

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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Agri-Culture's *Down to Earth Women Luncheon*



Women wearing hats has become a tradition of the event. Pictured below are friends enjoying friends on a beautiful spring day.

The 15th Annual Down to Earth Women (DEW) Luncheon was held at Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos in Watsonville in May and had an attendance of almost 300 women. This event is for women who are involved in, or support, agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

This year's featured speaker for the event was Emily Bonder, Owner, Santa Cruz Bee Company, who spoke on the topic "Bees: Essential Pollinators for a Healthy Planet." Krista Snelling, President/CEO, Santa Cruz County Bank, was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the luncheon.

The purpose of the luncheon is to raise funds for Agri-Culture's Focus Agriculture program, the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship fund and the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau's school programs. A portion of this year's proceeds also went to farmworker flood relief efforts. This year the event raised over \$90,000. Anita Aguirre, Deputy Director, Chief Compliance Officer, Salud Para la Gente, spoke about her experience as a participant in Agri-Culture's Focus Agriculture program. Diego Ramirez, 2023 Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship recipient, spoke about how the scholarship has helped him pursue his educational career. ■



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 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture
 Randy Repass and Sally-Christine Rodgers*

Happy Father's Day!

*Don't forget the 106th Annual Dinner Meeting
 June 22, 2023*

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ASK THE UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Kirsten Pearsons, Entomology Advisor, UCCE

Meet Kirsten Pearsons

Q. Hello Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Members! I look forward to getting to know you, helping solve your pest problems, and celebrating your successes.

A. **Getting a sense for the lay of the land:** I am fortunate to call Santa Cruz County my home, and I find the best way to explore is by bike. Biking around the county has brought me through the small coastal farms along highway 1, the picturesque apple orchards near Corralitos, the leafy greens and cane berries leading up to Mount Madonna, and the rolling strawberry ranches west of Watsonville. I am continually impressed by the productivity and diversity of specialty crops you all grow in Santa Cruz County.

Current Projects: I started this past fall when the INSV crisis in lettuce was making headlines. For this reason, my current research focuses on western flower thrips, the insect that spreads INSV in lettuce. Thanks to the existing team of farm advisors, USDA-ARS researchers, and

faculty at UC Davis, I have already jumped into solution-oriented research projects on western flower thrips. Once I am more settled in, I will have time to start tackling other pest challenges, from diamondback moths to lygus bugs.

What's this bug? Are you finding unfamiliar insects on your farm or ranch? They could be beneficial predators, serious pests, or harmless passers-by. Accurately identifying the insects will help you decide if management is needed, and which management approaches will be most effective. I am here to help! You can drop off insects for identification at the UCCE office in Watsonville (1430 Freedom Blvd, E) or Salinas (1432 Abbott Street). It is best to put insect samples in a small container of alcohol (rubbing alcohol or 70% ABV vodka).

For questions about insect pest management, feel free to reach out to Kirsten Pearsons at kapearsons@ucanr.edu or (831) 759-7359. ■

Interesting California Trivia

The first European missionaries visiting California were exploring the state in the 1700s. They were reminded of Garcí Rodríguez de Montalvo's 1510 novel, "The Deeds of Esplandián" in which the mythical island of California was described as a paradise abundant in gold and jewels. It's a weird and little known fact, but this is where the state's name derives from.

A fun fact about California is that the state declared that it was the independent California Republic in 1846. This only lasted for one month, before California became a territory of the United States in 1847.

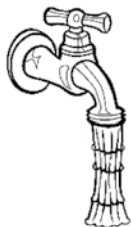
The theory that California's land was a gold paradise was only confirmed once, on July 24, 1848, when James W. Marshall noticed gold flakes in waters taken from the South Fork of the American River near Coloma. Shortly after, in 1849 California witnessed America's largest mass migration as approximately 300,000 new settlers sought the new American Dream. ■

THE WATER NANNY

All Deliberate Speed

Faster than a twitter slight, more powerful than an unscheduled rocket explosion, able to leap ... ah, just kidding. Some things cannot leap over tall buildings, nor run faster than a speeding bullet, yet they are successful and live to an old age; like a Galapagos tortoise, which moves slower than oxen pulling a cart, yet live over 100 years. As the rabbit realized, speed is not as important as a constant path to your goal.

