

# 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.

Mary Walter, Editor  
Jess Brown, Managing Editor

141 Monte Vista Avenue  
Watsonville, California 95076.  
(831) 724-1356  
sccfb@sbcglobal.net  
Website: www.sccfb.com

## President's Message

### Hope for the New Year!



ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT

Well, here we are; the holidays are behind us and into 2022 we charge. Armed with the usual resolutions... lose weight, eat healthier, and be a better person, I have high hopes for a prosperous and healthy new year. As much as I enjoy the holiday festivities, it is always a relief when things start getting back to normal. One piece of normal I hope to see in this new year is rain.

Like all of us, I have been hoping for more rain since the drought started. At the beginning of the rainy season this year, there was limited expectation of this. With La Niña predicted to last through the winter, we had little hope for drought relief for the new year. While the rains in December have provided a glimmer of hope, we are not out of the woods yet.

According to drought.gov, Santa Cruz County is under D3-Extreme Drought Conditions, the second highest of the 5-stage ranking system (D0-D4). When looking at the long-term precipitation forecast by the Columbia Climate School International Research Institute for Climate and Society ([iri.columbia.edu](http://iri.columbia.edu)) it is still unclear if we will have drought relief this year. On a good note, however, the models are not showing that the drought will definitely persist. So where

does that leave us today?

Drought conditions are nothing new to this region. Since 2000, Santa Cruz County has been under drought condition 16 of the 21 years. Ten of those years had drought conditions at or above the D2-Severe Drought Conditions. When looking at Paleontological Tree Ring data, the study of fossilized tree ring data to determine climate conditions, our region is susceptible to multiyear "Mega Droughts". Therefore, we need to stop considering droughts as an anomaly and start planning for them as part of the regional water cycle.

To our credit, local water agencies have been proactive. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) and the City of Watsonville operate and distribute recycled water to surrounding agricultural fields to reduce groundwater extraction and slow saltwater intrusion into the aquifer. The PVWMA is supporting research in identifying soils/locations in the region which have high water infiltration rates to increase groundwater aquifer recharge. Additionally, water conservation programs have become the norm for all the local water agencies. However, we still need to do more.

As citizens of Santa Cruz County, we need to challenge our local water agencies to continue to invest in our water security. More recycling, desalinization, and stormwater capture projects are needed to ensure we continue to meet our communities water needs. Drought will never go away but our community will be more resilient by investing in our future. ■



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**Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship**  
**JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**

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# ASK MARK

**Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor,  
Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE**

## Lifting of the LBAM Quarantine

**Q.** Could you explain a little bit more about the lifting of the light brown apple moth quarantine and what it means for our area?

**A.** Yes, the lifting of the quarantine for the light brown apple moth (LBAM) is indeed great news for Central Coast growers. The decision, in effect December 17, 2021, initiates the repeal process of what is called the California State Interior Quarantine for LBAM and comes after 8 years of strict regulation.

The actual announcement can be found here, at this link:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/2fee369>

In short, this means that APHIS is reclassifying LBAM as a non-quarantine pest, removing all areas under quarantine, and removing movement restrictions on LBAM host material within the USA.

Discussions on lifting the quarantine are still ongoing with Canada and Mexico, so fruit will still need to be LBAM free when shipping there and a compliance agreement will still be needed to ship to Canada.

The lifting of most of the regulatory restrictions will result in significant differences in our management approach to this pest. In fields not designated for export to Canada and Mexico, LBAM is, in most cases, a pest of lower concern. Its density in the field is rarely high, and outside of the damage to the growing tips of caneberries from time to time resulting in stunted growth, damage is not great. Formulations of Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) are effective, especially of smaller larval stages, and formulations of spinosad have been shown to be quite good at knocking down a larger population fairly quickly if necessary. The use of mating disruption twist ties, outside of the aforementioned fields producing for export, likely will no longer be necessary for most situations.

The above has been a short article about the lifting of the quarantine for the light brown apple moth. It does mention the use of several pesticides, and users should read and understand those labels prior to applying them. For questions on this subject and any others referring to agriculture in Santa Cruz County, please contact Mark Bolda, UC Cooperative Extension (831) 763- 8025 or [mpbolda@ucanr.edu](mailto:mpbolda@ucanr.edu). ■

In loving memory of his wife Susan, Tom Am Rhein, has established a fund through Agri-Culture. The purpose of the "Susan Kim Am Rhein Memorial Fund" is to support vocational education, with an emphasis on culinary arts, in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. The fund will be permanently endowed through the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.

