

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

FEBRUARY 2018  
VOLUME 42, ISSUE 2

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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 Past President's Lunch Held



(L-R) Jess Brown, Executive Director, Clint Miller, Thomas Broz, Nita Gizdich, Brendan Miele, Sherry Mehl, David Van Lennep, Bob Harris, Special Guest Tom Habashi, Matt Bissell, Guest Speaker Bruce McPherson, Steve Bontadelli, Kirk Schmidt, Frank Siri and Don Hagerty.

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau held its annual Past Presidents' Lunch and Board Retreat on Thursday, January 25th at Rancho Santa Maria in Watsonville. The hosts for the luncheon were **Sherry Mehl, Matt Bissell, Frank Siri, Steve Siri and David Van Lennep.**

Guest speaker at the Past Presidents' Lunch was **Tom Habashi**, CEO, Monterey Bay Community Power, who spoke on "The Future Is Carbon Free Energy". He was introduced by **Bruce McPherson**, Santa Cruz County's 5th District Supervisor.

The Board Retreat was held following the Past Presidents' Lunch. Guest speakers at the retreat included:

- **Bud Colligan**, CEO, South Swell Ventures and **Miles Reiter**, Chairman, Driscoll's speaking on "Transportation Solutions in Santa Cruz County".
- **Reggie Knox**, Executive Director, California Farmlink's Programs
- **Jane Barr**, Associate Director, Real Estate Development, Eden Housing speaking about Farmworker Housing Legislative Updates
- Newly elected **Shaun Crook**, 2nd Vice President, CFBF and **Shannon Douglass**, 1st Vice President, CFBF, speaking on "CFBF's Future".

Next year's Board Retreat is set for Thursday, January 24, 2019.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SCCFB.COM](http://WWW.SCCFB.COM)





# President's Message

THOMAS BROZ, PRESIDENT

## Farm Worker Housing – More Is Needed

**T**he lack of rain in December allowed me to seed a block of field carrots just before the first storm of the New Year was forecast to reach us. Although winter weather may not be ideal for good seed germination, I took my chances with these tiny carrot seeds, hoping to have a crop when typically I would have a gap in the harvest come April. In agriculture, taking a risk, navigating the seasonal uncertainties of mother nature is written into every farmer and rancher's job description. Lately, however, the more concerning uncertainty and possibly more challenging in the short term, is a growing shortage of our agricultural workforce.

Come April, will I face a situation where I have to choose between harvesting the season's first strawberries and leaving the carrots I sowed in January to be disked back into the ground?

As I am trying to finalize this seasons crop plan I know I am not the only one worrying about the lack of available workers to see us through. Farmworkers, critical to the success of our industry, are in short supply; a sentiment echoed almost unanimously by everyone in the county. Long-term predictions don't seem to indicate it is going to get better anytime soon. We are experiencing a workforce that is growing older with little replacement from the younger generation and a large percentage of the county's labor-force is shifting from

being migratory and seasonal to one that is employed full-time.

This shift also means a larger number of farmworkers and their families are struggling to find affordable housing in a market that is already saturated. Home and rent prices far exceed what's typically affordable under a farmworker's average salary. Not even pay increases expected in the coming years may solve that problem. Farmworkers have left to find work in other, often higher paying industries (construction, health, tourism) and many are moving away to find cheaper housing, commuting from as far away as Gilroy, Los Banos, Salinas, and

President's Message - Continued on Page 6

**"With no comprehensive reforms to create a workable guest-worker program that streamlines and incentivises the legal immigration of people willing to work in agriculture, it is critical that state and county initiatives propose legislation to fund private and public affordable farmworker housing projects that meet the unique needs of both seasonal and year-round farmworkers living in our community."**

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# ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Advisor, UCCE

## Primitive Weed Offers Challenges to Nursery Growers and Opportunities for Understanding Basic Plant Biology

**L**iverwort (*Marchantia polymorpha*) is a primitive tenacious weed that is well known to Central Coast nursery growers. They form dense colonies on the soil surface that can impede irrigation water infiltration, use available plant nutrients, and can choke the growth of slow growing plants, vegetative- cuttings and seedlings. They are especially a nuisance in moist environments, shade houses, and greenhouses. And these weeds are tough. No conventional or biorational chemicals have proven to be very effective in managing them. Fig 1.



