

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

MARCH 2017
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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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Cannabis Discussed at Past Presidents' Luncheon

Successful Board Retreat Held



(L-R) Arnett Young, Clint Miller, Edward Ortega, Don Hagerty, Cynthia Mathiesen, Nita Gizdich, Matthew Bissell, Michael Theriot, John E. Eiskamp, David Van Lennep, Chris Enright, Bob Harris, Jeff Brothers, Tom Broz, Brendan Miele, Michael Jani and Elia Vasquez

The Annual Past Presidents' Luncheon was held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the beautiful Rancho Santa Maria in Watsonville. This beautiful private setting overlooks the Pajaro Valley and the Monterey Bay. The luncheon was co-hosted by **Nita Gizdich, Michael Jani, Jeff Brothers, Clint Miller** and **David Van Lennep**.

Current President **Tom Broz** welcomed the group and invited them to attend the 100th Annual Meeting on June 22, 2017. **Karen Ross**, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, will be the featured speaker.

David Van Lennep (2015/2016) introduced **Jeff Brothers** (1991/1992) who was the featured speaker who spoke on the topic, "Cannabis - Out of the Shadows and Into the Light". In his presentation, Brothers stated, "The stigma will lift soon as the nation realizes

the many medical benefits of cannabis." He also stated, "Cannabis will soon just be another regular farm crop. Monterey and Santa Cruz counties will be a major growing area because of the former flower growing infrastructure that exists."

Following the Presidents' Luncheon, the Annual Board Retreat was held. Presentations were made by several guest speakers on a wide range of subjects. Guest speakers included: **Dan Patterson**, Santa Cruz County Cannabis Licensing Manager; **Brian Lockwood**, Interim General Manager, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency; **Khaled Malbrovk**, Digital NEST; **Jaime Johansson**, 1st Vice President, California Farm Bureau Federation; **Michelle Rodriquez**, Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District; **Elaine Legorreta**, Principal, Watsonville High School.

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President's Message

THOMAS BROZ, PRESIDENT



“There are many opportunities to engage in Santa Cruz’s agricultural economy, only one of many is becoming a farmer. This of course is no easy task, but with enough perseverance our county does provide a fertile environment to succeed as one. Good luck Aidan.”

Next Generation Of Farmers – Who Will They Be?

Last summer, during a Live Earth Farm Discovery School tour, I took a group of kids on a tractor ride to harvest carrots. When we arrived at the carrot patch, the kids carefully walked in the furrows between the beds, excited to dig and pull carrots directly out of the soil. It is a little bit like a treasure hunt; you don't know what you hold in your hand until the thick bright orange taproot is completely pulled out of the ground. Each time a carrot pulled out of the loose loamy soil, you could hear the delighted voices of the children. At one moment during the harvest one of the boys, his name was Aidan, came up to me proudly holding on to his harvested carrots, and asked: “Farmer Tom, when I am old enough, can I work here? I want to be a farmer like you “. It made me think what it would take to make this boys’ wish come true.

As we look into the future, beyond Santa Cruz Farm Bureau’s 100th anniversary, an important question to ask and reflect upon is who the next generation of farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers will be. At 53 years of age, I may not think about retirement just yet; but, according to the last census in 2012, the average age of the American farmer is over 58 years old. This means that in the next decade many farmers and ranchers will be retiring. What is worrisome is that today barely 1% of the population is actively farming and there is not enough young farmers and ranchers stepping up to

the plate. Is farming destined to be ever more industrialized, consolidated and technology driven? Will the trend continue where agriculture may not need people anymore like it used to? Large more mechanized farms play an important part in the food production business; but thinking of Aidan, how can his dream of becoming a Santa Cruz farmer turn into reality?

It’s a complex question and I may be overly optimistic, but I want to argue that Santa Cruz County is a good place for Aidan to realize his dream of becoming a farmer. There are many ways to look at it but I thought I’d share a couple of reasons:

President’s Message - Continued on Page 6

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ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Advisor, Environmental Horticulture, UCCE

UC Master Gardeners and Watsonville Demonstration Garden

Question: Tell me about the UC Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden and Classes.

Answer: The UC Master Gardeners, consisting of UC-trained volunteers, maintain a quarter acre Demonstration Garden for community educational purposes near the UC Cooperative Extension Office (1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite E, Watsonville). Currently there are vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and ornamentals planted in various raised and ground beds. The Demonstration Garden was established to provide hands-on community education for sustainable gardening practices. UC Master Gardeners "Cultivate Knowledge" by teaching irrigation, composting, integrated pest management (IPM), raised bed planting, pruning, weed management and more.

