

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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The New Year...A New Beginning

Scholarship Applications Due

The **JIMMIE COX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** has teamed up again with **American AgCredit** to offer a **\$4,000** award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture. This award will be allocated for the remaining years in college (max. 4-years) with verification of registration for each session of full time classes.

Eligibility: Students and/or their legal guardian must live either in Santa Cruz County or within the Pajaro Valley Unified School District boundaries, or a current member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.

Criteria for the scholarship are based on student leadership skills, a demonstrated commitment to the industry, grades and financial need.

The recipient of this scholarship will receive the award upon proof of enrollment in college. The awards will be issued proportionately during the school year.

The **DEADLINE** for submitting applications to the **Agri-Culture Scholarship Program** is **Wednesday, February 27, 2013**. For more information, please contact **Agri-Culture** at **(831) 722-6622** or online at **www.agri-culture.us**.

National Agriculture Day

Spring Luncheon, Poster & Poetry Contest

Wednesday, **March 20, 2013** has been set to celebrate National Agriculture Day in Santa Cruz County. The **Annual Spring Luncheon** will be held at the Codiga Center & Museum at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This annual event features many exciting announcements. The "Al Smith Friend of Agriculture" recipient will be named as will the winners of the 2013 Poster and Poetry contest.

The **Al Smith Friend of Agriculture** award is presented annually to an individual, business or organization not involved in agriculture but who has done much for the industry. It will be exciting to see who is chosen as this year's recipient.

The **Poster Contest**, sponsored by **Agri-Culture** and the **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau**, is open to students in grades K-6. The theme of the contest is "Grown in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley". The winner of the contest will receive a **\$200 award**,

second and third prize will receive a ribbon and a special prize. The winning entry will be featured on the 2014 National Agriculture Day placemat. We print more than 15,000 placemat and distribute them countywide to participating restaurants.

The **Poetry Contest** is open to students in grades 7-9 and 10-12. The top two entries will be used in the final judging. The winner of the contest will also receive a **\$200 award** and the poem will also be featured on the 2014 National Agriculture Day placemat. The theme of the contest is "Grown in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley".

The deadline for entries is **Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau at **(831) 724-1356** or visit their website at **www.sccfb.com**. Reservations for the luncheon may be made online or by calling the Farm Bureau at the number listed above.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT **WWW.SCCFB.COM**



President's Message

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN, PRESIDENT

Now that your appetite has been "wetted", next month, I'll continue in Part II with a look at six more agencies.

Water, Water, Every Where

PART I

Since the rainy season is upon us, the subject of water is on my mind. Water – nature's sprinkler system nourishing our crops, seeping down through layers of earth recharging our aquifers, and that wet stuff that makes the mud we amazingly manage to drag with us everywhere. Water succeeds in being an intrusive subject in almost every Farm Bureau meeting we have. There are so many local and state water related agencies, coalitions, and boards with which we must contend and they seem to multiply like weeds.

increase in, and to accomplish continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft. The agency also works to provide and ensure sufficient, non-potable, irrigation only, water supplies for present and future anticipated needs within its boundaries.

Since 1984, there the agency has experienced many ups and downs, all amidst much controversy. Through it all, the agency has managed to complete the Recycled Water Facility and Coastal Distribution System. Most recently, the agency has almost finalized the Basin Management Plan which addresses the issue of seawater intrusion in domestic well and groundwater supplies on the central coast.

Continued on Page 6



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Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

The PVWMA is a state-chartered water management agency created in 1984 and overlaps four major jurisdictions: the City of Watsonville and Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties. The PVWMA's mission is to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies in order to prevent further

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ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Advisor, UCCE

Central Coast Crops

Q: What cost and return studies do you have for Central Coast crops?

A: At UC Cooperative Extension in both our Santa Cruz County Watsonville office and our Monterey County Salinas office, we work on a number of different studies that estimate growing and harvest costs, along with potential returns, for area farmers. We recently completed a new study for fresh market raspberries, which can be viewed and downloaded at our local website: <http://cesantacruz.ucdavis.edu> or the Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics website at UC Davis: <http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu>. At these websites you will also find various other studies that are available for the Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito area, and for California agriculture. For our area, we have the following studies available:

- Raspberries (2012) – fresh market, primocane bearing, with tunnels
- Strawberries (2011) – second year production
- Olive Oil (2011) – Central and North Coast – medium density for bottled olive oil
- Strawberries (2010) – fresh market
- Lettuce (2010) – wrapped head, 40-inch beds
- Lettuce (2009) – organic leaf
- Blackberries (2008) – fresh market

