

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

FEBRUARY 2019
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 2

INSIDE this issue

- 3 Ask Laura**
Leaf Blotch in Strawberries
- 4 Water Nanny**
Plastics
- 5 Recipe**
Salted Caramel
Snickerdoodle Bundt
Cake

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.

Mary Walter, Editor
Jess Brown, Managing Editor

141 Monte Vista Avenue
Watsonville, California 95076.
(831) 724-1356 or (831) 763-4450
Fax: (831) 724-5821
Email: sccfb@sbcglobal.net
Web: <http://www.sccfb.com>

Annual Past President's Lunch Held



(L-R) Dennis Webb, Cynthia Mathiesen, Arnett Young, David Van Lennep, Nita Gizdich, Bob Harris, Brendan Miele, Elia Vasquez, Jamie Johansson, Kirk Schmidt, Thomas Broz, Thomas Am Rhein, John E. Eiskamp and Jess Brown, Executive Director

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau held its annual Past Presidents' Lunch and Board Retreat on Thursday, January 31st at Rancho Santa Maria in Watsonville. The hosts for the luncheon were **Tom Am Rhein, Kirk Schmidt, Steve Bontadelli, John E. Eiskamp and Tom Broz**. Guest speaker at the Past Presidents' Lunch was **Jamie Johansson**, President, California Farm Bureau Federation who spoke on "Strength in Numbers". He was introduced by **Tom Am Rhein**, Past President, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. The Board Retreat was held following the lunch. Guest speakers at the retreat included:

- **Kari Fisher**, Senior Counsel, California Farm Bureau Federation
 - **Matthew Machado**, Director, Department of Public Works
 - **Sam Laforti**, Cannabis Licensing Manager, Santa Cruz County Cannabis Industry
 - **Cathy Calfo**, Board Chair and **Darrie Ganzhorn**, Executive Director, Homeless Garden Project
 - **Sara Hulick**, Ag Technology Specialist, Cabrillo College Ag Tech Program
 - **Jim Leap**, Technical Expert, Climate Smart Ag Technical Assistance Grants
 - Next year's Board Retreat is set for Thursday, January 30, 2020.
- **Jamie Johansson**, President, California Farm Bureau Federation
 - **Kirk Schmidt**, Founder of Quail Mountain Herbs; Director, Preservation, Inc.; Past President, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

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BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT

President's Message

"Our elected political representatives must address a critical issue of national security, our food supply. The agricultural industry remains threatened due to an ongoing labor shortage. Crops continue to be left in the field unharvested. A capable workforce willing to do physically demanding farm work is needed to keep U.S. agriculture viable. We can choose to import the labor needed to grow food on U.S. farms, or we can import our food grown outside our borders."

National Security Crisis: Agricultural Labor

Our elected political representatives must address a critical issue of national security, our food supply. The agricultural industry remains threatened due to an ongoing labor shortage. Crops continue to be left in the field unharvested. A capable workforce willing to do physically demanding farm work is needed to keep U.S. agriculture viable. We can choose to import the labor needed to grow food on U.S. farms, or we can import our food grown outside our borders.

The United States of America was first colonized by immigrant agriculturalists. Both immigration and farming were at the heart of the founding of our nation and are still bound to one another today. The majority of agricultural labor in the U.S. has been imported from foreign shores to reap a bounty on domestic farms. Africa, China, Japan, Philippines, Mexico, South America, and many other countries have been the sources of the labor needed to meet the demands of a growing agricultural industry. While some of these workers were forcibly brought here, most came with the prospect of finding the American dream to work hard and build a better life. Industrialization

in cities and subsequent suburbanization drew populations out of rural America creating an expanded need for immigrant agricultural labor. The tech industry continues to grow and Americans are increasingly more interested in being producers and consumers of tech and are less likely to work in agriculture. U.S. born residents working in agriculture have dwindled to less than 2 percent of the population.

Political stalemate has resulted in an ineffective immigration and work visa policy that fails to meet the need of the agricultural industry. Necessity is the

President's Message - Continued on Page 9

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ASK LAURA

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

Leaf Blotch in Strawberries

Can you tell me what your efforts are with leaf blotch in strawberry?

Sure, I can tell you about leaf blotch in strawberry. Leaf blotch disease, caused by *Zythia fragariae*, is a foliar disease of strawberry in California. Usually the disease occurs in late winter and early spring when there are sufficient rains to activate the fungus and spread the spores. Because of the drought over the past few years, leaf blotch was not really a major disease in strawberry, but with the rains coming back, we've been seeing more of it and this year looks to be no exception.

