

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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INSIDE this issue

- 3 Ask Mark**
Leak Rots in Berries
- 4 Water Nanny**
Santa Cruz goes PETA
- 5 Recipe**
Sesame Green Beans
- 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

Essential Workers



There are many signs that the seasons are changing. Daylight lengthens as the sun rises earlier and sets later, a chorus of songbirds fills the air, and a caravan of cars clog the road as they traverse Beach Street heading West of Highway One. The latter, while a matter of minor inconvenience to my daily commute, brings a sense of satisfaction beyond the natural indulgences of spring. Traffic going North on Highway One is still but a trickle of what it once was prior to Covid-19; missing are the commuting tech workers, hospitality workers, and teachers. As I sit idling in the heart of the Pajaro Valley, witness to the scene, I know that our agricultural industry is weathering the storm. In this early morning motorcade are the dedicated farm workers making their way to the berry, lettuce, vegetable and nurseries, a scene playing out across the county from Swanton Road to Rogge Lane. We may have had some minor setbacks to our berry crop with late rainstorms, but have maintained a vibrant industry during one of the most challenging times in our nation's history.

Critical to the industry is the protection of one of its most vital resources, the workers tending the fields and greenhouses.

Farmworkers are classified as essential workers under the Covid-19 shelter in place order, a classification they held for every farmer prior to Covid-19. Farmworkers don't have the luxury of working from home during the pandemic and place themselves and their families at risk going to work. Many growers have implemented individual practices appropriate to their specific operations. Daily fever checks, health screening, equipment modifications, and adjusted work flows to increase spacing have all been implemented. The concerns of several Farm Bureau members inspired the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau to take a proactive leadership role to get farmers and their workers access to the resources needed to protect them from Covid-19. The Farm Bureau has been working with the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner and County Health Department to ensure that response plans for Covid-19 include specific

consideration for agricultural workers. According to strawberry grower, former Farm Bureau president and our COVID-19 Task Force Chair Tom Am Rhein, "the agriculture industry has really stepped up and developed in a very short time an impressive array of responses to the epidemic, especially when one considers the wide variation in field practices used in the hundreds of commodities grown in California."

We are "committed to providing members the resources needed to protect the health and safety of their employees and their businesses. Keeping farm workers healthy keeps our farms farming."

President's Message - Continued on Page 6

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I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited!



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ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

Leak Rots in Berries

Q. Could you fill us in please a bit on the leak rots in berries? I hear a lot less about them than gray mold.

A. Two pathogens that berry growers should be starting to see right about now are *Mucor* and *Rhizopus*. Both of are distinct from the more well known *Botrytis* gray mold you mention in your question, and therefore worthy of some closer examination in this short article.

While these two fungi belong to different genera, the symptoms of their disease and growth in berries are quite similar. Fruit, once infected with *Mucor* or *Rhizopus*, become very soft, leak sticky red juice and lose all of their integrity. Additionally infected either pathogen are covered with a wispy, fuzzy black and white growth typical of these fungi, see the picture included below. All of this is unlike infection by *Botrytis* gray mold, where the fruit does not soften or leak to an appreciable degree and is covered with a velvety growth brown to gray in coloration.

As far as managing the leak rots in the field, fungicides in our experience tend to not be the best option. Very few of our chemistries registered for the berries show any efficacy in controlling the leak rots at all, and the one fungicide which has proven efficacy, sold under the trade name of Botran, is not registered for berries nor will ever be given its numerous concerns with our trade partners concerning residue levels.

This leaves fruit growers with cultural options to mitigate leak rot occurrence and infection. The widespread use of drip tape and plastic mulch go a good way to reduce disease given that it minimizes fruit contact with soil and water. Additionally good field sanitation, in other words removing infected

fruit from the plant, and not placing infected fruit together with marketable fruit are both sound strategies for reducing leak rot.

Finally, cooling of fruit once harvested, is very helpful to minimize spread and development of leak rot, especially that caused by *Rhizopus*, since this pathogen in particular is not very active at temperatures below 40 degrees F.