There are also archived—historical—studies available at both of the websites

shown above. In addition, several current studies are available for the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara area, which may be of interest to you:

- Broccoli (2012) – fresh market
- Avocados (2011) – conventional and organic
- Strawberries (2011) – fresh market and freezer berries

All studies include one or more tables that estimate costs and material inputs on a per acre basis for land preparation, fertilization and pest management practices, harvest, business overhead, and in most cases investment costs. The studies can help you project your cash flow and manage your finances, determine when or if production loans may be necessary for your operation, and assist you in scheduling labor needs. For example, the monthly cash cost table shows the months in which significant field operations take place, and when you may need to consider adding employees to complete these activities in a timely manner. Most studies also have a ranging analysis, which shows potential net returns for a variety of different yields and prices—another important table to help you project and manage the finances and profitability of your operation.

If there are particular crop studies that you are interested in seeing for the future, we are glad to speak with you and welcome your suggestions.

THE WATER NANNY

Chicken Little

In March, 2012, the Regional Water Board adopted the Ag Order imposing new regulations on irrigated agriculture on the Central Coast. My goodness there was such a cry from those who thought the sky was falling. Just like the children's tale wiser heads prevailed and farmers started to understand what they needed to improve water quality and remain within the good graces of our state bureaucrats.

There are several grower initiatives which, when they are fully developed, can provide growers with the information necessary to fine tune irrigation and fertilizer use while reducing irrigation runoff and percolation of irrigation water below the crop root zone.

Your Farm Bureau, in association with Monterey Farm Bureau, Western Growers and Salinas Grower Shipper, is supporting On-Farm Solutions. The goal is to create a grower membership organization that can provide focused educational and technical advice while funding primary field research on which methods are truly effective farm practices to improve water quality. The first project will validate the effectiveness of Nitrate Quick Test kits (NQT) to accurately determine soil fertility. If you know how much N is in your field less fertilizer may be necessary over the course of a season, saving you money and improving the quality of water discharge. Through two membership options growers can either receive a test kit with field use training, or, if a lettuce grower, offer their field as one of 24 to conduct a research project to corroborate effective practices.



The Ag Order imposes successively strictertiers on growers of "high nitrate crops", like lettuce and strawberries. However, there is a provision that provides for qualification in a lower tier, meaning less reporting and lower costs, for participation in a "coalition". What if a coalition was established for growers who adopted a set of practices, which together, would reduce water use and demonstrate that less irrigation was lost to percolation? This would reduce the regulatory burden and be supportive

of "sustainability objectives" many buyers are requiring.

Ha, you scoff, the Regional Board will never consent. Well, there is new management down there and they now seem willing to work with growers. The State Water Board no less has sent out a request for nominations to a Technical Advisory Committee to review Region 3 coalition proposals.



What if there was a coalition that a grower from anywhere in the region could join if they met clear conditions? The conditions would be simple and verifiable, although there would be capital costs and operational expenses. Applying the KISS approach (Keep It Simple Stupid) why not propose a concept requiring just three things: 1) use of NQT to test for in field fertility during every crop cycle; 2) water meters, privately owned or existing Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) meters, to measure water use; and 3) soil moisture tensiometers to measure the amount of water in the root zone and below the root zone. Many growers in the Pajaro Valley are already using all three practices. Let's get credit for being progressive growers.

Change is always difficult. Unfortunately those who don't adapt may become extinct. Or as Carl Sagan put it: *"Extinction is the rule. Survival is the exception."*

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FAVORITE RECIPES

George Washington's Beer Recipe

And Other Presidential Favorites

By Mary Walter, Editor

February is the month when we celebrate our Presidents...February 12th is Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 22nd George Washington's birthday. The third Monday of each year is set aside as a National holiday when our nation celebrates, honors and remembers the presidents past and present and their contributions to creating the country we are today. This year the holiday falls on Monday, February 18th.

About the recipe: For over two thousand years beer has been produced in homes. One of the earliest known examples of a home-use recipe book is a sumarian tablet detailing the production and consumption of beer. It was customary in medieval England for feudal manors to produce all the beer for the lord and his subjects. **George Washington** and **Thomas Jefferson** were both avid homebrewers. The first President's personal recipe for "small beer," appears in the notebook dating from 1757 that Washington kept while he served as a colonel in the Virginia militia. According to historians, Thomas Jefferson's recipe was never written down and while he

made references to where the recipe could be found, his recipe remains a mystery yet today.

