

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

MARCH 2019
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 3

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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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20 COMMUNITY LEADERS SELECTED FOR FOCUS AGRICULTURE CLASS 30

Twenty community leaders have been selected for Class 30 of the 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 30 members include: **Matt Bloom**, Sales/Food Service Manager, Clover Dairy (Retired); **Dan Brumbaugh**, Director, Coastal Training Program; Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve; **Nicole Coburn**, Assistant County Administrative Officer, County of Santa Cruz; **Francisco Estrada**, Mayor, City of Watsonville; **Howard Feldstein**, Assistant Director, Grey Bears; **Anne Hayes**, Director of Development, Western Region, Climate Central, Inc.; **Dori Rose Inda**, CEO, Salud Para La Gente; **Claire Kehn**, Accountant; **Otto Kramm**, Loan Officer, American AgCredit; **Kayla Kumar**, Development Director, Food,What?; **Khaled Mabrouk**, Operational Engineering Leader, Sustainable Productivity; **Casey Meusel**, Associate Hydrologist, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency; **Katharine Minott**, Master of Urban & Regional Planning, San Jose State University; **Jessica Beckett Parr**, Foundation Director, CCOF; **Lynne Petrovic**, Executive Director, CASA of Santa Cruz County; **Stephanie Raugust**, Part Owner/Safety Officer, Whale City Bakery Bar & Grill/New Davenport Corporation; **Ava Reinhold**, Retail Store Manager, Annieglass; **Marliese Ward**, Creative Marketing Manager,

Lakeside Organic Gardens; **Matthew Wetstein**, President, Cabrillo College.

Each year more applicants are received for this program than spots available, and the Agri-Culture Board of Directors selects 20 participants.

The program consists of once-a-month, day-long seminars, held over a period of nine months. The first session was held on Friday, March 8th. 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 30, 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.



Matthew Wetstein,
Cabrillo College



Lynne Petrovic,
CASA of Santa Cruz



Ava Reinhold, Annieglass

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCCFB.COM

President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT

2019 Focus on Membership

Why is membership in Farm Bureau so important? The California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) is a nonprofit organization of farmers and ranchers established in 1919 to work for the betterment of family farmers and ranchers in California. Farm Bureau was established to be a strong voice to represent farmers' interests in the development of political and economic policy. Farm bureau is a membership based organization. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau relies on membership dues to fund local, state and federal policy advocacy. Of all the state farm bureaus across the country, California is the only one with a dedicated staff in Washington DC working hard everyday to represent its members. Issues relevant to farmers, ranchers, greenhouse operators and timber producers from water to labor are at the forefront of our nation's political discourse due to the daily hard work of CFBF staff. Farm Bureau staff work on these issues so that farmers can focus on what they do best, farming.

Farm Bureau needs to continue to increase membership. At our January Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Board of Directors' retreat, we focused on growing

membership. We were fortunate to be joined by CFBF President Jamie Johansson who shared with us the efforts being put forward by the CFBF staff that would help support county efforts. CFBF has great resources online at : <http://www.cfbf.com/>. There are details on the advocacy impacts Farm Bureau has, member benefits and the focus on protecting family farms.

What will happen if we don't meet our membership goals? What additional support can each one of us give? What are we each willing to do? Here are a few options to consider. Increase the level of your

President's Message - Continued on Page 9

"California is the only farm bureau with a dedicated staff in Washington DC working hard everyday to represent its members. Issues relevant to farmers, ranchers, greenhouse operators and timber producers from water to labor are on the forefront of our nation's political discourse due to the daily hard work of Farm Bureau staff who work on these issues so that farmers can focus on what they do best, farming."



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ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Advisor Emeritus, UCCE

Container Soils: Why Not Use Field Soil?

Over 4000 years ago, records depict Egyptians transporting Frankincense trees to Somalia. The trees were moved in containers. It is likely that these ancient horticulturists found great difficulty in growing plants and moving trees in containers filled with field soil. Over the past hundred or so years, horticulturists mostly figured out the science of container soils, and gradually this progress led to the use of modern-day soil-less container mixes.

