

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

MARCH 2021
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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

Mary Walter, Editor
Jess Brown, Managing Editor

141 Monte Vista Avenue
Watsonville, California 95076.
(831) 724-1356
sccfb@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.sccfb.com

Farm Bureau Helps Vaccinate More Than 1200 Farmworkers

Partners with Dignity Health Dominican Hospital and the County of Santa Cruz



Big Creek Lumber Celebrates 75 Years with Scholarship Launch

In 1946, Big Creek Lumber was founded by brothers Bud and Lud McCrary through a combination of hard work, ingenuity, a foundation in the skilled trades, and a passion for sustainable forestry. Now, 75 years later, the Big Creek Lumber is honoring that legacy and

celebrating 75 years in business by launching the McCrary Family Scholarship, which will provide financial assistance to graduating high school seniors pursuing a career in the skilled trades or forestry.

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ASK MARK

Joji Muramoto, Ph.D., Organic
Production Specialist, UCCE

Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation

Q. Could you fill us in please a bit on the anaerobic soil disinfestation? What are the merits and limitations?

A. Anaerobic soil disinfestation, aka ASD, is a biological alternative to fumigants used to control a range of soilborne diseases. It was developed in the Netherlands and Japan independently around 2000. A team of researchers at UC Santa Cruz has been working to optimize this practice for California strawberries since 2002.

ASD controls soilborne pathogens by creating a fermentation process in anaerobic soil. During the fermentation process, volatile organic compounds, organic acids, and Fe^{2+} and Mn^{2+} ions are produced, and a shift in the soil microbial community occurs causing soilborne pathogens to be suppressed.

ASD is performed in three steps. First, incorporate a labile carbon source into the soil to feed indigenous soil microbes. Typically, 6 to 9 tons/acre of rice bran from Northern California is used as a carbon source in our region. Second, quickly cover the soil with plastic mulch to limit oxygen supply and gas exchange. Third, drip-irrigate 1.5 to 2 acre-inches of water to start and maintain the three weeks' fermentation process. The soil under the tarp will be kept at moist to wet moisture conditions during the treatment.

The stronger the anaerobic condition and the higher the soil temperature, the more suppressive the ASD treatment will be. Measuring soil Eh using oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) sensors allows us to monitor the level of the anaerobic

condition in the soil during ASD.

Merits of ASD include: 1) it can control Verticillium wilt in strawberries and other crops in our region's fall soil temperatures, 2) it can be used on certified organic fields, 3) 6 to 9 tons/acre of rice bran provides 70 to 100 lb/acre of slow-release plant-available nitrogen in the first six months, thereby reducing or eliminating the need for preplant nitrogen fertilizer, 4) rice bran-based ASD can provide a similar fruit yield as fumigated counterparts, and 5) cover crop can be partially substituted for rice bran to reduce the overall cost of ASD.

Limitations of ASD include: 1) when rice bran-based ASD is applied to a Fusarium infested field in the fall, it can make the disease worse because at a lower soil temperature Fusarium feeds on rice bran before the fermentation causing bacteria are able to do so, 2) a higher soil temperature (i.e., summer treatment using a clear mulch) and a stronger anaerobic condition are necessary to control Fusarium wilt of strawberries caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae*, 3) the threshold of ASD for suppressing charcoal rot caused by *Macrophomina phaseolina* in strawberries is yet to be established, 4) the cost of rice bran is increasing (as of 2020, approximately \$300-350/ton) and more economical and effective carbon sources for ASD are actively being sought, and 5) ASD is not a silver bullet replacement for

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Which Southeast Asian country is the world's largest island nation?

See Answer on page 7

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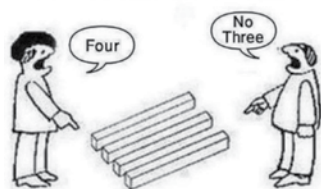
Dicta in a Sacramento trial court decision in *Save the Sea Otter vs Regional Water Board* opined that if it was possible to measure the discharge of a pollutant it should be measured. Dicta is a statement by the court, not a finding or judgment, which is instructional, but not in any way binding. The State Water Board has never adopted this test of purity, but our Regional Water Board (RWQCB) with their new revised, updated, restated, delayed, litigated, draft, proposed Ag Order v. 4.0 is approaching regulatory nirvana. This is not a good thing.

