

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

MARCH 2020
VOLUME 44, 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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21 COMMUNITY LEADERS SELECTED FOR FOCUS AGRICULTURE CLASS 31

Twenty-one community leaders have been selected for Class 31 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 31 members include: **Anita Aguirre**, Chief Compliance Officer & Deputy Director, Salud Para La Gente; **John Bargetto**, Vice President, Bargetto Winery; **Belinda Barr**, Business Services Manager, Economic Development Coordinator, Workforce Board Development, County of Santa Cruz; **Evan Benevento**, Senior Accountant, Wheeler Accountants, LLP; **Chris Bley**, Entrepreneur, Insight Up



Stephanie Connor Kent



Raymon Cancino

Solutions; **Raymon Cancino**, Chief Executive Officer, Community Bridges; **Edan Cassidy**, Managing Member, Cassidy Insurance; **Agency, LLC; Stephanie Connor Kent**, Chief Nurse Executive, Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center/Sutter Health; **Manu Koenig**, Platform Partnership Lead, Paystand; **Mary Maselli**, Self Employed/Semi-Retired, Financial Advisor & Financial Planner; **Michelle Montalvo**, Legal Manager, Driscoll's, Inc.; **Khalil Moutawakkil**, Founder & CEO, KindPeoples; **Michelle Navarro**, Business Development Officer, Santa Cruz County Bank; **Peter Nell**, Government Affairs Manager, CCOF; **Sergio Parra**, Attorney, Head of Labor & Employment Department, JRG Attorneys at Law; **Gilda Rall**, Parliamentarian & Member of Governing Board of Directors, Pajaro Dunes North Association; **Joe Serrano**, Executive Officer, LAFCO, of Santa Cruz County; **Jerry Souza**, Director Cardiovascular Services,

Focus Agriculture, Class 31 - Continued on Page 9



Michelle Navarro

President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT



Celebrating Agricultural Literacy

This month heralds the first day of Spring on March 19th. The beginning of winter has been a dry one. Current rainfall totals are under 50% of our normal precipitation; leaving many farmers wondering will this be a yet another busy season in our agricultural community. So far our drought year or will the floodgates

President's Message - Continued on Page 8

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ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

Managing The Light Brown Apple Moth

Can you review with us what to expect to do when managing the light brown apple moth this year?

Yes, of course I would be glad to review with you what to do about light brown apple moth this coming season. The regulatory program for LBAM is still in force, and growers, especially those of caneberries and organic strawberries where regulators are looking more closely, should take every precaution to reduce the odds of having an LBAM larva or pupa found in their harvest product.

The program that growers should implement to lower the odds of an LBAM discovery and subsequent field closure by the USDA regulatory program should consist of three legs, these being deployment of mating disruption twist ties, judicious use of pesticides and finally removal of leaf rolls in the field whenever they are found. I describe each of these procedures in more detail below:

Twist ties for mating disruption: Twist ties for sure are the first leg of a sound LBAM control strategy. We all need to understand however that these take time to work, since they are disrupting mating and therefore reducing total volume of eggs laid sometime in the future. No moths, eggs, larvae or pupae are being killed here, and it's just that the numbers of those future generations will be reduced. Raise the ties up a bit on flags, lines or sticks over the canopy, and make sure to spread them out EVENLY over the field – no "barriers", big blobs of twist ties in the middle of the field or any other funny business. Configurations like every 10-15 feet every third bed should get you to the requisite 300 ties per acre.

Insecticide sprays: Managing LBAM is a lot more difficult in organic than conventional to be sure. Any formulation of Bt doesn't seem to work all that well, and the material that works well, Entrust is limited to three applications max. I agree, I would not panic

and blow out all of my Entrust applications this early in the game because I may need one in a pinch later on, so would pursue a strategy of regular Bt sprays to keep down populations. It's understood that Bt's, while able to kill smaller larvae outright, tends to just make the bigger larvae sick, they stop feeding for a while, and when they start feeding again the Bt is worn out. Therefore on occasion it might be a good idea to closely space the applications, to have fresh material on the plant for our survivors to feed on. It's worth noting too, that spraying in the evenings is better than in the morning, since UV radiation can break down Bt.