Symptoms of leaf blotch disease, shown in the picture below, consist of tan to gray leaf lesions that very often develop along the margin or edge of the leaflets. Leaf blotches are irregular in shape and may be surrounded by a purple border. These affected areas tend to grow fairly large; they can expand and cover from 1/4 to 1/2 of the leaflet surface.

Since this disease has generally not been known to overwhelm or kill the strawberry plant grown on the Central Coast, little work has been done on its management or control. However, since now leaf blotch does seem to be occurring here with greater severity and frequency, along with reports of it causing widespread and costly damage to fields in Southern California, it is prudent to develop a modicum of understanding of how to manage leaf blotch. With this in mind, the UC Cooperative Extension office in Santa Cruz County is teaming up with the new small fruit plant pathologist at UC Davis and will be screening fungicides this winter and spring to see which ones give the best control.

The above has been a description of leaf blotch disease in strawberry caused by *Zythia fragariae*. For more information on this pathogen and other issues affecting berries on the Central Coast of California, please contact Farm Advisor Mark Bolda at 831-763-8025 or mpbolda@ucanr.edu.



THE WATER NANNY

Plastics

Mr. McGuire: "I want to say one word to you. Just one word." Benjamin: "Yes, sir." Mr. McGuire: "Are you listening?" Benjamin: "Yes, I am." Mr. McGuire: "Plastics." Benjamin: "Exactly how do you mean?" Mr. McGuire: "There's a great future in plastics. Think about it. Will you think about it?" (The Graduate, 1967) This historic advice about plastics is one of the 100 most quoted lines in cinema. Over the next year it will be one of the most discussed words as the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) considers adoption of a new ag order.

The RWQCB November 2018 list of options for the new order dealing with sediment and erosion proposes: "Cultivation on ranches with impermeable surfaces on slopes greater than TBD% is not covered by this order. Ranches may apply for individual waste discharge requirements." They continue: "Stormwater discharge intensity and volume from ranches with impermeable surfaces may not exceed discharge intensity and volume from equivalent non-impermeable area for any storm up to and including the design storm. Design storm TBD" or in the alternative "No stormwater discharge may occur for any storm up to and including the design storm. Design storm TBD." Impermeable surfaces is defined to include plastic mulch and hoop houses.



As they say on the news, let's unpack this. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) are required for dischargers unless there is a waiver, as for farms on the Central Coast since 2005, a relevant General Order, as for wineries, or a specific industry WDR like the Central Valley model for farming. An Individual WDR would be very expensive for individual ranches. The idea that you "may" apply for a WDR seems to understate this new mandate, if the ranch is not covered by the Ag Order it will have to get a WDR. Aside from a few enforcement actions RWQCB staff has little experience with plastic mulch or hoop houses and has made no effort to look at ranches on slopes where plastic mulch has worked just fine.

In 2018 RWQCB staff took action against two strawberry ranches in North Monterey County. Both were on slopes

and used plastic mulch. One farmer was recalcitrant, which resulted in greater enforcement and no crop for next year due to planting restrictions. Other strawberry farms with similar soil and cultural conditions had no erosion. Unfortunately, the staff presentation focused on plastics. A few Board members even questioned use of plastic mulch anywhere, regardless of slope.



Ag Associations, including your Farm Bureau, are commenting on these and other staff proposals. The tentative counter proposal for plastic mulch and hoop houses is to require preparation of a sediment and erosion plan if the ranch has greater than "X"% slope and there is storm or tailwater discharge. It also would require the RWQCB staff to notify the operator, including possible inspections. One proposal would exempt hoop houses with no plastic during the winter. The real problem here is the historic lack of enforcement by RWQCB staff. Instead of promoting change through clear objectives and incentives, there have only been very infrequent enforcement actions, usually after a road is closed by sediment.

The RWQCB will adopt a new Ag Order in March, 2020. While this seems a long time off, in the land of bureaucrats, after considering required notice, comment periods, and CEQA deadlines, it is almost tomorrow. If you farm with plastic mulch or erect hoop houses the next RWQCB hearing is on March 21st and 22nd in Watsonville. *"Don't let complexity stop you. Be activists. Take on the big inequities. It will be one of the great experiences of your lives,"* (Bill Gates)





FAVORITE RECIPES

Salted Caramel Snickerdoodle Bundt Cake

Snickerdoodle cake

- 2 1/2 cups low protein all-purpose flour or cake flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 5 ounces (1 small can) evaporated milk
- 1 cup Greek yogurt or sour cream
- 2 eggs, beaten and at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup butter, melted

Make the cake: Heat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 12 cup bundt pan with flour-based baking spray (such as Baker's Joy). Alternatively you may grease the pan with shortening and coat it with flour, but this may prove difficult if your bundt pan has a lot of detail in the design.

Whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, granulated sugar and cinnamon in a large batter bowl. Add the evaporated milk, yogurt, eggs and vanilla. Beat on low speed with an electric mixer until just combined. Gradually add in the melted butter. Scrape down the bowl; beat for 2 minutes until all ingredients are well blended. Pour batter into the prepared pan.

Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until a tooth pick tester comes out clean. Let stand for 5 minutes in the pan, or until the cake's edges start to pull away from the pan. Turn the cake onto a cooling rack to cool completely.

Make the caramel sauce: Melt the sugar over medium-high heat in a medium saucepan. Gently prod the sugar as it melts to promote even cooking. Cook until the sugar turns

Note: If you don't have cake flour on hand, you may use regular all-purpose flour and increase the evaporated milk in the recipe to 12 ounces (1 large can).

Caramel sauce

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, cubed
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of fine grain salt
- flake salt

deep amber and add the butter all at once, using a whisk to combine. Be very careful with this addition because the butter will cause the caramelized sugar to bubble and sputter. Keep whisking until the butter incorporates (this may take a minute or two). Remove pan from heat and gradually pour in the heavy cream, whisking constantly. When the mixture is smooth, stir in the vanilla extract and pinch of salt.

Transfer the mixture to a bowl and let thicken slightly in the refrigerator, about 30 minutes.

Place the cake on a serving plate with a lip. Pour half of the caramel sauce over the cake and garnish with one or two pinches of flake salt. Reserve the remaining caramel to serve on the side in a gravy boat, or add extra caramel to individual slices.

Store the cake covered at room temperature for up to three days. Refrigerate unused caramel sauce and re-warm in the microwave or on the stove top when ready to pour over cake slices.

Participate in Santa Cruz County's AgTech Conversation

The Santa Cruz County AgTech Meetup was formed in March, 2015, to facilitate the conversation between produce growers-shippers, and technologists in Santa Cruz County. We meet every other month with an agenda that rotates to reflect the "process" growers-shippers go through.

February - Land Preparation

April - Planting

June - Production

August - Harvesting, Productivity Solutions.

October - Processing & Shipping

December - Planning and Resource Allocation

The meetups are held in Watsonville on the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Food & Refreshments are provided and the speakers start at 6pm.

Please attend and promote attendance to these unique AgTech conversations. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.meetup.com/Santa-Cruz-County-Ag-Tech-Meetup/>



Top 10 Reasons to Take Pets to the Vet

What are the most common reasons we take our pets to the vet? Check out our top 10 list to find out

Pets require routine medical attention just like their human counterparts, and while common issues such as ear infections and skin allergies are rarely life-threatening, they can be unexpected and expensive. Nationwide, the nation's first and largest provider of pet health insurance, recently sorted through its database of more than 600,000 insured pets to determine the top medical conditions that prompted veterinary visits for dogs and cats in 2016. Below are the results:

Dogs

1. Skin Allergies
2. Ear Infection
3. Non-cancerous Skin Mass
4. Skin Infection
5. Arthritis
6. Periodontitis/Dental Disease
7. Vomiting/Upset Stomach
8. Diarrhea/ Intestinal Upset
9. Bladder or Urinary Tract Infection
10. Anal Gland Inflammation/Infection

Cats

1. Periodontitis/Dental Disease
2. Bladder or Urinary Tract Disease
3. Chronic Kidney Disease
4. Vomiting/Upset Stomach
5. Excessive Thyroid Hormone
6. Diarrhea/Intestinal Upset
7. Diabetes
8. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
9. Skin Allergies
10. Valvular Heart Disease or Murmur

"We encourage pet owners to schedule regular medical checkups as recommended by their veterinarians to prevent many common, yet problematic medical conditions," said Carol McConnell, DVM, MBA, vice president and chief veterinary medical officer for Nationwide. "It's important for pet owners to be familiar with their pet's daily habits to help identify oddities in their routine. Early detection can prevent many of these issues from becoming serious."

Last year, Nationwide members spent more than \$81 million to treat the 10 most common medical conditions affecting their pets. Skin allergies were the most common health issue among Nationwide insured canines with more than 102,000 individual claims. Dental diseases accounted for the most common medical condition among Nationwide insured felines with more than 5,200 claims.

To learn more about Nationwide Pet Insurance, visit www.petinsurance.com or call 877-738-7874 and mention California Farm Bureau for your preferred pricing.