Last year, and the year before, at about this time I wrote of the RWQCB's outrageously complex proposed fertilizer use reporting scheme, along with a proposal to mandate riparian restoration, where no riparian habitat naturally existed. They eliminated the restoration mandate, but enhanced the tracking and reporting burden proposed in the new Order v4 due to be adopted in April, the date set in another court settlement with the wily Sea Otter. Spoiler alert, anything adopted in April will be stayed while it is appealed to the State Water Board, and later to the courts, so any compliance deadlines may be extended into a future time.

Actual environmental objectives and, indeed, logic were abandoned by the RWQCB staff years ago. Instead of looking at reducing adverse environmental events in the field they have opted for regulation from a cubical, or now by zoom. No field inspections are necessary as no one will be able to comply with the report submissions; we are all guilty. This is from a staff that takes two years to complete an inadequate analysis of one year's worth of nitrate use reports from just 200 operations, a fraction of the 1,800 farm operations, and 4,000+ farms in the Central Coast.

As you may find the complete draft on line (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal.html) I will make no effort to summarize it here. More like a tabloid reporter, I only provide

It is really confusing!!!



salacious highlights. While the names were changed to protect the innocent, the numbers are just the facts.

Nitrate fertilizer limits:
Environmental goal; reducing

nitrate leaching to groundwater, with a long term regulatory limit of 50# N per acre, after deducting for N in the removed harvest. To ascertain if farmers are changing fertilization practices to reach this goal *every farm* will have to annually report: 1) N applied to *each* crop, 2) compost applied to the ranch, 3) organic fertilizer applied to the ranch, 4) a lab report of N in irrigation water for the ranch, 5) N in the soil, 6) N concentration in irrigation water, 7) volume of irrigation water. After a phase-in period N removed must be reported for *each* crop. Subtract the N removed from the total applied and you have a compliance number (see score sheet below). Added to this, although clearly not necessary and a giant waste of time, "Dischargers (farmers) must calculate and report the evapotranspiration for *each specific* crop." Lastly, everyone must estimate and report the volume of water annually discharged to groundwater and surface drains.



Compliance Limits & Dates: The only good news here is that the Pajaro Valley is in Phase 2, meaning growers in King City and Santa Maria will be the first year Guinea pigs. After that short reprieve, we have to hit targets. For example, in 2023 you cannot apply more than 310# N to each cauliflower planting (if there are multiple crops), 320# for an entire strawberry crop or 500# for "all other crops" beyond the six enumerated. Then over time, the total net N per ranch acre declines from 500# in 2023 to 50# (fifty) in 2051. As an alternative, you can disregard N in irrigation if your N applied equals the N removed.

If you have a 50 acre multiple crop organic farm you may end up tracking and reporting 150 individual crops each year, for about 1,050 data points not counting the daily ET data which would add 10,000 entries. Recent studies have found that farmers are getting older, as there are no youngsters foolish enough to adopt this field of endeavor. That was based on the fear of hard work, low margins and uncertainty of the markets. PhD grads in database design will be required to successfully report N usage, a demographic that seldom goes outside, much less gets down in the dirt. Look around at the next Farm Bureau dinner at a truly vanishing breed.



FAVORITE RECIPES

Corned Beef Anyway You Like It

Corned Beef is a traditional meal on St. Patrick's Day and usually served with red potatoes, carrots and cabbage. But, this is far from the only way corned beef can be served. Here are a couple of different ways you can celebrate this great Irish holiday and see if you have a favorite. The first recipe comes from Barbara Rider (published in this newsletter several years ago) and is truly delicious. The second comes from a well-known smoke-house restaurant you'll find in Oklahoma and Kansas City. It is also delicious! Try them both and enjoy!

Barbara's Corned Beef Dinner

3-4 pounds corned-beef brisket, with seasoning packet. For large groups, plan on 1 pound per person.

Place corned beef in Dutch oven; sprinkle seasoning on top of meat and add enough hot water to barely cover. Bring to a boil. Scrape off any foam that may form on the top. Cover and simmer for about an hour per pound, or till fork tender. I usually use the fork test as I cook several cuts of meat at once. They all shrink and they all cook differently.

Remove meat from hot water. This liquid is then used to cook your potatoes, carrots and cabbage. I usually have a couple of pots going and put the carrots in one and the cabbage in another. The potatoes can also be cooked in this fashion but I usually have prepared them ahead of time and have them warming somewhere.