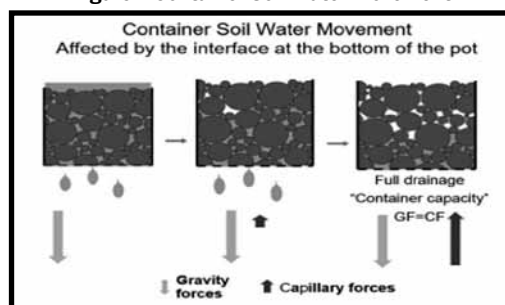
We don't use field soils exclusively in container mixes now. For one thing field soils, like the desirable sandy loams in the Pajaro Valley, are relatively heavy. Consequently, container soils using field soils are expensive to ship and are more difficult to lift and move in the nursery. Moreover, and perhaps more importantly, field soils hold too much water in containers. An understanding of the physical forces that are acting on water in the field and the container helps explain this.

When water is first added to a field soil, gravity forces pull the water in the water-filled pores down. Below the saturated zones, capillary forces help pull water deeper too. (These forces are a result of the small- pores or capillary-like spaces). When full drainage has occurred, water

movement is mostly at equilibrium. The soil is said to be at "field capacity". See Figure 1.

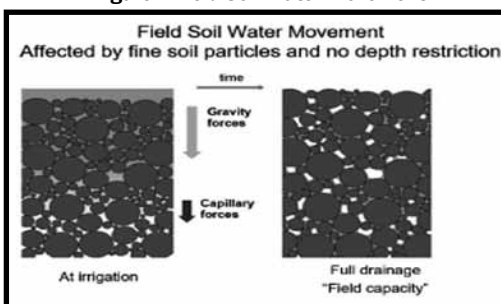
The same forces affect the movement of water in containers but in a different way. At first gravity is pulling the water downward out of the water-filled pores, and water drains out the bottom of the pot. But as water drains, the upper soil profile begins to form capillary-like spaces, and capillary forces begin to tug water upward. As water continues to drain, the same upward capillary forces begin to tug upward at the bottom of the container. After several minutes of drainage, the upward capillary forces on water equals the downward gravity force, and water movement is mostly at equilibrium. The container stops draining. The soil is said to be fully drained or at "container capacity". See Fig 2.

Figure 2 Container Soil Water Movement



The capillary forces tugging upward is related to the pore diameter. The smaller the pore diameter (the tinier the capillary), the more the capillary pulls upward. Smaller soil particles make smaller pore diameters and will result in a higher column of water at container capacity. The rise of the water column can be calculated based on soil particle size. Here are examples of various soil particles and their pore diameter, particle diameter, and resulting

Figure 1 Field Soil Water Movement



Ask Laura - Continued on Page 9

THE WATER NANNY

Floods

"Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." (Winston Churchill, 1948) February is the most likely month for the Pajaro to flood, with December a close second. While it has been decades since the last time boats were seen on Main St., we had a flotilla of blue barrels in Pajaro as recently as 1995, when the levee broke east of Pajaro.

Watsonville, and the Pajaro Valley, have a long history of flooding. During the Depression, the Federal Flood Control Act was adopted. In 1949, a levee system was built along the Pajaro and Salsipuedes Rivers...problem solved; until a levee broke in 1955, flooding Watsonville. Various projects along the Pajaro required Santa Cruz and Monterey counties to be responsible for flood control maintenance. In 1992, Santa Cruz County formed Zone 7 to maintain flood control systems and to tax the entire Pajaro valley to pay for flood control. In 1995, the river breached its levee, at less than design capacity, due to failure to maintain the project. The Appellate Court in *Arreola v Monterey* found both counties failed to meet their maintenance responsibility.

A few years ago, the river levee bench lands were cleaned and graded. About 32,000 truckloads were carried off, yet nothing has been done to the river channel. When it passes under the Main St. Bridge, the river bed is higher than the farm land south of the levee due to extreme lack of maintenance. The *Arreola* court determined the two Counties are responsible, even if it is expensive, difficult and requires them to talk to the mean people at various regulatory agencies (everyone else has to deal with bureaucrats). Santa Cruz County took the biggest financial hits from this lawsuit. While the court found liability for failure to maintain, the funds for maintenance were diverted to case settlement, resulting in a more spectacular deficit in maintenance, or as attorneys like to call it, future profitable judgments.



