

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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INSIDE this issue

- 3 Ask Mark**
Fusarium Wilt
- 4 Water Nanny**
Agriculture - Defined
- 5 Recipe**
Santa Cruz County's Best
Apple Pie Recipes
- 12 Calendar**



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

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President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT

Best and Highest Use



Santa Cruz County is two-thirds forest by area, and about 125,000 acres of those forests, roughly 43%, could have commercial value. Today 35% of that is in public ownership, and much of

the privately owned area is not zoned to allow

harvesting. This leaves only 56,000 acres as a land base for commercial harvesting today. In 2018, our county foresters produced 11,128 million board feet with a value of \$10 million dollars. As an integral part of our local agriculture, the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau has ensured strong representation on our board of directors and executive committee by several forestry professionals. Timber production regulations are the most stringent of any agricultural crop in our county. California mandates a Timber Harvest

Plan (THP) for all logging operations. A THP demonstrates a logging project's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act. Assessments of the project's interface with soil, water, wildlife, botany, geology, archaeology, noise, air quality, greenhouse gasses, traffic, fire hazards and aesthetics, which are all considered prior to the harvesting of any trees. Additionally, Santa Cruz County has a special set of forestry

rules to prevent clear cutting that requires "single tree selection", meaning that you can only harvest a percentage of the trees... essentially thinning the forest; leaving behind a well-stocked healthy forest for both habitat and future crops. Forests are managed to promote ongoing productivity and are the most sustainable of all crops grown in our county.

"Our society would never condone converting a graveyard into a crop field. A crop field converted to a cemetery could never again be used for crop production. The project proposed by Better Place Forests will effectively prevent the designated best and highest use of prime timberland from ever being sustainably harvested again."

Protection of our forested lands is a common goal shared by timber companies, private landowners, environmentalists, and county government. Land conservation championed by The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County has driven policy recognizing that to "permanently protect forests, it can't be done by buying them all and turning them into parks; protecting the Santa Cruz Mountains means protecting productive timberland." Our County

Board of Supervisors recognized the value of our unique coastal mountain timber resource when they adopted the Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution in 2015; designed to recognize the value of keeping forest and rangelands in commercial production. These protections are essential to prevent the loss of these lands pressured by economics into development and other uses.

Recently efforts by Better Place Forests to

President's Message - Continued on Page 6

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ASK MARK

Joji Muramoto, Ph.D., Organic Production Specialist, UCSC

Fusarium Wilt

I have Fusarium wilt in my organic strawberries. Is there any organically acceptable practice to suppress this disease? I heard onions can suppress Fusarium wilt of some crops. Can we use that approach to control Fusarium wilt in strawberries?

Fusarium wilt in strawberries, caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae* (F.o.f.), is a lethal soilborne disease. It was first reported in 2009 in California, and now it has spread across the state. The fungal pathogen in the soil infects plants via roots and clogs the plant xylem (water transporting vessels) causing a wilt symptom in leaves and stems in the early- to mid-harvest period. Fruit yield of infected plants is severely reduced, and the plants often die off eventually.

Fusarium wilt management in organic strawberry production is a challenge. Currently, there are no effective reactive treatments available for this nor any other soilborne disease in strawberries. Preventive approaches include selecting resistant varieties, summer-anaerobic soil disinfestation (ASD), crop rotation, and sanitation (wash tools and equipment to prevent the spread of pathogens).

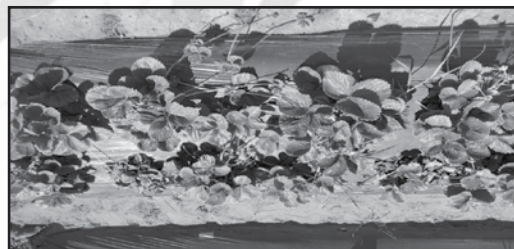
The use of resistant varieties can be the easiest and most reliable approach for Fusarium wilt. The day-neutral public varieties San Andreas and UC Moxie are resistant to Fusarium wilt. No UC varieties with excellent flavor and Fusarium resistance are available at this point.

ASD, a technique that uses the fermentation process in the soil to suppress some soilborne pathogens, can reduce F.o.f. population in the soil only by treating in summer using clear plastic mulch. Never use ASD in the fall in coastal California on fields with a known history of Fusarium wilt. This saprophytic pathogen can grow on rice bran used in the process and result in increased populations under a lower soil temperature. This often results in higher levels of Fusarium wilt.

Crop rotation without a host crop (e.g., cane berries and strawberries) for two or more years can reduce F.o.f. population in the soil. Further, recent studies from Asian countries demonstrated that *Allium* crops such as leeks and onions were effective in suppressing Fusarium wilt in spinach and bananas via increasing a *Flavobacterium* species, a competitive bacterium to *F. oxysporum*, in the soil.