The above has been a brief description of the leak rots and their management in berries. For questions and answers on this issue and any others concerning berries, please contact Mark Bolda and UC Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz County.



Classic growth of a leak rot fungus, in this case a species of *Mucor*. Abundant and puffy mycelial growth accompanied by leaking of juice are all typical of this sort of leak rot.

This is stupid! I just tried to make my own hand sanitizer and it came out as a rum and coke!

THE WATER NANNY

Santa Cruz goes PETA

Shelter in place causes the mind to wander. I was sitting in my kitchen, humming *Happy Days Are Here Again*, when I chanced upon the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors agenda for May 12, 2020, which was only released on May 8th. So, with no prior public notice, here was a proposal to radically reshape animal husbandry in Santa Cruz County and not for the better. It deals with amending the Animal Services Ordinance.

Much of this is traditional stuff you would associate with a county animal control officer, like wild dogs, biting domestic animals and the animal shelter; but then the ordinance takes a strong left turn into fluffy regulatory philosophy. Much of this is way beyond my simple imagination, so I will liberally quote directly from the source. All references are to draft County Code §§ 6.04 et. seq.

The County Animal Shelter Board of Directors believes that this *“updated and revised ordinance contains a well-balanced compilation of animal services regulations”*. Lest there be no misunderstanding, animal is defined as *“any mammal, bird, reptile, fish or other vertebrate creature, domestic or wild.”* Animal exhibitions, a new definition, means *“to present any animal for public view, for the purpose of entertainment, sale or competition, and includes, but is not limited to, rodeos, circuses, zoos and animal auctions.”* This would include the Graham Hill Showgrounds and the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds.

The major change is the addition of §6.04.160 on Animal Care. This section did not previously exist, as you can see, for good reason.

If you are a commercial animal facility, which is not defined, so let's call it a cattle ranch: *“No animals may be without attention for more than 14 consecutive hours; whenever an animal is left unattended at a commercial animal facility, the telephone number of the*

Department, or the name, address, and telephone number of the responsible person, must be posted in a conspicuous place at the front of the property.” It is important that PETA can

call you 24/7.

You thought sprinklers in your hay barn was nuts, try this out: *“A building or enclosure for animals Heating and cooling must be provided to meet the physical needs of the animals.... An animal facility must be equipped with working smoke alarms and have means of fire suppression, such as a sprinkler system in each room where animals are kept, or functioning fire extinguishers.”*

So if you have a horse in Larkin Valley or Bonny Doon, time to apply for a CalFire inspection, add another water tank and get a building permit for the horse stall.

“Proper shelter and protection from the weather must be provided at all times.” Those steers do look so cold, and ungroomed.

“An animal must not be given any alcoholic beverage or illegal drug. An animal must not be given any legal drug unless prescribed by a veterinarian.” Drunk llamas I understand, but many livestock owners have learned how to treat their animals, but now you need a prescription.

“Any tack, equipment, device, substance, or material that is, or could be, injurious or cause unnecessary cruelty to an animal may not be used.” Cutting horses are now safe from their inherently cruel owners.

The prize for non-fiction writing goes to § 6.04.250 Prohibition on using live animals for entertainment purposes. Rodeos are *“detrimental to the safety of the animals and the public, including children and trainers.”* Those horse trailers used to take your horse to the fairgrounds are addressed too. *“Travel or confinement impairs the animals' physical, psychological, and social needs, while close confinement, lack of exercise, pressure to perform, and other physical requirements of performing render the animals unable to express natural behaviors and socialize appropriately.”* Lastly, hope you enjoyed the 4H animals at the fair because: *“the display of animals at events such as circuses and rodeos is not an adequate educational forum for children.”* Livestock sales at the Fair are also banned.



Water Nanny - Continued on Page 6



FAVORITE RECIPES

Sesame Green Beans

I often search the local websites for interesting recipes in our area. While we have all been staying at home these last couple of month, we have been doing a lot more cooking. I, for one, needed some fresh ideas. I remembered that the Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Market website is a wonderful resource for fresh recipes using fresh local ingredients. You can find it at edibleparadise.com or by going to the Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Market website. Check it out and see what you can find.