Abraham Lincoln was said to be a bit of a teetotaler, preferring coffee or water. On the occasion that he did imbibe in an alcoholic beverage, his choice was said to be a "lager"; however, I've found no recipes for Lincoln's favorite beer. According to what I have read, Abe Lincoln was not considered a "foodie" either. He did have a few favorites, such as Chicken Fricassee, Buttermilk Biscuits and Apple Pie. But they say his all-time favorite was a cake made by Mary Todd Lincoln. The recipe is printed below.

As a side note, **Ben Franklin**, although not a president, was one of our founding fathers. Ben Franklin is often quoted as having written, "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."

And yes, **Barack Obama** has also released his beer recipe; in fact, two beer recipes. They can be found online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/09/01/ale-chief-white-house-beer-recipe>

George Washington: To Make Small Beer Written in George Washington's style

Take a large Sifter full of Bran Hops to your Taste. Boil these 3 hours. Then strain out 30 Gallons into a Cooler, put in 3 Gallons Molasses while the Beer is scalding hot or rather drain the molasses into the Cooler & strain the Beer on it while boiling Hot. Let this stand till it is little more than Blood warm. Then put in a quart of Yeast if the weather is very cold, cover it over with a Blanket & let it work in the Cooler 24 hours. Then put it into the Cask, leave the Bung[hole] open till it is almost done working. Bottle it that day Week it was Brewed.

Abraham Lincoln's Favorite White Almond Cake Recipe by Mary Todd Lincoln

1 Cupful of butter
2 Cupfuls of sugar
1 Cupful of milk
3 Cupfuls of flour

3 Teaspoonsful of baking powder
Whites of 6 eggs, stiffly beaten
1 Teaspoonful of vanilla
1 Cupful of chopped, blanched almonds

Cream the butter well, add the sugar and cream again, sift flour and baking powder together, add to butter and sugar, alternately with the milk. Then stir in the chopped nutmeats and beat well, finally fold in the stiffly-beaten whites of the eggs, pour into a well-greased, paper-lined pan and bake one hour in a moderate oven. Ice with boiled icing to which you have added half a cupful of candied pineapple and cherries cut in very small pieces.

Boiled White Icing: In a saucepan, combine 1 cup sugar, 1/3 cup water, 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar and dash salt. Bring mixture to boiling, stirring until the sugar dissolves.

In mixing bowl place 2 egg whites; very slowly pour the hot sugar syrup over, beating constantly with electric mixer until stiff peaks form, about 7 minutes. Beat in 1 teaspoon vanilla extract.



President's Message - Continued from Page 2

State Water Resources Control Board

The SWRCB was created by the California state legislature in 1967 and is tasked with protecting water quality by setting statewide policy, coordinating, and supporting the regional water boards' efforts, and reviewing petitions that contest regional water boards' actions. There are nine regional water quality control boards that exercise rule making and regulatory activities by basins as a result of the landmark Porter-Cologne Act of 1970.

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

The CCRWQCB is Region Three of the nine California State Water Quality Control Board that includes Santa Clara (south of Morgan Hill), San Mateo (southern portion), Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, Kern (small portions), San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura (northern portion) counties, and marine waters out to the three-mile limit.

The vision of this board is to achieve ecologically sustainable watersheds and diverse aquatic habitats with healthy riparian areas and corridors, to minimize land pollutant runoff into surface waters, and maintain groundwaters at near natural levels in quantity and quality.

To this end, the CCRWQCB adopts Conditional Agriculture Waiver programs that require the owners of irrigated farmland to control discharges (irrigation and stormwater runoff) from their property to protect surface water and groundwater. Each waiver is good for five years and is "conditional," meaning that it can be revoked at any time.

The first Conditional Ag Waiver was established in July 2004 and expired in July 2009 but extended to July 2010. This Ag Waiver required growers of all irrigated land to participate in a number of programs including a Cooperative Monitoring Program and inspired the formation of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

The 2011 Conditional Ag Waiver is tier-based and compels growers to follow some very strict, if not impossible, requirements. These challenges prompted the formation of Farmers for Water Quality (FWQ) to modify the Conditional Ag Waiver and influence the CCRWQCB to accept the Ag Alternative Proposal.

