

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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

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## Farm Bureau Receives Statewide Recognition



**A**t its 104th Annual Meeting, local ranch owner Robert Stephens' dog, Ray, received second runner-up, and a cash prize, in the California Farm Bureau "Farm Dog" contest. Ray is an Australian shepherd who serves as a watch dog and cow herder on Elkhorn Ranch, a cow-calf operation in north Monterey County. Ray is a cherished companion to ranch owner Robert Stephens. Ray has decided to donate part of his cash prize to the national award-winning local educational program, Focus Agriculture. President Webb stated, "We always appreciate philanthropic dogs!"

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau was honored with five County Activities of Excellence Awards in the categories of Membership, Policy Implementation, Leadership, Ag Education and Public Relations. The awards were presented at the California Farm Bureau Federation's

CAFB Annual Meeting continued on Page 3

## President's Message

### Ag Day Poster and Poetry Contest



Dennis Webb, President

**E**very January in Santa Cruz County, our Farm Bureau's directors visit neighborhood schools to share the opportunity for students to participate in our annual poetry and poster contests. The poster contest is open to students in grades K-6, and the poetry contest is for students in grades 7-12 in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. Both contests are co-sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and Agri-Culture.

President's Message continued on Page 5

## Please Support The Agri-Culture Funds

See Page 9 for more information!



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# ASK MARK

**Mark Bolda, County Director, Strawberry & Canberry Farm Advisor, UCCE**

## What Is In Store For Central Coast Growers For 2023?

**Q.** Any thoughts Mark on what is in store for Central Coast growers for 2023?

**A.** Yes, I can share some thoughts on what we are looking at here on the Central Coast for 2023.

**Get ready for a more muscular and responsive UC Cooperative Extension.** This last year we added three new Advisors to our Central Coast team, being Fire Advisor Barb Satink-Wolfson, Plant Pathology Farm Advisor Yu-Chen Wang and Entomology Area IPM Advisor Kirsten Pearsons. What's more, we are currently in the hiring process of an Agricultural Technology Area Advisor, and should enter into this process for a Forestry Advisor and 4-H Animal Science Youth Advisor this coming year. It's just great to have these super smart and service committed scientists with us here and with even more coming on board in 2023, please reach out when you have a chance and welcome them.

**Some concern creeping up about all the moisture.** For sure it is great to have

all this water coming in as we have had as of late, and indeed as of writing in amounts exceeding the average accumulations for Santa Cruz, but in turn I think we should look for water related problems in the fields as a consequence. I'm thinking common problems like asphyxiation, root diseases and impeded nutrient uptake for starters, and then if the rain continues into the late winter and spring, we'll be looking at foliar problems like Zythia in strawberries and rust in raspberries and trailing blackberries.

**The only constant is change.** If I've learned anything from the past few years, is that change, and at times really big change, for better or for worse, is a feature of our life here on the Central Coast. Be prepared for the unexpected, and be the one to step up to it as it happens is my mantra.

Happy New Year all, and I look forward to seeing you around this coming year!

The above has been a collection of comments of what is up and coming for 2023. For questions on this subject and any others relating to berry culture on the Central Coast, contact Mark Bolda at 831 763 8025 or [mpbolda@ucan.edu](mailto:mpbolda@ucan.edu) ■

### CAFB Annual Meeting continued from Page 1

104th Annual Meeting in Monterey in early December. The county was also one of three state finalists in the "Innovator Award Contest" for its annual National Agriculture Day Poster & Poetry Contests for local students.