Much of Watsonville drains down Watsonville, Struve and Hanson sloughs, to the beach lagoon, not down the mighty Pajaro. Many of us can remember where we were during the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. The shaking caused Highway 1 to fall into Struve Slough, the only bypass for months was

Lee Rd., west of the highway. Now Lee Rd. is under 4 feet of water due to the county management of the slough pumps at Shell Rd., at the end of Beach Rd.

With this backdrop, the County Public Works Department is proposing to reimagine the purpose of flood control. *"The District has determined that the system's current function is to impede the conveyance of brackish water upstream where it would have impacts on the water quality in the slough."* This is either out of ignorance or an abdication of responsibility. A Zone 7 presentation even cited a 1991 report stating that the Shell Rd. pump project had not been completed due to lack of funding. The County goes on to talk about high tides, wetlands and stuff; the real issue is pumping to discharge slough water during low tides to drain Watsonville and prevent flooding.

When there is another flood, the County's own documents will again show that they had the knowledge and skill to reduce flooding and did nothing, resulting in landowners and taxpayers paying for their neglect. ***"There's no education in the second kick of a mule,"*** (Mitch McConnell, 2019)



Smile!

A woman woke up with a start one morning. Her husband asked what was the matter and she replied, "I just had a dream that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?"

You'll know tonight," her husband said. That evening, he came home with a small package and give it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it - to find a book titled "The Meaning of Dreams".



FAVORITE RECIPES

Shepherd's Pie

Shepherd's Pie has always been, and still is, a staple of traditional Irish cooking. This is a wonderfully hearty and filling meal for any family and group of friends. This recipe comes from a cookbook published by the California Grey Bears, Inc. of Santa Cruz celebrating their 30th Anniversary back in 2003. The recipe was submitted by Dave and Claire Hodgins. With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, this might be a good traditional way to celebrate. Enjoy!!

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 pounds lean ground beef | 1 teaspoon thyme |
| 2 medium carrots, peeled and coarsely chopped | 1/4 teaspoon pepper |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 1 cup fresh or frozen peas |
| 2 cans (14.5 ounce) tomatoes, diced | 4 cups prepared mashed potatoes |
| 2 packages brown gravy mix | 1/2 cup Cheddar cheese, shredded |



Preheat oven to 375 °F. Brown ground beef in a large pan until cooked through, stirring frequently. Drain fat. Add carrots and onion to pot. Cook over medium heat for 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in tomatoes, gravy mix, thyme and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes or until thickened.

Stir in peas and transfer to a 9" x 13" baking dish. Spread mashed potatoes over the top. Bake for 20 minutes or until mixture is bubbling and potatoes are lightly browned. Top with cheese and bake for additional 10 minutes.

Serve and enjoy!



Participate in Santa Cruz County's AgTech Conversation

The Santa Cruz County AgTech Meetup was formed in March, 2015, to facilitate the conversation between produce growers-shippers, and technologists in Santa Cruz County. We meet every other month with an agenda that rotates to reflect the "process" growers-shippers go through.

- April - Planting
- June - Production
- August - Harvesting, Productivity Solutions.
- October - Processing & Shipping

- December - Planning and Resource Allocation
- February - Land Preparation

The meetups are held in Watsonville on the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Food & Refreshments are provided and the speakers start at 6pm.

Please attend and promote attendance to these unique AgTech conversations. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.meetup.com/Santa-Cruz-County-Ag-Tech-Meetup/>



You're Invited

12th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon



*Thursday, May 9, 2019
Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*Featured Speaker
Ella King
Owner of Cafe Ella & Ella's at the Airport*

\$100 per person



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Reservations may also be made through Eventbrite

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March Recognizes the Importance of Weights & Measures



protect customers and to ensure equity in the marketplace.

Weights & Measures inspectors test the accuracy of various commercial weighing and measuring devices including those meters inside gas pumps and the scales used in grocery stores. They also inspect wire and rope meters, taxi meters, scales at farmers markets, shipping stores, frozen yogurt shops, candy stores and more just to name a few more devices. In addition, inspectors also conduct price audit inspections at major retail stores, to ensure customers are not being overcharged for items, as well as retail package inspections to verify the accuracy of net content statements to ensure customers get what they paid for. They even verify the accuracy of firewood deliveries and non-PG&E electric, gas, and water meters such as those in some mobile home parks and multi-family residences.

