

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCoCFB. 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

## Passing it On & Paying It Forward



Dennis Webb, President

One of the most rewarding parts of any profession is having the opportunity to share your know-how with future generations. This is particularly true for farmers, since our profession is so intimately connected with the geography, culture and fabric of the communities in which we work. Many of us associate the fields, ranches and forests we work in with the people who worked here before us. Those of us who were lucky enough to be taught by our lands' previous stewards will always connect the places we work with our predecessors' knowledge and values.

One thing that impresses me about the farmers, ranchers and foresters of Santa Cruz County is their willingness to teach. So many of my colleagues in the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau frequently go out of their way to pass on their intimate knowledge

of the places they work, the systems that surround us, and the values that make our work compatible with the environment and community we work and exist in.

I find that sharing what I know is the most rewarding part of my work. I studied forestry at Cal Poly. Like most everyone else who went to school there, I consider my education at Cal Poly to be one of the most valuable experiences of my life. I make sure to go out of my way to stay engaged in Cal Poly's work on a regular basis. Whether hosting field trips for Cal Poly students, advising faculty on their curriculum, or collaborating with local Cal Poly staff at Swanton Pacific Ranch, I try to further Cal Poly's educational mission. In doing so, I have learned a lot, and along the way I have even hired a few recent Cal Poly graduates who are already tremendous assets to my profession and our community.

It's important to make time to pass on our own knowledge and values to the next generation of farmers, ranchers and foresters. Doing so is an investment in the stewardship of the places we manage, which will be here long after each of us. ■

### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau **CULTURE**

- The SCCFB is firm in its **COMMITMENT** to provide responsive and effective services to its members, and to be a positive and integral part of the broader community through collaboration, education and social interaction.
- The SCCFB grows on a foundation of **TRUST**, bringing expertise, experience and good faith action to bear on topics related to agriculture, which can be relied upon by farmers, the agricultural community, and the community at large.
- The SCCFB honors and keeps its **TRADITION** of service to the diverse people, commodities and production systems that comprise the unique and complex agriculture community in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.



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## Happy St. Patrick's Day

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Hope to see you all there!

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# ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, UCCE,  
Santa Cruz County

## Pollination Issues in Raspberries

**Q.** Could you share some insight on what sorts of pollination problems raspberries can have?

**A.** Before we are to understand pollination problems in raspberries, it is important to first understand the process of pollination of the fruit itself. Raspberries (and blackberries) are classified as an aggregate fruit, with each individual drupelet, each of which is a fruit unto itself like a peach, together with all the other drupelets make up whole berry. Consequently, the pollination process has to be completed for each drupelet for the aggregate fruit to form fully. The process of fertilization begins when the anther ruptures and releases pollen to the area within the flower. Some of this pollen should land on one of the surrounding female pistils, germinate and grow down to the ovule fertilizing the embryo which then hardens into a seed around which the individual drupelet forms. The resulting mass of drupelets are held together by very fine interlacing hairs, and then once mature the whole fruit separates from the receptacle which has held it to the pedicel.

Anything that disturbs the ability of pollen to reach and successfully germinate the ovule of the female pistil of the flower will subsequently result in the seed and the surrounding drupelet to not form. If there are multiple drupelets not forming a fruit, the fruit can become malformed and crumbly, given that it is held together by those fine interlacing hairs.

Very much unlike strawberry, most raspberries are not capable of fully self-pollinating and need insects, mostly bees, to fully move the pollen to each pistil of the flower, form each drupelet and fill the fruit.

For this reason, growers in our area use beehives, usually between two and four per acre, around their raspberry plantings, and any weakness in bees coming from these hives will readily show up as poorly pollinated or even in some cases, unpollinated fruit.

Given that raspberries tend to start to produce after the danger of frost has passed, it is rare that low temperatures are culprits in poor pollination. It is rather the high heats of the summer, especially in the high tunnels which are frequently used on the Central Coast, where most of the weather-related issues stem. Since pollen can dry out easily and become inviable at high temperatures, it is important for raspberry growers to vent tunnels or take other steps when the temperatures inside of tunnels threaten to go above 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

There has been significant amounts of debate within the industry concerning the role of lygus bugs, which at times occur in very high numbers in raspberry and blackberry, in causing pollination problems and subsequent misshaping of raspberry fruit. While it is clear that lygus can negatively affect the vegetative branching of the plant by feeding on the growing point, their role in damaging fruit is less clear, and I personally, through a number of experimental trials testing this thesis together with colleagues, have not been able to prove that they do.

The above has been a short discussion of possible causes of misshaping of raspberry fruit. For questions on this matter and any other concerning berry culture on the Central Coast, please contact Mark Bolda at [mpbolda@ucanr.edu](mailto:mpbolda@ucanr.edu). ■

# THE WATER NANNY

## Water Wars

**A** long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... A plucky little crew, operating from deep within an apple orchard, orchestrated a plan to save our farms and restore freedom to the galaxy. A malevolent salt plume could destroy our groundwater, resulting in adjudication by the evil Empire, unless we acted. Aided by a piano playing State Senator, farmers and our Farm Bureau created the PVWMA, but the battles still rage on ...