While vegetables are cooking, glaze the meat. This will give you a nice moist, flavorful cut but without all the fat. Slice most of the fat off of the meat and lightly spread the fat side with nice brown, seedy mustard. Then sprinkle with a mixture of 1/4 cup brown sugar and 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves. Bake in shallow pan at 350°F for 15-20 minutes or till nicely glazed. Always cut corned beef against the grain.

Oklahoma Joe's Smoked Corned Beef

1 corned beef brisket point (or flat), 3-5 pounds	1/2 teaspoon ground mustard seeds
3 Tablespoons ground black pepper	1 cup water
2 Tablespoons garlic powder	1 cup beef stock
1 teaspoon onion powder	handful of oak, pecan or hickory wood chunks
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander seeds	

Preheat your smoker to 250°F.

Remove corned beef from the brine. Rinse thoroughly under cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Combine black pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, coriander seeds and mustard seeds in a small bowl. Season the beef brisket on both sides with the rub mixture.

Place the corned beef brisket in your smoker and toss a few wood chunks onto hot coals for smoking. Cook the brisket until the internal temperature reaches 165°F on an instant read thermometer, about 3 to 4 hours. Remove from smoker and transfer to a large aluminum foil pan. Pour water and beef stock in the bottom of the pan. Cover the pan with aluminum foil and place back into the smoker.

Cook until the internal temperature of the meat reaches 200°F on an instant read thermometer about 3 to 4 more hours. Remove your smoked corned beef from the smoker. Let it rest in the covered aluminum foil pan for 30 to 45 minutes before slicing.

When Can You Record A Conversation, “Zoom” Meeting Or Cell Phone Call?



Vehicle phones, short wave radios, cell phones, office phones and digital recorders allow anyone to easily record just about any form of communication. Now we have Zoom, MS teams, WebEx, GoToMeeting and others. The purpose to record may be evil or innocent; to document a conversation in the middle of a field or in a conference call on your phone or laptop for follow up or to blackmail.

Many states, including California, have strict laws regarding recording conversations. Aside from possible illegality, violating your employee's, friend's, your boss' or your family member's conversation violates their right and expectation of privacy.

Zoom's website has a page called “Enabling the recording disclaimer” which says that attendees can be prompted to provide their consent to be recorded in a meeting or a webinar. And if the recording disclaimer is enabled, attendees receive a notification when a recording starts or if they join a session that is already being recorded. The attendee can either consent to stay in the session or leave. After the session is over, a report listing the attendees who provided consent can be generated. So, this may be useful to consider in important conversations, so everyone knows.

California Penal Code § 632, in the California Invasion of Privacy Act, makes it illegal for an individual to monitor or record a “confidential communication” whether the communication is among the parties in the presence of one another or by means of a telephone or another device. California is known as a “two-party” state, which means that recordings are not allowed unless all parties to the conversation consent to the recording. (Contrast New York as reported in the news over the past few months)

Under Penal Code § 632(c), “confidential communication” includes any communication carried on in circumstances as may reasonably indicate that any party to the communication desires it to be confined to the parties, but excludes a communication made in a public gathering or in any

legislative, judicial, executive or administrative proceeding open to the public, or in any other circumstance in which the parties to the communication may reasonably expect that the communication may be overheard or recorded.

Violation of *Penal Code* § 632 can mean a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment for up to a year. The violator may also be subject to civil liability in the amount of \$3,000 or three times the amount of any actual damages sustained as a result. Under the California Public Utilities Commission General Order 107-B(II)(A)(5), a recording is allowed if there is a “beep tone” warning. We have all heard those. Under California Penal Code § 633, state law enforcement officials may eavesdrop and record telephone conversations.

Some other states are “one-party” states in which the consent of only one party to a conversation is required for the conversation to be legally recorded. Federal law also allows recording of telephone conversations if there is consent of at least one party to the call. 18 U.S.C. 119, § 2511(2)(d).

So, it's fine to use that cell phone to make sure you remember what everyone agreed to when you met in that field or office or coffee shop. And Zoom calls may be casual or serious. It is just important to think about this when engaging in this new world we find ourselves in as we emerge slowly from the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Make sure everyone says they agree before you record. And then record their consent.

I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...

We are Farm Bureau members because Farm Bureau educates the community to the benefits of a healthy agricultural sector and a vehicle to develop a sense of community among farmers.