Three preliminary field trials in Santa Cruz County are in progress to examine the effect of this approach in suppressing F.o.f. The first trial uses onions as intercrops of strawberries (see photos below) and looks promising so far. The second trial uses an onion crop as a rotational crop. The third trial will use onions as a cover crop before planting strawberries. Our team is planning to examine the effects on the yield, the pathogen, and the economics in the second and third trials.

For questions and answers on this issue and any others concerning organic strawberry production, please contact Joji Muramoto, UC Cooperative Extension Organic Production Specialist based at UC Santa Cruz. His email is joji@ucsc.edu.



A preliminary field trial examining the effect of onions on Fusarium wilt in strawberries. Strawberry plants (cv. Albion) growing with (top) or without (bottom) intercropped onions at a Fusarium-infested site in Watsonville. Two symptomatic strawberry plants are observed at the plot without onions (bottom). (5/26/2020. Photo by J. Muramoto).

THE WATER NANNY

Agriculture - Defined

When I grew up we learned some about Farming (n) in school. Mostly we learned farming behind our mule, slowly plowing the field, still better than churning butter. Farming (n) has now been replaced by agriculture and cultivation. The first great ag schools in California were in Santa Clara and Berkeley. Now we have several great U.C. and State Universities with incredible ag departments. This is the chief way to learn about farming, agriculture now, academically rigorous, but you still need to know how to plow the field.

Agriculture is something else in a regulatory sense. The Regional Water Board's definition: *"irrigated land used for commercial crop production,"* is pretty straight forward. CDFA also follows a traditional production focus. Counties have more nuanced and pliable interpretations.

This came to the forefront last month when the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors made cannabis a crop. First of all, cannabis and hemp are the same plant. Hemp, since the USDA allowed commercial hemp, is a crop. Pay the Ag Commissioner \$900 and fill out some forms (maybe more complex) and you are good to grow. Sadly the hemp market became too trendy and collapsed from overproduction. Still, many hemp acres have been registered in Santa Cruz County.



C a n n a b i s , or hemp with > 0.3% THC, was deemed by our County to be an agricultural product, not a crop. Between

2018 and last month, farmers in the Pajaro Valley on land zoned as commercial ag have spent untold sums pursuing use permits to cultivate this product only to find the permit conditions so onerous to preclude completion, which stymied planting the golden weed.

Our county fathers thought the cannabis green rush would fill their coffers with lucre, projecting up to 800 paid licenses. It appears that under the prior system, only one

new cultivation was issued for this product, revenue flat lined. However, make cannabis (THC>0.3%) a crop and it is no different from blueberries, or hemp, with the exception of a security clearance from the Sheriff. Dreams of taxes run high. So cannabis became a crop, or in zoning lingo, a principal permitted use.

A principal permitted use is what you can do on ag land, free from permission from the county. There the usual suspects; berries, field crops, livestock, nurseries, et al, all an enumerated principal use, now cannabis. This is consistent with the commercial agricultural use zones, the goal is to *"maintain and enhance the general welfare of the County as a whole by preserving and protecting agriculture, one of the County's major industries. Within the CA Commercial Agriculture Zone District, commercial agriculture shall be encouraged to the exclusion of other land uses which may conflict with it."* With that in mind, a level 5 Zoning Administrator's permit is required for container nursery crops over one acre, as it is not a principal use, while foster homes for seven or fewer children, hosted rentals and residential care homes serving six or fewer residents are principal permitted uses.

Farming (n) was so much easier to understand looking at the south end of the mule. *"When you figure it right down, none of us are in a really essential business but the farmer, and he raises so much that even his business is partly non-essential."* (Will Rogers)



Interesting Trivia

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'



FAVORITE RECIPES

“Best of Show”

Winning Apple Pie Recipes from the Past

As you all know, the 2020 Santa Cruz County Fair has been canceled; therefore, there will be no 2020 Apple Pie Baking Contest. In the spirit of honoring the apple industry in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley, please bake an apple pie. Here are the winning recipes from the past three years. Get ready for 2021...it will be better than ever!

Laura Rider, Chairperson, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Apple Pie Baking Contest

The 2019 Apple Pie Baking Contest - Janice Weaver, Santa Cruz.



Janice Weaver

Crust:

2 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 Tablespoon sugar
1 cup unsalted butter
1/2 cup water

Filling:

4-5 pounds apples, peeled, cored and sliced
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 Tablespoon cornstarch
bit of milk

Roll out one half of dough and fit into 9" pie pan. Toss filling ingredients together and pour into shell. Roll out second half of dough for top of pie. Crimp it to the shell, cut slits, brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 400°F for 45-50 minutes.

