# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

#### JUNE 2021 VOLUME 45, ISSUE 6

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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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See National Agriculture Day Awards & Winners on Pages 6 & 7

# Gerbera-N-Go

The 11th Annual Gerbera Festival

Kitayama Brothers Farms Celebrate



GERBERA-N-GO SATURDAY, JUNE 19 10 AM TO 2 PM A benefit for Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and

**UTAYAMA BROTHERS FARMS CELEBRATES** 

THE 11TH GERBERA FESTIVAL

A benefit for Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Agricultural Worker Vaccine Program

- Crotes of 5 plants featuring a mix of colors can be preordered for \$10 et www.thatsmypark.org/gerbera
- Crates will be available day-of for \$15—if not sold out!
- Pick up flowers at Kitayama Brothers Farms: 481 San Andreas Road, Watsonville (next to Sunset State Beach)
- Please stay in your vehicle and wear masks during pickup.



Crates of 5 plants featuring a mix of colors can be **pre-ordered online** for \$10 each beginning **Friday, May 14, through Tuesday, June 15, 2021**, at www.thatsmypark.org/shop

riends of Santa Cruz State Parks today announced the Kitayama Brothers Farms Gerbera Festival is back after a one-year hiatus as Gerbera-N-Go, a drive-through flower sale at Kitayama Brothers Farms, located at 481 San Andreas Road in Watsonville (next to Sunset State Beach).

Crates of five plants featuring a mix of colors can be preordered online for \$10 each beginning Friday, May 14, through Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at www.thatsmypark.org/ shop. Flowers will be available for pickup from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 19. A limited number of day-of sales also will be offered for \$15 a crate.

All proceeds from the Gerbera Festival benefit Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and the Santa Cruz Farm Bureau Agricultural Worker Vaccine Program. The Santa Cruz Farm Bureau Agricultural Worker Vaccine Program has made it possible for Kitayama Brothers and many other farm's employees to get vaccinated early and easily. As a result, a very high percent of farm employees in Santa Cruz County are now vaccinated. Agriculture Law Business & Taxation Construction Creditor's Rights Estate Planning Labor & Employment Litigation Personal Injury Public Agencies Real Estate & Land Use

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### See Arnett Young's "President's Message" on Page 9



The Sturdy Oil Company wishes to acknowledge those who received recognition at the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon. The winners are listed starting on Page 6 of this publication. Congratulations from all of us at Sturdy Oil!!

Thank You





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

### The Soil Pathogen Macrophomina

from time to time, but is it as bad as **Fusarium for strawberries?** 

Yes, I can fill you in a little bit about Macrophomina phaseolina, which causes the disease commonly known as "charcoal rot" in strawberry. While in the Watsonville-Salinas strawberry producing area, this disease, being mostly limited to a few large fields around Highway 129 and San Juan Road, is not nearly as common as Fusarium wilt that most know about already, but it is nonetheless a serious problem worth knowing more about.

infected Strawberry plants with Macrophomina look very much like those infected with Fusarium, so it is worth one's time and investment to get a proper diagnosis from a reputable plant disease lab when the symptoms of wilting foliage and subsequent drying out of the older leaves are discovered. These symptoms generally start once the weather warms up and the plant loads up with fruit in late May and early June. When cut open, crowns of infected, symptomatic plants have a brown to orange color to them - again this occurs with other soil diseases of strawberry so this Macrophomina tends is not diagnostic. to show up first in patches throughout the field, which then grow in size as the season goes on, and can take over the whole field over multiple seasons if left unaddressed.

Growers and farm managers have some recourse to manage Macrophomina once it shows up in a field. As with the other soil pathogens of strawberry, the use of a preplant fumigant is a useful tool. Also, since

Macrophomina phaseolina is specific to Could you let us know a strawberry, rotation away from strawberry little bit about the soil pathogen for a minimum of one year or even more Macrophomina? We hear about it years is strongly recommended. As with Fusarium, field sanitation plays a big role in keeping disease out of the field. Growers and landowners should do what is feasible to prevent this disease from entering the field in the first place. Since soil diseases move around on soil clods and particles stuck to wheels, farm implements and even shoes, watching who and what comes in and out of the farm has a lot of merit.