Question: Are there current workshops planned?

Answer: Yes, upcoming workshops include:

- February 25, 2017
Basics of Rose Care
- March 25, 2017
Chix in the City- Hens in the Hood
- April 22, 2017
Soil Prep for Your Vegetable Garden

All classes are 10 AM to noon. Check for class descriptions and future classes at the UC Master Gardener website: <http://mbmg.ucanr.edu/>

Question: How do you become a Master Gardener?

Answer: To be certified as a UC Master Gardener, applicants must successfully complete a comprehensive training program (over several months) and commit to volunteer their time to the local MG educational program and continue to maintain advanced horticultural and pest management training. The next training for a new crop of Master Gardeners begins in January of 2018. More information is available at: http://mbmg.ucanr.edu/Learn_To_Be_A_Master_Gardener/



"We do not want our children to become a generation of spectators.
Rather we want each of them to be a participant in the vigorous life."

John F. Kennedy

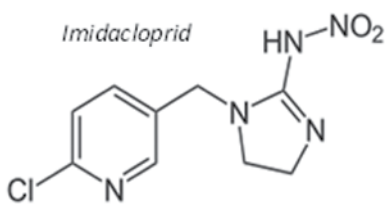
THE WATER NANNY

Fringe Science

In 1905 the Pajaro Valley was a swarm with codling moths munching on our famous apple crop. Professor Charles Woodworth, UC's first entomologist, (UC Berkeley, the preeminent and only Ag University in California) dispatched two prized grad students, William Volck and Eilerslie Luther, to Watsonville. The continued use of Paris Green and lead arsenate was problematic as it burned apple leaves in foggy climates, and was later one of the first pesticides to be regulated in 1910. Volck and Luther devised a zinc arsenate alternative, and their California Spray Chemical Company formulated its first Ortho product on Walker St. This was cutting edge stuff and saved the apple crop from hungry moths. Zinc arsenate lost favor to DDT, which worked fine as advertised, yet didn't turn out so well.

Cutting edge biological science now faces critical review from many sides. Pesticides which are praised for worker safety when introduced are later scrutinized due to off field consequences. While this is important to avoid another DDT, we should make an exception for "science based" regulations where there is no relevant science. As you read this the new Central Coast Ag Order v3.0 has most likely already been adopted. Hidden inside, like a Faberge Easter egg, is a new and innovative surface water monitoring toxicity test using an invertebrate, Chironomus, a non-biting midge.

At issue is the acceptance of a relatively new pesticide class by farmers and homeowners, Neonicotinoids (Thiamethoxam {Crusier, Platinum}; Imidacloprid {Admire, Advantage (dog fleas), Goucho Marathon}, etc.). While effective, Neonics are controversial due to their impact on off field invertebrates, particularly bees. Neonics are also very soluble and may pose groundwater issues. This chemical family has been found in surface water, although typical aquatic toxicity testing does not show any related invertebrate mortality.



Therefore the Regional Water Board mandated the addition of a new test species, Chironomus larvae. This is where the cutting edge of research comes to play. Test bugs are bred (yes by bug breeders) and shipped to the testing labs. No

problem with other test species, Ceriodaphnia, algae or minnows. However, Chironomus appear to be quite frail, they don't travel well and show up at the testing lab already dead. Even if they arrive alive, they are severely stressed by shipment (like jet lag for bugs). The test requires two containers of water, one the field sample and the second a control. The control water is special, neutral in all ways, perfect pH, oxygen, temperature, etc. Toxicity in the field sample is measured relative to survival in the control, shown as a ratio between the two. If most of the control dies this whole exercise is a flop, it was.



Now the problem with cutting edge empirical research is its uniqueness. New tests are not standardized and results have not been verified by replication. Replication is the cornerstone of sound science. Typically the EPA conducts trials with multiple laboratories to establish a protocol for a specific species toxicity test. With Chironomus only a few labs have any experience, and there is no standard protocol. Therefore test results are not comparable, nor sufficient to be statistically meaningful. The last thing the results should be used for is regulatory validation for a restriction of a pesticide. Peer acceptance and standardization is necessary for sound science.