**Figure 1 Liverwort is a primitive well-known weed in Central Coast nursery crops**

Unlike most weeds that growers deal with, liverworts are very primitive plants. Land plants arose from freshwater green algae around 500 million years ago. Bryophytes, consisting of liverworts,

mosses, and hornworts, were some of the earliest groups of land plants. They have features distinct from those of other land plants: they lack a vascular system and lignified (hardened) cell walls, they have motile sperm that can swim in water, and their life cycle is dominated by a haploid stage. Liverworts are composed of cells with nuclei that only contain one set of chromosomes (haploid). More evolved plants, the crops and weeds on land that we are familiar with, are primarily composed of cells that have two sets of chromosomes (diploid). Only their eggs and sperms are haploid. (Please consult your high school biology teacher or Google search for more information)!

It turns out that liverworts with their haploid nature, production of spores, ease of culture, and quick regeneration time--the same characteristics that make them weeds-- are the same characteristics that help scientists study the most advanced forms of experimental molecular plant biology. Here is where liverworts shine. In 2015, Japanese molecular plant biologists created liverwort mutants by bombarding them with radiation. These mutants were studied with genetic markers to elucidate how land plants might use their phytochrome system and different wavelengths of light to regulate plant development. In addition, liverworts chromosomes have been analyzed. This has revealed that most of the genes that regulate growth and development in higher land plants are also found in liverworts. So, the crop plants you grow today actually have a little bit of liverwort genetic material in them. The next time you cuss out those tenacious liverworts growing in your nursery crops, think about how intrinsically important they are to the crops you grow!



# THE WATER NANNY

## Into the Bears' Lair

As the warden said: *What we've got here is a failure to communicate.*<sup>1</sup> For many years the direction of regulatory communication has been one way, and somewhat imperious. Not to imply that we are prisoners of the state, just well on our way to wearing GPS ankle bracelets while farming.

Communication works best when it is a dialog. Due to lack of dialog we, or at least the larger farms, need to file a Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA) report next March. This is a well-meaning report with input on water and nitrate (N) fertilizer applications by crop. It fails to reach its objective reducing N applications by determining which farmers use too much N compared to growers of similar crops because it was never designed to produce this information. Why you ask? It was envisioned, prepared and implemented by people in cubicals on the second floor of the Central Coast Water Board, without the hint of input from the regulated class, farmers.

No other regulated industry is so conspicuous in its absence from the process of drafting new regulations. A regulated company would typically show up with consultants, attorneys and technical employees for conversations with staff regarding pending regulations. Not farmers. Farmers in Pajaro may not agree with growers in Santa Maria; what else is new, but that is no reason for self-harm by regulatory oppression.

We need to know where possible new regulations are headed. I am not advocating industrial spies or hidden cameras; just regularly showing up and talking to the regulatory staff about their ideas and suggesting ways to improve how they may be rolled out, just a chat with staff, and on a regular basis.

Another problem with dialog is the 2<sup>nd</sup> party needs to show up. Farmers don't like meetings in general and hate government meetings. All fair judgment calls. However, if real dirt on their boots farmers don't show, the dialog lacks credibility. Your ag associations can only carry a position up

to a point. Your participation is needed to take it across the finish line.

Finally, there needs to be an objective. We have all lived through food safety scares, labor issues and supply shortages. To overcome each, participation was necessary. The State and Regional Water Boards are on a quest to reduce nitrate fertilizer usage. They have come up with various reporting systems and forms to fill out. Not one will make a difference if they do not promote reduction of N usage. Only farmers with knowledge of crop needs, soil requirements and customer demands, have the ability to craft a reporting methodology to fairly represent what we do while discouraging excessive users, outliers in regulatory lingo, to moderate their fertilizer applications. All that is needed are a few farm nerds and maybe a couple ag extension guys. Reporting will be mandatory from now to eternity. Maybe we can suggest a structure that makes sense with fewer needless data points. Either that or we can rely on a soliloquy from the staff while they devise a new scheme in their cubicles.

Way back in 2009, *The Water Nanny* acknowledged her 100<sup>th</sup> article in "Between the Furrows" with a retrospective article, somewhat implying she was 100 years old without actually acknowledging age, as no woman ever does. A member of the Santa Cruz press corps even sought out such an old sagacious woman for an interview with a centenarian, without success. Now eight years later, such a pretense is unfeasible; not many 200 year old biddies out there. That said, this is the 200<sup>th</sup> *Nanny*. "Old age is no place for sissies." (Bette Davis)

<sup>1</sup>*Cool Hand Luke*, 1967



Smile



Most household injuries are caused by saying "whatever" during an argument.



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## CHOCOLATE-NUT CARAMEL TART

Decisions are difficult when it comes to choosing a dessert to serve to your family and friends, especially when it comes to chocolate. I tried both of these recipes over the holidays and found both of them to be delightful. I'll leave the decision making up to you. Enjoy!!