The long declining Colorado River, with its massive reservoirs drained, threatens loss of drinking water for Las Vegas and Phoenix. Now many have discovered that western rivers and groundwater basins have gone over to the dark side, that is, not sustainably managed. In many cases groundwater basins are not managed at all. All of this results in a flurry of discovery by the press (a declining species itself) with poignant articles of doom. *The New York Times*, *CNN*, and the *Chronicle* have all written extensively about groundwater depletion.

The *Times* figured out that in California *Who Gets the Water in California? Whoever Gets There First* (NYT 12/14/23). This is a simplification of our complex water law dating back to the gold rush. It became part of the state constitution perpetuating riparian rights in 1914. Until the recent Groundwater Act, unlimited, reasonable use of groundwater was condoned. That law

changed, but as the state Farm Bureau still opines: "It is reasonable to retain in each of the hydrologic and groundwater basins the right to all those

waters which originate in those basins and which are or will be needed for diversion for beneficial uses in those basins." (CAFB Policies No. 301, 2024)

Public awareness of groundwater overdraft, like a bear awakening from hibernation, has arisen. "The collapse of groundwater reserves beneath California's Central Valley stands out as particularly severe." (*The Hill* 1/26/24) *CNN* penned that five cities could be doomed due to a water crisis: four of the cities have antiquated infrastructure, like led pipes or severe weather, the fifth was Moss Landing (maybe not a city)

impacted by falling groundwater, nitrates, and salt intrusion. (*CNN* 9/2/23) There was an extensive report how increased chicken consumption could drain midwestern groundwater for feed, like soybeans and corn. (NYT 12/24/23) The Dark Side will not destroy our planet, only cause us to die of thirst.

**The Force Awakens:** Apparently, our dashing farm comrades were able to save our groundwater basin from the evil dark side, creating the PVWMA. "With aquifers nationwide in dangerous decline, one part of California has tried essentially taxing groundwater. New research shows it's working." (NYT 12/29/23) While the article discussed the success of the Agency, it focused on how we, farmers, voted to tax ourselves to use our own water. This is kind of the *Readers Digest* version (ask your Grandmother) of the real story. What it failed to raise was the alternative of groundwater basin adjudication by the Water Board, if the Pajaro Valley did nothing. Santa Maria farmers litigated adjudication for eleven years, costing over \$12 million, and still ended up with finite water limits through adjudication. We avoided that cost, and after several acrimonious years, did implement and execute a great result, worthy of a *Times* article. Taxing our water extractions with an augmentation charge has caused much less pain than a 40% cutback in water use through adjudication.

Next time the PVWMA needs to have our basin plan reviewed by the State Department of Water Resources, just send them the *Times* well written accolade. Besides the serious nature of our water basin, the *Times* sent a reporter and photographer to our valley, with great pictures of strawberries, Dick Peixoto, Soren Bjorn and Brian Lockwood. "Do or do not. There is no try" (Yoda) ■





# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Traditional Beef and Guinness Stew

St. Patrick's Day is coming soon and maybe you're like me and attempt to make a traditional Irish meal to celebrate. A delicious Irish stew, with either lamb or beef, is always a sure hit, especially on a cool evening in March. This recipe comes from Kimberly Killebrew, The Daring Gourmet.

6 ounces bacon, diced	1 cup strong beef broth
2 pounds beef chuck	2 Tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
3 tablespoons all purpose flour	1/4 cup tomato paste
2 medium-large yellow onions, chopped	1 Tablespoon dried and ground porcini mushrooms (optional)
3 cloves garlic, minced	1 teaspoon dried thyme
4 medium-firm waxy potatoes (Yukon Gold), cut in 1" pieces	1 teaspoon dried rosemary
2 large carrots	1 1/2 teaspoons salt
2 ribs celery	1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 large parsnip	2 bay leaves
1 bottle (1 pint or 16 ounces) Guinness Extra Stout	Salt and pepper to taste

Cut the beef across the grain into 1-inch pieces. Sprinkle with some salt, pepper and the flour and toss to coat the pieces. Set aside.

Fry the bacon in a Dutch oven or heavy pot until done then remove it with a slotted spoon, leaving the bacon drippings in the pan.

Working in batches and being careful not to overcrowd the pieces, generously brown the beef on all sides. Transfer the beef to a plate and repeat until all the beef is browned.

Add the onions and fry them, adding more oil if necessary, until lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another minute. Add the vegetables and cook for another 5 minutes. Add the Guinness and bring it to a rapid boil, deglazing the bottom of the pot (scrapping up the browned bits on the bottom). Boil for 2 minutes.