2018 Apple Pie Baking Contest Winner - Maggie Kasunich, Watsonville

Crust:

2 & 2/3 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup of corn oil
6 tablespoons of milk

Filling:

- 6-8 Gravenstein apples
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon
- pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons of flour

Mix crust ingredients together and divide in half. Roll dough between two pieces of wax paper. Line bottom of pie plate. Mix apples and other ingredients together. Add to lined pie plate and cover with top crust. Bake 450° for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° and bake 50 minutes or until apples are tender.



Maggie Kasunich

2017 Apple Pie Baking Contest Winner - Karen Allyn, Watsonville

Crust:

3 cups flour
3/4 cup of butter
3/4 cup shortening
8 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon salt

Filling:

15 Pippin apples
1 1/2 cup sugar
2 teaspoons of cinnamon
1/2 lemon (juice)

Combine salt, flour, butter & shortening. Toss in water. Chill for 1 hour. Cut & peel apples. Roll out dough. Add filling. Bake for 1 hour and 15 mins.



Karen Allyn



President's Message - Continued from Page 1

establish a business model that would dedicate and preserve memorial trees for scattering of human cremains has brought forest land use to the forefront of county policy decisions. The Planning Commission has made a finding that the proposed land use is incompatible with existing zoning on the forested property in the Santa Cruz Mountains and conflicts with the California Timber Productivity Act of 1982. The critical designation as a timber production zone has been put in place to ensure the protection of forestry resources, where timber is the best and highest use. The proposed venture would create a market condition where spreading cremains would out scale the value of the land for timber production, effectively stripping the land of its timber crop value.

Our society would never condone converting a graveyard into a crop field. A crop field converted to a cemetery could never again be used for crop production. The project proposed by Better Place Forests will effectively prevent the designated best and highest use of prime timberland from ever being sustainably harvested again. Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau opposes the proposed project and strongly believes that the spreading of human remains on working forestland is fundamentally an incompatible use on Timber Production Zoned land. Protecting productive agricultural lands should be championed whether it is development on commercial agricultural land in the Pajaro Valley, or allowing lucrative alternate uses such as this in our forests.

People are excited about
the new iPhone, but
nobody has caught up with the
awesome technology of using your
blinker when you drive.

2020 Events

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

26th Annual Golf Tournament

Seascape Golf Club
12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start,
Wednesday, August 26, 2020

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

103rd Annual Meeting

Location to be determined
Watch for date - Fall 2020

California State Fair - Canceled

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

Santa Cruz County Fair - Canceled

September 16 through September 20, 2020

Annual Directors' Dinner - Canceled

November 5, 2020

CFBF 102nd Annual Meeting

Reno, NV
December 6 - 9, 2020

Agri-Culture

13th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos
Postponed - Date To Be Determined
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

12th Annual Testicle Festival

Estrada Deer Camp
Saturday, August 15, 2020
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

24th Annual Progressive Dinner

Take-Out Dinner Event
Saturday, October 24, 2020
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUMP AND DRAIN TO CONTROL MOSQUITOES



The COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder that we must protect ourselves from all public health threats including mosquito-transmitted diseases. Mosquito control is essential and it is critical that residents understand that we all play an important part in helping to eliminate mosquitoes from our communities.

A vector is any pest that can spread disease to humans or that causes discomfort or injury, such as ticks, flies, rats or mosquitoes. Your Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control, a division of the Agricultural Commissioner, would like you to know that the increased attention on public health is an excellent reminder that there are many ways for residents to protect themselves from biting mosquitoes and the viruses that infected mosquitoes can transmit.

While COVID-19 is not transmitted by mosquitoes, they can transmit several other diseases. West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that has impacted the lives of California residents since 2003. There is no human vaccine for West Nile virus which can cause debilitating cases of meningitis, encephalitis, and even death, particularly in seniors. West Nile virus remains the largest mosquito-related public health threat in the state. In 2019, there were 225 human West Nile virus disease cases from 27 counties in California, including six human deaths. Since 2003, more than 7,000 human disease cases were reported including more than 300 deaths.

As the weather warms and we spend more time outside in mosquito season, all residents are urged to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito-transmitted diseases. By raising awareness and encouraging individual action, we can protect health and save lives. There are many areas of standing water left from the spring rains, which can create mosquito breeding sites. Mosquitoes can lay their eggs in sources of water as small as a bottle cap and can complete their

life cycle, from egg to adult, in about a week. It is a good time to check around properties and yards for mosquito sources and dump and drain all standing water. Checking flowerpots, buckets, and other backyard sources is an easy and very important activity.