The Hmong name for long beans is taao-hia-chao. Long beans taste similar to the North American green bean. You can substitute them for any recipe calling for green beans. This climbing bean can grow up to 12 feet long, but most of them at the farmers market will be about 20 inches long. When picking look for firm, smooth, dark green beans. Keep them in a loose plastic bag in the crisper.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. long green beans, trimmed into 3 or 4-inch lengths
- 1/4 cup tahini
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped scallions
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh ginger
- Toasted sesame seeds or finely chopped peanuts for garnish, if desired

METHOD:

Bring large pot of salted water to a boil. Add beans and cook until crisp-tender, about 4-5 minutes. Drain beans and immediately submerge beans into large bowl of ice water until chilled. Drain and dry beans. Place beans in large mixing bowl. Set aside. In a small food processor or blender, add tahini, soy sauce and sugar and blend until smooth. Pour sesame paste into small bowl. Whisk in rice vinegar, scallions, and minced ginger. Pour dressing over beans and toss to coat. Garnish with toasted sesame seeds (or peanuts), if desired.

I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...

"As a graduate of Focus Agriculture, an employee of an 82 year old pest control business in Santa Cruz County and a consumer of food, supporting agriculture has meaning. As a voice for agriculture in the Pajaro Valley, the Farm Bureau represents all of us from the field to the table."

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President's Message - Continued from Page 1

The Farm Bureau has recently published guidelines for agricultural employers and employees to help better inform them on how to manage for Covid-19 in the workplace. Critically these have been done in both English and Spanish to reach the broadest audience possible. While each farm may operate in unique circumstances these guidelines provide a comprehensive template for most to follow in the event of someone at the farm testing positive or having symptoms. A critical next step will be to secure supplemental housing support for field workers who test positive for Covid-19, so that they can quarantine in isolation and prevent further infection of others. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is committed to providing members the resources needed to protect the health and safety of their employees and their businesses. Keeping farm workers healthy keeps our farms farming.

In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?

See Answer on page 9

Water Nanny - Continued from Page 4

This goes on to essentially outlaw all horse shows, and specifically outlaws *"unnatural behavior"* where the animal is *"mentally or physically harassed, or displayed in a manner that abuses the animal or causes the animal mental or physical stress."* This may even outlaw dog training, as I am sure it causes Fido mental and physical stress.

Unfortunately space limits the fun I am having with this ordinance. Fortunately, as quickly as this appeared online, the Animal Control Ordinance was pulled from the Supervisors' agenda without any discussion. *Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear or a fool from any direction.* (Debbie Macomber)

2020 Events

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

26th Annual Golf Tournament

Seascape Golf Club
12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 10, 2020

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
Tuesday, July 21, 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

September 16 through September 20, 2020

Annual Directors' Dinner - Canceled

Location to be determined
November 5, 2020
5:45 p.m.

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
August 15, 2020
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

24th Annual Progressive Dinner

Location to be determined
October 24, 2020
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

COVID-19 Messaging on the Farm



There is a lot of information circulating about COVID-19 and what businesses should do to minimize the spread and keep employees safe. All the available information may create some confusion as people try to sort out local requirements under the County Shelter in Place Order,

state orders and guidance and the applicability of national recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During the COVID-19 crisis, consistent messaging and review of safety practices in the workplace is essential.

Early collaborations between growers, local officials and community organizations to draft an advisory to protect farmworkers in our region has been instrumental in providing direction to our agricultural industry. Regularly communicating with employees on the farm to clarify work safety guidelines is critical. It is also important to focus messaging around practices that have been put in place at work to help reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 and to ensure employees have a good understanding of these practices and why they are being implemented. Use of face coverings, physical distancing, proper handwashing and disinfecting are key elements in reducing transmission of the virus, and employers should continually stress these safety measures with their workers.