- 1 sheet refrigerated pie pastry
- 1 jar (13 ounces) Nutella, divided
- 20 caramels
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1-3/4 cups chopped macadamia nuts, toasted
- Whipped cream, optional

Preheat oven to 450°. Unroll pastry into a 9-inch fluted tart pan with removable bottom. Press onto bottom

and up sides of pan; trim pastry even with edge (discard trimmed pastry or save for another use). Generously prick bottom of crust with a fork. Bake 9-11 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack.

remaining Nutella into cooled crust. In a small saucepan, combine caramels and cream; cook over medium-low heat until blended, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in macadamia nuts. Spread evenly over Nutella.

In a microwave, heat reserved Nutella until warmed; drizzle over filling. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm. If desired, serve with whipped cream. Yield: 12 servings.

Note: To toast nuts, bake in a shallow pan in a 350° oven for 5-10 minutes or cook in a skillet over low heat until lightly browned, stirring occasionally.

Reserve 2 tablespoons Nutella for topping; spread

---

## Chocolate Brownie Cake

- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 1 box fudge brownie mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1 cup oil

- Ganache
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 bag (12 oz) semi sweet chocolate morsels

Heat oven to 350°F. Prepare a bundt pan with bakers spray or use the butter/flour method.

Combine first five ingredients in a large bowl and whisk for two minutes or until lumps are mostly gone. Pour batter into prepared bundt pan and bake for 50-55 minutes.

When done baking, remove cake and allow to cool in pan for up to five minutes. Carefully turn cake out onto a cooling rack and cool for 30 minutes more.



### Ganache:

Place heavy whipping cream in a large microwave safe bowl and heat for about two minutes. You want the cream to be just boiling.

Carefully pour chocolate morsels into cream... it may rise up and bubble and this is okay.

Let sit for 5 minutes. Whisk the chocolate and cream until shiny and smooth, about one minute. Pour over cooled cake and serve.



## President's Message

### Continued from Page 2

Hollister. If this isn't bad enough, this year, with the legalization of Cannabis, some of our "traditional" agricultural operations may compete for workers within the same already limited labor pool. The difference is, it's not a level playing field. One side has disproportionately higher returns, putting the rest of the industry at a significant disadvantage to compete.

With no comprehensive reforms to create a workable guest-worker program that streamlines and incentivises the legal immigration of people willing to work in agriculture, it is critical that state and county initiatives propose legislation to fund private and public affordable farmworker housing projects that meet the unique needs of both seasonal and year-round farmworkers living in our community. Offering affordable housing will go a long way to attract and maintain a stable farmworker community critical to the continued success of our agricultural industry.

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## I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...

"I'm proud to be a Farm Bureau member because the staff is extremely knowledgeable and helpful when I call or stop by. Jess Brown's leadership is astounding. Our agricultural community in Santa Cruz County is in very capable hands."

*Catherine Barr, Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Market*



## 2018 Calendar of Events

### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

#### **National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon**

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

March 14, 2018

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

#### **101th Annual Meeting**

Location to be determined

June 21, 2018

5:45 p.m.

#### **California State Fair**

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

July 13 through July 29, 2018

#### **25th Annual Golf Tournament**

Seascape Golf Club

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 13, 2018

#### **Santa Cruz County Fair**

September 12 through September 16, 2018

#### **Annual Directors' Dinner**

Location to be determined

November 1, 2018

5:45 p.m.

#### **CBBF 100th Annual Meeting**

Reno, NV

December 2 through December 5, 2018

### Agri-Culture

#### **11th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon**

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

May 10, 2018

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

#### **10th Annual Testicle Festival**

Estrada Deer Camp

August 25, 2018

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### **21st Annual Progressive Dinner**

To be determined

October 27, 2018

3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



## What You Need to Know About the New Pesticide Use Near Schoolsites Regulations

New regulations restricting the use of pesticides for the production of an agricultural commodity near school sites became effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. School sites as defined by the regulation includes public K-12 schools and licensed daycare facilities. The restrictions prohibit certain pesticide application methods when made within a ¼ mile of a school site Monday through Friday during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The prohibited methods include: pesticide applications made by aircraft, airblast sprayer, sprinkler chemigation equipment, dust or powder and fumigant. A minimum 25 foot distance restriction to a school site property applies to other application methods such as ground rig sprayer, field soil injection equipment (except fumigants) and other application methods such as drip (except fumigants). The regulation further requires that fumigant applications must be completed at least 36 hours before scheduled classes or child daycare facilities open. The regulation does not apply during those times when classes are not scheduled on the day of the application or when the child daycare facility is closed.

