

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

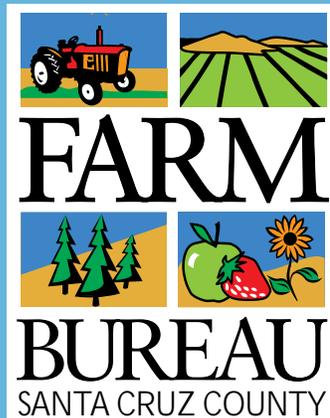
JANUARY 2014
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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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Annual Compliance Form Workshop

Hosted by the Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition & Driscoll's

When: Friday, January 10, 2014 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau office

The Regional Water Quality Control Board's Annual Compliance Form (ACF) is required of Tier 2 and 3 growers. The form, now revised according to the State Water Board's final decision, is due **January 15, 2014**.

At this workshop, growers will be walked through the form, assisted with getting the information they need, and submit it.

What you will need:

- Your Geotracker login id and password
- A laptop (if you have one and want to submit the form during the workshop)
- Your soil type(s) (we will provide assistance with determining this)
- The nitrogen concentration in your irrigation water (NO₃ in mg/L or N in mg/L)

Please **RSVP** to Erin McCarthy at 831 475-5159/ erin.agwater@gmail.com by January 8th.

Sponsored by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and Driscoll's



A delegation from the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau attended the California Farm Bureau Federation's 95th Annual Meeting in Monterey in December to accept the County of the Year Award. (L-R) Jess Brown, Executive Director; Nita Gizdich, Director; Silvia Prevedelli, Director; David Van Lennep, 1st Vice-President; Cynthia Mathiesen, President; John E. Eiskamp/Past President, Director; Chris Enright, Past President; Matthew Bissell, Director; Tom Broz, 2nd Vice-President

A gri-Culture has received a large contribution from Lakeside Organic Gardens for educational programs for the public to learn about local farming.

See Page 7 for more...

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCCFB.COM



President's Message

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN, PRESIDENT

Growing our Future, Valuing our Traditions

A New Year is a time for reflection as well as a time for new beginnings. It is an occasion to celebrate our successes and to plan for the future; an opportunity to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, especially for the privilege of the fellowship and the food we enjoy and a time to develop new ideas.

The past is recorded but the future is yet unwritten and it can be anything we want it to be. It is a chance to try one thing new and exciting and not limit ourselves to what we already know. It can be one small adventure; something you've always dreamed of doing. It can be a scary escapade through the unknown but the results can be rewarding and you will never know unless you try. You will not remember the failures but you will remember the successes.

As Mark Twain once said, *"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."*

As we begin 2014, let us consider how we can use the next twelve months to make a difference. Let us be thankful for what we have achieved and conscious of our responsibility and the ag education for all those we encounter. It seems appropriate to share part of the invocation I gave at the CFBF Annual Awards Dinner in Monterey last December:

"Bless the many hands that grow the crops used to feed, cloth, and enhance our world. Provide us with the water and

sunshine we need to be fruitful on fertile soil. Yours is the harvest of the field, the fruit of the vines, the crop of the trees, and the flowers of the earth."

We ask for guidance in the tasks before us. Enable us to be at the table when our community struggles with tedious and controversial issues. Bless the leadership of our county with wisdom and grant us clear vision for Growing our Future for the benefit of all in these difficult times.

May our actions be honest and respectful to all people so the value of our traditions carries on into the next generation. May you have a healthy and prosperous New Year and may we give praise and thanks for all of these gifts.

"Bless the many hands that grow the crops used to feed, cloth, and enhance our world. Provide us with the water and sunshine we need to be fruitful on fertile soil. Yours is the harvest of the field, the fruit of the vines, the crop of the trees, and the flowers of the earth."

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ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Advisor, UCCE

How To Properly Plant A Strawberry Transplant

Q - It's the New Year. Could you suggest a New Year's resolution that would benefit almost any grower in Santa Cruz County?

