

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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National Agriculture Day

Festivities Scheduled for March 18th

Spring Luncheon



The **National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon** will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2015**. The festivities will run from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the Agricultural History Project on the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. This event, which celebrates both agriculture and the beginning of spring, features the presentation of many

local awards. For reservations, please stop by the **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau**, 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville or call **(831) 724-1356**. Reservations may also be made online at www.sccfb.com using PayPal. Tickets are **\$45 per person**.

This is a very popular event...Don't miss out...make your reservations today. Hope to see you there!

2015 Friend of Agriculture

This award is named after Al Smith who was the founder of Orchard Supply Hardware and donated 3,000 acres (Swanton Pacific Ranch) on our north coast to Cal Poly. The ranch has row crops, timber and even a one-third-scale railroad, which was Al's hobby. The award is on a piece of redwood with a train depicted on it. It is presented

annually to an individual, business or organization not involved in production agriculture, who has done much for the industry.



We can't tell you who will be honored this year, but rest assured he/she will be a worthy recipient. Be sure you attend and be part of the celebration.

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship



Agri-Culture is now accepting applications for the 2015 Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship. The \$4,000 award is 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. This award is made possible through the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship Fund and a \$2,000 contribution from American AgCredit.

To be eligible for the scholarships, students

must live in Santa Cruz County or within the Pajaro Valley Unified School District boundaries, or be a member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. Criteria for the scholarship is based on student leadership skills, a demonstrated commitment to the industry, grades and financial need.

The **DEADLINE** for submitting applications for the Agri-Culture Scholarship Program is: **Wednesday, February 25, 2015**. For more information contact **Agri-Culture**, 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville or call **(831) 722-6622**. Applications are available in the office or online at www.agri-culture.us.

Information about the **National Agriculture Day Poster & Poetry Contest** is on **Page 9**. Please be sure to check it out - **Deadline** for submitting your poster or poetry is **Wednesday, February 25, 2015 before 4:00 p.m.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCCFB.COM



President's Message

DAVID VAN LENNEP, PRESIDENT

"What became apparent was the recognition of how California provides much of the U.S. with fresh produce during winter months. This was even mentioned in the opening ceremony, as a gesture of solidarity with California and our water woes. "

2015 AFBF Annual Meeting

Earlier this month American Farm Bureau (AFBF) held it's 2015 Annual Meeting, returning to California after a long sabbatical. I was there to represent Santa Cruz County and California, in a sea of mid-west and southern states. The honor of attending an AFBF Annual Meeting out of state is more costly and complicated; it will be held out of state for next 9 out of 10 years, so this may be my only opportunity to attend.

The meeting is designed to get people together, provide some workshops and educational items, while allowing time to enjoy some nice scenic location such as San Diego. I was very impressed at the attendance numbers, a total of almost 5,000, with some states having several hundred members present. There was even a representative from Puerto Rico. AFBF represents 6.1 million people nationally.

I had some opportunity to talk with people out of state, and of course, the conversation eventually gets to where you are from and what you grow. I was a bit surprised that Santa Cruz County, and its impressive list of crops, was not more of a household name with folks across the land. However, in describing some of the more famous crops and the big-names that produce them, the light bulb would quickly go on. Crops like berries, Brussels sprouts, leafy

greens and wine were well known products from our state, but few knew of Santa Cruz County. I was certainly not offended, I usually had no knowledge of their home county. What became apparent was the recognition of how California provides much of the U.S. with fresh produce during winter months. This was even mentioned in the opening ceremony as a gesture of solidarity with California and our water woes.

I thought I would share two tidbits of information that I took away from the meeting. One relevant and one just interesting;

[President's Message-Continued on Page 8](#)

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ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor, UCCE

Managing Household Pests

Q: Where can I get information about managing household pests?

A: There is a wonderful resource, UC IPM Online, that can provide you with information on managing any number of household pests. UC IPM Online, part of the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, can be found at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html>.

The website is organized around four main groupings:

- Home, garden, turf, and landscape pests. Examples are ants, bed bugs, and bice.
- Agricultural pests. Information is presented by crop name, for example apple or carrot.
- Natural environment pests. Examples are California oakworm and mosquito.
- Exotic and invasive pests. Examples are Bagrada bug and Brown Marmorated Stink bug.

Each household pest has an associated "Pest Note" that can be accessed online, or downloaded as a pdf. Pest Notes, which are generally four to six pages in length (some are a bit longer), have photographs or drawings to help you identify the pest. The Pest Notes are further divided into sections, for example sections about damage, impact, biology, and management options. Management options may be mechanical, biological, and chemical or non-chemical. Some Pest Notes also include prevention tips.

Pest Notes are very useful to understanding each pest, its life cycle, and how you might be able to exclude it from, or manage it within your home. Another website link,

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/menu.homegarden.html>, will take you directly to pests of homes, structures, people, and pets. You will also see a section on pesticides and alternatives to pesticides.

