

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

JANUARY 2020
VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

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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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Web: <http://www.sccfb.com>

You're Invited National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

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

\$50 per person

Heritage Hall

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

2601 E. Lake Ave., Watsonville

Presentations:

Al Smith Friend of Agriculture

Poster Contest Winner

Poetry Contest Winner

Scholarship Winners

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

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 \$250!

The contest deadline is Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

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.



President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT

I came across a poem recently that reminded me of those who work in our agricultural industry and the intentional purpose of what they do each day. See the poem "To Be Of Use" on page 8.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCCFB.COM

2020 Scholarship Applications Available

Our scholarships are available through the educational organization Agri-Culture in 2020. The scholarship applications must be completed and received at the Agri-Culture office before closing time on Friday, February 14, 2020. The scholarships are:

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship
Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship
Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship
JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Application deadline is Friday, February 14, 2020 before 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact
Agri-Culture

141 Monte Vista Avenue

Watsonville, CA 95076

Phone: (831) 722-6622

or visit www.agri-culture.us

Applications are available on our website



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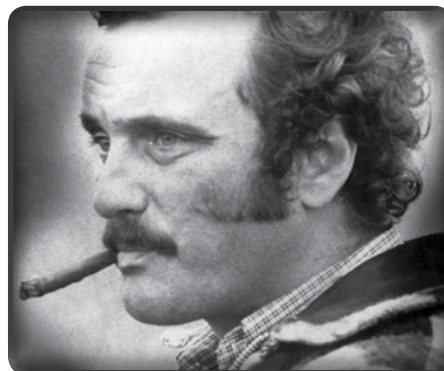
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Please join us for a relaxing evening to raise funds for the
JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Fund



Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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



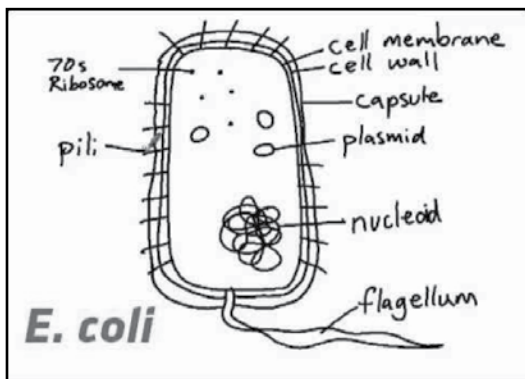
Note: If you cannot make it on the 25th, please consider making a donation
at www.agri-culture.us/funds/

THE WATER NANNY

Scientific Mysteries

"If a soiled shirt is placed in the opening of a vessel containing grains of wheat, the reaction of the leaven in the shirt with fumes from the wheat will, after approximately 21 days, transform the wheat into mice," (Flemish chemist Jean Baptiste van Helmont, 17th-century). While the scientific theory of spontaneous generation fell into disrepute, it was only conclusively disproved by Louis Pasteur in the 19th century.

However scientific mysteries remain. Like, how does a pathogen get into a bag of triple washed salad mix? For



the past two Thanksgivings there has been no romaine or salad mix in the grocery store. Now this may not be a big deal in Boston, where salads are for serving with

BBQ and that was put away on Labor Day. Californians favor salad with every dinner, even during the holidays. The lack of salad was noticeable. The culprit is a very virulent strain of *E. coli*, O157:H7. In general, *E. coli* species of bacteria live in the lower intestine of warm blooded animals and many types are beneficial to the host. However, pathogenic *E. coli* causes illness, and infrequently death. Regrettably, a pathogenic strain has caused illness and death in 2006 in washed spinach, and 2018 and 2019 in fresh and processed romaine lettuce.

In response to the 2006 spinach *E. coli* incident, the fresh processed industry in California formed the Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement to establish food safety standards for fresh washed produce in California. The grower who may have been responsible for the 2018 outbreak was not a member of LGMA. As I write this, the 2019 *E. coli* recall has not been attributed to a source, although the FDA says it was limited to the Salinas Valley.

Food safety is an evolving target. Before everyone purchased processed and branded wrapped fresh produce, food related illness was endured, with no obvious cause.

