do in '22", and await future fame and fortune. *"So may the New Year be a happy one to you, happy to many more whose happiness depends on you!"* (Charles Dickens)



Our county fair returned this year, with the best attendance ever. From apple pie tasting to 4-H bunny auctions, it was reassuring that community traditions survived the Covid closures of 2020. The Fairgrounds are now in their most festive colors with Holiday Lights. While the State no longer financially supports our Fairgrounds, staff, numerous

volunteers and two non-profits, the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds Foundation and Ag History Project, do much more than just keep the lights on. Matter of fact, the lights at Holiday Lights are on through December 26th, so have a festive drive-thru for the holidays.

What is the longest river in the United States?

See page 7 for the answer.



FAVORITE RECIPES

Raspberry Cheesecake Bars

Many years ago, as I was looking for a pretty Christmas recipe to take to a family gathering, I found this one in a Taste of Home Christmas Cookbook. It was a hit as I recall and shared the recipe with several family and friends. Recently, as I was going through some old recipes, I found it again and decided to share with all of you. Hope you will enjoy also! Merry Christmas!

1 cup all purpose flour	3/4 cup sugar
1 cup finely chopped pecans	1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel
1/3 cup packed brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon	3 eggs lightly beaten
1/4 teaspoon salt	TOPPING:
1/3 cup cold butter	1 1/2 cups (12 ounces) sour cream
1 jar (12 ounces) seedless raspberry jam, divided	3 tablespoons sugar
2 packages (8 ounce each) cream cheese, softened	1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a small bowl, combine the flour, pecans, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly. Press onto the bottom of a greased 13 inch x 9 inch baking dish. Bake at 350°F for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack for 5 minutes.

Set aside 3 tablespoons jam; spread remaining jam over crust. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in lemon peel and vanilla. Add eggs; beat on low speed just until combined. Spoon over jam; spread evenly. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until filling is almost set.

In another bowl, combine the sour cream, sugar and vanilla; spread over cheesecake. Warm remaining jam and swirl over top. Bake 5-7 minutes longer or just until set.

Cool on a wire rack for 1 hour. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Cut into bars.

Makes 2 dozen.

Enjoy!



Interesting Trivia

Here are 30 (this is 21-23) awesome facts about California, the sunniest state in the U.S.

- The original Disneyland theme park was built in Anaheim, California in 1955. It is the only theme park designed and built under the management of Walt Disney.
- California is notorious for its many droughts. One of the worst droughts was from December 2011 until March 2017. It was the driest in California in documented history. 164 million trees died in total during this time.
- In order to get a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, you have to pay a \$30,000 nomination fee and you are required to appear at the star's unveiling.

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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
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I've been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1949 because I am a farmer. I support the Farm Bureau because it's important for farmers to have a voice—now, more than ever.

Sam Sakamoto

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

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Ending 2021 on a High Note



We leave 2021 behind us with a story of success, as Santa Cruz County has been declared free from Asian gypsy moth after more than four years of intensive delimitation trapping. The last Asian gypsy moth (AGM) was found on July 26, 2018 in the City of Santa Cruz. In

early November 2021, based on a recommendation by USDA and concurrence by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and with no additional detections of Asian gypsy moth in the previous three years, it was determined that the County could discontinue the delimitation efforts and return to standard trapping protocols in 2022.

The first find of AGM occurred in the City of Santa Cruz on August 7, 2017. A second gypsy moth of the European (EGM) genotype was found a week later in Soquel. Both detections triggered a delimitation survey where several hundred traps with pheromone lures were deployed, starting at the location of the finds and extending outwards to determine if there was an infestation. The AGM delimitation area covered approximately 60 square miles with more than 1,000 traps deployed every year during the detection period. The EGM delimitation area was much smaller due to the inability of the females to fly limiting their ability to spread to other areas and lay eggs. AGM, however, posed a much higher threat of spread because the female can fly distances of 20 miles per day and can lay egg masses that contain hundreds of eggs that can hatch into larva (caterpillars). Gypsy moth larvae are voracious feeders, and when populations are high the pest can defoliate acres of forest and urban trees. Gypsy moths have over 150 primary hosts but can feed on over 500 different plant species including oak, willow, poplar, and some evergreens. It was never determined how these gypsy moths made their way to Santa Cruz County. EGM is currently found on several states on the East Coast including Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, and New York, and it is possible that it "hitchhiked" on a vehicle traveling here from the East Coast, or with a resident moving from an infested area to our County. Agricultural Commissioner Office inspectors conduct inspections of outdoor furniture for gypsy moth egg