If you have additional questions or would like more information, please contact me by phone, (831) 763-8005, or email, ljtourte@ucdavis.edu.

Words of Wisdom

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE WATER NANNY

Fear & Loathing

In two years the Monterey Peninsula will run out of water. You may have noticed there is a lot of high end real estate down there and residents, businesses and tourist traps are highly agitated about doom on the horizon. This is interesting as the date of the end of water on the peninsula was known since the State Water Resources Control Board ordered Cal-Am, the water company, to cut back on pumping from the Carmel River in 1995, following the 1988-1991 drought. It wasn't the first time someone said in California *whisky is for drinking and water is for fighting* (Mark Twain was first). This was upheld by the courts in 2006 and the State Board issued a Cease and Desist Order in 2009 setting swing the sword of Damocles, a 70% reduction in pumping, on January 1, 2017.

Now if this occurred in an agricultural area, farmers would have gotten together in 1995 and, after first cursing out the evil regulators, set about finding new sources of water. Salinas farmers already figured out how to build two reservoirs, a recycled water program for the lower Salinas (CSIP), a rubber dam and more. The PVWMA, after abandoning their pipe dream, also built a water recycling plant and distribution system for farmers. Same process, curse the law, and raise the money. But our brethren on the peninsula, well actually Cal-Am, dithered. They became very good at it. Cal-Am thought about building a new dam on the upper Carmel, until it became the damn dam and no longer politically possible. Water meter moratoriums were imposed. They thought about desalination, thought about it for a good long time too. Nothing.



It takes years to build a desal plant, maybe a decade counting permits, time ran out. In 2012 Cal-AM, the Marina Coast Water District and Monterey County proposed a regional desal plant. Not a bad plan until it imploded due to poor ethical choices by a principal contractor and a MPWRA board member. In 2013 Cal-Am really got serious about desal. Their first proposal was merely a sneaky way to pump water out of the 180' aquifer that Salinas farmers had paid so dearly to restore, the PUC put a stop to that. Cal-Am even met with farmers, only to learn that the farmers had a better understanding of water issues

than the water company. Cal-Am, with strong input from growers, came up with a combination desalination producing 9,750 ac/ft per day, aquifer storage and recovery, slant wells and groundwater replenishment.

During one of the meetings with farmers a grower stood up and asked why not use the millions of gallons of salad plant wash water, drinking water with bits of lettuce and dirt, sitting in giant holding ponds west of Salinas instead of sea water. Good idea, the city folks were clueless. Another Ag idea was to take the water in the Salinas Reclamation Ditch, an Ag drain, which has some salt and nitrates, but is easier to recycle than the ocean. This was such a good idea it caused a rush to secure water rights to the Reclamation Ditch.

We now know that Cal-Am is fully committed to this water project, they have a countdown clock on their website showing the years, months and seconds until 12/31/16. But last time I looked the clock was off by exactly one extra year (2 years, 11 months, etc.). So much for finally getting your act together. *History never repeats itself, but it often rhymes.* (Mark Twain).





"Agriculture, the Original Green"

FAVORITE RECIPES

Biscuit-Topped Chicken Pot Pies

This recipe comes from our Past President, Cynthia Mathiesen. This is one of her favorite "comfort food" recipes for one of those cold winter days. Just makes you feel warm and cozy all over!

Prep and cook time: About 2 hours Makes 6 to 7 individual servings



2½ cups reduced-sodium chicken stock
3 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
2 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and finely chopped
1 stalk celery, finely chopped
4 tablespoons salted butter
1 medium onion, finely chopped
12 small cremini or button mushrooms, finely chopped
1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
5 tablespoons plus 2 cups flour
1 cup milk
¼ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
2 teaspoons salt
Freshly ground black pepper

2 teaspoons finely chopped flat-leaf parsley

2 ½ cups chopped cooked chicken, preferably a mixture of white and dark meat

¼ cup frozen sweet peas

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoons baking soda

5 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cubed

½ cup grated cheddar cheese

2 teaspoons minced fresh sage

1 egg

½ cup plus 2 tablespoons well-shaken buttermilk

Egg wash (1 egg yolk whisked with 1 tablespoon milk)

In a medium saucepan over high heat, bring chicken stock to a boil. Add carrots, potatoes, and celery. Lower heat to medium and cook until vegetables are tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Drain vegetables, reserving stock; set both aside separately.

In a large, heavy-bottomed saucepan, melt salted butter over medium heat. Add onion and cook until golden, 6 to 8 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook 5 minutes. Add fresh thyme and 5 tablespoons flour and cook 2 minutes. Slowly add milk, whisking constantly, until combined, then add stock and cook, stirring often, until mixture thickens, 8 to 10 minutes. Season with nutmeg, 1 teaspoon salt, and pepper to taste. Add parsley, chicken, cooked vegetables, and peas and divide filling evenly among 6 to 7 ovenproof ramekins (8 to 10 oz. each), leaving the top ¼" unfilled.