To recognize this important work and to celebrate the signing of the nation's first Weights & Measures law by President John Adams on March 2nd, 1799, the first week in March (March 1-7) is recognized as Weights and Measures week by the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). The NCWM is a professional non-profit association made up of manufacturers, retailers, consumers, and state and local Weights & Measures officials that develops national Weights & Measures standards. The NCWM sets a theme each year for Weights & Measures Week and this year's theme is "Valued Traditions & New Innovations – Confidence in Every Transaction."

This year's theme focuses on the important work officials have done for years while also placing emphasis on the constant challenges of new technologies and marketing practices. Some of these new challenges include developing standards for testing electric vehicle charging stations,

Have you ever wondered if you are getting what you paid for? How do you know that you accurately received the 10 gallons of fuel from the gas pump or that you came home with one pound of apples? You can feel confident because Weights & Measures inspectors are there to

vehicle hydrogen fuel stations, Transportation Network Measurement Systems (such as Uber, Lyft, and many others that charge customers based on the use of a smartphone app), and the new ways to purchase everyday goods online which can create uncertainty whether customers are getting what they paid for.

The important work of Weights & Measures inspectors is summed up best by CDFA Secretary Ross: "The Weights & Measures inspector is, perhaps, the least known element of daily commerce in the United States, but these experts protect buyers and sellers in every transaction."

I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...

"I felt the need for someone to represent the bee industry at the local level."

Anselmo Rivas,
Director, Santa Cruz County
Farm Bureau
Honey



The world is like a mirror
Reflecting what you do
And if your face is smiling
It smiles right back at you

Supreme Court Decision Regarding Proof Of Discriminatory Intent Or Hostile Workplaces Has Been “Affirmed” By The California Legislature



A 2010 California Supreme Court decision regarding proof of discriminatory intent or hostile workplaces has been “affirmed” by the California Legislature.

In *Reid v Google, Inc.* (August 5, 2010) 50 Cal 4th 512, Google hired Reid, a 52-year-old male as director of operations and director of engineering. Reid claimed that during his two years at Google, a 38-year-old executive to whom Reid sometimes reported, made age related comments to Reid “every few weeks”, saying Reid’s ideas were obsolete and that Reid was slow, fuzzy, sluggish and lacked energy. Reid claimed other co-workers called Reid an “old man” and a “old fuddy-duddy”. Also, in Reid’s performance review (which said that he consistently met expectations), Reid’s supervisor wrote “Adapting to Google culture is the primary task for the first year here . . . Right or wrong, Google is simply different: Younger contributors, inexperienced first line managers, and the super-fast pace are just a few examples of the environment.”

A little more than a year after starting, Reid was relieved of most of his duties and asked to focus on developing and implementing an in-house graduate degree and recruitment program. Reid then terminated his employment saying he was not a cultural fit.

Reid filed a lawsuit alleging age discrimination. Google won a motion to dismiss at the trial court. But the Court of Appeal reversed holding that Reid’s evidence and inferences of discrimination raised a “triable issue of fact”. The California Supreme Court agreed to hear Google’s appeal to decide if California should adopt the “stray remark’s doctrine” which deems irrelevant any remarks made by non-decision-making coworkers or decision-making supervisors even if outside the decision-making chain of command.

The Supreme Court held that California courts may not categorically ignore “stray remarks”. The Supreme Court held that “stray remarks” may corroborate direct evidence of discrimination and that a trial court “must review the totality of the evidence, including any relevant discriminatory

remarks”. However, the Court held that “stray remarks” alone were not enough to prove illegal discrimination.

The *Reid v Google* rule seems to be that while workers may not rely solely on isolated comments unrelated to the termination decision, nevertheless inappropriate comments and slurs may be admissible to prove discrimination even if made by non-decision-making employees.

Fast forward to 2018. The Legislature passed SB 1300 (effective 1/1/2019) which amends California Government Code §12923. Subdivision (b) of §12923 holds that “The existence of a hostile work environment depends upon the totality of the circumstances and a discriminatory remark, even if not made directly in the context of an employment decision or uttered by a non-decisionmaker, may be relevant, circumstantial evidence of discrimination and the Legislature affirms the decision in *Reid v. Google, Inc.* in its rejection of the “stray remarks doctrine.”