A. One of the biggest problems for many growers is the inadvertent introduction of new pathogens and insect pests into their field or nursery. Santa Cruz County has had more than its fair share of serious invasive pests and diseases, such as light brown apple moth, spotted wing drosophila, and the European grapevine moth. And this past year, I have written about the new important insect pests that are lurking on our County boundaries: bagrada bug, brown marmorated stink bug, and Asian citrus psyllid. So there are reasons to be especially vigilant now. Of course, stopping the introduction of common weeds, insects, and pathogens into the farm or nursery is important too. Therefore doing everything possible to stop their introduction, in the first place, is very important-- and why it should be a New Year's resolution for every grower.

Question: What can I do to prevent the introduction of new weeds, insects, and pathogens?

Answer: First, make sure you are keeping your farm or nursery in the best possible condition-- controlling existing pest and pathogens and providing the best possible bed preparation or growing conditions for your crops. Then you can concentrate on preventing the introduction of pathogens and pests.

Here's a short list of things that you could do to prevent the introduction of pathogens and pests:

Know the source of propagative material you plant, and insure that the propagator is doing everything possible to

provide healthy seed or plants to you. Inspect seed, transplants, or liners as it is delivered to your field or nursery. Make sure no diseases or pests are evident. Pull transplants or liners out of their containers and look for healthy root tips. Insects such as aphids, thrips or mealybugs hide in young folded leaves or tightly angled stems. There are field test kits for several root pathogens such as *Pythium*, *Phytophthora*, and *Rhizoctonia*. Test kits exist for common viruses such as tomato spotted wilt, impatiens necrotic spot and cucumber mosaic. If a pathogen or insect infestation is detected, controlling the problem before you plant in the field is much easier than after the problem is established in the field. "Controlling the problem" sometimes means throwing infested plants in the dumpster.

- Soil adhering to equipment, tools, tires and shoes may contain pathogens and weed seeds. Wash off all soil from these before moving to a new field location. The soil needs to be removed before ever thinking about using disinfectants such as chlorine bleach or quaternary ammonium compounds.
- Weeds and ornamentals planted just outside production areas can contain pathogens and insects that can move onto crop plants. Weed seeds can blow in from these areas. Light brown apple moth migrates from many perimeter hosts onto crops. Weeds can contain virus, and as weeds dry in the spring, insects move off them and can infest crop plants. So, don't forget that controlling pests and weeds in areas outside of crop production areas could be really important to prevent new problems.

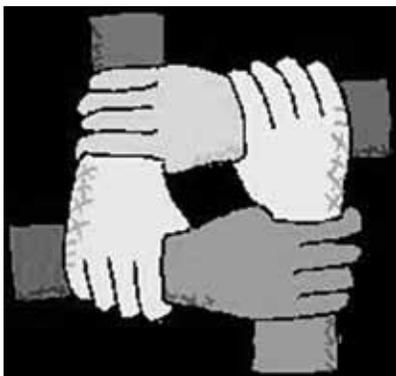
THE WATER NANNY

Agriculture & Commerce

The New Year is upon us. Reams of articles have been written in the past month, reminiscing about the good old days and anxiously anticipating the future. Not your Nanny. The future is going to be fine, opportunities will abound, and I will sell the pony recently received at Christmas. How can I be so certain? I have been reading tea leaves and studying trends. If you watch long enough trends are like the tides, after they fade away they return. The returning trend is *success through cooperation*.

We have moved through an epoch of self-help and personal realization to groups and teams. Not only are people and employers presently benefiting from teams, companies and associations have rediscovered cooperation. People join associations so that they have a louder voice, so the government or community pay attention to their concerns. Similarly, when associations work together on a project they carry more clout than individually.

Did I just mention the government? Yes, it, in its various sizes, seems to be wandering about casting grand plans like an old lady feeding crumbs to the pigeons, in a truly haphazard fashion with about as much thought. Consider the Santa Cruz Railroad, a grand scheme without a purpose, is now morphing into a trail through farmland, apparently



with little oversight from the Supes. Your Farm Bureau is able to do more than a single farmer to prevent the old SP Railroad from becoming a nuisance traipsing through our fields.