If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, you can send a check to the Agri-Culture office, 141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA 95076 and please write on the memo line, "Susan Am Rhein Fund". Or visit the Agri-Culture website, [agri-culture.us/funds](http://agri-culture.us/funds) and scroll down to the Susan Kim Am Rhein fund and click on "donate".

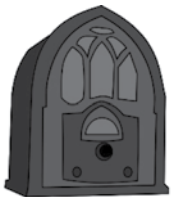
# THE WATER NANNY

## The Devil on Crest Drive

Throw another log on the fire and gather up close to your radio on this winter's eve, for it's time for a tale of mystery and intrigue with the latest baffling episode of *The Supes*, that periodic radio drama broadcast directly from their secret fifth floor lair overlooking River City. (Narrator voice over) Every political drama has several key elements. Tonight's story is no different.

**The Setup:** It was your typical day in the lair, with public comment about the evil of face masks by a legion of the tinfoil hat wearing public, when Supervisor Friend made a spontaneous pronouncement to the Supes. He proposed to significantly limit cannabis cultivation on Commercial Ag (CA) zoned land. Given that this is the county where hippies came to retire and silicon executives zoom to work from their ocean view homes, a limitation on pot is a call to arms.

**Foretold Plot:** Of course, more hearings are the answer. First a moratorium on new cannabis licenses on CA land (not other zones) until a revised ordinance can be adopted. The big reveal; the real culprit is a long existing commercial farm with existing permanent greenhouses on Crest Drive, although the long reach of the moratorium on new permits would apply to all CA parcels touching a magical line 500 feet from a residence on a residentially zoned parcel. (773 of 1,462 CA parcels). The moratorium passed by a 4 to 1 vote, which needed to be renewed within 45 days, or it would be a political stillbirth.



**Backstory:** Santa Cruz County has long protected farm land, if only to prevent conversion to housing. However, as flatlanders move in they complain of the industrial nature of commercial agriculture, i.e. long hours, noise, smells, farmworkers, chemicals, a real nuisance. The County, also long ago, adopted a strong Right to Farm ordinance protecting commercial Ag from objections by former urbanites. This is particularly important for CA land, as the highest and best use is a farm and no residential zoning conversion is allowed. (Narrator's note) Cannabis cultivation already has restrictions on operating hours, noise, odor, visual, water use, drainage and irrigation restrictions that do not apply to other commercial crops.

**Plot Twists:** A further hearing to extend the moratorium was set for October 19<sup>th</sup>. The twitterverse, social media and even newspapers all lit up with inflammatory comments thrown by both sides. From greedy out of town industrial marijuana mega corporations, to greedy newbie out of town estate owners who never noticed farmland adjacent to their homes. Small family farms working to scratch a living from the soil, to daycare centers, and our everyday lucid public, everyone had an opinion, the *Sentinel* editorial page was not lacking for content.



**Unforeseen Events:** Texts and emails flew fast and furious leading up to the hearing and then (dark music plays) the Planning Staff issued their hearing report with five alternative recommendations; Option 3, extending the moratorium, requiring 4 yes votes; to Option 4, the staff recommendation, dubbed by Supervisor Friend as the industry version, was released to the public before the hearing.

**Climatic Finish:** The sun rose on October 19<sup>th</sup>, just like any other day. The cannabis item was called. 31 people addressed the Supes. Lengthy discussion ensued. Potential loss in tax revenue of \$8,011,283 was discussed. Options were bandied about. The vote was called, the moratorium was no longer. Option 4 was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote, the 2 no votes represented 90% of the CA parcels. (Narrator: radio docu-dramas may not always have a snappy ending.) The problem with our drama is there is no conclusion. Staff was sent back to write up new regulations to implement Option 4 and will return to the Lair this year for further hearing, discussion and more votes. (To be continued) However, the farmers on Crest Dr. will be allowed to process permits for cannabis cultivation. "In marketing you must choose between boredom, shouting and seduction. Which do you want?" (Roy H. Williams) The same could be said of politics.