A local delegation of five attended the State's 104th Annual Meeting in Monterey, California, December 4-7. The official delegates representing the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau were Dennis Webb, President and Peter Navarro, 1st Vice-President. The Alternate Delegate was 2nd Vice-President John Pisturino. Also attending from Santa Cruz County

was Executive Director Jess Brown and CJ Miller, Chair, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

"We are very honored to receive the Activities of Excellence awards," said Dennis Webb, Farm Bureau President. He further stated, "The Annual Meeting was a great opportunity for Farm Bureau members throughout the state to discuss mutual issues that affect farming. It is an opportunity to meet and make new friends while preparing our organization for the legislative issues that lie ahead in 2023." There are 53 County Farm Bureaus in California. ■



# THE WATER NANNY

## Mr. Wizard

**M**r. Wizard, who prides himself on physics and chemistry, now reaches out with a fun filled piece on animal husbandry, you know as cows. Cows, like all ruminant animals (more than one stomach) bring us milk and cheese, as well as our tasty filet mignon. You all know them from looking out the back window on your family car, just standing about, or ready for milking. In Santa Cruz County we have many herds grazing up in the hills, not so much milk cows (historically yes, but not any now.)

As we pass by a dairy the aroma is from flatulence, the cow's manure. What we don't think about is an odorless, colorless, and flammable gas, Methane. As cows chew their cud, they burp methane. Just to update you on your global warming lexicon, carbon dioxide makes up 79% of greenhouse gas emissions, while methane is only at 11%. Unfortunately, that 11% methane impact is 25 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub> over a 100-year period. Over 55% of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) in California is from cattle.



Now there have been several studies about cow methane. Back in 1994 a study placed gas masks on cows in Washington. While I am uncertain how the cattle ate any hay, the results were significant with more pollution from belches, as opposed to manure management (poops).

After discovery there are a couple of "cures" for this, including the frivolous like burp masks and a biochar feed additive. There are some key developments to reduce methane with a seaweed additive, Asparagopsis, an edible red algae, is the best shot. Algae reduces the CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by 95%. However, this seaweed is present in subtropical and tropical oceans, hardly something that is far from farmable or harvestable. Given the acres of grains and corn grown just around dairies, gearing up seaweed is stretch. A study in Australia indicated that seaweed would cost their dairy industry, much smaller than even California, \$89M to \$1.1B annually. So much for a good idea.

Lest no good news becomes unpunished, there is an odd downside to seaweed, as it also includes bromoform, which is banned



under the Montreal Protocol in 1987. Sure, this could cause concern (at least in Santa Cruz), except for the fact that bromoform breaks down in one of cows four stomachs in about three hours, about the time to chew your cud. There is another specter, ban all beef cattle and cows as two of the top five animal polluters based on their carbon footprint, but if COVID shots were a strain, even more so with our meaty protein.



There is a good alternative in a lab grown supplement, Rumin8. While I am not certain about CCOF certification, a tablet supplement could be used in a water trough for range fed cattle and mineral supplements mixed into feed pellets. Maybe a slow release pill is also in the works. All of the solutions have a cost. Both beef and dairy herds are suffering from raising expenses and reduced revenues. Many smaller dairies have gone out of business. Rumin8 will cost "no more than 10% of an animal's value over its lifetime." Don't worry yet, Rumin8 is not in production.

*"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress the Air Resources Board meets."* (Will Rogers, as amended) As with all of your Nanny's articles it is fully research, but if not a less positive quote about Winston Churchill: *"Occasionally he stumbled over the truth, but hastily picked himself up and hurried on as if nothing had happened"* Have a Happy New Year. ■





# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Balsamic Pork Chops

4 (5 ounce) bone-in pork chops, 3/4 inch thick

salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 tablespoon butter

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 cup chicken broth

1/3 good quality balsamic vinegar

1 tablespoon honey

Pat pork chops dry with paper towels and season with salt and pepper.

Melt butter in large, nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add olive oil and stir to combine.

When butter and oil shimmer carefully add chops and cook over medium heat until browned on one side, 5 to 6 minutes. Turn and cook pork chops until no longer pink in the center and browned on the other side, 3 to 4 minutes. Do not overcook the chops or they will turn dry and hard. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 145°F (63°C).