masses when individuals move into our County from a State known to have the pest. The AGM find was more puzzling because this is a pest more likely to be found at shipping and cargo ports, neither of which we have in Santa Cruz County. Distribution of AGM in the U.S. is very limited with recent finds in Washington State, Oregon, Georgia, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. USDA carefully monitors for AGM at ports and works closely with China, Japan, South Korea, and Russia to ensure that ships departing those countries are certified free from the pest.

The mitigation of a gypsy moth infestation in Santa Cruz County highlights the importance of California's statewide pest detection program and its ability to quickly detect invasive pests and formulate an action plan to eradicate those pests to protect agriculture and our landscapes. I want to extend my sincere thanks to CDFA and USDA for their collaboration, and all the support provided to my office to make this project a success.

Answer:

Just west of Bozeman, Montana—where the Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison rivers converge at Three Forks—America's longest river is born. The Missouri River will travel 2,565 miles before it joins the Mississippi in its namesake state at St. Louis, forming the world's fourth longest river system as it rolls south to the Gulf of Mexico.

Considered the "Center of Life" for the Great Plains, the Missouri has served as the main artery for exploration, food, trade, and transportation for millions of people over thousands of years. About one-fourth of all the agricultural land in the U.S. is found in the Missouri River watershed, which provides more than one-third of the country's wheat, flax, barley, and oats. Its significance to American culture past and future cannot be overstated.

The Missouri River long ago garnered the nickname the "Big Muddy," inspired by the enormous loads of sediment it pushed through the river system. However, the amount of sediment transported has diminished as dams, levees, and channelization increased over time. Today, the river might be more accurately described as a gentle giant.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Working Together



If you are reading this, it is safe to assume that you have survived yet another Thanksgiving. For some of us Thanksgiving means showing up and enjoying a meal, for others it is coordinating a small platoon of friends and relatives to arrive at a time and place with the appropriate dish. This marshaling of the "troops" fell on my wife, Suzannah,

this year. She did this with precision and grace with the only "hiccup" being that her husband miss-timed the turkey, and it was "ready" almost 2 hours early. However, with a little ingenuity, the turkey was perfect when the meal was served. Following a few weeks of planning and preparation by all, our meal was happily devoured in about 30 minutes. That seems to be the case for many aspects of our lives – the planning and hard work preceding an event takes far longer than the event itself. Yet the event and its memories would not be possible without this legwork and the effort invested makes the event that much more worthwhile.

As many of our readers know, the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is actively involved with the efforts to maintain Watsonville's current Urban Line Limit (ULL). Measure U, which created a ULL around the City of Watsonville, was passed in 2002 to protect surrounding farmland and wetlands adjacent to the city while allowing room for Watsonville to grow and prosper. This ULL is scheduled to dissolve at the end of 2022. Since January 2021, the Committee for Planned Growth and Farmland Protection (CPGFP) has been organizing an effort to extend Measure U's ULL protection until 2040.

In June, the CPGFP began collecting signatures from the citizens of Watsonville to get a measure on the ballot to extend the current ULL on the 2022 ballot. I have been out collecting signatures myself and I have found it very rewarding. The feedback I get from people reaffirms the importance of farmland to the community. Most residents

value and appreciate the connection agriculture has to the growth and success of the community. As of this writing, 2700 signatures have been collected with two more weeks to go. By the time of publication, the signatures will have been turned in to the city for verification. Once the signatures are verified, the ULL extension will be placed on the ballot for 2022 and the CPGFP will begin the efforts for the next phase of the campaign.