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Artichoke Sourdough Bisque

This recipe comes from Annaliese Keller, edibleparadise.com. It is a healthy, low fat and delicious soup created by Chef Tony Baker of Montrio Bistro in Monterey. Annaliese says, "It's simple to make, and ready in about 40 minutes. I'm not using cream or butter just a little olive oil. Instead of using heavy cream to thicken the soup, I added sourdough bread as a thickener."

### INGREDIENTS:

4 extra large fresh artichokes

1/2 cup virgin olive oil

1 medium yellow onion, chopped

1 leek, chopped

1 stalk celery, chopped

5 garlic cloves, chopped

1 1/2 slices sourdough bread, roughly chopped

4 fresh sage leaves

1 sprig fresh thyme

6 cups chicken or vegetable stock

Salt and pepper to taste

### METHOD:

Using a sharp serrated knife, trim the raw artichoke down to the heart. Using a spoon, scrape out the fuzzy choke and discard. You can also peel the stem and use that in the soup, since the stem is an extension of the heart. When your artichokes are clear of fuzz or outside petals, roughly chop the raw heart.

Heat olive oil in a large heavy-bottomed pot. Sweat (to sauté without color) the artichokes, onion, leek, garlic, celery and thyme, until tender. Add the chicken or vegetable liquid stock. Gently simmer the soup for 20 minutes.

Add the roughly chopped sourdough bread and sage. Simmer 3 – 5 minutes longer.

In small batches, pureé the soup until smooth using either a blender, food processor or immersion blender.

Place all of the soup into a clean saucepan, reheat, and check seasoning. Add a few grinds of freshly ground black pepper and serve.

YIELD: 6 servings

SOURCE: Chef Tony Baker, Montrio Bistro, Monterey, CA for Ocean Mist Farms

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## Interesting Trivia

Here are 30 (this is 24-26) awesome facts about California, the sunniest state in the U.S.

- The Gold Rush was the largest mass migration in United States history.
- Movie makers relocated to Hollywood because they were trying to get away from Thomas Edison who was based in New Jersey. His patents made it difficult to make movies, but in California, the courts were known to rule against patent claims.
- More movies have been filmed in California than any other state.

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Go to [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com) and click on the "JOIN" button. No need to log in on this page. Go to the bottom of the page and click on NEVER BEEN A MEMBER to set up a new account.

Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
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Lucas Flowers, Driscoll's  
District Manager, Northern District

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## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

CCCE customers who own commercial agriculture businesses or businesses directly supporting the Ag industry located within the counties of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

## WHY ELECTRIFY?

- The Central Coast Ag community communicated an interest to invest in cleaner technology to improve air quality for surrounding communities and farmworkers
- Replacing fossil fuel powered equipment with new electric equipment will reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions
- Providing extra incentives for small and medium farming operations will tighten up gaps in equitable access to cleaner technologies
- **Switching to new electric equipment provides cost savings opportunities**

## WHEN ARE PROGRAM INCENTIVES AVAILABLE?

- The Ag Electrification program runs through October 2021 - September 2022
- **Incentives support up to 70-100% of total project cost, not to exceed \$30,000 (depending on project type)**
- Incentives are available on a first come, first served basis until funds are fully reserved



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## Key Pesticide Regulatory Changes Expected to Continue Moving Forward in 2022



2022 is shaping out to be a busy year for pesticide regulatory changes in California. Four major changes previously introduced last year will continue to move forward as the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) engages growers and the public for comments and feedback on the proposals. The four regulatory proposals under consideration include:

**1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D) Emissions Reduction** – In 2018, DPR’s Air Monitoring Network detected elevated concentrations of 1,3-D in the central valley towns of Shafter and Parlier. The findings have prompted DPR to evaluate additional mitigation measures to protect bystanders from short-term inhalation exposure to 1,3-D. The proposals the agency is considering include buffer zone requirements, application rate limits, require tarps to be used, and use of alternative application methods that would reduce field emissions. DPR is currently conducting pilot studies in the central valley in collaborations with growers, industry, and County Agricultural Commissioners to try alternative application methods that may result in reduced emissions. Methods being studied include, but are not limited to, injection of 1,3-D at greater soils depths; increasing soil moisture requirements for the pre-fumigated field; and application rate reductions. The data collected will help guide the decision on future regulatory requirements for 1,3-D.