Preheat oven to 425°. To make biscuit topping, sift remaining 2 cups flour with baking powder, baking soda, and remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Using your fingers or a pastry cutter, work in unsalted butter to form a coarse meal, working

quickly to keep the butter from warming up and melting into the dough. Stir in cheese and sage. In a separate bowl, whisk together egg and buttermilk and add to the flour mixture, stirring gently until a shaggy dough forms.

Lightly flour a counter, a rolling pin, and your hands. Divide dough into 2 balls. Roll out first ball to a ¼" thickness, then use a 2½" biscuit cutter to cut into rounds, scraping and rerolling dough as needed. Repeat with second ball.

Place 3 rounds of dough on each potpie, overlapping as necessary (any unused rounds can be baked on their own as biscuits). Brush dough with egg wash, put pot pies on a cookie sheet lined with aluminum foil, and bake until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbling, 17 to 22 minutes.

Notes:

The fresh thyme and sage are very powerful in this recipe.

I use ¾ rice flour and ¼ tapioca flour in place of the all-purpose flour as a gluten-free option.

FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

Mary Lou Nicoletti, Agricultural Commissioner

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for 2015 and Subsequent Years



The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting.

Greater protection is now available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for crops that historically have been ineligible for federal crop insurance. The new options, created by the 2014 Farm Bill, provide greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops such as vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, and energy crops.

Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained. For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Beginning, limited resource, and traditionally underserved farmers are eligible for a waiver of the service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification."

To help producers learn more about the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and how it can help them, a Web tool is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap. The tool allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for coverage. It also gives them an opportunity to explore a

variety of options and levels to determine the best protection level for their operation

To learn more, visit the Farm Service Agency (FSA) website at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local FSA office, which is in Salinas. The phone number is 831-424-1036. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers the program, also wants to hear from producers and other interested stakeholders who may have suggestions or recommendations on the program. Written comments will be accepted until **February 13, 2015** and can be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

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Farm Management Practices That Save Water

Farm Management practices such as: irrigation and nutrient management, crop rotation, row arrangement, reduced tillage, and seasonal fallowing can all help you conserve and stretch your water supplies on your farm. Other management strategies such as switching to a lower-water using crop variety or crop and incorporating crop residues and/or compost into soil can also help reduce the demand on limited water supplies especially during a drought.

Management practices improve soil health, plain and simple. Healthy soils use less water and soils with more organic matter generally have better infiltration rates and water holding capacity. Practices like reduced tillage and fallowing that limit soil disturbances and retain crop residue help improve soil moisture retention and reduce the likelihood of erosion. Practices that build soil aggregates and put pore

spaces back into the soil improve water infiltration and retention resulting in higher water holding capacity, lessens runoff, and reduces the hazard of top soil loss from erosion and other damages off farm or downstream. Additionally, when management, vegetative and structural practices (new irrigation systems, etc.) are installed to complement one another even more water can be saved.

Management practices as well as many other water saving vegetative and structural practices are all incentive practices under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) administered by NRCS. The 2015 EQIP program has a continuous sign-up and funding process this year. To find out more about EQIP and/or how farm management practices and/or strategies can help you save more water on the farm, contact the Capitola NRCS office at: 475-1967.



"We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience."

George Washington

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State Fund Can Assist With Your IIPP Requirement

As an employer, paying close attention to safety protects the health of your employees and helps you comply with Cal/OSHA regulations. One of the most important tools for employers, including those in agriculture, is an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP).

California employers are required by law to have a written, effective IIPP in place and readily available if state inspectors show up at the farm or ranch. You can be subject to substantial fines if a Cal/OSHA officer inspects your operation and cites you for failure to maintain an IIPP.

The IIPP should include procedures that you put into practice. Part of your responsibility is to control potential workplace hazards and correct hazardous conditions or practices as they occur or are recognized. The IIPP includes a system for you to communicate with your employees on matters relating to occupational safety and health, including provisions designed to encourage employees to inform you of hazards at the worksite without fear of reprisal.

An effective IIPP should establish the following requirements for a safe workplace:

- Management commitment and assignment of responsibilities
- Safety communications system with employees
- System for assuring employee compliance with safe work practices
- Scheduled inspections and an evaluation system
- Accident investigation

- Procedures for correcting unsafe and/or unhealthy conditions
- Safety and health training and instruction
- Recordkeeping and documentation

State Fund's safety and health services are offered at no extra charge to policyholders and include educational programs, materials, and inspections, such as:

- Ergonomic evaluations, air sampling, and onsite inspections that can save employers thousands of dollars in injuries and illnesses.
- Electronic pamphlets, manuals, booklets, and safety sheets.
- Assistance in Cal/OSHA Compliance.