To minimize exposure to mosquito bites:

- Apply insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535, according to label instructions. Repellents keep mosquitoes from biting. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.
- Dress in loose-fitting long sleeves and pants.
- Install screens on windows and doors and keep them in good repair.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including in flowerpots, old tires, buckets, pet dishes, and trash cans.
- Repair leaking faucets and broken sprinklers.
- Clean rain gutters clogged with leaves.

For additional information on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases please visit the California Department of Public Health website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/MosquitoesandMosquitoBorneDiseases.aspx>

For more information about mosquitoes and other vectors in our County, visit the Mosquito and Vector Control Division website at www.agdept.com For questions or to report mosquito activity or get free, mosquito-eating fish, call (831) 454-2590.

There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar.
Can you name at least half of them?

See Answer on page 10



Bud McCrary

1927 - 2020



All of us are deeply saddened to share that on June 1, 2020, Bud peacefully passed away at his beloved home in the redwoods of Santa Cruz County at the age of 93. We will remember him as a loving father and family man, a passionate leader in our community and a tireless advocate for sound forest management and for his treasured employees.

Bud led an extraordinary yet humble life. Born in Santa Cruz in 1927, he served in the Navy during World War II. Bud came home in 1946 to start Big Creek Lumber with his brother Frank "Lud" McCrary, uncle Homer Trumbo, and father Frank McCrary Sr. What started as a modest endeavor with crosscut saws and war bonds grew, with Bud's determination, into the thriving Big Creek Lumber of today that Bud has always been proud to call his team.

One of Bud's greatest legacies was his contribution to forestry in the state of California, especially its Central Coast. Bud was influential in pioneering a style of selective forest thinning during a time when clearcutting was the prevailing practice. We witness Bud's legacy when we look at the vibrant forestlands of the Central Coast - forestlands that continue to contribute to the well-being of all.

Bud was a leader of Big Creek Lumber for many years, and we are fortunate that he had the foresight for a succession plan to ensure that Big Creek Lumber and his vision will continue for many years into the future.

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CropManage Hands-on Webinar



Join us for this hands-on webinar to learn to use CropManage to support irrigation and nutrient management decisions and record-keeping.

Hosted by Andre Biscaro, Advisor, UCCE Ventura & Michael Cahn, Advisor, UCCE Monterey

Event details:

When: Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 1:00-4:30 PM

Where: Virtual Meeting via Zoom (link and instructions will be emailed to registrants)

Registration fee: \$30 (A limited number of registration waivers are available in case of financial difficulties. If interested, please email anrprogramsupport@ucanr.edu to discuss before registering.)

Register here: <https://www.ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=30468>

What is CropManage?

CropManage is a free online decision support tool for water and nitrogen management. Based on in-depth research and field studies conducted by the University of California, CropManage provides real-time recommendations for efficient irrigation and fertilizer applications— while maintaining or improving overall yield.

Who should participate?

Vegetable and berry growers, ranch managers, other farm staff, and technical service providers are welcome. The webinar is for both new and current CropManage users.

How to Prepare

As this is a participatory webinar, please join via computer or tablet so that you can follow along and participate in the exercises.

Each participant will need a user account for CropManage. Please set up a free user account at cropmanage.ucanr.edu before the webinar.

2.5 Continuing Education Units have been applied for Certified Crop Advisers (CCA)

Contacts for More Information

Logistics and Registration: Clin Xu, anrprogramsupport@ucanr.edu, or 530-750-1361

Course Content: Andre Biscaro, asbiscaro@ucdavis.edu, UCCE Ventura County

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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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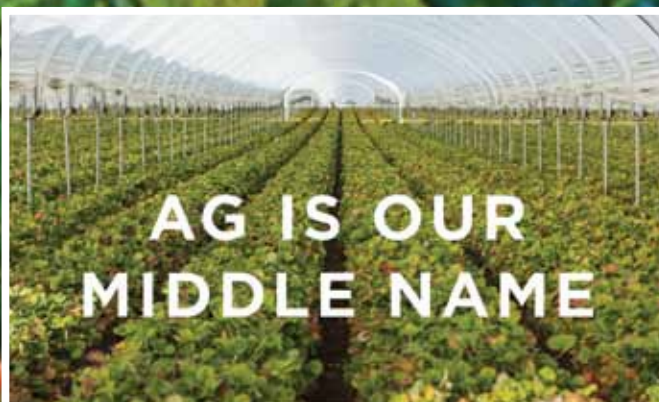
CALENDAR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
July to be determined

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 26
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 16
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY
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TO BE RESCHEDULED
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