Remove leafrolls when you find them. The leafrolls are easy to find in both strawberries and caneberries since they not only are curled up conspicuously but also have a lot of webbing associated with them. Given that most LBAM rolls are found at the field edges and in groups, have your crews check edges of the field very close, especially when next to wooded areas, and when they find one larva, have them slow down and look around. Again, make sure your crews know WHAT they are looking for and HOW to look for them to best utilize their time.

I will be having two training sessions this coming March on looking for and managing LBAM in berries, the English version will be on March 10 starting at 9 am and the Spanish one will be on March 11 again at 9 am. Both sessions will be held at our UC Cooperative Extension office at 1430 Freedom Blvd in Watsonville.

Please contact Mark Bolda at UCCE Santa Cruz if you have more questions on this topic or any other topics concerning blackberry, raspberry or strawberry production.

There are pesticides mentioned in this article. Before using any pesticides, consult product labels for current status of product registration, restrictions, and use information.

THE WATER NANNY

It Takes a Bureaucracy

Villages are fine; quaint cobblestone pathways, ivy covered cottages, a goat eating the neighbor's roses, but if you really do **not** want to reach your stated objective you need a bureaucracy; coldly efficient gray cubicles stretching off to the horizon under florescent lights. Regrettably, farmers have the opportunity to deal with two agencies seemingly determined to perfect this operational strategy.

Ag Order version 4.8: Stated goal: adopt a new Ag Order, deemed 4.0, by March 2020. In January, about ten days before the first meeting of the year for the Regional Water Board (RWQCB) in San Luis Obispo, the staff writing the new Ag Order released a staff report. Much like Catch-22, where you could only see with Major Major when he was not there, the staff prepared a summary of their present activities in a report to the RWQCB Board dated December 27, 2019, for a meeting on December 12th, which never existed, attached to the agenda for a meeting on January 30th. This went on to say they have not written the proposed new Ag Order, but when they did there would be 60 days to review it, only to shorten that time to 45 days later.



Where's the meat here? Staff attached a six page chart showing various regulatory options, which by themselves would make you cry, along with elaborate descriptions

of the "Location in Order" which has yet to be released, or possibly written. Add this to a new Board Chair, new Executive Officer, and the elimination of the Ag Staff from the organizational chart, one sees a specter of confusion brought on by the Greek god Eris, the goddess of chaos, strife and discord.

The next RWQCB meeting is in Watsonville on March 5th & 6th, which will not include the prophesied draft Ag Order, as this will be during the 45 day comment period. So there will be a multiple day hearing the first week of May down in SLO. Be sure to attend to witness regulatory inaction up close and personal.

Cannabis Licensing Office (CLO):

Stated goal: license 75 cannabis cultivators by May 2019. Almost two years ago the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors adopted cannabis regulations. The primary purpose was to zone out of business almost all of the grows in the mountains and residential areas. There was a pretense that "non-retail" cannabis growing would soon be flourishing throughout the rest of the county. "Ha Ha", you say, knowing how planning really operates, and true to form, only one cultivator license has been issued to date.



It is not as if there is no activity. The process has created a maze of regulatory challenges, many of which are not disclosed prior to entering each new phase of approval, from pre-approval screening, to obtaining a Cannabis Use Permit, and on to new building permits for greenhouses and packing sheds legally permitted long ago. Only after completing the building permits can a county cannabis cultivation license be issued. Interestingly, the single license issued was for an open field plot of pot. Even the CLO points out in their report to the Board of Supervisors "the licensing process and use-permit process is not predictable, either in terms of timing or costs ...". There is a glimmer of hope, the CLO opined that the process could be significantly shortened if the regulation was changed to make cannabis a crop, allowing permitted preexisting agricultural greenhouses to forgo most of the building permit process. The Supervisors will hear an update in April, just in time for 4:20.