Return the beef and bacon to the pot along with the remaining ingredients and stir to combine.

(At this point you can transfer everything to a slow cooker if you prefer. Follow the remaining steps and then cook on LOW for 6 to 8 hours or on HIGH for 3 to 4 hours.)

Bring it to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer for 2 hours. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve with some crusty country bread or Irish soda bread. This recipe is even better the next day.

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### Strange But Impossibly True!

Chicago isn't called the Windy City because of its weather. It was meant as an insult to the city's windbags. Journalists used to criticize Chicago's elites for being "full of hot air," as reported in an 1858 Chicago Daily Tribune story that read, "[A] hundred militia officers, from corporal to commander ... air their vanity ...in this windy city".

Excerpts from the Readers Digest

# "Agriculture, the Original Green"

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Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to be a member 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.

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"I am a Farm Bureau member because we can rely on the Farm Bureau as a source of information and to be our voice."

**Nancy Goudarzi**  
Long-time Farm Bureau member

## Save the Date

### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

#### **National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon**

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

#### **SCCFB 107th Annual Meeting**

Saturday, June 15, 2024

Big Creek Lumber Property, Swanton

#### **31st Annual Golf Tournament**

Friday, July 12, 2024

Pajaro Valley Golf Club

#### **California State Fair**

Friday, July 12, 2024 to Sunday, July 28, 2024

Cal Expo, Sacramento

#### **Santa Cruz County Fair**

Wednesday, September 11 to Sunday, September 15, 2024

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

#### **Annual Directors' Dinner**

Thursday, November 7, 2024

Location to be determined

#### **CFBF Annual Meeting**

Saturday, December 1 to Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Monterey

### Agri-Culture

#### **16th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon**

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

#### **16th Annual Testicle Festival**

Saturday, August 24, 2024

Estrada Deer Camp

#### **28th Annual Farm Dinner**

Saturday, October 18, 2024

Land Trust Little Bee Barn

## March Recognizes the Importance of Weights & Measures



David Sanford

(Note: A version of this article originally ran in March 2019)

At one point or another, everyone probably asks themselves the perennial question – Am I getting what I 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 three pounds of apples? You can rest assured and feel confident because County Weights & Measures inspectors are there to protect customers and to ensure equity in the marketplace.

County Weights & Measures inspectors (who work within the County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures Department) 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1799, the first week in March (March 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>) is recognized as National 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 "Collaborating With Partners and Stakeholders for a Greater Measure of Equity."

This year's theme is fitting because inflation has been an issue people everywhere are concerned about. Market fairness is always critical and in this time of tight household budgets it comes to mind with even more prominence, particularly for underserved communities.

"We want consumers everywhere to take a moment [during National Weights and Measures Week] and notice all the things in their lives bought and sold by measure," said Mahesh Albuquerque, past Chairman of NCWM. "No matter where you live or what you purchase, there is an inspector who works tirelessly to make sure you get what you pay for. Inspectors favor neither the buyers or sellers – they work to ensure fairness and accuracy in the marketplace."

The important work of Weights & Measures inspectors is summed up best by CDFA Secretary Karen 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." ■



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**"One of the most cowardly things ordinary people do is shut their eyes to facts."**

**C. S. Lewis**

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5. Call Grainger Customer Service at (800) 472-4643.
6. Tell the Grainger representative to "Please link my personal Grainger account to California Farm Bureau's account!"
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# Down to Earth Women Luncheon

**Get Your Reservations Early!**

*16th Annual*  
*Down to Earth Women Luncheon*

Thursday, May 9, 2024

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

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

Featured Speaker:

**Janet Webb, President**  
Big Creek Lumber

This event is coordinated by and Agri-Culture and the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
For Reservations or more information:



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The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau presents

# 107th Annual Dinner/Meeting

## Big Creek Property

Swanton Road, Davenport, CA

Saturday, June 15, 2024

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by June 5, 2024



SCAN ME

Tickets: \$100 per person

Reception: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Program also includes:

- ◆ Silent Auction & Raffle
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Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

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Checks should be made out to the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

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(search for the 107th Annual Dinner/Meeting)

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# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY - MARCH 20**  
National Agriculture Day  
Spring Luncheon

**THURSDAY - MARCH 28**  
Board of Directors' meeting

**WEDNESDAY - APRIL 4**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**FRIDAY - APRIL 12**  
Focus Agriculture, Class 33  
Session 2

**WEDNESDAY - APRIL 17**  
Agri-Culture Board of  
Directors' meeting

**THURSDAY - APRIL 25**  
Board of Directors' meeting

**THURSDAY - MAY 2**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY - MAY 9**  
Down to Earth Women  
Luncheon

**FRIDAY - MAY 10**  
Focus Agriculture, Class 33  
Session 3



**MEET  
OUR  
OWNERS.**



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MEMBERS, OUR  
CUSTOMERS SHARE  
IN OUR SUCCESS.**

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