> The above has been a short article about the strawberry disease charcoal rot and Macrophomina the soil pathogen which causes it. For guestions about this disease or any other issue concerning berry production on the Central Coast, please contact Mark Bolda at UC Cooperative Extension, mpbolda@ucanr.edu or telephone 831-763-1158.



Two places are the lowest and highest points in California, and also the lowest and highest in the Continental U.S.

See Answer on page 8

Agriculture, the Driginal Green"

### Historic

K, I am old. I still have a land line (a phone connected by wires in the wall), get a newspaper (ink printed on material from a tree) and remember when Morse code was required to get an amateur radio operator's license (used to communicate wirelessly worldwide). Still other things farmers rely on today are older.

Ag, along with mining, were the original schools at the University of California in 1868. The Ag Extension was created to help farmers by the UC Board of Regents in 1891. California continued in its support of farmers with University Farm School at Davis in 1905 and the Citrus Experiment Station in Riverside two years later. 4-H was started by UC as boys and girls agricultural clubs 1912. County Ag Commissioners were established to protect and promote the horticultural interests of the state in 1881. Let us not forget the Grange way back in 1870, followed by the California Farm Bureau in 1914 with our Farm Bureau shortly thereafter in 1917.

"When you were a child, growing up, you were protected and nurtured by your mother. Now that you are a grownup farmer (a possible oxymoron) you have me." (The Water Nanny, episode #1, 2001). Yes, it's true **Between the Furrows** has been featuring, and tolerating, Nanny for 20 years, 240 somewhat prosaic articles vaguely related to farming on the Central Coast. Some pieces were educational, even a mouth watering recipe for cooking fresh crow. Many were rants about regulatory visions and bureaucratic snafu. Some were even consistent with the stated goal and helpful.

My publisher tells me The Water Nanny is featured on the *Between the Furrows* masthead due to a vast following. Who knows, since like Zorro, no one is certain who really is the Water Nanny. For two decades the completed article has been thrown over the transom above the rear door of the Farm Bureau offices in the dark of night. Given our political anxious times, anonymity is a great thing to cultivate (obviously you cannot friend Nanny on Facebook.)

Between floods, imaginative regulatory edicts, farmers'



penchant for over production and Santa Cruz politics there is never a shortage of material for an anonymous author to manipulate. Indeed, one piece carried a footnote admonishing: "Data for this article was compiled during a dream, thus dreamed up." That data was to support a dream of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) outlawing flush toilets to save water replacing them with Detached Aerobic Digesters (outhouses). Coastkeepers has served as a counterpoint to agriculture before the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), but one nemesis was not enough



so in another dream we invented the League of Sea Elephant Rejoices (LOSERS).

A high percentage of pieces were educational, starting with the first on water conservation and PG&E rates. These wandered between farm management, crop development and cannabis cultivation. All were well researched, and thus difficult to fit on one page, or to keep the readers' attention long enough to finish reading.

When I reached 100 articles, Between the Furrows column was titled Nanny Turns 100, a reporter fresh out of journalism school called the Farm Bureau to see if she could interview such an old fellow correspondent, which obviously was not possible. Back in 2013, I poked fun at various Monterey Bay desalt proposals as either fictional or unrealistic. It took the Monterey Peninsula 8 years to reach the same conclusion. I recently joked about the steam locomotive creaking along our rail/trail at 10 mph filled with commuters going to work at the Boardwalk. Only once has my column been edited, and that was to remove an illustration of an Indian Chief accompanying a proposal to turn the Redman into a tribal casino. So much for my political correctness.

I plan to go back to my front porch rocker and resume knitting until next month. After the Farm Bureau Spring Lunch last month I have a whole basket of ideas to sort through. *"Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please."* (Mark Twain)





# FAVORITE RECIPES

### **Creamy Avocado Dressing**

As I was scrolling through Facebook the other morning, I ran across this post from the Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Market for a creamy salad dressing. It sounded so good, I just had to share it with all of you. Hope you enjoy!

1 ripe avocado, skin and seed removed	1-2 garlic cloves, minced
6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil	6-8 tablespoons water, or as needed to thin the dressing
6 tablespoons sour cream or yogurt (unsweetened Greek	1 teaspoon salt
or plain yogurt)	1/2 teaspoon black pepper

4 tablespoons lemon juice

Place all ingredients in heavy duty blender (or food processor) except the water and process until mixture is smooth and creamy. Add water (as needed) to thin to the desired consistency.