**Neonicotinoid Reevaluation to Protect Bees** – In 2018, DPR issued a pollinator risk determination for neonicotinoids. The agency determined that additional mitigation measures were necessary to protect pollinators from pesticide products containing the nitroguanidine-substituted neonicotinoids active ingredients **imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and dinotefuran** used in commercial agriculture. DPR released a draft regulatory document in early 2020 and held public webinars in August of 2020 to receive feedback on pollinator protection measures. The current regulatory proposal would place use restrictions on the four above mentioned active ingredients based on commodity groups. The current proposal would prohibit, under most

circumstances, the use of these products on flowering crops while allowing for limited use and reduced application rates on certain commodities prior to bloom. This proposal is expected to enter the rulemaking process in 2022.

**Pesticide Decontamination Site Regulations** – DPR will be proposing regulatory changes to 3CCR 6734, Handler Decontamination Facilities. The proposal would require commercial agricultural operators to have an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z358.1 compliant eye wash station for employees at the mix/load site (decontamination site). It would also eliminate decontamination site exemptions for employees handling pesticides in non-agricultural settings, requiring that a decontamination site be located at the mix/load site for any pesticides used. The ANSI eye wash station requirement would place the agricultural industry on par with standards required by the Division of Occupational Safety and Health in other industries, and potentially result in improved safety for pesticide handlers by ensuring emergency decontamination equipment will not cause injury. The decontamination site proposal in non-agricultural settings would increase protection of pesticide handlers and eliminate confusion by making the requirements the same in all pesticide use settings.

**Statewide Pesticide Application Notification System** – DPR received \$10 million dollars in budget year 2021-22 to begin the development of a statewide notification system. DPR began to engage growers, industry, regulators, and communities last summer through focus group meetings to receive feedback on what a notification program should look like. Last fall, DPR held public workshops to share the agency’s guiding principles for the project and to hear comments from the public on the notification concept. Additional public workshops will be scheduled in 2022 as development of a statewide notification system moves forward.

We encourage you to follow the progress of these regulatory proposals, and to participate in public workshops and provide comment. Your comments are important in helping to shape the pesticide regulatory system in our state.

Stay informed by visiting DPR’s website at <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>. ■



## Irrigating in a Dry Winter

This winter has brought less rain than we would have liked and growers of many crops have had to water in recent months. We'll almost certainly get more rainfall, but forecasters are calling for a drier than average year. This means there is likely to be a strong need for irrigation throughout the winter. The question is: How much water to put on?

It's important to remember that crop water needs are primarily driven by the amount of water they lose through their leaves (transpiration). This is related to weather conditions such as the air temperature, wind speed, relative humidity, and intensity of sunlight. It stands to reason that the amount of water lost by the crop plant is greater if it has more leaf area. So bigger plants that have more leaves because they are older, will lose more water than a recent transplant that has one or two leaves. Similarly, a plant that receives 14 hours of daylight with temperatures peaking at 85 degrees that day, will lose much more water than a plant that only receives sunlight for 8 hours and experiences peak temperature of 62 degrees.

What this means for our strawberry growers is that their crops generally need very little water through the winter. Most strawberries are planted in October and November and have a small canopy until March or April. Although 3 to 5 inches of water may be needed to establish newly transplanted strawberries, once established the water needs are usually minimal through the winter.

Looking at the weekly weather conditions in the Pajaro Valley over the past 20 years, we were able to determine that strawberries, planted on 52-inch wide beds with 2 drip lines per bed and transplanted during the second week of November, will need no more than 30 to 50 minutes of irrigation per week in January and February, depending on the flow rate of the tape.

These numbers are different for other crops and will decrease if rains come but keeping an eye on how much we are watering - in the winter as well as the summer, will help us continue to protect our aquifer and conserve water, all while saving money on pumping costs.

Contact the RCD to get help determining optimum irrigation runtimes and for both technical and financial assistance to improve your overall irrigation system efficiency. ■

### **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau**

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

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds  
March 16, 2022

#### **105th Annual Meeting**

Rodgers House Patio, SCC Fairgrounds  
June 23, 2022

#### **California State Fair**

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA  
July 15 through July 31, 2022

#### **28th Annual Golf Tournament**

Golf Course to be determined  
July 22, 2022

#### **Santa Cruz County Fair**

September 14 through September 18, 2022

#### **Annual Directors' Dinner**

November 3, 2022  
5:45 p.m.