Remove pork chops from heat and cover to keep warm.

Combine chicken broth, balsamic vinegar and honey in a small saucepan. Bring glaze to a boil over medium-high heat and boil until mixture is reduced to 1/2 cup, 5 to 6 minutes.

Drizzle pan-fried chops with balsamic glaze and serve warm.

Eat and enjoy!!

\*Just a note: You can vary the flavor of the glaze by adding 1 minced garlic clove or a sprig of rosemary. Remove the rosemary before serving.



### **President's Message continued from Page 1**

These contests are an opportunity for students to develop and showcase their artistic talents while highlighting the beauty and culture of local agriculture. Past winners have focused their entries on the beauty of our fields, the excitement of harvest, and the promise of planting. Every year, top contestants and their families are invited to our National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon, where we announce the winning entries. Ask anyone who regularly attends this event, and they will tell you how impressive these students are.

I love these contests because they're an opportunity for kids to spend a little time taking in the marvel of local agriculture. If you work in farming, chances are you do it because it's what you love. That passion is something we don't always get to share. And with so many things competing for young people's attention today, it's nice to see so many great kids taking the time to appreciate the beauty of our local farms.

It's also important to reward these students for their efforts. The winning entries of the poetry and poster contests are featured on our yearly placemat, which we distribute to restaurants throughout Santa Cruz County. Last year, we provided over 20,000 placemats featuring the art and poetry of these talented local students.

This past December in Monterey, I represented the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau at the California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting. There, we were recognized as a state finalist in the "Innovator Awards" for our work on these contests. Thank you to all the Farm Bureau directors, staff and members who help make the contests happen by promoting them in neighborhood schools. **If you want to bring this opportunity to students at your local school, please call or stop by the Farm Bureau office and let us know!** ■

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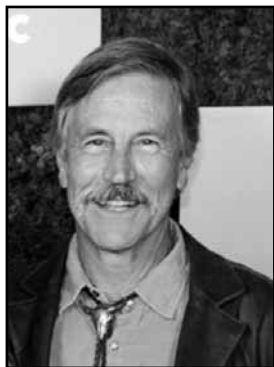
The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership and receive the many benefits and services available. By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

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Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
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**Save the Date**

**Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau**

**SCCFB Board of Directors Retreat**

Thursday, January 26, 2023  
Rancho Santa Maria

**National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
Paddy Smith Park, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

**SCCFB 105th Annual Meeting**

Thursday, June 22, 2023  
Rodgers House, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

**30th Annual Golf Tournament**

Friday, July 14, 2023  
Pajaro Valley Golf Club

**California State Fair**

Friday, July 14, 2023 to Sunday, July 30, 2023  
Cal Expo, Sacramento

**Santa Cruz County Fair**

Wednesday, September 13 to Sunday, September 17, 2023  
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

**Annual Directors' Dinner**

Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Location to be determined

**CFBF Annual Meeting**

Saturday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
Reno, NV

**Agri-Culture**

**15th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon**

Thursday, May 11, 2023  
Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

**14 Annual Testicle Festival**

Saturday, August 26, 2023  
Estrada Deer Camp

**27th Annual Farm Dinner**

Saturday, October 21, 2023  
Location to be determined

## Keep Your Rural Road Safe

The following information is provided by Nationwide®, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.\*

**S**afely navigating large agricultural equipment over rural roads to and from the fields is a challenge for even the best drivers. Nationwide reminds farmers to consider the following rules on the safe operation of equipment to help reduce the risk of motor vehicle collisions.