"There are in fact two things, science and opinion; the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance." Hippocrates





FAVORITE RECIPES

Hot Cross Buns

2 cups whole milk

1/2 cup canola oil

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1 package (2 1/4 teaspoons) active dry yeast

4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for flouring

1/2 teaspoon (heaping) baking powder

1/2 teaspoon (scant) baking soda

2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Additional spices, such as cardamom, nutmeg or allspice, optional

1/2 cup raisins

For the buns:

Combine the milk, canola oil and 1/2 cup of the granulated sugar in a saucepan. Stir and heat until very warm but not boiling. Turn off the heat and allow to cool until the mixture is still warm but not hot, about 30 minutes.

Sprinkle the yeast over the mixture. Add 4 cups of the flour and stir to combine; the mixture will be very sticky. Cover with a towel and set aside for 1 hour.

Add the baking powder, baking soda, salt and remaining 1/2 cup flour to the dough. Stir until combined.

Combine the remaining 1/4 cup granulated sugar in a small bowl with the cinnamon and whatever other spices you want to use.

Lightly flour a work surface and turn out the dough onto it. Press to slightly flatten the dough. Sprinkle a third of the sugar/cinnamon mixture over it. Sprinkle on about a third of the raisins. Then fold the dough over on itself and flatten again so the dough is "plain" again. Repeat the sugar/raisin process, then fold the dough again. Repeat a third time.

Line a baking sheet with a silicone liner or parchment paper. Pinch off Ping-Pong or golf ball-size bunches of dough.

Glaze:

1 egg white

Splash of milk

Icing:

1 egg white

Powdered sugar, as needed

Milk, as needed

With floured hands, quickly roll them into balls, then turn the edges under themselves slightly. Place on the prepared baking sheet. Cover and allow to rise in a warm place for at least 30 minutes....an hour plus is better.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

For the glaze:

Mix the egg white with a splash of milk. Brush onto the balls of dough.

Bake until the tops of the buns have turned nice and golden brown, 20 minutes give or take. Allow to cool on a cooling rack.

For the icing:

Mix the egg white with enough powdered sugar for the icing to be very thick. Splash in the milk as needed for consistency.

When the buns are completely cool, add the icing to a small zip-top bag and snip the corner. Make icing crosses on each bun.



Twenty One Community Leaders Selected For Focus Agriculture Class XXVIII

Twenty-one community leaders have been selected for Class XXVIII of Agri-Culture's Focus Agriculture program. This "first-in-the-nation" program is designed for community leaders to learn about agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. Class XXVIII members include: **Nanette Michiewicz**, President and CEO, Dignity Health Dominican Hospital; **Christina Cuevas**, Program Director, Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County; **Peter Hansen**, Sergeant, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department; **Felipe Hernandez**, City Councilmember, City of Watsonville; **Nikki Silva**, Co-Founder/Co-Executive, The Kitchen Sisters Productions; and **Georgia Acosta**, Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) Area II Trustee. Each year nearly 50 applications are received for this program and the Agri-Culture Board of Directors selects 21 participants.

The program consists of once-a-month, day-long seminars, held over a period of nine months. The first session will be

held on Friday, March 10th. Speakers ranging from farmers to elected officials to representatives from environmental groups will address the class. The sessions will cover such topics as ethnic groups in agriculture, new technology and diversity of commodities locally grown. In addition, there are many farm tours and hands on experiences. The participants will spend one day working on a farm.

In announcing the selected participants of Class XXVIII, Agri-Culture President **Steve Bontadelli** stated, "Community leaders will find this program beneficial and, in turn, growers who present information to the class will learn the public's current perspective of local agriculture. The program is designed to be a two way learning process."

The Focus Agriculture program received a national award for its innovative approach to bringing the public and the agricultural community together.

President's Message - [Continued from page 2](#)

First, Santa Cruz County has a healthy network of food and agriculture education and training programs, many offered by local schools, colleges, and universities (i.e. Watsonville High, Cabrillo College, and UCSC) as well as a number of successful non-profit organizations who have focused on empowering and attracting the interest of our younger generation to engage in agriculture.

There are too many programs to list in this short article; however, one worth mentioning is of course the education focused organization, Agri-Culture. They offer several successful and award winning programs, such as Focus Agriculture, which in 2016 was selected to help establish the Pajaro Valley Organic and Sustainable Learning Center funded by the generous donation of Dick Peixoto from Lakeside Organic Gardens.

Second, Santa Cruz County has an expanding small scale food production sector where more farmers and farms could be sprouting up in the future.