Growers that plan to use pesticides on their fields within a ¼ mile of a school site are also required to provide annual notification to the school principal/daycare center administrator and Agricultural Commissioner that lists the pesticides intended to be used. This notification must be submitted by April 30 and must include pesticides that are anticipated to be used at the site for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. New notifications will need to be provided every year following the same notification deadlines and effective time periods as mentioned above. If there is a change in the operator of the property, the new property operator must provide notification within 30 days of assuming control of that property. The notification must also include the grower's name, contact information, maps showing the location of the fields and school sites, the Agricultural Commissioner contact information, the National Pesticide Information Center website and a statement citing specific sections of the new regulation. The easiest most effective way to provide the required notifications is to log in to [www.calagpermits.org](http://www.calagpermits.org).

This is the website that Agricultural Commissioner Offices

statewide use to issue pesticide use permits or operator identification (Op Id) numbers. If you have a permit or Op Id, most of your field site information and pesticide history is in the system and all you have to do is log in and click on the school notification icon to start the notification process. For more information on the new regulations or to obtain your log in account please contact our office at 831-763-8080.



"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed;  
if in terms of ten years, plant trees;  
if in terms of 100 years, teach the people."

Confucius

**MORE NEWS!!**

## **National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2017**

**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**\$45 per person**

**Heritage Hall  
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds  
2601 East Lake Ave. Watsonville**

**Reservations and sponsorships for the luncheon are available on  
[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or call (831) 724-1356.**

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### **Beware of Cold & Flu Season**

**C**old and flu season is here. Most colds begin in late August or early September, increasing slowly for a few weeks, then remaining high until March or April. The increase may be due to the opening of schools and to cold weather, which prompts people to spend more time indoors and increase the chances that viruses will spread from person to person. Also the most common cold-causing viruses survive better when humidity is low--during the colder months of the year. Cold weather also may make the nasal passages' lining drier and more vulnerable to viral infection entering the body.



Hand washing is the simplest and most effective way to keep from getting rhinovirus colds. Not touching the nose or eyes is another. Other than direct contact with an infected person--hand to face contact is the most common way of transferring the virus into your body.

Individuals with colds should always sneeze or cough into a facial tissue and promptly throw it away. Also, because rhinoviruses can survive up to three hours outside the nasal passages on inanimate objects and skin, cleaning surfaces with a disinfectant might help if someone in the house has a cold.

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*Give a man health and a course to steer and he'll never stop to trouble about whether he's happy or not.*



## How To Estimate The Leaching Requirement Of Your Crop Based On Your Well Salinity

Irrigation water carries salts with it, so every time you irrigate you add salts to the soil. Depending on the salinity level of your well, you may need to apply an additional quantity of water to leach down the salts and maintain the salinity of your soil below a certain threshold. For each crop there is a different soil salinity threshold below which yield is not affected. Above this threshold, there is a reduction in yield that is more or less severe depending on the crop. The water requirement for leaching salts is in addition to the irrigation requirements of your crop determined by evapotranspiration and by the efficiency of your irrigation system. This guide provides directions for estimating the extra water that you will need to apply to your crop in addition to the evapotranspiration requirement to maintain the soil salinity at a level that does not affect your yield.

To use this guide, you will need to know the salinity of your well water. Salinity in water is expressed as EC (electrical conductivity) in units of dS/m (deciSiemens per meter). You can take a well water sample and bring it to a water quality lab (see Figure 1 for an example of lab results). You can also request a free measurement of your well salinity by the RCD of Santa Cruz County: (831) 464-2950, info@rcdsantacruz.org.

If you know how many inches of water your crop needs to satisfy evapotranspiration and distribution uniformity requirements, or if you know how much water, or hours of pumping you are currently applying, use Table 1.

If you don't know the evapotranspiration requirements of your crop, you can estimate the quantity of irrigation water needed for both evapotranspiration and leaching using Table 2. Use Table 2 with caution, these are just estimates.

Well Water Salinity expressed in EC, dS/m																									
	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
Strawberry	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.6	3.0	3.6	4.7	6.8	13.0	
Lettuce	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.7			
Caneberry	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0				
Broccoli	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3				

Table 1. A coefficient by which to multiply your known water requirement in order to increase it by the quantity needed to leach salts

How to use Table 1: Pick the row corresponding to your crop and the column corresponding to your well salinity and look up in the table the corresponding coefficient. Multiply this number by the inches of water or the hours of pumping that your crop needs.

For example, if you grow strawberry and your well salinity is 0.6 dS/m, your coefficient is 1.2. If you know that your strawberry crop needs 30 inches of water per season, then you should apply  $30 \times 1.2 = 36$  inch.