Last year our enlightened Watsonville City Council spent good money, our good money, to hold a special election on Measure T, an effort to annex excellent farmland into the city for big box stores and other imagined high wage employers. Yet the city spends little money, and less time, rehabilitating our downtown. The Farm Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

both came out unanimously against Measure T, as neither constituency benefited from the land grab.

After Measure T it became more apparent that our local elected officials seldom consider the wellbeing of companies that employ their residents, which is the real source of wealth for the community. Now the city wants to change Main Street by moving State Highway 152, losing highway funds for repair, narrowing it to two lanes and adding diagonal parking so the downtown shopping experience is more enjoyable. I didn't notice a problem visiting businesses downtown, indeed many of the stores and restaurants don't have enough customers. What they need is more neighboring shops and entertainment venues. Farmers, and our employees, shop in downtown Watsonville. Main Street should not be redesigned by our city planners into municipal failures like the K Street Mall in Sacramento or L Street in Fresno. We need to participate in a discussion to prevent remodeling without rejuvenation.



Like Measure T, the Farm Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce and Agri-Culture can work together to bring more sense to the City Council, whether at hearings or through elections. The Farm Bureau is over 95 years old. The Chamber will be celebrating its 80th anniversary this month. Clearly there is enough experience there to make a difference.

Others have said as much in only a sentence. *"In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed"* (Charles Darwin). Or more to the point: *"If we do not hang together, we will all hang separately"* (Benjamin Franklin).



"Agriculture, the Original Green"

FAVORITE RECIPES

Easy Crescent Wrapped Baked Apple Brie

A Delightful Treat From Your Editor

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (8 ounce) can Pillsbury refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 (8 ounce) round Brie cheese
- 1/2 apple, sliced thinly
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- Crackers or apple slices for serving

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Unroll dough; separate crosswise into 2 sections. Press each section into 6-inch square, firmly pressing perforations

to seal. Scrape some, not all, of the white outer layer from the brie. Place Brie cheese on one 6-inch square. Top with apple slices and brown sugar.

Pull up the sides of the bottom dough square, then place the remaining dough square on top of the Brie, apples and brown sugar. Press dough evenly around cheese, pressing to seal completely. Brush beaten egg all over the dough. Place on cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and let it cool for 10 minutes (if you serve it piping hot, the cheese will run). Move to a serving dish. Serve the Brie with crackers or apple slices.

Enjoy!

State Fund Now More Appealing to Farm Bureau Members

New Pricing Structure Offers Competitive Rates

By Paul Wenger, Farm Bureau President

During the summer I spoke at a State Fund Board of Directors meeting about the growth of agriculture in California and the longstanding partnership between State Fund and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

For the past 70 years, **State Fund** and the Farm Bureau have partnered to offer great benefits to California farmers and ranchers. While attending the Board meeting, I was pleased to discover that State Fund has made a number of significant changes that have added more benefits.

Among these benefits, is the potential to save on your workers' comp costs.

This year, State Fund restructured its entire pricing model and created a tiered system that evaluates specific risk factors, especially loss history and payroll, and assigns a tier based on those risks. If you have a low claims history, State Fund may be able to place you in a tier with rates that are competitive against your current insurance carrier's rates.

In light of State Fund's new pricing structure, the group discount has been adjusted to six percent for all qualifying members with January 1, 2014 renewal dates and later. This discount represents an additional benefit to qualifying members as an acknowledgment of Farm Bureau members' successful safety track records.

Besides now having more competitive rates, State Fund has other financial benefits for Farm Bureau members.

State Fund has declared dividends of \$250 million for the past three policy years. Believe me, it's a nice feeling knowing that the carrier that I give my business to can give *me* back a check—and a substantial one at that.

Potential cost savings are not the only value State Fund has to offer Farm Bureau members. State Fund has a wide variety of agricultural safety training videos available on **YouTube** as well other **safety resources** that can be used for training and incorporating safety practices on the farm and within other agricultural sectors.

I have been a State Fund policyholder for more than 30 years and have found great value in insuring my operations with this insurance carrier. With the newly added benefits and possible savings, you may want to consider getting a quote from State Fund when your policy is up for renewal.