Three practices may help avoid this risk. First, enforce company policies against remarks relating to protected status. Second, where an employee is the target of a supervisor’s inappropriate remark, use information from other sources to make employment decisions about that employee. Third, when an employer learns a supervisor made a remark about an employee that may suggest discriminatory animus, remove that supervisor from the decision-making process for that employee and not consider input from that supervisor.



That Awkward Moment...is when the entire math class is discussing whether the answer is 15 or 16, and your answer is -1,053.

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

membership; support a farm bureau event with sponsorship; encourage a farmer who is not a member to join; invite someone to a farm bureau event. Encourage a local company to become a supporting business. Promote associate memberships with your friends and neighbors who want to support farming. Please contact us at the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau office with your ideas and questions: sccfb@sbcglobal.net

Ask Laura - Continued from Page 3

height of the water column at container capacity. See Table 1.

Effect of pore diameter, particle diameter and height of water column after irrigation and drainage

	Average pore diameter (cm)	Equivalent particle diameter (mm)	Height of water column (inches)
Coarse gravel	2	20	1/16
Very coarse sand	0.2	2	1/2
Medium sand	0.02	0.2	6
Very fine sand	0.001	0.05	58
Silt		0.002	
Clay		<0.002	

Table 1 The smaller the soil particle the more water is retained at drainage

Field soils are composed of the smallest particles in this table: clay, silt, and various sizes of sand. This table illustrates that, after irrigation and drainage, even a pure medium sand would create a water column of about six inches and saturate the entire soil to the top of a 6-inch-high (gallon) container. The soil *has* to provide air to the roots (beside moisture, etc). A field soil would create a saturated root environment in a container after an irrigation. You can't have the roots drowning for very long. For this reason, field soils work poorly for plants grown in containers. Container soils have to contain large soil particles! This is why a typical soil mix contains large particles like chunks of peat, perlite and vermiculite to create large pores in the container.

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

March 13, 2019

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

102nd Annual Meeting

Location to be determined

June 2019 - Date TBA

5:45 p.m.

California State Fair

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

July 12 through July 28, 2019

26th Annual Golf Tournament

Seascape Golf Club

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 12, 2019

Santa Cruz County Fair

September 11 through September 15, 2019

Annual Directors' Dinner

Location to be determined

November 7, 2019

5:45 p.m.

CFBF 101st Annual Meeting

Reno, NV

December 2019 TBA

Agri-Culture

12th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

May 9, 2019

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

11th Annual Testicle Festival

Estrada Deer Camp

August 24, 2019

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

23rd Annual Progressive Dinner

To be determined

October 26, 2019

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

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Theodore Roosevelt

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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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VOLUME 43, ISSUE 3

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Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

MONDAY - MARCH 11
**Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting**

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 13
**Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting**

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 13
**National Agriculture Day
Spring Luncheon**

THURSDAY - MARCH 28
Board of Directors' meeting

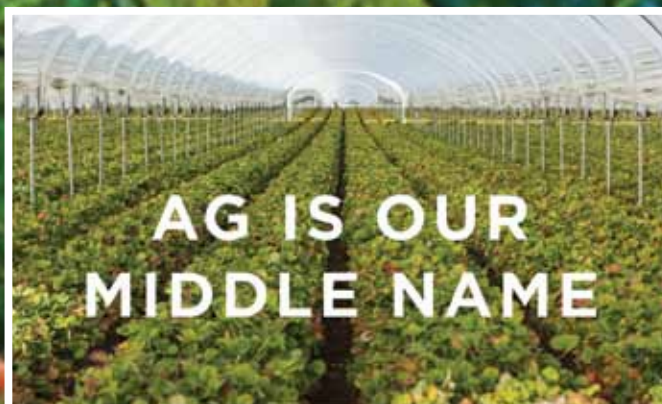
- **WEDNESDAY - APRIL 3**
**Legislative Committee
meeting**
- **Executive Committee
meeting**
- **Membership Committee
meeting**

FRIDAY - APRIL 5
Focus Agriculture, Session 2

MONDAY - APRIL 8
**Public Relations & Information
Committee mtg.**

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 10
**Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting**

THURSDAY - APRIL 25
Board of Directors' meeting



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