### **Basics:**

Courts uphold agricultural equipment operator rights for road usage, and regulations for size and type usually don't apply. But still take necessary precautions to prevent serious injury and damage and ensure that your equipment isn't in violation. You know accidents can happen any time of day, but remember:

- Working after dark: Turn on lights, use reflectors or conspicuity tape, display SMV (slow-moving vehicle) sign, consider escort vehicles
- Trailer pulling: Don't rely on power unit lights only; this increases collision risk if lights become obstructed
- "Road rules": Operators must understand driving hazards; regulations include specific training for equipment operation and environment navigation

### **Left turns**

Operators tend to pull to the right when making wide left turns. Motorists may view this as permission to pass. To prevent accidents:

- Use turn signals or hand/arm signals
- Check oncoming traffic
- Check mirrors and blind spots

### **Bridges**

- Before crossing rural bridges:
- Ensure appropriate vehicle weight
- Allow oncoming traffic to clear the bridge (reduces weight on bridge and provides you space to maneuver)
- If tires have large lugs for traction, be cautious of guardrail contact that could inadvertently cause equipment to climb the rail or tip off the bridge

### **Passing cars**

When driving a slow-moving vehicle, never wave a driver to pass. It's the passing driver's responsibility to pass – not yours. Also:

- Don't drive on the shoulder; you may sideswipe a passing vehicle if you have to swerve to avoid an oncoming mailbox or obstruction
- Drive with the left side of your vehicle to the centerline, even if your equipment extends onto the shoulder; passing drivers should consider safety and the law before passing

### **Rear-end collisions**

Rural road travelers can easily be surprised by a large, slow-moving vehicle — and misjudge their speed and gap distance. To avoid rear-end collisions:

- Monitor mirrors for fast-approaching vehicles
- Ensure that the vehicle's warning devices, such as SMV signs, are visible
- Consider vehicle escorts on heavily traveled paved roads ■



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## Private Pesticide Applicators: Certification and Training Changes Coming in 2024



**Y**ou may be wondering about the title of this month's article and why I am covering this topic so far in advance. Although the regulatory changes regarding private pesticide applicator certification do not take effect until January 1, 2024, outreach and education to prepare

growers for this significant change are already underway. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is the state agency designated by U.S. EPA to establish and administer the State's pesticide applicator certification program ensuring compliance with federal regulation. The purchase and use of restricted pesticides can only be conducted by a certified applicator or someone under their direct supervision. The pesticide applicator certification program sets competency standards for the safe use of restricted use pesticides and reduces the risk of pesticide exposure and injuries to pesticide handlers, the public and environment. In March of 2017, U.S. EPA announced revisions to federal regulations that would increase the standards commercial and private pesticide applicators must meet for certification to use restricted pesticides. These revisions required DPR to propose regulatory changes to our state's pesticide applicator certification program to meet the new federal requirements. DPR has already opened the formal rulemaking process and the proposed regulations are expected to be adopted in 2023.

The proposed changes to the pesticide applicator certification program will impact those looking to renew or obtain a private applicator certificate (PAC). All PAC holders will be required to take a new revised exam regardless of continuing education hours. The requirement to take the new exam for individuals that renew their PAC with continuing education will be a phased in process over the next three years based on the applicant's last name. For example, individuals with a last name starting with R – Z have PACs that expire on December 31, 2023, and these individuals would need to take and pass the new exam regardless of continuing education hours to renew their PAC in 2024. Individuals with the last name initials A – H would need to take the new exam in 2025, and I – Q in 2026.

Continuing education hours will not count to renew a PAC until the individual passes the new exam. To prepare growers for the new exam, the University of California has published an updated study guide, "*Pesticide Safety: A Study Manual for Private Applicators*," which is available in English and Spanish for \$30 from the UC Extension office here in town. You can also purchase a PDF digital version online for \$10 from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources website.

PAC holders that use restricted use pesticides formulated as fumigants for burrowing pest control (i.e., aluminum phosphide) will also be required to take an enhanced version of the new exam that covers additional questions on the use of these materials. It is important to note that any individual intending to conduct burrowing pest control using such restricted materials (burrow fumigants) will be required to take and pass the new exam in 2024 regardless of when their current PAC expires.