Way back in 1980, the state determined that the Pajaro aquifer was severely over drafted, a fact the farmers along the coast had already discovered with salt intrusion into their wells. Relatively quickly the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) was created in 1984 to optimistically solve the overdraft, possibly with water imported from the Central Valley. Like all new agencies progress started out slowly, with occasional litigation. Water meters were installed, initial water extraction fees were imposed, and then refunded. Just how the Pajaro Valley would ever solve the water over draft was debated. In 2001, there was a schism between a local solution and imported, and somewhat unreliable and very expensive imported water... More law suits. The local approach prevailed.



The PVWMA built the waste water recycling project, water delivery to the coast, water recharge, conservation (not so much) and additional coastal pipelines. Before SGMA was imposed on all the over drafted basins in California, the PVWMA was well on it way to a sustainable groundwater basin with only locally sourced water.

The last key to this local water supply puzzle is the project at College Lake, which when built, should get the Pajaro Valley aquifer up to 97% sustainable 15 years before the SGMA 2040 deadline. Good job! Each step along the way, each acre foot of water delivered or saved comes at a price higher than earlier projects. While the College Lake project will provide over 2,200 ac/ft of water to pipe out to the waste treatment plant, it is the most expensive to date per water volume. Fortunately, the PVWMA subsidizes much of the lake and pipeline with state grants helping to keep our augmentation fees *moderate*.

What water miracle will the College Lake bring to our revived aquifer? College Lake has always been drained every summer, for a single crop rotation, flushing water to the ocean. After over a decade of discussion, planning, water rights allocations and allowance for steelhead migration (both ways) construction has started. A new weir and dam will be installed raising the lake slightly. The weir is the key to allowing controlled flows, and for fish habitat. Water diverted at the weir will be sent to a filtration system adjacent to the lake, really a full-on water treatment plant, with *ballasted flocculation and sedimentation* tanks, filters, and disinfection, before pumping the lake water to the waste treatment plant west of Watsonville, over six miles from College Lake. Initially, most of the construction will be east of Holohan Road.; however, traffic will become a problem with a 30' pipe going down the middle of Holohan Road, College and Lakeview. The grand finale of a couple mile of Riverside/Hwy. 129 dug up as the preferred location for the pipe. Thereafter, peace will be restored to our valley with a grand opening champagne toast.



Municipal construction takes a slow and steady path to groundbreaking, or as the Agency could likely say, with all deliberate speed. *"Construction is an important front for solidifying the foundations of a thriving country and creating bases for the people's happy life."* (Kim Jong-un) ■





FAVORITE RECIPES

Emily Bonder's Favorite Honey Miso Glaze

A recipe courtesy of the Santa Cruz Bee Company owner and guest speaker, Emily Bonder. This recipe was given to all of those attending the 2023 Down To Earth Women Luncheon.

1 cup white miso paste

1/4 cup rice wine vinegar

1 1/2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger

1 1/2 teaspoons sesame oil

1 teaspoon chili paste

1 teaspoon soy sauce

1 clove garlic, grated

1/4 to 1/2 cup honey

1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro

Freshly ground black pepper



Emily Bonder, Owner
Santa Cruz Bee Company

Whisk together the miso, vinegar, ginger, sesame oil, chili paste, soy sauce, garlic and 1/4 cup honey in a medium bowl until smooth. Taste for sweetness and whisk in more honey if desired. Stir in the cilantro and season with pepper. Spoon or brush on vegetables, meat or fish.

President's Message



Dennis Webb, President

Every year I look forward to our Farm Bureau's tradition of selecting the Farmer of the Year. I consider the past recipients of this award to be some of our community's most impressive and committed leaders. When I look at a list of past Farmer

of the Year winners, I see an incredible group of women and men. These are the most hardworking, innovative, thoughtful and generous people in our local agricultural sector. All of them joined the Farm Bureau as a way to give back to their industry and the people who rely on it for their livelihoods. None of them did it to be recognized with an award – but all of them deserve recognition.

When I joined the Board of Directors at Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, Tom Broz was starting his tenure as our organization's President. Ever since then I have looked up to Tom's leadership, both in Farm Bureau and in the greater community. Most importantly, Tom is an excellent human being who is not only respected, but also loved, by the community. Tom exemplifies so many of the qualities I see in all of the winners of Farmer of the Year, and I couldn't be happier to see him honored with this year's award. ■

of the Year winners, I see an incredible group of women and men. These are the most hardworking, innovative, thoughtful and generous people in our local agricultural sector. All of them joined the Farm Bureau as a way to give back to their

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER

Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



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.

