

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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Meet Juan Hidalgo



Juan Hidalgo, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner

In December, 2015, Juan Hidalgo was appointed Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner. Juan graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. In 2004 he came to Santa Cruz County to work as an inspector in the Agricultural Commissioner's office and in 2012 was promoted to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner overseeing the Pesticide Use Enforcement program. We recently asked Juan a couple of questions regarding his new position:

Why did you want to become the Ag Commissioner of Santa Cruz County?

Having been working with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in Santa Cruz County for over 11 years gave me the opportunity to get to know our growers and some of the challenges affecting our local agriculture. The Agricultural Commissioner role offers the opportunity to help bring about and support positive change beneficial to the agricultural industry.

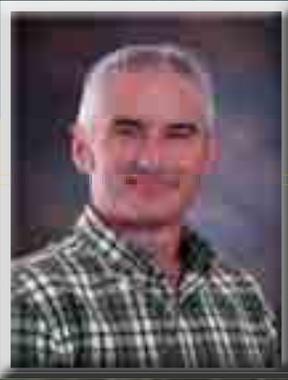
What do you see as your department's current challenges?

One of the biggest challenges is change in laws and regulations impacting the agricultural industry. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has proposed regulations regarding schools which will impact our growers and our community.

What role will the Ag Commissioner play in cannabis cultivation in Santa Cruz County?

It is not clear what role the Ag Commissioner will play in cannabis cultivation, but likely my office will need to issue Operator Identification Numbers to cultivators so that they may purchase and use pesticides plus provide education so that cultivators can comply with laws and regulation pertaining to the use of pesticides. As the California Department of Food and Agriculture develops regulations for cannabis cultivation it may be possible that my office will need to ensure that cultivators have proper state and local licenses, and that growing sites meet location and area requirements.

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President's Message

DAVID VAN LENEP, PRESIDENT

“Maybe there is hope that agencies will rediscover the value of partnering with private landowners, which is how it used to be. I am sure that any new approaches will take time to ascend to agency policy level, but having field scientists extol the values of this approach is the beginning as those individuals may guide policy later.”

New Conservation Approach

Recently I attended a tour of Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch (CPSPR), a working forest, farm and rangeland property north of Davenport that ships approximately 100 semi-trucks of locally produced, certified resources to market each year. This property is owned by the Cal Poly Corporation which serves as an applied field laboratory for Cal Poly students and a site for research projects. This particular event was to look at watershed restoration projects undertaken over the last several years to improve fish habitat in Scotts Creek and several of its tributaries. Scotts Creek is especially important for Coho salmon, as it has the strongest population in the southern-most part of its range.

We toured projects ranging from bridges, tributary channel modification and relocation and additions of large logs to Scotts Creek proper. All were designed to improve some aspect of the watershed for salmonids. Funding mechanisms relied heavily on grant money with significant dollars applied by CPSPR.

Now the ranch is a working landscape in the truest sense, but they operate on a different financial model and scope than your average ranch or tree farm. They collaboratively apply for and receive grants, big grants, with the Resource Conservation District, County, State, and Federal Agencies as partners that assist ranch staff through volumes of permit paperwork required to make these kinds

of projects go. That being stated, the outcome appears positive. One interesting component of this is a relationship that they have fostered with regulatory agencies responsible for salmonids. Field personnel for those agencies are supportive of voluntary efforts to recover fish and improve habitat, moving away from heavy-handed regulation mandates.

Specifically, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Federal agency responsible for listed salmonids, has been vocal about the benefits of working on private land and the value in having working partnerships.

President's Message - Continued on Page 11

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ASK LAURA

Mark Bolda, County Director and Farm Advisor, Strawberries & Caneberries, UCCE

The Use Of Biological Fungicides

Q. Could you touch on the use of biological fungicides? I hear about them from time to time, and I am wondering what they are and what actually they do. Thanks.

A. The idea of using of biological fungicides to bolster plant health has been gaining interest in our area by both growers and vendors of agricultural products, and so it is probably a good time for us to broach the subject here in this space.