The new PAC exam is already available for those individuals that want to get ahead. Remember that once you pass the new exam any continuing education classes you take will count for the next renewal cycle. (Please note that the burrowing pest control enhanced exam will not be available until mid to late 2023.) For more information, please do not hesitate in contacting us at 831-763-8080. ■

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**Some people could be given an entire field of roses, and only see the thorns in it. Others could be given a single weed and only see the wildflower in it. Perception is a key component to gratitude. And gratitude is a key component to joy.**

Amy Weatherly



# SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDS

The organization Agri-Culture has established many funds at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. The purpose of these funds range from agriculture education funds, conservation monitoring funds, funds to maintain agrarian equipment and several scholarship funds. With the success of Agri-Culture's many events, including those co-sponsored with the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, Agri-Culture was able to add close to \$60,000 to these funds in 2022. We are very proud of this accomplishment as it allows us to continue the purpose of the organization Agri-Culture...to educate our community about agriculture. The funds that Agri-Culture administers are listed below with a brief description of their purpose.

**Farmworker Housing Agricultural Education Fund:** This fund provides loans for the construction of farm labor housing. Since its inception, loans have exceeded \$700,000, helping make 185 new units available to farm laborers and their families in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

**Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship Fund:** This scholarship was established in 1997 for entry-level and current college students majoring in agriculture and has grown to a \$4,000 annual award. The student must live in either Santa Cruz County or within the boundaries of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District or be a member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. The scholarship has awarded thousands of dollars to college students since its inception.

**Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship Fund:** This \$1,000 annual scholarship was established in 2009. The recipient must be active in District 4 of the California High School Rodeo Association, the California 4-H Horse Program. It may be used at a college or professional technical school of choice.

**JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund:** This scholarship was established in 2015 with a \$25,000 gift from JJ's sister and three daughters. This is a two-part fund. The first half is to be used as a scholarship to encourage and support the youth going into the field of agriculture. The second half of the fund is to be used as a grant for local organizations who support local farmers.

**Laura Brown Scholarship Fund:** This scholarship was established in 2018 by the Bontadelli Family in memory of Laura Brown. Its purpose is to give scholarships to entry-level and current college students with a GPA of at least 3.5 who reside in Santa Cruz County or the Pajaro Valley and plan on majoring in agriculture or related fields or Culinary Arts. Preference is given to students who have been members of

4-H

**Ernest & Beverley Bontadelli Memorial Fund:** Established in 2018, the purpose of the fund is to support community agricultural education programs in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

**Dottie Tyler Fund for Agrarian Oral History:** This fund was established in 2013 in memory of Dottie Tyler with a gift of \$25,000 from her daughter, Lynn Sanderson. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support to record, via film or similar medium, subjects of interest to the history of agriculture and important issues connected to Santa Cruz County agriculture.

**Fountain Oaks & Greenstand Conservation Easements:** The fund was established in 2019 to provide financial support for costs in monitoring the conservation easements held by the Organization on the Fountain Oaks and Greenstand parcels.

**Ron & Dottie Tyler Fund for Restored Agrarian Equipment Maintenance:** This fund was established in 2013 with a \$25,000 gift from Lynn Sanderson in memory of Ron & Dottie Tyler. The fund provides financial support for the on-going maintenance of restored agrarian equipment such as, but not limited to, tractors, carriages, machinery and implements. The equipment must be connected with agriculture in Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley.

**T.H.A.N.K.S. Agricultural Education Fund:** The nonprofit T.H.A.N.K.S., which stands for Together Helping Americans Nationwide Keep Strong, transferred its assets to Agri-Culture in May 2013 for the purpose of starting the "T.H.A.N.K.S. Agricultural Education Fund". Its purpose is to provide financial support to Agri-Culture for agricultural education programs administered by the organization.