How to Join

Go to www.cbf.com and click on the "JOIN" button. No need to log in on this page. Go to the bottom of the page and click on NEVER BEEN A MEMBER to set up a new account.

Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
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I'm a Farm Bureau Member/Supporter because...

"I am a Farm Bureau Member because I value knowing and working with other members on issues facing the Pajaro Valley. I enjoy learning best practices in farming, particularly organic innovations, discussing mitigations to climate change, and supporting the importance of agriculture to our entire community. I am also passionate about eliminating litter and illegal dumping which so adversely affects our agricultural sector."



Sally-Christine Rodgers, Trash Talkers Organizer

"I became a Farm Bureau Member originally because we operate a small vineyard, orchard and olive grove, and I strongly believe in supporting sustainable agriculture."

Randy Repass, Founder of West Marine

Save the Date

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

SCCFB 106th 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

14th Annual Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 26, 2023
Estrada Deer Camp

27th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023
Location to be determined

"Some people see things that are and ask, 'Why?' Some people dream of things that never were and ask, 'Why not?' Some people have to go to work and don't have time for all that."

—George Carlin

Direct from the Grower



Heading into summer, it is a good time to think about the excellent produce grown in our county and throughout the state. From strawberries to broccoli to peaches to spinach and so much more, California is unrivaled in its agricultural crop diversity. It is

also unrivaled in its certified farmers markets, which number over 650 and provide growers the opportunity to sell their produce to the community through the direct marketing process. In 1977, then Governor Jerry Brown signed an order allowing California growers to sell their commodities directly to consumers and exempting them from standardization requirements if they chose to do so. Since then, growers up and down the state have been selling their fruits and vegetables directly to the local shoppers who visit certified farmers markets and on-site farmstands.

Direct marketing helps to promote a connection between the agricultural grower and the consumer. It benefits both parties by providing a straight-forward method for farmers to sell their commodities and by giving consumers the opportunity to purchase fresh produce at a reasonable price. Growers obtain a certificate from the County Agricultural Commissioner attesting to the crops they are producing, and this is followed up by field inspections to confirm what it stated on the certificate. This is an annual process that then allows them to sell at certified farmers' markets. Currently, there are nearly a hundred certified producers growing crops in the county for sale at various farmers' markets.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is another way for people to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. CSA members purchase a share in advance and in return receive a weekly box of produce at the farm or a nearby pickup location. Some CSAs offer flowers, eggs, and other products in addition to produce. Some CSAs offer members the flexibility to make choices online from what is available at the farm during a given week. CSAs offer members a feeling of connection with the grower and the farm – knowing where the produce is being grown can provide a deeper appreciation for the food they eat.

If you are driving throughout the state, you can go to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's website and lookup a current list of all certified farmers' markets in case you have a chance to visit one or more of them as you travel. For the farmers' markets operating in Santa Cruz County, visit our webpage to find a link to the current listing at www.ag-dept.com. ■

YOU'RE INVITED!
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU
106th ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

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DON'T CASH THAT "PAYMENT IN FULL" CHECK



When disputes arise over an amount due, a debtor sometimes tenders a check for less than the amount due and marks the check "payment in full" or some similar language, hoping the creditor will accept it as payment in full. Read further to see whether this procedure works.

In 1987, the California Legislature enacted Civil Code Section 1526. Section 1526 says that if there is a dispute between a creditor and a debtor and the debtor tenders a check for less than the amount due and marks it "payment in full" or similar language, a creditor can line out those words and cash the check. They can then sue the debtor for the difference. Courts have held this law valid. A federal court enforcing California law held in 1995 that when a check with such payment in full language was deposited in a lock box and the creditor promptly notified the debtor they did not consent to payment in full language, the creditor was not bound by the language. *Red Alarm, Inc. v. Waycrosse, Inc.* 47 F. 3d 999. Similarly, in a 1996 case, a bankruptcy court held that a creditor properly protected its rights when they sent a letter stating that they were accepting the check only as partial payment. *In re Van Buren Plaza LLC.* 200 B. R. 384.