To be clear, biological fungicides should NOT be considered as alternatives to our current fumigation and other soil pre-plant preparation practices. They can however be considered as part of the equation in an integrated approach to maintaining yields as we transition away from methyl bromide.

Biological fungicides are most often commercial formulations of fungi such as *Trichoderma virens*, bacteria such as *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and actinobacteria such as *Streptomyces lydicus*. In berries, these are often formulated to be used as plant dips followed by regular applications of solutions through the drip irrigation system. Theoretically, these organisms colonize soil around the plant's roots, facilitating the collection of nutrients and in some cases offer a measure of root protection against pathogens.

In our research, we dipped the plants in a solution of water and the biological fungicide for a few minutes, removed the transplants and then let them set overnight before planting the next day. Follow up applications were made through the drip system on a monthly basis after that.

In our own UCCE trials, I have not observed much in the way of defense against pathogens with any of these materials, but have observed early plant response in strawberry from some of them, in particular with the use *Streptomyces lydicus*. Generally, plant response looks like significantly larger plants than those left untreated in the first few months after transplant, followed by two months of significantly higher fruit production, usually in the range of 10 to 20% than in an otherwise untreated crop. Later on in the season, from June on in strawberries, the effect of these materials has not been noticeable.

In short, my work on the use of biological fungicides over the past three years supports the idea that they can be part of a program of maintaining berry plant performance in the Pajaro Valley. If you have questions about this or other topics in berry culture, please contact me at Mark Bolda, UC Cooperative Extension, (831) 763-8025 or mpbolda@ucanr.edu.



THE WATER NANNY

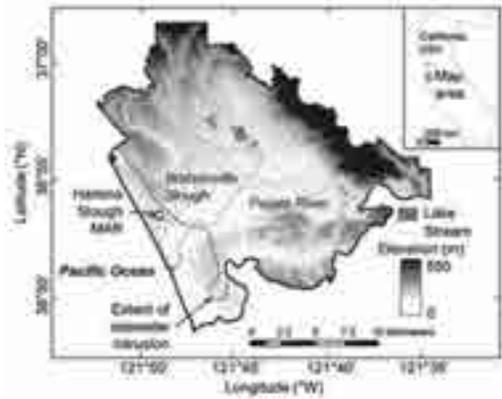
Recharge the Valley

Way down in southern Arizona lays the ruins of Casa Grande. It is an ancient pueblo built by the Hohokam or Sonoran Desert people who lived in the area for 1000 years. It was a significant farming and trading center with extensive irrigation systems using Gila River tributaries. As far as can be discovered the water changed, soil failed or desert climate changed, the society collapsed and Casa Grande was abandoned around 1450.

As I pen (this 3 weeks ago), El Niño is not living up to its billings. Most of northern California is just above average and SoCal is still below. Yes, it is the rainiest season in the past four years, but that is a very low bar. It is raining enough that the Pajaro is flowing into Monterey Bay, yet Murphy's Crossing is still open to traffic. By the time you read this in March things may have changed and everything has washed out to sea. In any case water, which we could use, is lost.

Water management for agriculture is not a new thought. Clearly the ancient Egyptians, Mesopotamians and Romans were masters of irrigation and water movement. Yet sometimes the wisdom of prior generations is lost only to be rediscovered as a revolutionary idea. Thus, Groundwater Recharge has been rechristened as Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR).

The Santa Clara Valley, after significant ground subsidence and flooding in the 1920's started building a series of dams and recharge basins. This continued in the 50's with Lexington and Anderson Reservoirs. In the 1960's and 70's more recharge ponds were built with water imported from both San Luis Reservoir on the Central Valley Project and the Delta, making the groundwater basins sustainable while supporting rapid growth.



The PVWMA Basin Plan (BMP) calls for Pajaro River water to be diverted to ponds to recharge the aquifer near M u r p h y ' s

Crossing. This has the potential of providing 1,600 acre-feet/year of recharge. The BMP left this project in the next phase, after 2025. It should be advanced.