To get a quote, contact your broker or visit **State Fund's Web site** at www.statefundca.com.

Disclaimer statement: Under California law it is unlawful for an insurer to promise the future payment of dividends under an unexpired workers' compensation insurance policy or to misrepresent the conditions for dividend payment. Dividends are payable only pursuant to conditions determined by the Board of Directors or other governing board of the Company following policy expiration. It is a misdemeanor for any insurer or officer or agent thereof, or any insurance broker or solicitor, to promise the payment of future workers' compensation dividends. Past dividend performance is no guarantee of an insurer's future dividend performance.



Water Conservation/Quality Help for Growers

By Jessica Hill & Rich Casale, USDA- NRCS

The Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County addresses local natural resource issues and economic needs of our community by providing a range of conservation services, including water and nutrient management services for local growers under their Conservation Agriculture Program. Program assistance is year round and includes: Farm Water Quality Planning; Agricultural Order Compliance Assistance (English/Spanish); and Spanish/ English assistance to growers and partners with program development; project implementation; and workshop planning.

There are a variety of services offered through the program to improve water quality and conservation as well. These services include: soil nitrate leaching monitoring and training using soil nitrate quick test kits; Hortau soil probe loaner

program connected to the Wireless Irrigation Network(WIN); water use monitoring assistance using flow meters; distribution uniformity(D.U.) evaluations for irrigation systems; technical help including free seed and straw for erosion control on farm roads and fields; storm water runoff monitoring and training; and row arrangement design assistance that includes a written summary, map, field indicators, and coordination with the tractor driver.

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) also provides free technical advice and financial support for these programs. For more information about the RCD's Conservation Agriculture Program call: (831)464-2950 Ext 23 or 15 or contact NRCS at (831)475-1967. *Note: NRCS and the RCD of Santa Cruz County are non-regulatory agencies and equal opportunity employers and providers.*

Do Your Sales Or Purchases Qualify For A Partial Tax Exemption?

By John Gamper, Director, Taxation & Land Use, California Farm Bureau Federation

If so, you should know the partial rate exemption increases on January 1, 2013.

Rate Change:

Under California's Sales and Use Tax Law, some sales and purchases are exempt from the state portion of the sales and use tax rate. The total rate is made up of a state component and county, local, and district tax components. As a result of the passage of Proposition 30, the state component will increase from 5.25% to 5.50% on January 1, 2013. This means that a sale that was entitled to a 5.25% tax rate exemption prior to January 1, 2012, will be entitled to a 5.50% exemption on an after January 1, 2013.

Eligible Sales and Purchases:

The partial tax exemption applies to eligible sales and purchases of

- Farm equipment and machinery
- Diesel fuel
- Timber harvesting equipment
- Racehorse breeding stock

For information on who qualifies for the partial tax exemptions listed above, please visit our website at www.boe.ca.gov. Select "Sales and Use Tax" under the BOE Programs menu, and then click on the menu item, "New Sales and Use Tax Exemptions—AB 426 Summary." You may also call our Information Center at 800-400-7115.

Determining the Correct Tax Rate :

To determine the correct tax rate for a partial exemption on and after January 1, 2013, you should subtract 5.50% from rate of tax normally due on a sale or purchase. For example, if the tax rate in effect for a sale or purchase is 7.50%, you should subtract 5.50% from that amount to find the correct rate to use, which is 2.00% (7.50% - 5.50% = 2.00%).

Note to Retailers :

You do not need to obtain new blanket exemption certificates. Properly completed certificates already on file may be used to support partially exempt sales made under the new rate.

Water Rules



Five environmental or fishing groups and a Monterey county labor camp resident filed suit in Sacramento County Superior Court on November 27, 2013 against the California State Water Resources Board alleging the Board failed to adequately regulate agricultural runoff alleged to run into waterways and drinking water wells in the Central Coast Region.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act regulates water quality in California. Waste discharges which could affect water quality must be reported but a Regional Board may waive the requirements for five years in conditional permits renewable every five years if it determines that the waiver is "consistent with the applicable state or regional water quality control plan and is in the public interest." The five year waivers must be conditioned and include monitoring requirements. Environmental groups allege the waivers must be guided by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Plan, California's Antidegradation Policy and California's Nonpoint Source Policy.