In the field, employees should work in a manner that allows for six-foot distancing whenever possible, and this may require adjusting harvesting and other cultural activities to allow for more space between workers. Face coverings should be provided if possible, and employees should be encouraged to also use their own. Proper use of face coverings should be demonstrated so that workers don them properly (i.e. covering both mouth and nose). The need to use face coverings in the field should be made clear to workers particularly when six-foot distancing cannot be kept. Fieldworkers should not congregate or take breaks in large groups, and frequent hand washing should be encouraged throughout the workday. Field supervisors and forepersons

should be proactive in ensuring that farmworkers follow all safety guidelines. While some COVID-19 safety guidelines are specific to the work environment others are applicable in any setting. Workers should be reminded to continue to follow general measures to protect themselves and others when not at work.

These generally include the following in any setting:

- Maintaining six-foot distancing from individuals who are not part of the same household or living unit.
- Wearing a face covering at the grocery store, supermarkets, laundromats, when taking public transportation and in places where six-foot distancing is not possible, and that a face covering is not a replacement for social distancing.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if not possible, into the sleeve or elbow.
- Frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoiding all social interaction outside the household when sick with fever or cough.

As doctors and scientists learn more about COVID-19, additional safety measures may be implemented. Please stay informed of updated orders and guidelines for protecting workers. For the latest information and data on COVID-19 for Santa Cruz County visit the Health Services Agency website:

[http://santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/
PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/
CoronavirusHome.aspx](http://santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx)

Another night of no sports.
My wife and I just had an hour long
conversation. She's really nice! Apparently works in
the medical field. Also, TV's are black when they
are turned off. Who knew!

Weevils



There has been much news recently about the tension, for lack of a better word, between state and federal governments over control of public health and the duty or power to quarantine people, require masking and impose social distancing. But are there similar rules for seeds, plans and crops and the pests that afflict them?

One of the oldest cases is the 1926 United States Supreme Court decision in *Oregon-Washington R. & Navigation Co. v Washington*. 270 US 87. The case was decided over the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. The Railroad won and the State of Washington ultimately lost.

The Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company had 1,143 miles of track running from Portland through northeastern Washington to northern Idaho. The State of Washington sued the Railroad in 1921 alleging that the Railroad ran through areas in Oregon and Idaho infested with the alfalfa weevil and that the eggs of the weevil would be carried on leaves and stalks of alfalfa hay transported by the Railroad into Washington. The State also said the only way to inspect the alfalfa for presence of the weevil was to tear open every bale and the cost of such inspection was prohibitive.

The State said the only practical way to prevent the spread of the weevil into un-infested agricultural lands in Washington was to prohibit the Railroad from transporting alfalfa from infected areas of Oregon and Idaho into uninfected lands in Washington. The Washington State Director of Agriculture issued an executive order forbidding importation of alfalfa into Washington except in sealed containers. The Railroad ignored the executive order and shipped alfalfa into Washington in 100 unsealed boxcars.

So, the State of Washington sued the Railroad for an injunction to stop such alfalfa shipments. The State won a pre-trial hearing in Washington state court and got the Court to issue a preliminary injunction pending trial which prohibited the Railroad from shipping any more unsealed alfalfa shipments into Washington.

At trial the State of Washington introduced evidence that there was no practical way to eliminate the alfalfa weevil once it infested an alfalfa field and there was no practical method to inspect shipments in route. In its defense, the Railroad argued the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution which says Congress has the power “[t]o regulate commerce . . . among the several States” pre-empted the Washington Order. The Railroad also introduced evidence that the infestation alleged by the State was exaggerated and likelihood of spread to Washington State was remote. The Washington trial court ruled for the State and made the preliminary injunction permanent. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the trial court. The Railroad then appealed to the US Supreme Court

The Supreme Court reversed the Washington state courts and ruled in favor of the Railroad.

“In the absence of any action taken by Congress on the subject-matter, it is well settled that a state, in the exercise of its police power, may establish quarantines against human beings, or animals, or plants, the coming in of which may expose the inhabitants, or the stock, or the trees, plants, or growing crops, to disease, injury, or destruction thereby, and this in spite of the fact that such quarantines necessarily affect interstate commerce.” The Court explained its decision as follows.

