

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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# FARM



# BUREAU

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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

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## 2014 Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 15, 2014

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



Photo by Bill Ringe

The ladies from last year's **Down to Earth Women Luncheon** would like you to join them at this year's event. Use your imagination to design a lovely sun hat of your own and enjoy the fun, the food and great company at this annual event. This year's featured speaker is **Helene Dillard**, Dean of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences at UC Davis and she will be speaking about "**Females, Farms & Food - Plates of Plenty**". Don't be left out...Call now to reserve your place at one of Santa Cruz County's favorite womens' luncheons!

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## Down to Earth Women Luncheon

**Thursday, May 15, 2014**

**Rancho Corralitos, 242 Corralitos Road**  
**\$100 per person - Limited seating available**  
**For more information contact Agri-Culture**  
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# President's Message

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN, PRESIDENT

**"In an industry that is always pushed to do more with less, we may see farmers taking over some airspace. Who ever thought that a childhood hobby of flying model airplanes would someday become an integral tool for agriculture?"**

## Another Tool in the Farmer's Truck

I am writing this article while traveling at 24,000 feet from Amsterdam to London on a 20<sup>th</sup> century invention. Actually, I'm on the modern day version of that 1903 open-air taxi, the Kitty Hawk.

When my grandfather was a little boy, he met a man who told him we would someday fly a man to the moon. My grandfather thought that was an incredible fantasy; most others just thought the man was crazy. As it turns out, my grandfather lived in an exciting era. He was very young when the Kitty Hawk made history. He witnessed a number of inventions that have changed how we live in this world. The radio, vacuum cleaner, lie detectors, air conditioners, crayons, windshield wipers, helicopters, cellophane, Model T, instant coffee, motion pictures, motorized movie cameras, tanks, gas masks, Pyrex, stainless steel, zippers, television, Band-Aids, robots, traffic signals, frozen foods, and the list goes on and on. He was completely baffled by the "talking" grocery check-out. "How does that machine know what I'm buying and how much it is?!"

In the 1950s, father had one of the original car phones. It was linked to a service and he used it as part of his farming operation. That phone completely fascinated all three of us children but we were never allowed to use it. It was for business only.

Even though technology has always had a place in agriculture, I often wonder what my dad and

grandfather would think about all electronic devices currently in use. Today's cell phones are more common than land lines; we can't seem to live without them or ipads. Flying from country to country and into outer space no longer makes headlines unless something disastrous happens.

And now, these new-fangled flying inventions are going to the farm. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Drones or Aerial Robots, are probably the next technological advancement for farmers. Studies have shown that if UASs are developed by 2025, it will be an \$82 billion industry, with 80 percent of the benefits seen in agriculture.

Another Tool..Continued on Page 8

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# ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Advisor, UCCE

## UC Cooperative Extension's 100 Year Anniversary...Here's Some History

**Q:** I just read about UC Cooperative Extension's 100 year anniversary. Can you share more about your history?

**A:** Is it indeed true that the University of California Cooperative Extension is 100 years old – on May 8<sup>th</sup> to be exact! Our history extends all the way back to Abraham Lincoln, who was influenced by and interested in both farming and education. President Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law in 1862, which authorized development of agricultural 'land grant' colleges in every state of the nation, and which ultimately forged the path for extension work. President Lincoln also created what he called 'the people's department' – the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Next came the 1887 Hatch Act, which established federal funding to link land grant colleges with agricultural experiment stations, where research was conducted. And finally, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act into law, which established federal funding for nationwide 'extension' work—work that extended science-based information and education at the local level.

At each step in the legislative process, agriculture, education, and practical skills were recognized for their importance and contributions to the growth, vitality, and well-being of the country. Also important was a direct link to local communities. In fact, in addition to federal support through the USDA, and state support through the land grant colleges, local support from county government and support from local farmers through Farm Bureaus were two additional and all-important elements for the establishment and success of a local Cooperative Extension office. This historic

'shared funding and ownership' model, which demonstrated the value of public-private partnerships, persists today.