California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) filed an appeal challenging the regional board's actions. A separate, but complimentary and coordinated petition was also filed by Western Growers and two Grower-Shipper organizations. Two additional complimentary petitions were filed by four area growers and a petition seeking stronger requirements was filed by three non-profit county environmental groups. A Stay was granted in part to the CFBF appeal and the CCRWQCB is currently in the process of redrafting its Annual Compliance Form in order to comply with the Stay Order.

Now that your appetite has been "wetted", next month, I'll continue in Part II with a look at six more agencies.

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A Tale of Two Pests



Effective December 21, 2012, quarantine enforcement for the European Grape Vine Moth (EGVM) has ceased in Santa Cruz County. This means that grape growers within the quarantined area are no longer required to apply pesticide treatments timed to target the first and second larval generations of the moth. And residents near the find site will no longer be asked to allow the state to remove grapes from their properties. Regulatory activities in our county began in June of 2011 after two moths were trapped in a vineyard in Aptos. The cooperation of growers and the public was the key to the successful eradication of the EGVM. Five generations have passed with no additional finds, and our county is no longer under quarantine. This is also good news for cane berry growers that market their fruit to Canada and Mexico. Even though grapes are the main host, Canada and Mexico also consider cane berries to be hosts of EGVM. The end of the quarantine means that EGVM will no longer hinder shipment to those countries. In order to ensure that our county remains free of this pest, the Technical Working Groups recommends that grape production areas be trapped during the growing season. This is especially important in vineyards near wineries that may receive grapes from areas that are still regulated for EGVM. Wineries that receive grapes from quarantined areas will continue to maintain Compliance Agreements with our office to ensure safe processing of the grapes.

As for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), Santa Cruz County is infested and remains under quarantine. We are concerned about the continued impact this quarantine has on the movement of regulated commodities out of the country, particularly to British Columbia and Mexico. We were recently informed that the state (CDFA) and federal (USDA) departments of agriculture interpret the requirements of those countries to mean that commodities within 1.5 miles of a positive trap find are not eligible for export! Because riparian areas and natural vegetation

surround our croplands, that is an impossible standard for growers and shippers to meet. A small group of us are working to fast track development of a pest management/ systems approach (that does not include trapping) that will be acceptable to our trading partners. The group includes representatives from the Monterey and Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's offices, California Strawberry Commission, University of California Cooperative Extension, and a USDA entomologist working out of Salinas. It is critical that USDA negotiates plans with Canada and Mexico before the prime harvest season begins this spring.

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SAFETY TIPS

Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

Winter Is Best Time To Do Safety Inspection

During the winter months, many farmers and ranchers put the time to good use by surveying their operations and correcting hazardous situations before they cause an accident or injury.

Avoiding accidents and injuries on the farm or ranch requires knowing what the hazards are, and knowing how to work safely to avoid those hazards. Most important, staying safe requires following correct procedures at all times. Injuries happen when people try to take a shortcut, or when they stop concentrating on what they are doing

The best way to start is by conducting a general house-keeping check of all the buildings—the barns, silos, storage areas, processing areas, animal facilities, shops, and the yard. Check to see that these sites are free of accumulated trash, litter or other things that could start or feed a fire, cause falls or get in the way of work. Make sure materials and supplies are stored so they will not fall on someone nor collapse if a worker climbs on them.

Also, make sure that buildings are adequately lit and weatherized. Make needed repairs of loose boards, protruding nails, faulty steps, handrails, and fences, pens or ramps.

Most farmers prefer to work on their own equipment, frequently with assistance from one or two longtime employees. The hectic pace of harvest is over and there is now time for a little relaxation. But this is also a good time to review some safety procedures.

Adequate systems are needed to vent smoke, fumes and exhaust gases. Open windows and doors may provide enough ventilation in the summer, but not so during winter months. Special systems may be needed to remove exhaust fumes and other gases. Flexible pipe or tubing can be used to vent exhaust gases. Properly designed ventilation systems are required in welding and battery areas to remove smoke and fumes.

Here are some other safety suggestions for the farm shop:

- Keep all tools and service equipment in good condition.

- Always use the appropriate personal protective equipment for operations such as welding and grinding.
- Keep floors and benches clean to reduce fire and tripping hazards. Clean the area completely after the job is finished.
- Empty trash containers regularly.
- Lighting, wiring, heating and ventilation systems should be well maintained.
- Do not allow unauthorized use of tools or service equipment without proper instruction.
- Use tools and service equipment only for their designed purposes.