Of all of the vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?

Find the answer on page 9

Confidential Communications Between Spouses



"The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret." That's the Henry Youngman joke at least. But perhaps the secret, if it is a secret, is due to the marital privilege."

The marital privilege is an exception to the general rule that all relevant evidence is admissible in court. Similar privileges exist for communications between priest and penitent, attorney and client, and doctor and patient. To say that a person possesses an evidentiary privilege means that they cannot be compelled, as a witness, to disclose the "privileged" information in court.

Privileges exclude evidence from court proceedings in order to advance some social goal. The goal of the marital privilege is free and open communication between spouses, which is believed to strengthen and further the marital relationship, is given greater weight than the need for evidence (the information exchanged by the spouses) to resolve a legal dispute.

The marital communications privilege originated in England. The English Evidence Amendment Act of 1853, said that neither husbands nor wives could be forced to disclose any communication made to the other during their marriage.

The rule in California is two years older, first adopted in 1851. California reformulated the law in 1965 when the legislature placed the rule in the California Evidence Code and created two separate and distinct types of marital privileges:

1. Regarding Testimony: The right not to testify or be called as a witness against your spouse; and
2. Regarding communications: The right not to disclose private marital communications

The definition of "communication" is broad. It includes all oral, written, and electronic forms of sharing information. However, physical acts seen by spouses are not "communications." (*People v. Cleveland*, 32 Cal.4th 704, 743 (2004).)

For a "communication" to be protected, it must have been made "in confidence", that is, with a reasonable expectation of privacy and no intent that anyone else would receive it. (*Cleveland*, supra, 32 Cal.4th at 744.) Communications made when other people may easily overhear or with the intent that they be shared with others are not confidential marital communications.

There are numerous exceptions to both privileges, and many of them overlap. So no marital privilege applies: in civil or criminal cases between spouses; in a legal case to commit a spouse for mental incapacity or establish that spouse's competence; in juvenile court; or when one spouse is criminally charged with bigamy, child neglect, or failure to provide spousal support

Also, the "communication" part of the marital privilege does not protect communications made "in whole or in part, to enable or aid anyone to commit or plan to commit a crime or a fraud." (Cal. Evid. Code § 981.)

The "marital communication" privilege can be waived by either spouse if they disclose "a significant part of the communication" or consent "to disclosure made by anyone" so long as there was no coercion. Failure to claim the privilege in any proceeding where the spouse has standing and the opportunity to claim it constitutes consent. (Cal. Evid. Code § 912;

The complexity of the marital privilege keeps attorneys on their toes but it is an implementation of important public policy. Its may also be relevant to our everyday lives and serves important social goals.

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.



FAVORITE RECIPES

Oreo Cookie Balls

This recipe comes from Wendy O'Donovan and was given to Cynthia Mathiesen this past Christmas. I'm told they are incredibly good, but they probably shouldn't be limited to Christmas. How about a St. Patrick's Day treat?

38 Oreo cookies
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 cup chocolate melting wafers or candy coating
1 cup white chocolate melting wafers or candy coating.

Place Oreo cookies in a food processor. Pulse until they are fine cookie crumbs. Using a stand mixer or hand mixer, beat the cream cheese until it is smooth, about 1 minute. Add the Oreo cookie crumbs and mix until well combined. Roll the Oreo mixture into small balls and place on a baking sheet or tray that has been lined with parchment paper or wax paper. Freeze the Oreo balls for 15 minutes.