Contrary to Section 1526 is the Uniform Commercial Code (adopted in California as the California Commercial Code). Section 3311 was adopted in 1992. It provides that if a debtor (a) in good faith offered an instrument to a creditor in full satisfaction of the claim, (b) the amount of the claim was uncertain or subject to a bona fide dispute, and (c) the claimant obtained payment on the instrument, the claim is discharged if the person against whom the claim is asserted proves that the instrument or an accompanying written communication contains a conspicuous statement indicating the instrument was tendered as payment in full.

A federal court considered these conflicting statutes in 1998. In one case, a debtor tendered a check for less than the amount due and marked it payment in full. The creditor crossed out the language before cashing the check and sent the debtor a letter stating that the check was not a full

payment. The court recognized the two statutes could not be reconciled. It then relied on a rule of statutory interpretation which says that when two statutes conflict, the statute enacted later in time should prevail. Since Section 3311 was enacted after Section 1526, the court held that the check was an "accord and satisfaction" and prevented the creditor from recovering the balance due. *Directors Guild of America v. Harmony Pictures, Inc.* 32 F. Supp. 2d 1184.

A state court case further clouds the issue by declaring that whether the parties reached an accord and satisfaction is a question of fact *Woolridge v. J.F.L Elec. Inc.* (2002) 96 Cal App, 4th Supp 52. The *Woolridge* case was from the appellate department of the San Bernadino County Superior Court. There are no California cases citing the *Woolridge* case. Therefore, the parties in most cases must engage in an expensive trial to determine whether an accord and satisfaction occurred.

Until the courts resolve the conflict, the only safe practice for creditors in situations like this is therefore to return the check. If the creditor strikes out the payment in full language and cashes the check, they will face the § 3311 defense recognized by the *Directors Guild* court.

-oOo-

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this article is not intended to and does not create an attorney client relationship. You should not rely on this information as legal advice since most legal results depend on the facts of a particular situation or case. You are strongly advised to consult a competent lawyer for legal advice on matters such as these. ■

“Trash Talkers” Update

Written by Sally-Christine Rodgers

TRASH TALKERS’ INITIATIVE LAUNCHES IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Litter impacts our environment, our health, and all sectors of our community, including businesses, agriculture and schools. To help eliminate litter and illegal dumping throughout Santa Cruz County, a coalition of interested citizens, local agencies and elected leaders have come together for the first time to keep all of Santa Cruz County and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary beautiful and free of trash and debris.

Known as “Trash Talkers,” the coalition is focused on engaging community members to host and participate in cleanups in our watersheds, riparian corridors, beaches, transportation corridors, abandoned encampments and more. Trash Talkers’ mission is to make Santa Cruz County the cleanest in California and improve the health, well-being, economic value, and beauty of the county through education and engagement with the community, non-profits, schools, and local governments.

“Litter affects our environment and our quality of life,” said Sally-Christine Rodgers, a local resident who organized the Trash Talkers initiative. “It is only through collaboration and sustained effort that we can achieve our shared goal of making Santa Cruz County the cleanest county in California. We welcome all community members and visitors to join this effort.”

Trash Talkers recently launched a website, pitchinsantacruz.org, where residents, businesses, schools and others can learn how to get involved, as well as learn more about recent Trash Talkers’ achievements. All members of the community are invited to visit the website,

get involved or just learn more about proper disposal of trash, recycling and unwanted usable materials.

The effort has been endorsed by the County Board of Supervisors, with supporters including Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, State Sen. John Laird, Assemblymember Robert Rivas, the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office, the County Office of Education, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, County of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, City of Scotts Valley, City of Santa Cruz, City of Capitola and local chambers of commerce.

In addition, the County of Santa Cruz and local cities are rolling out an initiative to install the Trash Talkers’ Pitch In logo on trash receptacles, at trail heads, near parks/beaches and at other locations to help raise community awareness around this effort. ■



Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau & Agri-Culture Present

30th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 14, 2023

Pajaro Valley Golf Course

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-Henry Ford, businessman

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY - JUNE 1
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

FRIDAY - JUNE 2
Focus Agriculture, Session 4

THURSDAY - JUNE 22
106th Annual Meeting
Make your reservations early!

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 28
Focus Agriculture, Session 5

TUESDAY - JULY 4
Independence Day Observed
Office Closed

THURSDAY - JULY 6
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

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