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For a period, Houdini used a trap door in every single show he did...I guess you could say it was a stage he was going through.

Virulent Newcastle Disease Continues To Be Challenging To Control



Since the detection of Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) last May in a small backyard chicken flock in Southern California, the disease has proven difficult to control. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has been working closely with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) these past few months to eradicate the disease. Since May, CDFA and USDA have confirmed 299 cases, primarily in backyard exhibition birds. However, on December 14, 2018 APHIS confirmed the presence of VND in a commercial flock in Riverside County and on January 8th and January 10th two more cases in commercial layer flocks in Riverside County were confirmed. Due to the difficulties in eradicating the disease and its continued spread, California's State Veterinarian, Dr. Annette Jones, has ordered mandatory euthanasia of birds in neighborhoods in Compton (Los Angeles County), Muscoy (San Bernardino County), Mira Loma/Jurupa Valley (Riverside County) and Perris (Riverside County). The State Veterinarian has also recommended cancelation of all poultry exhibitions that include birds

from the high-risk counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura. Exhibitions include the assembly of birds not limited to poultry at places such as auctions, shows, swap meets, pet stores, fair exhibits and petting zoos. These mandatory actions and recommendations are not made lightly and denote the seriousness of the current situation. On January 18th, APHIS confirmed VND is a small flock of backyard exhibit birds in Utah County, Utah. USDA believes this case to be connected to the outbreak in Southern California because investigative findings determined that three of the positive birds had been recently moved from Los Angeles County to Utah. If you keep poultry for show or for commercial production, then it is imperative that you take necessary precautions to keep your birds healthy. Following and implementing a biosecurity plan is a key step in this process. CDFA has excellent information and links to resources on biosecurity measures on their website. To get the latest information on VND alerts, quarantine areas and resources to identify the disease and its symptoms, please visit CDFA's VND webpage at: https://www.cdca.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html

Please join us for a relaxing evening to raise funds for the **JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Fund** Tuesday, February 26th

Shadowbrook Restaurant has again selected the organization Agri-Culture for a community dinner.

The Agri-Culture Board of Directors has designated the recipient as the
JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Fund.

It's just friends and family going to dinner with one third of their bill going to the Crosetti Fund.
There is no formal program.



Make reservations directly with Shadowbrook.

Please tell them you are attending for the organization, Agri-Culture.

If you enjoy appetizers and cocktails at the bar,
please tell them you are there for Agri-Culture.

We hope to see you there!

Crosetti Family
&

Agri-Culture
Board of Directors



Note: If you cannot make it on the 26th, please consider making a donation
at www.agri-culture.us/funds/

I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...

"I wanted to join an organization
that protects farmland for future
generations."

Arnett Young,
1st Vice-President
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Six Important New Employment Bills



The Legislature has been busy. Six important new employment bills became law last year, and all but one became effective January 1, 2019.

AB 3109 prohibits contracts or settlement agreements that prohibit anyone from later testifying in administrative, legislative or judicial proceedings regarding criminal conduct or sexual harassment.

SB 820 prohibits lawsuit settlement agreements related to sexual assault and workplace harassment from containing non-disclosure provisions. The bill, however, authorizes provisions that prevent disclosure of the settlement amount and protect the claimant's identity if the claimant requested anonymity and the other party is not a government agency or public official.

SB 1300 expands liability under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) making it easier to prove harassment and clarifies what "severe and pervasive conduct" is. The bill provides that "A single incident of harassing conduct is sufficient to create a triable issue regarding the existence of a hostile work environment if the harassing conduct has unreasonably interfered with the plaintiff's work

performance or created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment." This bill also prohibits the release of FEHA claims in exchange for a raise or a bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment.

SB 224 expands the scope of protection from harassment under FEHA from just employers to also include someone who holds himself or herself out as being able to help the plaintiff establish a business, service, or professional relationship with the defendant or a third party. This bill also expands the jurisdiction of FEHA from just workplace discrimination to now include sexual harassment.

SB 1343 expands the present sexual harassment training law which requires all employers with 50 or more employees to provide two hours of sexual harassment prevention training only to supervisors. SB 1434 requires training for all employers with five or more employees. This law becomes effective in 2020.

AB 1976 affects employer lactation accommodations. Employers are already required to provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate an employee wanting to express breast milk for her baby and make reasonable efforts to provide a private place to do so, close to the employee's work area and not in a toilet stall. Now the lactation location cannot be in a bathroom.