Dressing will keep for 3 days in the refrigerator.

#### **VARIATIONS:**

Fresh Herb Dressing: Stir in 1/2 cup of mixed minced herbs of your choice, such as parsley, cilantro, chives or dill.

**Southwestern:** Replace lemon juice with lime juice. Stir in 1/3 cup cilantro leaves, 3 tablespoons finely minced red onion and 1/2 teaspoon toasted cumin powder.

**Ranch Style Dressing:** Add 1/2 teaspoon EACH of dried dill, parsley, chives, onion powder, garlic powder and 1 teaspoon sugar.

Greek Dressing: Add additional 1 tablespoon lemon juice and 2 teaspoons dried oregano.

**Italian Dressing:** Add small handful of fresh basil leaves and process with other dressing ingredients until smooth. Stir in 1 teaspoon dried Italian herbs.



### **Interesting Trivia**

Watsonville's land was first inhabited by an Indian tribe called the Costanoans. This tribe settled along the Pajaro Dunes since the land was fertile and useful for the cultivation of their plants and animals. In 1796, European explorers came to the land where they claimed to have seen a big bird along the side of the river, this symbol helped explorers to establish the name of the main river, which they identified as Rio del Pajaro, or River of the Bird. This river that runs along the boundaries of the city divides Santa Cruz County and Monterey County. In 1847, the second wave of European explorers was presented to this land where they finally decided to settle. Forty of these explorers officially lived in the city and had animals and some crops. In 1848, the gold rush in the Sierra Mountains was an important event for the city because people began to buy land for the low price that it had, allowing them to acquire large acres of property where farming and ranching would be among the simple practices that would shape the economy of the city. The community was incorporated as the Town of Watsonville on or about March 30, 1868 and named after Judge John Watson. The town changed its name to the City of Watsonville about 1889. The voters adopted a charter in 1903. This information comes from the Kiddle Encyclopedia.

### "Agriculture, the Original Green"

## THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY SPRING LUNCHEON



(L-R) Sam Earnshaw, winner of the 2020 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture, presents the 2021 award to Dignity Health Dominican Hospital represented by President-CEO, Dr. Nan Mickiewicz (R)

ver 170 tickets were sold for the in-person National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon held Wednesday, May 19, 2021, in Paddy Smith Park at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville. The annual event is coordinated by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and the educational organization, Agri-Culture. At the luncheon, the 2021 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture award was presented to Dignity Health Dominican Hospital for its strong support of local agriculture and taking a leadership role in vaccinating Santa Cruz County farmworkers. The award was announced by Nishan Moutafian, who is a member of the Farm Bureau COVID-19 Task Force, and presented by the 2020 recipient, Sam Earnshaw.

2021 Poetry Contest Winner

#### 2021 Poster Contest Winner



#### BETWEEN THE FURROWS



#### Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship



This year's recipient of the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship is **Anisa Velasco**, from Watsonville High School. She will be graduating in June with a GPA of 3.665. Anisa plans to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she will major in Animal Science in hopes of pursuing a

career as a veterinarian. As a child, Anisa would use herbs and homemade remedies to help heal any animal she could, and helping the animals gave her a wave of excitement which has steered her toward the path of veterinary medicine. Anisa will receive \$4,000 from the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship fund, which is awarded to a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture. American AgCredit has partnered with Agri-Culture for this scholarship, and provides \$2,000 of the award to the recipients.

#### Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship



This year's recipient of the Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship is **Henry Danner**. Henry Danner graduated from Scotts Valley High School in 2019. Since then, Henry has attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he currently holds a 3.6 GPA. He is majoring in Animal

Science, and minoring in Music, and plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian. Henry's interest in veterinary medicine blossomed in High School when he accepted a part-time job as a janitor at Valley Oak Vet Clinic in Scotts Valley. He and the clinic's veterinarian, Dr. Arnold, bonded over their mutual love for science, animals and music. Henry will receive \$2,000 from the Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is awarded to a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture or a related field, or majoring in culinary arts.



#### Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship - Special Award



A special award from the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship was given to Hayden Michael Mennie, who graduated from Aptos High School in 2019. He has attended Cabrillo College for the past two years where he carried a 3.935 GPA. He plans to attend Fresno State University

in the Fall, where he will major in Agricultural Business and prepare for a career in ag sales. Hayden currently works for RJO Produce Marketing, and will continue in that job while he continues his scholastic journey. Hayden was selected to receive a special \$1,000 award from the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship.

#### **Poster Contest Winners**

1st Place: **Oliver Nakazawa Hewitt** 3rd Grade Delaveaga Elementary School; 2nd Place: **Allison Navarro Hernandez**, 5th Grade, H.A. Hyde Elementary School, Watsonville;

3rd Place: Uriel Murillo, 6th Grade, Cesar Chavez Middle School, Watsonville

#### **Honorable Mention**

Erica Cruz-Rendon, 6th Grade, Cesar Chavez Middle School, Watsonville Jonah Diaz-Le, 4th Grade, Delaveaga Elementary School, Santa Cruz Anabelle Hardy, 3rd Grade, Delaveaga Elementary School, Santa Cruz Aria Lindberg, 4th Grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Santa Cruz Mila Nicolier, 5th Grade, Santa Cruz Montessori School, Aptos Emmanuel Perez Sahagun, 6th Grade, Cesar Chavez Middle School, Watsonville

Opal Amelia Weaver, 4th Grade, Delaveaga Elementary School, Santa Cruz

#### J.J.Crosetti Memorial Scholarship



This year's recipient of the JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is **Cole Margarite-Donart**. Cole has attended UC Santa Cruz for the past two years and has a cumulative GPA of 3.42. He is

majoring in Plant Science and preparing for a career as an Agricultural Crop Field Advisor for sustainable research and systems management. Cole is a 4th generation farmer and is committed to helping farmers produce crops more efficiently and to feed America as well as the whole world. He currently works part-time with the UCANR as an Agricultural Assistant. Cole will receive \$1,000 from the JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship fund, which is awarded to a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture.

#### **Poetry Contest Winners**

1st Place: **Alme Shelby**, 7th Grade, Wavecrest, Santa Cruz Montessori 2nd Place: **Jade Haskins**, 8th Grade, Wavecrest, Santa Cruz Montessori 3rd Place: **Sylvi Kayser**, 7th Grade, Wavecrest, Santa Cruz Montessori

#### Honorable Mention

Sage Silver, 8th Grade, Wavecrest, Santa Cruz Montessori
Taylor Timucin, 7th Grade, Wavecrest, Santa Cruz Montessori
Brooke Fabry, 7th Grade, Wavecrest, Santa Cruz Montessori
Jennifer Patz, 8th Grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Santa Cruz
Carley Anderson, 8th Grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Santa Cruz
Mary Watson, 8th Grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Santa Cruz
Saffron Roohani, 7th Grade, Wavecrest, Santa Cruz Montessori

HE AG COMMISSIONER

Juan Hidalgo, Agricultural Commissioner, Santa Cruz County

### **Preparing to Protect Agricultural Workers from** Wildfire Smoke



season last year, it is hard to imagine that we may be in for more of the same this year. The drought that we are experiencing in the West has brought the start of the fire season much earlier than in previous years, and one can argue that the fire season is year-round

in California. An example of this are the four small fires that broke out in the middle of January this year in our county, something I had not seen before. According to CalFire, an estimated 4,257,863 acres burned last year in California. This includes 86,509 acres burned in Santa Cruz County last August during the CZU Lighting Complex fire. The wildfires in the Santa Cruz Mountains last year coincided with wildfires in Monterey County and other parts of California, impacting air quality in our region for several weeks. In anticipation of another challenging fire season in our state, it is important that you begin to take the necessary steps to prepare to protect your agricultural workers from poor air quality created by wildfire smoke.