While that has changed, figuring out the cause is still very difficult. In 2006, the FDA brought field cameras with night vision to "discover" that wild pigs eat at night. These pigs broke through a fence next to a spinach field to access ripe grapes, most likely Pinot Noir, across the road, and then sleep it off in the spinach, or so the story goes. A large grower near Soledad puts nets over a neighbor's nut tree so birds will not pick up a nut and take it to the nearby field to eat. Rat traps and rodent fences abound throughout the Pajaro and Salinas Valleys to keep out pests and comply with food safety audits. Yet we still have recalls.



One of the key elements of a food safety plan is a bare earth setback between a field and any adjoining non-cropped land. While this is a loss of production, it is required. Now our friends at the Water Board are pondering requiring farmers to plant a vegetated strip, up to 250' wide for a riparian setback. It is difficult to imagine how this will improve water quality, and this will result in demands from produce buyers to improve methods of excluding birds and animals from the fields to avoid another Thanksgiving recall. Regrettably, when the RWQCB held a workshop on food safety, not a single processor or retail buyer, two were scheduled, appeared at the workshop to describe their mandates for produce purchases.

As we have now entered the New Year, may we have the endurance to explain why fresh healthy produce is more important than a mandated garden of weeds. *"Part of the secret of a successful life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside."* (Mark Twain)



The moment you walk into a spider web suddenly turns you into a karate master.



FAVORITE RECIPES

Butternut Squash Soup

This recipe was submitted by Cynthia Mathiesen, a Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Director, volunteer and all-around a great helper. What a wonderful evening meal for these cold and damp winter nights. Easy to make and delicious to eat!

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 35 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour

6 Servings

397 calories

6 Tablespoons chopped onion

4 Tablespoons butter

6 cups peeled and cubed butternut squash

3 cups water

4 cubes chicken bouillon

½ teaspoon dried marjoram

¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese



In a large saucepan, sauté onions in butter until tender. Add squash, water, bouillon, marjoram, black pepper, and cayenne pepper. Bring to a boil; cook 20 minutes or until squash is tender.

Puree squash and cream cheese in a blender or food processor in batches until smooth.

Return to saucepan and heat through. Do not allow to boil. Serve and enjoy!

Small Office for Rent in Watsonville

Small office for rent in Watsonville. Ideal for a sole proprietor. The office is part of a larger building complete with two bathrooms and a shared conference room and copy room. The office is approximately 80 sq. ft., with a window and private locking door. The shared space is much larger. The building has its own parking lot with ample parking. An independent insurance agent and his assistant have used the office for over 25 years and he is now retiring.

\$695 per month, includes utilities. For more information, please call (831) 724-1356 and ask for Matt Gianelli.

Significant Progress on the Pajaro River



This year saw the most significant progress toward making the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project a reality than has been seen in over 50 years. The levee serves as an important life safety protection for the communities of Watsonville and Pajaro as well as an essential economic security for the over \$1 billion agricultural industry that surrounds it. Here is an overview of how we got here and the important steps that happened to move the project closer to reality.

What makes the project necessary?

The project was first authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 and was completed in 1949. In 1955 the levees were first breached by a major storm leading to a 1963 report

by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determining that the levee system was "inadequate." In 1966 the Federal Flood Control Act authorized a new project for the Pajaro River and for over 50 years the project has been stuck in a feasibility analysis by the Army Corps.

Floods in 1995 caused more than \$95 million in damage and the loss of life, with additional damage in 1997, 1998 and most recently in 2017. According to the Army Corps, the levees provide only 5-year protection along the Pajaro River and 7-year protection along two Pajaro tributaries, meaning that the level of flood protection on this river are the lowest of any federal flood control project in California and one of the lowest in the country.

Inaction on the part of the Corps has been largely the result of the agency's reliance on funding projects with a high "Benefit-to-Cost Ratio," or BCR. The BCR formula, unfortunately, has led the Corps to prioritize projects in affluent areas, putting property values ahead of projects that save lives.

The Army Corps' BCR hurts economically-disadvantaged areas as lower home values (and the Corps placing no value on agricultural land) leads to projects like the Pajaro not being supported.

What happened this year?

Late this year, three major milestones occurred that provided significant progress on the river. Through our combined efforts at the local and federal level to pressure the Army Corps, we have not only authorized, but also secured, funding for necessary infrastructure repairs on the Pajaro River.