You can also review your Injury and Illness Prevention Program to ensure that it's up-to-date and reflects your current operations. These are just some of the ways to convert those weather-bound hours into safety accomplishments to help your operation run more smoothly and safely saving you time and money.

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- Just Keep It Simple -

Big Day in California Contract Law



The California Supreme Court in *Riversland Cold Storage v. Fresno-Madera Production Credit Association* (filed January 14, 2013, Case No. S190581) unanimously overruled its own 1935 decision limiting evidence of fraud to contradict terms of a written

contract. The borrower fell behind in loan payments to the Fresno-Madera Production Credit Association (PCA).

To resolve the default, the borrower and PCA signed a written agreement confirming the balance due, delaying the due date for three months and adding eight additional parcels of real estate as collateral.

The borrowers did not make the payments so the PCA began foreclosure. The borrowers cured the default on the \$776,000 loan and sued PCA for deceit alleging PCA promised a two year rather than three month extension and were told two parcels not eight would be collateral. The borrower claimed a PCA vice president said two weeks before signing that they would get a two year extension and only two additional ranches encumbered instead of eight and so they did not read the loan agreement before signing. They just signed where the loan agreement had signature stickers.

The PCA made a motion for summary judgment arguing the conversation two weeks before signing the loan agreement was inadmissible evidence. The trial court agreed and dismissed the case. The borrowers appealed.

The Court of Appeal reversed the trial court decision and reinstated the borrower's case. and PCA then appealed to the California Supreme Court. The California Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal.

The Supreme Court held that parties can make fraud claims based on oral statements made before signing the contract even if such claims are inconsistent with the written contract. This upsets 68 years of case law and is a big change in California contract law which will affect all kinds of contracts, for example, real estate and personal prop-

erty sales contracts, loans, leases, promissory notes and guarantees.

Until now, a party usually could not get out of a contract by claiming that the other side told them something different than what was written. That has changed. Now as long as you have testimony that contradicts a written term you have a factual dispute which probably requires trial. This will make claims based on fraud much easier to assert. The Supreme Court was persuaded however that the result will be a net decrease in fraud, since now it will be difficult to defraud people and then write a contract that effectively covers your fraud.

This is not a "crazy" decision. There are good reasons for the Court to do what it did. Nevertheless, this case may incentivize the unhappy party in a contract to scrutinize contract negotiations after the fact for alleged oral statements of the other party that are inconsistent with the written contract.

So this was a big day in California contract law. Look for changes in forms of contract and perhaps some attempts at a legislative solution.


Food For Thought



"If I were asked to give what I consider the single most useful bit of advice for all humanity, it would be this: Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life, and when it comes, hold your head high. Look it squarely in the eye, and say, 'I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me'."

---Ann Landers

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Agricultural News

Preventing Soil Erosion Can Save Irrigation Water

Rich Casale, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

It's no secret; if your soil erodes then you lose productive top soil. Not too many growers realize that soil erosion can result in the use of more water when it's time to irrigate, but erosion can have damaging affects to both soil texture and structure. In turn, the resulting damage can affect the soil's ability to make water available for crop use. Chronic and/or unattended soil erosion will have even a more disastrous effect on soil productivity, requiring even more irrigation water and fertilizer inputs, not to mention continued expenses related to erosion damage repair. In addition, resulting sedimentation can degrade and reduce both the quality and quantity of surface irrigation water supplies. Winter is normally the time of

year when soil erosion rears its ugly head but erosion can also occur other times of the year from irrigation runoff, land activities that change drainage patterns or furrow alignments, irrigation pipeline breaks, out-of- season rainfall events, etc. Erosion prevention on the farm should be considered a year round practice not just something you do in preparation for winter rains.

Keep in mind: you could be losing as much as 15 tons of soil per acre and not even know it, because you can't see that amount in thin sheets of soil being lost over a field with your naked eye. Don't wait until you have an erosion problem, contact NRCS for assistance at 475-1967.

CALENDAR

MONDAY—FEBRUARY 18
President' Day Observed
Office Closed

THURSDAY —FEBRUARY 21
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission meeting

THURSDAY—FEBRUARY 28
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY —MARCH 6

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

MONDAY —MARCH 11
Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY —MARCH 13
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

SUNDAY—MARCH 17
Happy St. Patrick's Day

WEDNESDAY —MARCH 20
National Agriculture Day
Spring Luncheon
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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