You're Invited National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

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

\$50 per person

Heritage Hall

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

Features the Presentation of:

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Poster Contest Winner

Poetry Contest Winner

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship Winner

Poster Contest Grades K - 6

Theme: Grown in Santa Cruz
County & the Pajaro Valley

- Contest theme to be included, legibly, on front of poster
- Crops shown on poster must be grown in the Pajaro Valley

Poetry Contest Grades 7 - 12

Theme: Grown in Santa Cruz
County & the Pajaro Valley

Any style poetry may be used
but cannot exceed 12 lines.

Reservations and full contest rules are available at the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville or by calling (831) 724-1356, email - sccfb@sbcglobal.net. Also visit our website: www.sccfb.com.

Winners will receive \$200!

The contest deadline is Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

mother of invention; when the need for something becomes an imperative, you are forced to find ways of getting or achieving it. The agricultural industry has a need for workers; immigrants from abroad are searching for a better life. A University of California Davis study estimates that up to 60 percent of California's 421,000 farmworkers, approximately 253,000 people, are undocumented.

California is the largest agricultural state in the nation and has unique agricultural labor needs. The California Farm Bureau has been at the forefront of advocating, on their members behalf, to ensure the needs of California farmers and farmworkers are represented in the national debate on immigration policy. In 2018, CFBF helped prevent a proposed immigration bill from passing, that would not have met the needs of California agriculture.

The recent government shutdown and discussion of a border wall have overshadowed and neglected newly proposed legislation from Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Zoe Lofgren designed to ease the agricultural worker shortage and protect current undocumented workers already in the United States. The blue card program would require background checks, ensure that workers have no criminal records, pay federal taxes and require that applicants have a work history in agriculture. CFBF supports this proposal as a good first step toward comprehensive immigration reform. Please contact your Senators and Representatives and let them know that California Farmers need this solution now.

~~~~~

♥ Happy Valentines  
Day ♥

## **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau**

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

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

March 13, 2019

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

### **102nd Annual Meeting**

Location to be determined

June 2019 - Date TBA

5:45 p.m.

### **California State Fair**

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

July 12 through July 28, 2019

### **26th Annual Golf Tournament**

Seascape Golf Club

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 12, 2019

### **Santa Cruz County Fair**

September 11 through September 15, 2019

### **Annual Directors' Dinner**

Location to be determined

November 7, 2019

5:45 p.m.

### **CFBF 100th Annual Meeting**

Reno, NV

December 2019 TBA

## **Agri-Culture**

### **12th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon**

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

May 9, 2019

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

### **11th Annual Testicle Festival**

Estrada Deer Camp

August 24, 2019

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

### **23rd Annual Progressive Dinner**

To be determined

October 26, 2019

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

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*~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver*

*Santa Cruz County Bank is a proud recipient of the  
"2018 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture" Award*

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# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

## CALENDAR

**MONDAY - FEBRUARY 11**  
Public Relations & Information  
Committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 13**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**MONDAY - FEBRUARY 18**  
Presidents' Day Observed  
Office Closed

**THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 28**  
Board of Directors' meeting

**WEDNESDAY - MARCH 6**  
• Legislative Committee  
meeting  
• Executive Committee  
meeting  
• Membership Committee  
meeting

**FRIDAY - MARCH 8**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 1

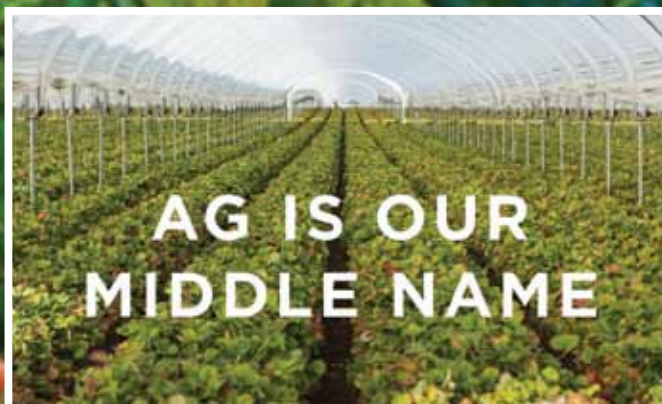
**SUNDAY - MARCH 10**  
Daylight Savings Time Begins

**MONDAY - MARCH 11**  
Public Relations & Information  
Committee mtg.

**WEDNESDAY - MARCH 13**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**MONDAY - MARCH 13**  
National Agriculture Day  
Spring Luncheon

**THURSDAY - MARCH 28**  
Board of Directors' meeting



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of the small details that go into the big  
picture of farming. Because agriculture  
is what we know, it's all we do.



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