Help to Prevent The Spread Of Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) By Reducing Winter Weed Host Plants



Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) is a disease of lettuce that causes significant crop damage and economic loss. Last year several lettuce fields in the Salinas Valley experienced significant crop losses due to INSV and some fields in Watsonville, Hollister, and Gilroy were also impacted. The disease is caused

by a plant virus known as a tospovirus that is transmitted by western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*). Western flower thrips are small insects commonly found in our region. The insect transmits the disease when it begins to make its migration from host weed plants in the spring. The disease survives during the winter months (November – March) in host plants, allowing the transmission cycle to continue in spring.

You can make a difference in reducing INSV in our region by practicing weed management in your agricultural fields and corresponding right-of-ways now before spring arrives. The University of California Cooperative Extension in Monterey County and USDA Agricultural Research Service have been collecting and analyzing weed samples to identify key hosts species. Their efforts so far have identified the following key weed species that growers should target and focus management efforts on: malva, short pod mustard, sow thistle, lambsquarters, shepherd's purse, nettleleaf, goosefoot, mares tail, nettle, field bind weed, purslane, flax leaf fleabane and the nightshades. It is important to control these weeds in crop and non-crop areas including ditches, fallow fields, roadsides, waste areas, banks, and equipment yards. If you operate a greenhouse we ask that you also take proactive steps to control weeds at the edge of your property. For detailed images of the host weeds listed above and for

the latest information on additional weed species of concern, refer to the Salinas Valley Agriculture blog: <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=44230>

Thank you for your efforts in helping to prevent the spread of INSV and protecting agriculture in our region for the benefit of all.

Interesting Trivia

The stars and stripes make up one of the most recognizable flags of any country in the world. But did you know the modern iteration containing 50 stars was designed for a class project by an enterprising high school student in 1958, who anticipated the addition of Alaska and Hawaii a year later? Amazingly, the boy's unimpressed teacher gave him a B-.

Become A Farm Bureau Member

Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



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The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. We are continually involved in local land use and transportation issues as well as opportunities to provide educational support through scholarships and school programs. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau helps ensure that the agriculture industry here remains viable, and continues to generate financial security for the entire community.

WHY JOIN THE FARM BUREAU?

Whether you represent a community involved in the production of food products, are home to one of the ports that ships California-grown products all over the world, or are one of the 38 million California consumers of the food, fiber or foliage we produce, you have a stake in the future of California farms and ranches.

With more than 400 different commodities produced in California, Farm Bureau is committed to helping consumers understand where their food comes from, the challenges associated with producing a safe, affordable food supply and ensuring consumer confidence in California-grown products.

When you join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, you automatically become eligible for California Farm Bureau member benefits.

Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership and receive the many benefits and services available.

By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

HOW TO JOIN

To join the Farm Bureau, complete the Agricultural Member Application or the Associate Member Application

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

Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau at 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville CA 95076

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Answer: Indonesia is the world's largest island nation, but no one knows exactly how many islands it contains (thousands and thousands, to be imprecise). Indonesia attempted to count them all in 2017, but several differing figures still exist.

President's Message

COVID-19



ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT

Another month has passed, and I am writing another article. As I look for topics, it is difficult to ignore the most prominent, the COVID 19 pandemic. Our collective experience is continually being shaped by the pandemic. We have learned and created a new language; positivity

rates, flattening the curve, social distancing, self-isolation, and of course, "Karen" to name a few. When we want to find temporary relief, like planning a getaway, we quickly realize that there is nowhere to go. So, we wait. But not all the news is negative, there is hope. Vaccines are being distributed and new ones have been developed and are awaiting approval.

Vaccines have now been distributed for over two months. Yes, there have been delays and distribution issues, but they are getting out there. Yes, there were arguments on who should be first, but that has been decided. Some people are concerned of side effects, but the science shows that there is minimal risk. What now has to happen is getting the vaccines into people's arms as quickly and as organized as possible.

This is where we all can help.

In late January, Dignity Health Dominican Hospital, in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau COVID Task Force, with logistical assistance provided by the California Strawberry Commission, conceived and coordinated a vaccination effort targeting farmworkers. Local farms were contacted and encouraged to reach out to their employees and commit people to the vaccination effort. The response

was phenomenal. In the first week of February, nearly 1,350 farm workers received their first vaccination injection. By the time you read this, they should all have received their second injection and will be fully vaccinated. This effort was so successful that there are current

talks on repeating this effort; let's hope we can.