Place the chocolate wafers (or candy coating) in a small microwave safe bowl. Place the white chocolate wafers (or candy coating) in a separate small microwave safe bowl. Melt according to instructions on packaging. Remove the balls from

For decorating: melted chocolate, Oreo crumbs, sprinkles, crushed peppermint, or chopped nuts, if desired.



the freezer and dip the balls into the melted chocolate. Make sure you cover the balls completely in chocolate. You can use a fork to shake the excess chocolate off of the Oreo balls. Dip half of the balls in the chocolate and half in the white chocolate. Place the dipped balls back on the baking tray with parchment paper or wax paper. Decorate with a drizzle of chocolate, additional crushed Oreos, sprinkles, crushed peppermint or crushed nuts, if desired.

Place the baking sheet with the Oreo balls in the refrigerator and chill for at least an hour. Keep stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Will keep up to 3 weeks or can be frozen.

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More Changes and Opportunities for Cannabis Businesses in California



The cannabis program in California continues to evolve. In January of 2019, all three licensing authorities (CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Division, Bureau of Cannabis Control and Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch) adopted state regulations. Prior to 2019, the cannabis program in California had been operating under emergency regulations. Important legislative changes also took place last year that give licensing authorities the ability to continue issuing and renewing provisional licenses through January 1, 2022. Cannabis cultivators can also apply for a provisional license without having previously held a temporary license. Temporary licenses will no longer be issued. Cannabis businesses will either hold a provisional or annual license. The extension of provisional licenses will allow cannabis businesses time to work on the documentation necessary to obtain an annual license, including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for cultivation operations. According to the latest data from CalCannabis, six annual and 40 provisional cultivation licenses have been issued in Santa Cruz County.

The CalCannabis Division of CDFA has also been working on the development of cannabis appellation regulations for distinguishing growing regions, as well as an organic

certification program for cannabis that will be comparable to the national organic standards and will be referred to as OCal. Several meetings were held last year with stakeholders to receive input on these proposals. OCal will be a voluntary program with parallel regulations that follow the National Organic Program (NOP) model. Third party certifying agencies will be regulated by CDFA and this may result in organic certification agencies that only specialize in cannabis and those that currently certify traditional commodities plus cannabis. A proposed regulatory package with a public comment period for these two programs can be expected this year with final regulations expected to be adopted for implementation in 2021.

More legislative change will no doubt be on the horizon for cannabis in California in 2020, especially in light of the recent announcement by Governor Gavin Newsom to merge all three cannabis licensing authorities into a single Department of Cannabis Control by July 2021. Currently, all three cannabis licensing authorities are housed as a division of an existing Department. CalCannabis is a division of CDFA; the Bureau of Cannabis Control is housed under California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency; and the Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch is housed within the California Department of Public Health. To stay informed of the latest regulatory information for cannabis in our State, visit the California Cannabis Portal at www.cannabis.ca.gov

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President's Message - Continued from Page 1

open in March and April. Late spring rains help recharge our watersheds and aquifers, but result in delayed spring vegetable crop plantings, knocking blossoms off fruit trees, and assailing the first strawberry harvests of the season.

One way to welcome the coming season and the bounty that is to be is to celebrate National Agriculture Day on March 24th. National Ag Day is an opportunity to teach every American how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced, the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy, and cultivate an appreciation the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. Locally the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and Agri-Culture do this by hosting the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon on March 18th at the county fairgrounds. A core component of our March celebration is reaching out to our youth promoting the value of farming and career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries. We integrate agriculture into our local elementary and middle school classrooms with a poster and poetry contest. Further supporting advanced education in partnership with American AgCredit and the Jimmie Cox Memorial Foundation a scholarship award is presented to a deserving student enrolled in a field of agricultural study.

Agriculture literacy is critical to ensure that we continue to value the importance of agriculture in our society and economy. Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. This industry is such a key component in our county and should never be taken for granted. Comprehensive ag education starts with our youth and spans to our current county leaders. The organization Agri-Culture has committed to educating our county residents about the intricacies of our industry with its Focus Agriculture Program which also kicks off its newest class of adult learners this month. If you would like to learn more about farming, agriculture and celebrate the bounty of our county join us at the National Ag Day Spring Luncheon.