Andy Fisher, a UCSC Professor, has been studying the potential for Distributed Stormwater Collection MAR in the Pajaro Valley for several years now. His team has mapped the entire valley to determine which areas have the greatest potential. This included on site work with an infiltration basin on the Bokariza Ranch collecting water from 120 adjacent acres which may produce annual recharge of 100 ac-ft. Now he is working on a 15 acre catchment basin collecting water from 1300 acres above Highway 129. Both these recharge basins are on poor farmland making recharge a great option.



In January Dr. Fisher proposed an innovative Net Metering (like solar panels and PG&E), as a credit against the PVWMA augmentation fees for farmers with recharge basins on their property. The goal is 8-10 basins each generating 100+ ac-ft/yr. of documented recharge. This type of "financing" may make recharge a great way to reach groundwater sustainability with little to no change in fees. More information can be found at http://www.pvwater.org/board-and-committees/board_of_directors_assets/2016_bod_agendas_packets/01_20_16Item10B1_A_Fisher_MAR_Presentation.pdf.

Time to act, well maybe time to start on the EIR. The State is much more willing to finance recharge as part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management obligations imposed last year. In the past the PVWMA has received disproportionately large grant funding because it was first in line with already developed and reviewed plans. There is opportunity here to jump on the latest funding fad, MAR. "Nobody creates a fad. It just happens. People love going along with the idea of a beautiful pig. It's like a conspiracy." Jim Henson.



FAVORITE RECIPES

Blueberry Maple Breakfast Bake

Easter Sunday morning is always a busy time with family and friends and a good time to have an easy breakfast casserole prepared to satisfy those hungry tummies. Once again I was checking the websites of Santa Cruz County growers and producers to find great recipes using locally grown commodities. I came upon the website for California Giant (www.calgiant.com/recipes) and among the many recipes they have posted, I found this wonderful, blueberry filled breakfast casserole that will warm your heart on Easter Sunday or anytime you prepare it. Be sure you give it a try. Hope you enjoy!

Ingredients:

1 loaf (14 ounces) egg challah or other white bread	8 eggs, beaten
4 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese (optional)	1 1/2 cups milk
2 cups California Giant Blueberries, divided	1/4 cup maple syrup
	1/4 cup melted butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove crusts from bread; cut in 1" cubes (makes about 10 cups). If using cream cheese, cut in small cubes (makes about 1 cup). Grease 9" x 9" x 2" baking dish. Place half of the bread cubes in the dish. Scatter cream cheese cubes and 1 cup blueberries over the bread. Top with remaining bread cubes and blueberries.

In a bowl, combine eggs, milk, maple syrup and butter. Carefully pour over bread mixture. Bake until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, about 1 hour, covering with aluminum foil if edges brown too much.

To serve, cut in squares. Accompany with additional maple syrup if desired.



"Humor is a great way to lighten any atmosphere, and laughing is a surefire way to brighten your outlook."

J Fischer

A black and white group photograph of the law firm's staff, consisting of 12 people in business attire, standing and sitting in two rows.

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Dear parents and all of those caring for children,

I have the pleasure of serving as chief marketing officer of Nationwide, but I view my most important role as being a good father to two bright and active boys. Like most parents, raising healthy and well-adjusted children is my number one priority. While I take great joy in watching my sons grow, each new stage of childhood brings new risks and worries for their safety – be it on the playing fields, at school, or even in our home. According to our recent survey of more than 1,000 parents with children under 13 years of age, 93 percent think that, compared to other locations, their home is the safest place for their child(1). It's not every day that we think about the potential safety risks in our own homes as the most serious. Unfortunately, accidental injuries, such as poisoning, drowning and home fires, are the leading cause of death among children(2). I also now know that nearly 50 percent of these accidents actually happen at home(3). Because of this, Nationwide continues our mission to raise awareness and to help parents take action to keep their children safe.