We all need to see that positive things are happening. I am proud to be part of an organization which can be a glimmer of hope in our community. I can say, "The reason I am a member of the Farm Bureau is to engage in local land use and protect the people who work in agriculture." I would like to thank the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau COVID Task Force, Dignity Health Dominican Hospital and the California Strawberry Commission for their efforts in protecting those in our community who are often overlooked.

"We all need to see that positive things are happening. I am proud to be part of an organization which can be a glimmer of hope in our community."

Ask Mark

Continued from page 3

fumigants and should be used in combination with other tactics such as crop rotation and the use of resistant cultivars whenever feasible.

For questions and answers on this issue and any others concerning organic strawberry production, please contact Joji Muramoto, UC Cooperative Extension Organic Production Specialist based at UC Santa Cruz. His email is joji@ucsc.edu.

Big Creek Lumber to Launch Scholarship Program

Continued from Page 1

Upon returning from service in World War II, Bud and Lud co-founded Big Creek Lumber at approximately the same age that most students graduate high school. Although their education was non-traditional, the skills that they picked up serving their country set them up for success when establishing Big Creek Lumber. During the war, Bud worked for the Navy as a teenage civilian and later served in the Navy as a mechanic on aircraft carriers. Meanwhile, Lud signed up for continuation school while attending a trade school in San Francisco for diesel mechanics, all before serving in the Merchant Marines at the young age of 16. The pair's father, Frank McCrary, served in the SeaBees (the United States Naval Construction Battalion) while their mother Agnes worked in the San Francisco shipyards welding and watering down concrete ships as they cured.

When Bud, Lud, their father Frank, and their uncle Homer returned from the war and founded Big Creek Lumber in 1946, they put the trade skills they acquired during the war and from a life working in the woods into practice and took on the roles of loggers, sawyers, equipment operators, mechanics, builders, and more for the fledgling company. Together, four men who never earned a high school diploma but had a sound skill set in the trades, a dedication to forest management, and knowledgeable mentors, became lifelong learners and built Big Creek Lumber into the company it is today.

The McCrary Family Scholarship will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who will be continuing their education in the skilled trades or forestry. Students who are seeking to apply can get more information and an application



at: www.bigcreeklumber.com/scholarships



SB 539 (Hertzberg) is the first of likely many legislative vehicles to address issues related to the recent passage of Proposition 19 – The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire and Natural Disasters Act of 2020. Proposition 19 proponents stated their intent was to provide tax relief for California's Family Farms. The farm exclusion intended to protect generational farming by limiting taxes for family farms by providing tax savings and protections for the family's agricultural lands. The cold reality is that Proposition 19 has failed to deliver on any of those promises and now jeopardizes the entire family farming community in California.

Farm Bureau has requested that amendments be included in SB 539 that provide the benefits originally provided for by the initiative. These amendments ensure that the Proposition 19 value test is conducted on a per-parcel basis, allows eligible property to also be leased, and further clarifies that a home and farmland be treated separately for taxation purposes. The amendments offer an additional tax benefit but will likely not prevent some property tax increases from occurring. Absent another initiative to repeal Proposition 19 later down the road, this is an immediate opportunity to enact clarifying changes to help preserve the family farm. Follow the link to send your comments: [Fix Proposition 19!](#)



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- JJ Scurich, Creekside Farms



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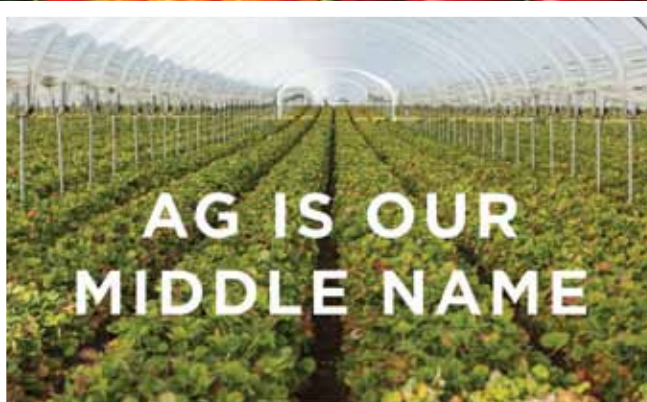
CALENDAR

SUNDAY - March 14
Daylight Saving Time Begins

MONDAY - MARCH 17
St. Patrick's Day

SATURDAY - MARCH 20
Spring Begins

THURSDAY - MARCH 25
Board of Directors' meeting



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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