As the largest workers' compensation carrier in California, State Fund plays a stabilizing role in the economy by providing fairly priced workers' compensation insurance, making California workplaces safe, and restoring injured workers.

State Fund recognizes that your loss prevention efforts affect the frequency and severity of injuries and illnesses in your work environment. Our experience shows that with informed planning and education, workplace injuries and illnesses can be reduced or eliminated. We are committed to the belief that a safe workplace can increase worker productivity and lower your workers' compensation costs.

For more information, call toll-free at 888-STATEFUND (888-782-8338), or check the State Fund Website at www.statefundca.com.

President's Message-Continued from Page 2

Food Safety- The FDA was present to do a Q&A on the new Food Safety Laws going into effect. Though there will likely be changes it seems that California and particularly our leafy greens growers are ahead of the curve.

Tobacco- I learned from a North Carolina farmer that the gene utilized for the Ebola vaccine comes from the tobacco plant. We all agreed that it was unlikely to find that information on your Marlboro package any time soon.

POSTER & POETRY CONTESTS

2015 Poster & Poetry Contests

The National Agriculture Day **Poster Contest** is open to children in grades **kindergarten through sixth grade**. The theme is **"GROWN IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND THE PAJARO VALLEY"**. This wording must be included, legibly, on the front of the poster and must reflect the actual crops grown in the region.

Entries should be drawn on white paper no larger than 16" x 20". Each poster must be produced by one student; no team entries allowed. Any medium may be used (crayon, pencil, felt pen, paint, etc.). The top three (3) entries from each grade level will be included in the final judging. Please print your full name, grade and school on the back of the poster. First prize receives \$200 and the winning entry will be used on 15,000 placemats and distributed to county restaurants next year!!! Second and third place winners will be given a special prize and ribbon.

All entries for the poster contest must be submitted to the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau no later than **February 25, 2015** before **4:00 p.m.**

For more information about any of these events, please visit the Farm Bureau office at 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA or call (831) 724-1356.

The National Agriculture Day **Poetry Contest** is open to students in **grades 7-9 and 10-12**. The theme is **"GROWN IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND THE PAJARO VALLEY"**. The top two entries will be in the final judging. Any style poetry may be used and should not exceed 12 lines. Please print your full name, grade and school on the back of the entry. First prize receives \$200 and the winning entry will be used on 15,000 placemats and distributed to county restaurants next year!!! Second and third place winners will be given a special prize and ribbon.

All entries for the poetry contest must be submitted to the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau no later than **February 25, 2015** before **4:00 p.m.**

For more information about any of these events, please visit the Farm Bureau office at 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA or call (831) 724-1356.



2014 National Ag Day Placemat



The image on your left is the 2007 winner of the Poster Contest drawn by Jessica Spurlock, then in the 3rd grade at Twin Lakes Christian School


The image on your right is the winning poem from 2007 written by Piper Lucas who was then in the 8th grade at Aptos Junior High School

The Redwood

Amongst the other trees,
The Redwood grows with ease.
It wants to stretch to the sky.
So it can be the tallest guy.
It's red bark stands out in the park,
While other trees' bark is dark.
It feels like an outcast,
But really is what shows the past.
And so that's why the Redwood's
So special.
Especially to those who do not doze
When learning of those special
Redwoods of our special place,
Santa Cruz.

By
Piper E. Lucas, 8th grade
Aptos Junior High School

"Agriculture, the Original Green"



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Agriculture News

An Overview of Santa Cruz County Agriculture

The following is an excerpt from *Economic Contributions of Santa Cruz County Agriculture*. The report was produced by Agricultural Impact Associates LLC in 2013 under contract to the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

...contributes a total of \$1.46 billion to the local economy, including:

- \$898 million in direct economic output, which represents 5.2% of the county's total direct economic output.
- \$563 million in additional economic output in the form of expenditures by agriculture companies and their employees.

...provides 11,085 jobs in Santa Cruz County economy, including:

- 6,151 direct employees, which is 4.5% of all jobs in the county or about one out of every twenty workers.
- 4,934 additional jobs made possible by expenditures by agriculture companies and their employees.

...has exceptional diversity that provides critical economic stability within agriculture and to the county economy as a whole (Diversity Index of 2.01).

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A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 11
YF&R meeting

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 16
President's Day Observed
Office Closed

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 19
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 25

- Deadline for Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship applications
- Deadline for Poster & Poetry Contest entries

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 26
Board Retreat

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 4

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

MONDAY - MARCH 9
Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 11
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

FRIDAY - MARCH 13
Focus Agriculture, Session 1

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 18
National Agriculture Day
Spring Luncheon - Reservations
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