You may recall from last year that CalOSHA regulations require that if an employee may be exposed to wildfire smoke, then the employer must check the current Air Quality Index (AQI) at the worksite and lower employee exposure if the index level is 151 (Unhealthy) or higher. For employees working outdoors, your options as an employer will be to stop outdoor work or to provide N-95 respirators to those employees so work can continue. Remember that when the AQI is determined to be 151 or more employers must provide N-95 respirators to their employees and train them on proper use. Employees should be encouraged to use the N-95 respirators, and it is advisable that employers consider providing them to employees when the AQI is in the 101 - 150 range (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) since this is beneficial in providing additional protection. Ensuring that your employees receive the necessary training ahead of time and understand the importance of using the respirators provided to them will better prepare your operation. Continually reinforcing and reviewing wildfire smoke protections with employees throughout the growing season will help with

fter an unprecedented fire readiness. Adequate preparation also includes ensuring that you have N-95 respirator supplies available to provide to your employees. Last year due to shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) created by the pandemic, N-95s were difficult to procure and CDFA in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) made N-95 respirators available to County Agricultural Commissioners for distribution to agricultural operations to protect agricultural workers. This year it is unknown if N-95s will be made available to Agricultural Commissioners for similar distribution. PPE supplies are now more readily available and accessible, and you should begin to plan accordingly to secure your own independent supply.

> For information on wildfire smoke training resources in English and Spanish visit the UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety webpage at: https://aghealth. ucdavis.edu/wildfires

> For CalOSHA's requirements for employee protection from wildfire smoke visit:

#### https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke/Wildfire-smoke-emergency-standard.html

Lastly, you can check air quality in our region on the following websites: https://www.airnow.gov and http://air. mbuapcd.org/



**Death Valley and Mount** Whitney (lowest and highest in the contiguous United States) are 80 miles apart.

# President's Message

Arnett Young President



ocal land use policies are often the most difficult decisions a community can make. In every community there are many ideas on how a city should grow to benefit its residents and often these ideas contradict each other. In agricultural communities, it is important for the Farm Bureau to participate and represent both agricultural and community

**Planning for the Future** 

**"The Committee for Planned Growth** 

and Farmland Protection sees the

potential for Measure U's Urban Line Limit to continue to meet

Watsonville's growth needs until

2040. With the undeveloped lands

available and smart growth infill

within the current city limits, Measure

U can continue to protect farmlands

Watsonville's growth. However,

this extension can only be done

with The City of Watsonville citizen

support."

supporting

and wetlands while

interests.

We all recognize that a healthy, growing, community is essential for local agriculture to be successful. Both go hand in hand. In 2001, the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau participated in a working group to develop an Urban Line Limit for the City of Watsonville. This coalition, comprised of local leaders, environmental and agricultural community members, resulted in Measure U, a land use policy which preserved farmland, protected

environmentally sensitive areas and gave Watsonville room to grow. Measure U was approved overwhelmingly by the voters of Watsonville in the 2002 elections.

In the 19 years since the Urban Line Limit was approved, the City of Watsonville's population has grown by over 16%,

ocal land use policies are and yet Watsonville has been able to address housing needs often the most difficult and attract new economic opportunities for it citizens. Using decisions a community can existing vacant and underutilized lots within the Urban Line In every community there Limit, Watsonville has met its current growth needs, and there ny ideas on how a city should are still large amounts of land undeveloped.

> With a major part of Measure U's expiration date approaching in 2022, a new coalition of local leaders has emerged. The Committee for Planned Growth and Farmland Protection sees the potential for Measure U's Urban Line Limit to continue to meet Watsonville's growth needs until 2040. With the undeveloped lands available and smart growth infill

> > within the current city limits, Measure U can continue to protect farmlands and wetlands while supporting Watsonville's growth. However, this extension can only be done with The City of Watsonville citizen support.

> > As with any important land use decision, this is where the citizens of Watsonville come in. Talk with your family, neighbors and friends on why protecting farmlands and wetlands is beneficial to a healthy and productive community. If you want to volunteer or

support The Committee for Planned Growth and Farmland Protection in getting an initiative on the November 2022 ballot to extend Measure U to 2040, please contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau office.





"the Farm Bureau is a place to learn, to advocate for agriculture, to grow community and to ensure a future that cares about the people and the land that nourish us."

**Susan True**, Chief Executive Officer Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County

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JUNE/2021

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### CALENDAR

**MONDAY - JUNE 14 Flag Day** 

SUNDAY - JUNE 20 **Father's Day** 

**SATURDAY - JUNE 19** The Gerbera Festival 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

THURSDAY - JUNE 24 Board of Directors' meeting

**SAVE THESE DATES!** • FRIDAY - JULY 16 **28th Annual Golf Tournament** Seascape Golf Club

• SATURDAY - AUGUST 28 **13th Annual Testicle Fe** atival Estrada Deer Camp

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