In September, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 489 (from Mark Stone) that allows for state investment of \$114 million dollars for this project. This investment was contingent upon a signed feasibility report from the Army Corps.

To that end, with strong work of Congressman Panetta and our County advocacy, in December the Army Corps Director of Civil Works signed the final feasibility report for the Pajaro project. This report allows the project to finally move out of its feasibility stage and into its "Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design" (PED) phase.

Just days later, Congressman Panetta secured language in the Fiscal Year 2020 federal spending bill that reserves at least \$1.5 million for Army Corps funding for PED on flood control projects, like the Pajaro River project, which are located in economically-disadvantaged communities that have suffered from fatal flooding.

Now, for the first time in 53 years, we have both the federal authority and the funding to take real steps forward for the Pajaro River project. We certainly have more work to do as we move this project through its PED phase and then its construction phase. However, the wheels are finally turning, and once completed, the final product will be the result of a truly collaborative process between county and city staff, local elected officials, the Army Corps, and Congress.

Thank you to the Farm Bureau for your continued advocacy of this project. Your involvement can't be understated. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 454-2200 or email me at zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us

2020 Brings More Regulatory Changes to Industrial Hemp in California



On October 12, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom approved Senate Bill 153 which makes several amendments to Division 24 (Industrial Hemp) of the California Food and Agricultural Code effective January 1, 2020. Several definitions of the law were revised such as “seed breeder” is

now referred to as “hemp breeder” and “seed cultivar” is now referred to as “cultivar.” “Industrial hemp” is now defined in Division 24, a term that was previously defined under the Health and Safety Code. The number of members that serve on the Industrial Hemp Advisory Board has been expanded from 11 to 13 increasing the representation of industrial hemp growers on the Board.

Several important changes to Division 24 will cause the California industrial hemp law to conform to the amendments made to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) and meet the compliance requirements of a state plan. These changes do not become operative until California’s Industrial Hemp Plan is submitted and approved by USDA. Key changes in this area include limiting the definition of an industrial hemp “established agricultural research institution” to institutions of higher education and requiring that these research institutes register with the Agricultural Commissioner and submit a copy of their research plan. The research plan will include, among other things, testing requirements of cultivars on the research facility and measures to destroy plants that exceed THC concentrations above 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis. Currently, research institutions include private or public organization in addition to institutions of higher education and they are not required to register with the Agricultural Commissioner and shall provide the Global Positioning System coordinates of their cultivation site(s). In addition, the CDFA Secretary will be authorized to take actions against industrial hemp growers and research institutes for failing to comply with laws and regulations of the State. These actions will include compliance with a State imposed corrective action plan, a five-year disqualification from participation in the industrial hemp program for operators with three violations within a five-year

period and referral to the U.S. Attorney General and State Attorney General for intentional, grossly negligent or reckless violations. Also, individuals convicted of a felony related to a controlled substance will be ineligible from participation in the industrial hemp program for 10 years, which means that in the future background checks will be required as part of the registration process.

Amendments to Division 24 mandate the California Secretary to submit a State Industrial Hemp Plan to USDA for review and approval no later than May 1, 2020. The proposal must be consistent with the requirements in USDA’s Domestic Hemp Production Program Interim Final Rule. Approval of a State plan will allow industrial hemp growers to operate under California laws and regulations as opposed to federal regulations.

Additionally, in October of 2019, the CDFA announced their proposal to adopt the Industrial Hemp Emergency Regulations that established procedures and methods for sampling, testing and destruction of non-compliant industrial hemp. The comment period closed on December 2, 2019. The existing industrial hemp emergency regulations have been readopted until March 2020 until the rulemaking process to adopt new regulations has been completed. For more information on CDFA’s rulemaking process visit their website at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/industrialhemp/>

To learn more about USDA’s Domestic Hemp Production Program and their Interim Final Rule (IFR) defining the requirements for State plans visit their website at:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/hemp>
The public comment period on the IFR has been extended until January 29, 2020.