Agri-Culture Funds continued on Page 11

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## Agri-Culture Funds continued from Page 9

**Linda L. Lester Santa Clara County Agricultural Education Fund:** The purpose of this fund, established in 2017, is to support agricultural education programs in Santa Clara County.

**Sand Hill Bluff Conservation Easement Monitoring Fund:** The fund, established in 2013, provides financial support to Agri-Culture to monitor the conservation easement held by the Organization on the Sand Hill Bluff.

**Susan Kim Am Rhein Memorial Scholarship Fund:** This fund was established in 2022 by Tom Am Rhein in memory of his loving wife, Susan Kim Am Rhein, to support vocational education with an emphasis on culinary arts program in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

**Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship Fund:** This fund was established in 2022 in memory of Frank Prevedelli. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarships to students who attended a high school in Santa Cruz County and plan to major in agriculture or a field related to agriculture. Selection criteria will include the students scholastic record, agricultural potential, special activities, personal history, letters of recommendation and financial need.

**Peixoto Organic & Sustainable Farming Education Fund:** This fund was established with a \$2 million gift from Lakeside Organic Gardens, LLC. The purpose of the fund is to develop an organic & sustainable agricultural learning center in the Pajaro Valley to educate, train, teach or otherwise advance public knowledge of all aspects of organic & sustainable farming practices, including jobs and career.

Two additional acorn funds include the **Rose Kevern 25th Anniversary Focus Agriculture Fund**, established in memory of long-time employee Rose Kevern, to support scholarships for Focus Agriculture members who need assistance in order to participate. Also, the **Watsonville High School Agricultural Education Fund** to support agricultural education programs at Watsonville High School.

Contributions to any or all funds are tax deductible may be made through the organization Agri-Culture. You may contact the office located at 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076 or by calling (831) 722-6622. You may also donate via the website at **www.agri-culture.us/funds**. All contributions to these are greatly appreciated! ■

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*Thank You*

## Interesting California Trivia

San Diego, California, is the house of the world's oldest active sailing ship. The beautiful Star of India is an ancient sailing ship with naval architecture that meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements. It's seaworthy, and it has been operating since 1863. That means it is 157 years old as of today. Thanks to the routine maintenance practices given to the sailing ship. According to Wikipedia, Star of India is an iron-hulled sailing ship, built in 1863 in Ramsey, Isle of Man as the full-rigged ship, Euterpe. After a career sailing from Great Britain to India and New Zealand, she was renamed, re-rigged as a barque, and became a salmon hauler on the Alaska to California route.



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# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY-JANUARY 4**  
Legislative Committee Mtg.

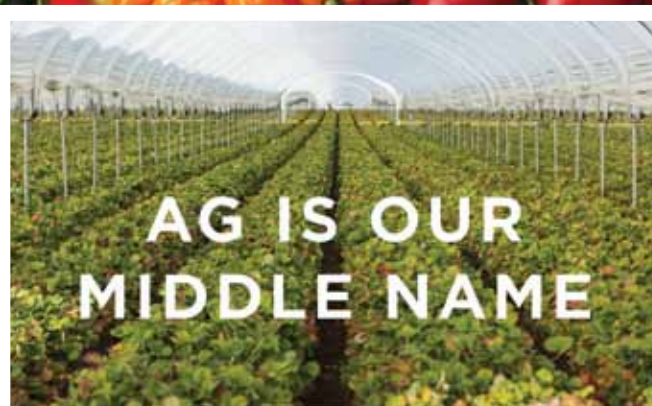
**THURSDAY - JANUARY 18**  
Agri-Culture  
Board of Directors' meeting

**THURSDAY - JANUARY 26**  
SCCFB Past Presidents'  
Luncheon

**THURSDAY - JANUARY 26**  
SCCFB Board of Directors'  
Retreat

**FRIDAY - JANUARY 27**  
Deadline for Scholarship  
Applications

**WEDNESDAY-FEBRUARY 1**  
Legislative Committee Mtg.



**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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