Like a Thanksgiving meal, there are those who coordinate, those who do specific tasks and others who just show up. Each contributes and has an importance to the occasion. To get Measure U extended, the CPGFP is coordinating the efforts, committee members and community volunteers are contributing, and we need a lot of people to just show up on November 8th, 2022 and vote to extend Measure U. Hope to see you at the ballot box.



Force Majeure In Leases - Revisited



I wrote in "Between the Furrows" about force majeure contract lease language at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when eviction moratoriums were uncertain and untested. Since then, the force majeure clause in leases has come under intense scrutiny. Almost any lease in California has some form of force majeure clause that says a force majeure event excuses a party's performance but does not say anything specifically about excusing the obligation to pay rent.

Subdivision 2 of California Civil Code Section 1511 says that performance of an obligation or delay is excused by, among other things, "an irresistible, superhuman cause . . . unless the parties have expressly agreed to the contrary."

Section 1511 may however not apply if the lease has its own force majeure provision. So, if your lease has a force majeure provision, the landlord and tenant should discuss whether they intend to specifically waive the protections of Section 1511 in favor of a different force majeure provision in the lease.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on labor, production and business, the question arises whether landlord and tenant should negotiate an exception to the general rule that a tenant is never excused from paying rent. Some form leases do have an abatement of rent provision. The provision could provide that during any time the tenant is unable to use the premises due to, for example, a shelter in place order, rent will be abated.

Landlord and tenant would perhaps say that rent is abated during "disease outbreak, pandemic (including but not limited to COVID-19) government regulations or restrictions, (for example, restrictions, or orders requiring the closure on non-essential businesses) and other causes beyond the reasonable control of the performing party. But tenant's obligations that can be performed by the payment of money (for example, payment of rent and maintaining insurance) shall not be excused because of force majeure. Alternately, the force majeure clause rent could say rent is abated by say 50% if insurance is paid until a closure order (defined in the lease) ends.

Such changes would clarify expectations and make the lease fulfil the expectations of the parties.

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
March 16, 2022

105th Annual Meeting

Rodgers House Patio, SCC Fairgrounds
June 23, 2022

California State Fair

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA
July 15 through July 31, 2022

28th Annual Golf Tournament

Golf Course to be determined
July 22, 2022

Santa Cruz County Fair

September 14 through September 18, 2022

Annual Directors' Dinner

November 3, 2022
5:45 p.m.

CFBF 104th Annual Meeting

Monterey, CA
December 4-7, 2022

Agri-Culture

14th Annual Down To Earth Women Luncheon

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos
May 12, 2022
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

14th Annual Testicle Festival

Estrada Deer Camp
August 27, 2022
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

26th Annual Farm Dinner

Location to be determined
October 22, 2022
4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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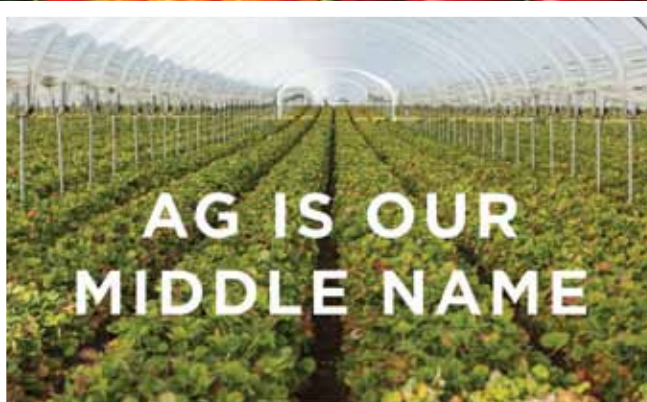
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CALENDAR

DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 8
CFBF 101st Annual Meeting

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 24
Christmas Day Observed
Office Closed

FIRDAY - DECEMBER 31
New Year's Day observed
Office Closed



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