President's Message - Continued from Page 1

To Be of Use

Submitted by Marge Piercy

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

NEW DECADE: NEW EMPLOYMENT LAWS



The Legislature was especially active last year, especially about housing and employment. This article is about only four new employment laws, to put them on your "radar screen" and suggest you may want to huddle with your HR adviser or lawyer to consider how to address them if at all.

You may wish to comply immediately or wait until some recent legal challenges go through the court system and possible legislative redrafting. So here they are.

AB 5 – "ABC" Test for Classifying Independent Contractors

AB 5 makes the California Supreme Court's 2018 decision in *Dynamex Operations West v. Superior Court* (4 Cal.5th 903) a statute. Dynamex made big news by establishing an "ABC" test to decide whether workers are employees or independent contractors. The new law also creates a rebuttable presumption that a worker is an employee, burdening the employer to prove otherwise. AB 5 exempts specified occupations, mostly professional services, from the "ABC" test. Uber and Postmates filed a lawsuit on December 30, 2019 in federal court alleging AB 5 is unconstitutional. Meanwhile, organizations representing freelance writers filed a separate federal court lawsuit alleging AB 5 on free speech grounds. So this new law is in flux.

AB 9 – Extends Timeframe for Filing DFEH Complaints

AB 9 is a big extension of the deadline for an employee to file a complaint against an employer with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) from one year to three years. An employee claiming under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) must first file a complaint with DFEH, the state agency charged with enforcing California's civil rights laws.

AB 51 – Mandatory Arbitration Agreements Prohibited

AB 51 prohibits requiring an employee to sign an arbitration agreement as a condition of employment but does not void existing mandatory arbitration agreements. AB 51's January 1, 2020 effective date is up in the air however because the

U.S. Chamber of Commerce filed a lawsuit against the State of California on December 6, 2019, to have AB 51 thrown out because it is preempted by the Federal Arbitration Act. On December 30, a court granted a temporary restraining order and a hearing on a motion for preliminary injunction to not enforce the law pending trial is set for hearing on January 10, 2020. If the court grants the motion, the new law will be prevented from going into effect until the case can be decided in full.

AB 749 – No-Rehire Provisions in Settlement Agreements Prohibited

Under AB 749, employment settlement agreements may no longer contain no-rehire provisions, or any term that would otherwise restrict the employee's ability to obtain future employment with the employer. Employers and employees may agree to terminate the employment relationship. However and a severance agreement offered to an employee may include a no-rehire provision if the severance is not offered as settlement of an employment dispute and the employee has not filed a claim against the employer. Employers may still end the employment relationship, or refuse to rehire the person, if there is a "legitimate non-discriminatory or non-retaliatory reason." AB 749 applies to all agreements entered into on or after January 1, 2020.

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Nelson Mandela

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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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MONDAY - JANUARY 13
Public Relations &
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meeting

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 15
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 20
MLK Day Observed
Office Closed

THURSDAY - JANUARY 30
Board Retreat & President's
Luncheon

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 5
• Legislative Committee
meeting
• Executive Committee
meeting
• Membership Committee
meeting

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 10
Public Relations &
Information Committee
meeting

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 12
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

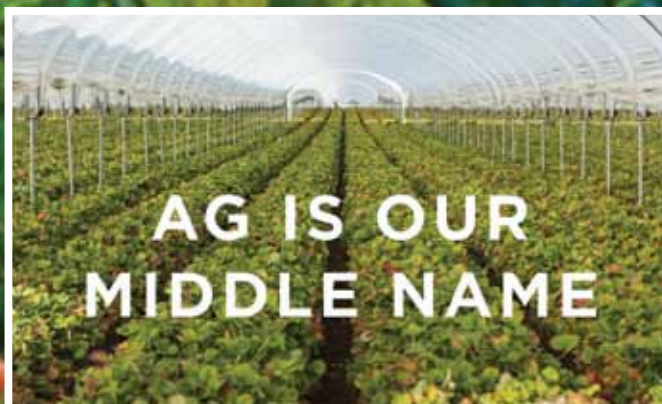
FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 14
Jimmie Cox Memorial
Scholarship Application
Deadline

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 19
National Ag Day Poster &
Poetry Contest Deadline

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 25
Community Tuesday Dinner at
Shadowbrook for JJ Crosetti
Memorial Fund

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication



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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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