Blessed by unique coastal micro-climates, rich agricultural

land and located in close proximity to the Bay Area, Santa Cruz county has always been an agricultural hub that has attracted growers, food producers, agricultural experts and professionals who have implemented innovative farming practices to grow high value crops (i.e. berries, vegetables, flowers, apples, nurseries, etc.). Over the last couple of decades, as consumers have increasingly adopted a new attitude towards food demanding with their dollars and forks a new kind of food system. A niche, for new farmers and entrepreneurs of smaller scale and specialty operations, has opened up to supply the demand of consumers around local and regional marketplaces. These locally grown, often organic and specialty operations are attracting a new kind of farmer to the land; farmers with roots often connected to the surrounding urban culture.

There are many opportunities to engage in Santa Cruz's agricultural economy, only one of many is becoming a farmer. This of course is no easy task, but with enough perseverance our county does provide a fertile environment to succeed as one. Good luck Aidan.

FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

By Juan Hidalgo, Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights and Measures

Preparing to Export to British Columbia, Canada



As we transition from winter into spring it is time to start getting ready for the upcoming harvest season. If you plan on exporting fruits and vegetables found on the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) host list to British Columbia, Canada, you will need to update

your Canadian compliance agreement with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. To update your agreement and review the compliance requirements you will need to make an appointment by contacting the office. It is important that you pay close attention to the requirements of the agreement in order to meet its objectives and to ensure shipments destined for British Columbia are free from all LBAM life stages. Increased LBAM pest pressure was observed last year and several finds of live larval stages were found during berry inspections at coolers. This resulted in shipments being held and growing sites being placed on hold until pest pressure could be mitigated in the field. Important elements of the compliance agreement includes adhering to your Integrated

Pest Management (IPM) program, including scouting of your fields on a weekly basis 30 days prior to harvesting in order to quickly identify and suppress LBAM and other leafrollers. Guidelines to control LBAM and other leafrollers can be found on the UC IMP website: <http://www.ipm.ucanr.edu/>

These guidelines will also be made available to you during your compliance agreement appointment. The Santa Cruz County UC Cooperative Extension also offers annual LBAM scout training to aid your field representatives in identification techniques for life stages. This training usually takes place in the spring. You can stay informed of upcoming trainings by visiting the UC Cooperative Extension website: <http://cesantacruz.ucanr.edu/>

Your diligence in following all compliance agreement export requirements will help ensure that LBAM is not found in Canadian shipments and therefore help prevent the imposition of additional export requirements.

For questions regarding the LBAM compliance agreement requirements to British Columbia, Canada or to make an appointment for your production sites in Santa Cruz County please call the Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 831-763-8080.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY SPRING LUNCHEON

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

\$45 per person

To make reservations, please call the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau (831) 724-1356 or visit the website at www.sccfb.com

3 Point Contact Rule for Ladder Safety

Climbing ladders is a routine part of the job for many people, yet workers often suffer injuries when they ascend or descend improperly. Anyone who has ever suffered an injury by falling from a ladder, slipping off equipment or jumping out of a truck can tell you it doesn't require much height to get hurt.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 50% of all ladder-related accidents were due to individuals carrying items as they climbed. However, if you maintain three points of contact while you climb, you can limit your exposure to slips and falls.

The three points of contact rule is simple – always maintain one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot, when climbing or descending ladders, trucks and equipment.

When climbing a ladder, you should have both hands free and face the ladder. This allows for three points of contact with the ladder at all times and helps reduce the chances of falling.

Position the ladder so it is:

- Not blocking any paths, exits or doors
- On level, solid footing
- Against a stable structure
- Set up at a 4:1 angle
- Extended at least three feet above the surface to be accessed
- Secured at the top and bottom

When using a ladder:

- Don't let your belt buckle pass beyond either ladder side rail
- Hold your ladder with one hand while working with the other
- Don't hurry or skip rungs

When mounting or dismounting a vehicle or piece of equipment:

- Mount or dismount stationary equipment only
- Firmly grasp the points of contact with both hands,

while facing the vehicle or equipment

- Use the points of contact designed by the manufacturer to mount and dismount, such as steps, running boards, traction strips, footholds, hand grips
- Don't use wheel hubs, machine tracks or door handles for mounting and dismounting
- Break three-point contact only when you reach the ground, the cab or a stable platform

Nationwide's expert risk management consultants can assist in identifying potential exposures to help reduce claims and determine appropriate levels of workers' compensation insurance. Contact your local Nationwide agent to learn more. For more information on this and other topics, visit MyNSightOnline.com.