What will you do to celebrate National Agriculture Day?



Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
March 18, 2020
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

103rd Annual Meeting

Location to be determined
June 2020 - Date TBA
5:45 p.m.

California State Fair

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA
July 17 through August 2, 2020

26th Annual Golf Tournament

Seascape Golf Club
12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 10, 2020

Santa Cruz County Fair

September 16 through September 20, 2020

Annual Directors' Dinner

Location to be determined
November 5, 2020
5:45 p.m.

CFBF 101st Annual Meeting

Reno, NV
December 6 - 9, 2020

Agri-Culture

13th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos
May 7, 2020
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

12th Annual Testicle Festival

Estrada Deer Camp
August 15, 2020
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

24th Annual Progressive Dinner

To be determined
October 24, 2020
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

NEWS FROM RCD

Submitted by Erin McCarthy
Resource Conservation District Santa Cruz County

Pajaro Valley Water Offers Up To \$4,000 Per Ranch To Improve Irrigation System Efficiency

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is funding technical assistance through the RCD of Santa Cruz County, UC Cooperative Extension, and partners to provide resources that support agriculture to conserve water and improve water use efficiency.

Technical and financial assistance is available to support growers in their efforts to increase irrigation efficiency by improving the operation of their irrigation system and optimizing their irrigation scheduling.

Assistance available to growers includes:

Rebates and technical assistance for making expert-recommended improvements to the irrigation system. Growers may receive up to \$4,000 in rebates.

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Irrigator trainings in the field on how to measure and adjust pressure for correct irrigation system performance.

Tensiometer loaner program and trainings on how to use them.

Focus Agriculture, Class 31 - Continued from Page 1

Dignity Health Dominican; **Tiffany Turner**, Director of Operations, Dientes Community Dental; **Jessica Vaughan**, Director of Operations & Grower Consulting, LumiGrow, Inc.; **Danielle Wong**, Healthy Food for Seniors Program, Grey Bears.

Each year more applications are received for this program than spots available, 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 13th. 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 31, 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.

The Answer Is: Asparagus and rhubarb

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Mark Twain



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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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MARCH 2020
VOLUME 44, ISSUE 3



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CALENDAR

MONDAY - MARCH 9
Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 11
Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

FRIDAY - MARCH 13
Focus Agriculture - Class 31 Session 1

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 18
National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

THURSDAY - MARCH 26
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 1
• **Legislative Committee meeting**
• **Executive Committee meeting**
• **Membership Committee meeting**

FRIDAY - APRIL 3
Focus Agriculture - Class 31 Session 2

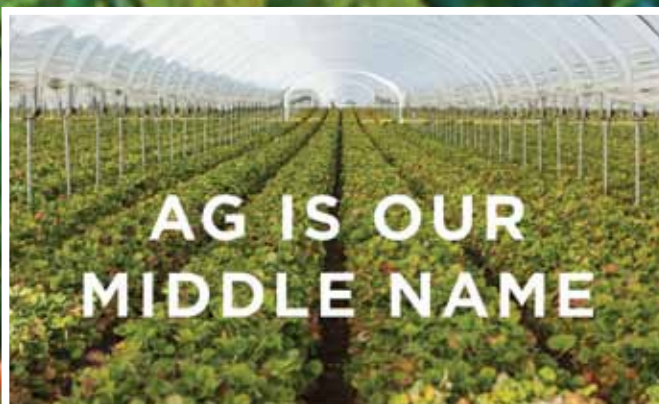
WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8
Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

MONDAY - APRIL 13
Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

THURSDAY - APRIL 30
Board of Directors' meeting

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication



We see things from the ground up, all of the small details that go into the big picture of farming. Because agriculture is what we know, it's all we do.



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