The Board for the Central Coast Region adopted its first conditional waiver in 2004. In 2008 the Board began the renewal process for the 2004 waiver. After four years of evaluation, the Regional Board adopted a 2012 conditional waiver. Both agricultural and environmental interests requested the State Board stop applying parts of the Regional Board's 2012 conditional waiver. In June, 2013, the State Board modified the Regional Board's conditional waiver. The State Board then held workshops and received comment and on August 20, 2013 the State Board revised the conditional waiver. The State Board then held another hearing on September 10, 2013 and on September 24, 2013 issued its final order again modifying the Regional Board's conditional waiver. Various groups then filed a petition in Sacramento County Superior Court on November 27. Monterey Coastkeeper, Antonia Manzo, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's

Association and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper all joined to file suit.

The proposed rules added burdens to farming. A spokesperson for the California Farm Bureau Federation is reported to have said the rules threatened its members' ability to farm and ranch, are too burdensome and fear the rules could spread throughout California. The rules will for the first time require monitoring groundwater quality and nitrate pollution and farmers from elsewhere in California are watching for the outcome of this case and its effect on their regions. Monterey Coastkeeper vs. California State Water Resources Control Board, Case No. 34-2013-80001697. The Sacramento County Superior Court will be the first step in judicial review of the new revised conditional waiver.

AGRI-CULTURE RECIEVES LARGE CONTRIBUTION FROM LAKESIDE ORGANIC GARDENS

CONTRIBUTION TO BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The organization **Agri-Culture** announced received a \$5,000 contribution from **Lakeside Organic Gardens**. The gift will be used for providing educational opportunities to the public to learn about local farming.

Agri-Culture is a locally-based organization and has been the recipient of two national awards for its educational programs. It is most noted for its nationally-renowned Focus Agriculture program which allows 20 community leaders to learn about local agriculture during a nine month period with one session held each month. **Lakeside Organic Gardens** is the largest family-owned and operated solely organic vegetable grower/shipper in California.

Agri-Culture President **Bill Ringe** stated "We are very grateful to **Lakeside Organic Gardens** for this monetary contribution and all they do for our community."

FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

Mary Lou Nicoletti, Agricultural Commissioner

Light Brown Apple Moth Working Group



Since last September a Light Brown Apple Moth Working Group has been meeting on a bi-monthly basis. The group is led by CDFA and includes County Agricultural Commissioners from quarantined counties,

the USDA, University of California, and industry. These meetings will continue during 2014.

Discussion of export issues continues to be a major priority for the group. Over the past two years, many commodities have been added to the exempted host list by USDA. These include onion, cilantro, blueberry, conventionally produced strawberry, stonefruit, apple, and pear. We are urging USDA trade specialists to get our trading partners to recognize these commodity exemptions. For example, as you may recall, even though USDA no longer considers conventionally produced strawberries an LBAM host, Canada continues to regulate strawberries. So it was necessary last year for us to issue compliance agreements to growers to enable export of their commodities to Canada. Acceptance by international trading partners of the USDA exempted hosts will reduce the regulatory burden on all of us.

As for nursery stock and cut flowers, the only current option nurseries have for interstate and international movement is based on having a nursery that is "free from LBAM". This option is not very practical in areas such as ours where LBAM has become established. The LBAM Working Group identified these actions to make compliance more practical: (1) Develop a pre-shipment treatment protocol. This approach is used by southern California counties (which are under quarantine for glassy-winged sharpshooter) that ship nursery stock into other parts of the state, including Santa Cruz County. The University of California Cooperative Extension and USDA are doing efficacy studies; (2) Identify genus and/or species that may qualify for exemption.