Last February, Nationwide launched Make Safe Happen, a program dedicated to driving awareness and action around accidental childhood injuries. At that time, we started a conversation on this important, but also very difficult, issue. Since then, I'm proud to share that we have made significant progress to empower parents and families in the U.S. to improve home safety behaviors. We convened a Make Safe Happen Advisory Council – an esteemed group of injury prevention and child safety experts from media outlets and leading nonprofits, such as Safe Kids Worldwide and Nationwide Children's Hospital. Together, we've educated hundreds of thousands at events across the country, through the app, and through the tips and resources on our website.

We know more needs to be done. According to the survey, the majority of parents (69%) are looking for more updated information on today's child safety issues. So, this year, with the guidance of our Advisory Council, Make Safe Happen will focus on educating caregivers on four critical at-home safety risks. They are: furniture and TV tip-overs, poisoning, drowning and fire. These serious, complex and potentially fatal issues require greater attention and understanding,

which is why we are eager to inspire one million safety actions by the end of the year. We believe this is a lifesaving goal that we'll track throughout the year at MakeSafeHappen.com.

To reach our goal, we want to share lifesaving information with parents, and help communities and homes that need it most. In partnership with our newest Advisory Council member, the American Red Cross, we will install fire alarms in houses and provide grants for youth swim lessons in high-risk, low-income communities across the country.

We encourage you to take your own action today by downloading the app, watching a safety video or attending one of the Make Safe Happen safety events that will take place across the country in 2016. And, of course, help us inspire more parents and caregivers to take action by spreading the word on social media using #MakeSafeHappen.

As a parent and long-term Nationwider, I am highly committed to this program. Please join the movement to make our homes as safe as possible for our children. On behalf of my colleagues at Nationwide, we very much look forward to making a real difference in families' lives through one million safety actions.

Respectfully,

Terrance Williams,
Executive Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer

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[1] The Make Safe Happen survey was conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of Nationwide between November 4, 2015 and November 13, 2015, among 1,001 U.S. parents or guardians of children ages 0 to 12 years old.

[2] CDC, 2012 National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention.

[3] Injury in the United States, 2007 Chartbook.



Going with the Flow for Water Management

This winter local farmland has been susceptible to storm water runoff and soil erosion as a result of heavy rains following four years of drought. Water conservation is still a very key topic amidst this much welcomed rain.

Recently, the County of Santa Cruz, Regional Water Management Foundation, and the Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) hosted a public seminar entitled, "Connecting the Drops: Working Together For Water" at New Brighton Middle School in Capitola. The purpose of the event was to highlight local water issues and management efforts by various agencies, organizations and groups such as the Pajaro Valley Community Water Dialogue.

Representatives from Santa Cruz County water agencies, legislators, and community members gathered to discuss, as a panel, collaborative work being done to protect and manage our water resources with the use of conservation practices, water system exchanges, water recycling, groundwater recharge, and water management. The spotlight was on keynote speaker John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources, who emphasized the importance of integrated management of water resources region-wide and cooperative efforts that forward conservation as a way of life.

The panel shared local collaborative efforts to protect and manage water resources, such as the successes of several county-wide watershed restoration projects including projects under the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) with coordination support from the Resource Conservation District (RCD).

For more information regarding county-wide water issues and cooperative efforts visit: <http://www.santacruzirwmp.org/DROPS> and/or contact the RCD at 464-2950. Additionally, contact the Capitola Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 457-1967x101 for technical help and funding of water conservation practices on your farm.

Calendar of 2016 Events

National Agriculture Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

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

\$45 per person

Agri-Culture's Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 12, 2016

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

\$100 per person

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

99th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2016

5:30 p.m.