Another example. Say that your well never was salty and you usually run the pump 35 hours in one cycle of lettuce. All of a sudden your well goes salty and the result from the lab is EC = 1.1 dS/m. The coefficient from the table is 1.3; so for your next cycle of lettuce you should run your pump  $35 \times 1.3 = 45.5$  hours

Well Water Salinity expressed in EC, dS/m

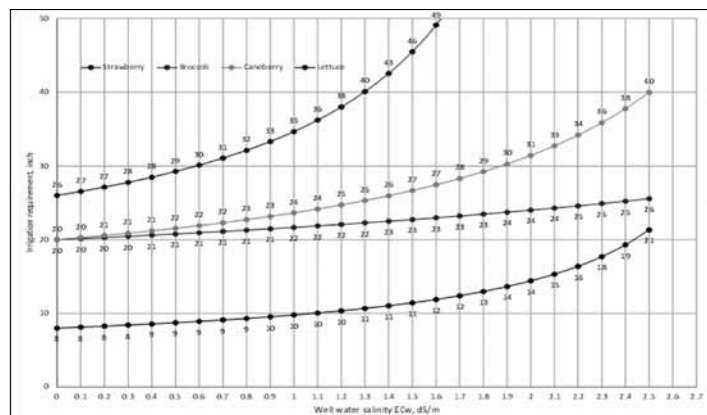
	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
Strawberry	26	27	27	28	28	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	38	40	43	46	49	54	59	67	78	94	121	176	338	
Lettuce	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	12	13	14	14	15	16	18	19	21	
Caneberry	20	20	21	21	21	22	22	22	23	23	24	24	25	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	31	33	34	36	38	40
Broccoli	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	26

Table 2. Estimated amount of seasonal irrigation water in inches for different crops at different well salinity levels

How to use Table 2: Pick the row corresponding to your crop and the column corresponding to your well salinity. The table gives you how many inches of water you need for one cycle of the crop.

For example, if you grow raspberries and your well water has an electrical conductivity of 1.1 dS/m, you should apply about 24 inches per season. Remember, these are just estimates, to obtain detailed irrigation recommendations contact the RCD.

For a visual of how the salinity of well water increases irrigation requirements, refer to Figure 2.



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# Ag News

The 2018 **Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship** application is now available online at **[www.agri-culture.us](http://www.agri-culture.us)**

The deadline for filing your application is **Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

**February 21, 2018** is also the deadline for submitting your **poster and poetry contest** entries. For more information, please visit **[www.sccfb.com](http://www.sccfb.com)** or call **(831) 724-1356**



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## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**MONDAY - FEBRUARY 19**  
President's Day Observed  
Office Closed

**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 21**  
Deadline for Jimmie Cox  
Memorial Scholarship  
applications, Poster and  
Poetry Contest entries

**THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 22**  
Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Committee meeting

**THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 22**  
Board of Directors' meeting

**WEDNESDAY - MARCH 7**

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

**MONDAY - MARCH 12**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY - MARCH 14**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

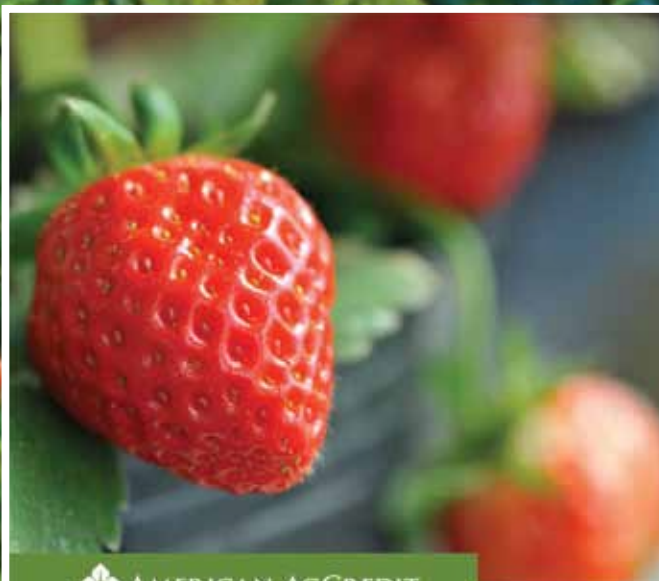
**WEDNESDAY - MARCH 14**  
National Agriculture Day  
Spring Luncheon

**THURSDAY - MARCH 22**  
Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Committee meeting

**THURSDAY - MARCH 29**  
Board of Directors' meeting

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication



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