The LBAM program has evolved over the last several

years to include a shift in program goal from eradication to control. Many positive regulatory changes have occurred during this evolution, but much work remains to be done. Many original regulatory requirements were based on lack of data and/or the goal of eradication. The Working Group hopes to identify requirements that should be modified or removed and start the process of proposing regulatory changes.

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Mike Klimenko, State Fund Farm Bureau Group Manager

Keep Your Osha 300 Log Up To Date

As a farm employer, it is very important to stay current on the recordkeeping requirements of the California Division of Occupational Health (Cal/OSHA) relating to safety in the workplace. Required records include the OSHA 300 Log and documents about safety hazard analysis, inspections, and accident investigations.

The OSHA 300 log is probably the most familiar to workers and employers. It records all work-related deaths along with injuries and illnesses that require more than first aid treatment. An annual summary of injuries and illnesses is required to be posted in the workplace. Some small businesses (less than 10 employees) and certain industries may have limited exemptions from this recordkeeping requirement.

Keeping track of all of the recordkeeping requirements can be very challenging, but it is a necessary requirement. For this reason, State Fund has taken up the task of making it easier for all of our policyholders. We have developed a bulletin that provides instructions on keeping the 300 Log.

For instructions on keeping the 300 Log, see the State Fund Loss Control Bulletin *Required Recordkeeping Procedures* at www.statefundca.com/safety/losscontrol/LossControlArticle.aspx?ArticleID=311. For instructions on reporting illnesses and injuries that require treatment beyond first aid, see *First Aid Reporting Requirements* at www.statefundca.com/safety/losscontrol/LossControlArticle.aspx?ArticleID=301.

Cal/OSHA also requires employers to keep records on hazard evaluations and the corrective actions taken to reduce or control safety risks in the workplace. Job hazard analysis evaluates a worker's job tasks, tools, equipment and procedures to determine the level of safety risk and how to control it. Also examine and plan for hazards associated with new tools, equipment, chemicals, tasks, and work environments. Keeping records of these hazard evaluations and risk reduction efforts can document that a business has diligently worked to protect workers. Communicate with employees about these evaluations to make them aware of job hazards and help them work safer

Periodic workplace safety inspections identify hazards in the workplace. Keep records of the identified hazards and the actions that were taken to correct them. Investigate all employee accidents and near misses to determine the root cause of the accident. Document any corrective actions taken to reduce the risk of further accidents. Take the same steps when investigating employee complaints by recording the investigation process and any necessary corrective actions. Communicate the results of inspections, accident investigations, and complaint response to employees.

For copies of OSHA's Form 300, 300A, and 301 or further information clarifying mandatory recordkeeping, including which employers are exempt or no longer exempt, visit Cal/OSHA's Web site, or the federal OSHA Web site. For employers without Internet access or for questions not addressed on these Web sites, call your local Cal/OSHA consultation office.

Today, State Fund is the largest workers' compensation carrier in California. State Fund has regional offices throughout the state, which provide a full range of services to policyholders and injured workers. We provide coverage to employers of all sizes, from "mom and pop" operations to major organizations.

For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the State Fund Web site at www.statefundca.com.



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Nelson Mandela

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Membership News

Important Dates to Remember

Focus Agriculture, Class XXV

Application Deadline is Friday, January 17, 2014

Applications are available online at www.agri-culture.us
or at the Agri-Culture office, 141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA
For more information, call (831) 722-6622

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship

Application Deadline is Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Applications are available through the Financial Aid office at your school, the
Agri-Culture Office, 141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA
or at www.agri-culture.us
For more information, call (831) 722-6622

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CALENDAR

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

THURSDAY - JANUARY 16
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission meeting

FRIDAY - JANUARY 17
Focus Agriculture, Class XXV
Applications Due

MONDAY - JANUARY 20
Martin Luther King Birthday
Office Closed

THURSDAY - JANUARY 30
Board of Directors' Retreat

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 5

- Legislative Committee mtg.
- Executive Committee mtg.
- Membership Committee mtg.

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 10
Public Relations &
Information Committee mtg.

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 12
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 19
Application Deadline for
the Jimmie Cox Memorial
Scholarship

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