With regard to interstate commerce, the Supreme Court held that the regulation by Congress has two fields: There is one in which the State may not interfere at all, even in the silence of Congress. In the other, the State may exercise its police power until Congress has by affirmative legislation occupied the field by regulating interstate commerce and so necessarily has excluded state action.

The US Supreme Court found that the latter field applied since Congress had indeed taken such affirmative action by enacting the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1917 which allowed independent exercise of federal authority to quarantine interstate commerce. The federal Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1917 covered the whole field (sic) so far as the spread (sic) of the plant disease by interstate transportation can be affected and restrained. With such

Legally Speaking- Continued on Page 9

Resources for Farmers During COVID-19



With everything that is going on right now, it is important for us to work together to help our local farmers. We would like to take this time to inform people of the opportunities that exist for farmers struggling because of COVID-19. There are resources available on many different platforms and we would like to shed some light on a few. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions and we will do our best to point you in the right direction.

Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF): CAFF has a tab on their website called "COVID-19" where they are

gathering tips and resources to help family farmers. Some of these resources include where to find financial assistance and possible sales outlets. Here is the link: https://www.caff.org/covid19/?link_id=1&can_id=adae63076f4700606d19e34a584ee420

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): The USDA announced today that they will provide up to **\$2.1 billion in direct payments to specialty crop producers**. To learn more visit this link : <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/19/usda-announces-details-direct-assistance-farmers-through>

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT): Yesterday the NCAT announced **\$16 billion available to farmers and ranchers** through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. Here is the link: <https://www.ncat.org/coronavirus-food-assistance-program/>

Recursos en español: Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) está lanzando un nuevo fondo hoy para apoyar a los agricultores más afectados por el virus y la crisis económica resultante. Si quieres mas información: <https://www.caff.org/fondo-de-emergencia-lanzado-para-agricultores/>

THE ANSWER IS: How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.

Legally Speaking - Continued from Page 8

authority vested in the US Secretary of Agriculture, and with such duty imposed upon the US Secretary of Agriculture, the state laws of quarantine, in particular, the State of Washington's law, that affect interstate commerce and the federal law (the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1917) cannot stand. The relief sought to protect the different states, in so far as it depends on the regulation of interstate commerce, must be obtained through the state's application to the US Secretary of Agriculture.

Immediately following the *Oregon-Washington* decision, Congress amended the Agricultural Appropriation Act to say that until the US Secretary of Agriculture determines a quarantine is necessary and establishes one, nothing prevents any State from doing so. Had the amendment been enacted before, Washington State could have enforced its police power to prohibit the spread of the alfalfa weevil by the state court injunction.

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William Shakespeare

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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 3

- Legislative Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 19

CANCELED
TO BE RESCHEDULED
Focus Agriculture - Class 31

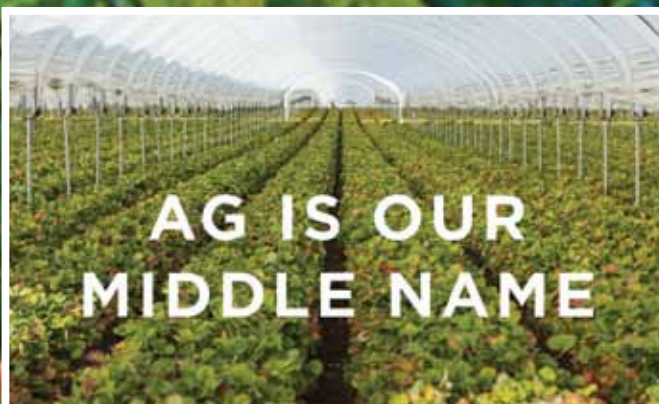
TUESDAY - JUNE 21

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY
SPRING LUNCHEON

THURSDAY - JUNE 25

Board of Directors' meeting

13TH ANNUAL DOWN TO
EARTH WOMEN LUNCHEON
TO BE RESCHEDULED
WATCH FOR DATE



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