Nationwide is the endorsed insurance and financial services provider for the California Farm Bureau**. In 2017, we expanded our relationship offering workers' compensation coverage for farm and ranch members. Nationwide is the #1 farm insurer in the U.S.* and a leading provider of insurance and risk management solutions for commercial agribusinesses.

MyNSightOnline.com features extensive risk management and safety expertise articles. Nationwide customers can log into [MyNSightOnline](http://MyNSightOnline.com) to access additional risk management tools, resources, training and worker's compensation information developed specifically for farmers and ranchers. Simply visit Farm.NationwideAgribusiness.com to log in or click "Sign up for account access." For help signing up, contact the Farm Service Center at 1-800-418-3188.

To learn more about Nationwide farm insurance and other commercial coverages: Nationwide.com/agribusiness. To find a local Nationwide agent: FarmAgentFinder.com. Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, OH, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the U.S.

*This information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.**

Wettest Winter in Years

I want to take this opportunity to let folks know about a source of funding that may be of interest to anyone who wants to replace inefficient irrigation equipment. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting applications from agricultural operations for its 2017 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). SWEEP is a competitive grants program supporting growers and agricultural operations in California to reduce their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and save water by investing in water irrigation system efficiency. Under this program, CDFA will provide up to \$100,000 per agricultural operation for eligible projects – matching funds are encouraged but not required. In the water sector, the principal source of GHG emissions is fossil fuel-based energy used to pump, convey, treat, and heat water. SWEEP was created to incentivize projects that reduce GHG emission through projects that replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, improve efficiency, and reduce water consumption. In order to be eligible for this funding, applicants will need to quantify reduced GHG emissions and water savings by providing documentation of actual on-farm energy consumption and GHG emissions during the previous growing season. More information about SWEEP, including Frequently Asked Questions, project and application eligibility and the application process can be found here <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>. Grant submission deadline is March 14, 2017. If you need assistance with this process, please call the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County at 464-2950 X11.



2017 Calendar of Events

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

March 15, 2017

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

100th Annual Meeting

Watsonville Slough Farms

June 22, 2017

5:45 p.m.

California State Fair

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

July 14 through July 30, 2017

24th Annual Golf Tournament

Springs Hills Golf Club

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 14, 2017

Santa Cruz County Fair

September 13 through September 17, 2017

Annual Directors' Dinner

Location to be determined

November 2, 2017

6:15 p.m.

CFBF 98th Annual Meeting

Reno, NV

December 3 through December 6, 2017

Agri-Culture

10th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

May 11, 2017

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

9th Annual Testicle Festival

Estrada Deer Camp

August 26, 2017

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

21st Annual Progressive Dinner

To be determined

October 28, 2017

3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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AG NEWS

Excerpts from the Friday Review

Assembly Member Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) introduced AB 822 at Farm Bureau's request this week. The bill requires state agencies and institutions to purchase California grown agricultural products as long as the price is no more than five percent higher than outside products. School districts and state universities would be required to purchase California grown products as long as they do not cost any more than outside products. California farmers have significantly higher costs of production due to California's stringent regulations and our state should support our farmers by purchasing products from farmers meeting those high regulatory standards.

The State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Water Rights issued a notice this week regarding surface water measurement and reporting requirements. The division issued a reminder notice that those who divert more than 10 acre feet of water each year are required to measure their diversions using equipment which meets specified accuracy requirements. The measurement requirement is being phased in with larger diverters required to measure first. A chart to determine when you must start measuring your diversions is available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/water_use.shtml

The annual water use reports for the 2016 calendar year are due by April 1, 2017 for persons diverting under water right permits, licenses, stockpond certificates, registrations for livestock stockponds and small domestic or small irrigation uses. Supplemental Statements of Water Diversion and Use reports are due by July 1, 2017. Reporting forms are available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/water_use.shtml

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Tom Broz, Owner of Live Earth Farm

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Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

FRIDAY - MARCH 10
Focus Agriculture XXVII,
Session 1

MONDAY - MARCH 13
Public Relations &
Information Committee
meeting

THURSDAY - MARCH 23
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission meeting

THURSDAY - MARCH 30
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 5

- Legislative Committee meeting
- Executive Committee meeting
- Membership Committee meeting

FRIDAY - APRIL 7
Focus Agriculture XXVIII,
Session 2

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 12
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

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