\$65 per person

23rd Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 15, 2016

California State Fair

July 8, 2016 through July 24, 2016

Santa Cruz County Fair

September 14, 2016 through September 18, 2016

Santa Clara County Farm Bureau/Agri-Culture's

Farm to Table Dinner

Saturday, September 17, 2016

\$125 per person

8th Annual Testicle Festival

September Date Not Confirmed

\$45 per person

Agri-Culture's 20th Annual Progressive Dinner

Saturday, October 29, 2016

\$125 per person

More information is available on our websites:

www.sccfb.com or www.agri-culture.us

An Employer's ADA Reasonable Accommodation Top Ten Ways to Accommodate



The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal civil rights law that protects against discrimination based on disability. It requires a good faith interactive process to determine a reasonable workplace accommodation to allow disabled persons to continue to work. This

top ten list will help employers deal with employee's requests for accommodation and minimize ADA liability.

Be consistent. Standardize documents and procedures and train managers to apply the procedures consistently.

Help Employees Request Accommodation. The employer's duty to accommodate arises when the employer learns an employee has a disability and the employee requests accommodation. The duty to accommodate may also arise even without notice to the employer if the employer knows or should have known. So make sure employees know that you will accommodate their disability and who to contact. Make the employee responsible to request accommodation.

Determine Essential Job Functions. Make sure your job descriptions include essential job functions so everyone will know whether a reasonable accommodation is possible.

Talk it Out. Meet the disabled worker and discuss limitations and needs. Ask what would help. Ask the employee to get suggestions from their medical care provider. The employee is not required to identify an accommodation but it doesn't hurt to ask.

Respond quickly. Employers must respond promptly to begin the process. Failure to respond can also be another ADA violation.

Balance. Determine a reasonable accommodation with workplace needs and essential functions. This might be a leave of absence, special equipment or a changed work schedule or something else.

Select Effective Option. An employer may lawfully select the least expensive of several accommodation options.

The employer makes the decision to select an effective accommodation but must consider the disabled employee's needs. The employer cannot force an employee to accept a particular accommodation but an employee who refuses a genuinely effective accommodation may not be entitled to remain on the job.

Inform. Inform the employee if there will be delay and why and how long it will take to accomplish. And keep the employee informed.

Keep Communications Open. It doesn't end with the accommodation. Monitor to make sure the accommodation allows the employee to perform essential job functions. If the accommodation does not work, try again while consulting with the employee.

Document Everything. Keep a written record and share it with the employee. Consult with a knowledgeable employment lawyer as appropriate

The accommodation process can be complicated. A practical and lawful accommodation policy, applied consistently by knowledgeable managers and counsel will minimize liability.



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in matters of principle, stand like a rock."

Thomas Jefferson

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Agriculture In The News

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

Having private landowners participate in conservation is more appealing than the old paradigm of purchase and lock up. All the while, a multitude of working land uses, infrastructure needs and conservation values are being considered. A working landscape makes these projects possible as they are more flexible and simplistic than urban areas thick with homes and shopping centers. None of this work could occur in the concrete flume of lower Branciforte creek.

Being familiar with the tension between regulatory agencies and landowners, it was encouraging to see the enthusiasm from both NOAA staff

and Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch about results thus far. Maybe there is hope that agencies will rediscover the value of partnering with private landowners, which is how it used to be. I am sure that any new approaches will take time to ascend to agency policy level, but having field scientists extol the values of this approach is the beginning, as those individuals may guide policy later.

Many landowners already work to maintain and improve ecosystem services working lands can offer, because they wish to be good land stewards. Good partners could multiply those efforts.

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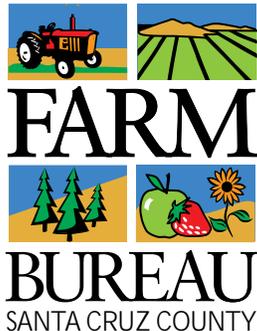
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Happy
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CALENDAR

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

SUNDAY - MARCH 13

Daylight Saving Time begins

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 16

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

THURSDAY - MARCH 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day

SUNDAY - MARCH 20

First Day of Spring

THURSDAY - MARCH 24

Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission

SUNDAY - MARCH 27

Happy Easter

THURSDAY - MARCH 31

Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 6

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

MONDAY - APRIL 11

Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 13

Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

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