#### **CFBF 104th Annual Meeting**

Monterey, CA  
December 4-7, 2022

### **Agri-Culture**

#### **14th Annual Down To Earth Women Luncheon**

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos  
May 12, 2022  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

#### **14th Annual Testicle Festival**

Estrada Deer Camp  
August 27, 2022  
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### **26th Annual Farm Dinner**

Location to be determined  
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4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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# LEGALLY SPEAKING

Written by Alan Smith, The Grunsky Law Firm PC

## No “Limited EIR” CEQA Remedy to Fix Deficient Mitigated Negative Declaration for Ag Related Bed and Breakfast



Alan Smith

In a November, 2021 case out of Yolo County, (*Famland Protection Alliance v. County of Yolo* (2021) \_ Cal.App.5th \_ , 2021 WL 5103355), the California 5<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeal reversed a Yolo County

Superior Court decision and directed Yolo County to set aside its Board of Supervisors’ decision to adopt a revised mitigated negative declaration (MND) and issue a conditional use permit for a bed and breakfast and commercial event facility supported by onsite crop production intended to provide visitors with an education in agricultural operations.

The Superior Court found substantial evidence supported a fair argument under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that the project may have a significant impact on the tricolored blackbird, the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (beetle), and the golden eagle (the three species), and ordered Yolo County to prepare an environmental impact report limited to addressing only the project’s impacts on the three species.

The Superior Court also ordered that, pending the further environmental review, the project approval and related mitigation measures would remain in effect and the project could continue to operate.

The Court of Appeal held the trial court erred in ordering the County to prepare a limited environmental impact report after finding the fair argument test had been met as to the three species. California

Public Resources Code section 21168.9 does not authorize a trial court to split a project’s environmental review across two types of environmental review documents (i.e., a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration and an environmental impact report). CEQA requires a reviewing agency to prepare a full environmental impact report when substantial evidence supports a fair argument that any aspect of the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

The Court of Appeal said neither CEQA nor case law authorize a “limited EIR” at the “third tier” of the CEQA review process, nor do they permit “an order splitting an analysis of a project’s environmental impacts across two types of environmental review documents,” such as an MND and a “limited EIR” ordered by the trial court.

The Court of Appeal said once substantial evidence is presented that a project might have a significant environmental impact in *any* area, a negative declaration is inappropriate and CEQA requires the lead agency to prepare a “full EIR” for a project.

The Court went on to say that while the CEQA remedies statute (Pub. Resources Code, §21168.9) provides flexibility in facilitating compliance with CEQA, it doesn’t trump CEQA’s mandatory provisions or allow circumvention of “the heart of the Act – the preparation of an environmental impact report for the project.” ■

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# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

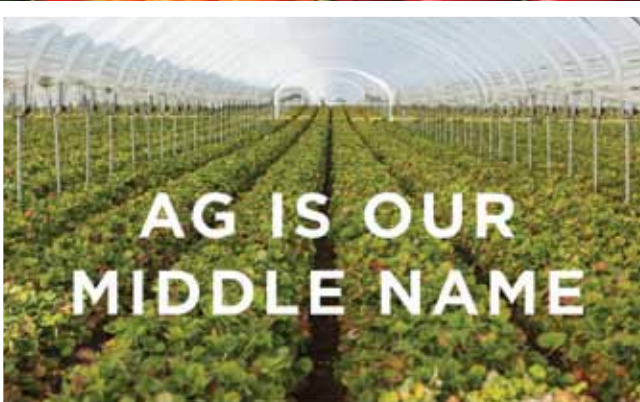
## CALENDAR

**MONDAY - JANUARY 17**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Observed - Office Closed

**THURSDAY - JANUARY 27**  
Board Retreat

**FRIDAY - JANUARY 28**  
Scholarship Applications  
Due

**WEDNESDAY - MARCH 16**  
National Agriculture Day  
Spring Luncheon



**AG IS OUR  
MIDDLE NAME**

We see things from the ground up, all 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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