The first Cooperative Extension farm advisor was appointed in Humboldt County in 1913, slightly ahead of the official passage of the Smith-Lever Act. Additional farm advisors were appointed throughout the state in subsequent years, with Santa Cruz County's first farm advisor, Henry Washburn, appointed in 1917. Since its beginnings, UC Cooperative Extension has evolved and adapted its programs and services to meet the changing needs of its local communities over time, in both rural and urban settings. Programs and services often include agriculture and natural resources, youth development, and nutrition, family, and consumer sciences. Two volunteer programs, 4-H and Master Gardeners, also provide essential support, information, and education for youth and adults in our local communities. Though many of our programs and services have evolved over time, our mission—to provide practical, trusted, and science-based information at the local level—remains steadfast to this day.

This article was excerpted and adapted from "A Century of Science and Service", by UC Cooperative Extension Advisors Rose Hayden-Smith and Rachel Surls. More detail on the history of Cooperative Extension can be accessed at:

<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/repositoryfiles/cav6801p8-133614.pdf>.

# THE WATER NANNY

*"Agriculture, the Original Green"*

## Tax Avoidance

**L**earned Hand, a legendary Federal Justice, wrote: *Any one may so arrange his affairs that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose that pattern which will best pay the Treasury; there is not even a patriotic duty to increase one's taxes.*

Clearly there is a difference between avoidance and evasion. Last month my CPA advised against continued deposits in my secret account in the Ukraine, time has proven him correct, as it crossed the line of criminality. Locally we have our own tax, the PVWMA Augmentation Fee, a tax on our extraction of water from the valley aquifer. For years growers have railed against this charge, but the alternative, adjudication of our aquifer, is much more draconian than the per acre foot augmentation tax, presently \$174/af, with \$210 in the delivered water zone. This rate is increased annually to match inflation, say 2-3%, so next year it may be \$179/af.

It is my personal experience that taxes go mostly up. So it is with the PVWMA augmentation fee. The PVWMA is charged with stopping overdraft and salt water intrusion of the aquifer. It has not yet reached this goal and additional projects are required. These will raise the annual budget and increased revenue will be required, higher taxes. Let's first consider how much higher the fees could go.



The rates paid by growers with inland wells can increase at a **flat** rate, or **tiered** so rates increase with use. Consider these flat rate scenarios: 1) Full funding for the projects without grant subsidies with front loaded variable rate increases; 2) Project costs reduced with potential grants for the tank project of \$3 million, with variable rates; 3) Grants for tanks with flat rate increases; and 4) go up once in 2015 as in the BMP Committee projection.

		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	% Over Today
Rev +%	<b>Full BMP Funding no Grants</b>	12%	10%	2%	2%	2%	
Rate \$	<i>Variable Rate Increase</i>	\$ 201	\$ 223	\$ 229	\$ 235	\$ 241	<b>38.5%</b>
Rev +%	<b>\$3M Grants for Tanks</b>	10%	8%	2%	2%	2%	
Rate \$	<i>Variable Rate Increase</i>	\$ 193	\$ 211	\$ 217	\$ 222	\$ 228	<b>31.3%</b>
Rev +%	<b>\$3M Grants for Tanks</b>	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
Rate \$	<i>Flat Rate Increase</i>	\$ 188	\$ 199	\$ 213	\$ 228	\$ 244	<b>40.4%</b>
Rev +%	<b>2012 BMP Projection</b>	30%	2%	2%	2%	2%	
Rate \$	<i>Single Increase &amp; COLA</i>	\$ 226	\$ 231	\$ 235	\$ 240	\$ 245	<b>40.7%</b>

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
0-0.5 af	0.5 - 1.5 af	1.5 up
\$ 159	\$ 198	\$ 238

In the alternative the agency could adopt tiered rates, where increased pumping per farmed acre pays a higher charge. This may cause substantial conservation and increased administrative. Taking a 2015 flat fee of \$201 and spreading fee across three tiers the result may look like this, with similar proportionate increases, as above, in future years. With efficient water use strawberries may pump 2.3 af/ac/yr., then the fee would average (across 3 tiers) \$204/af; greenhouses using 4 af/ac/yr., \$218/af; apples with 0.4 af. at \$159/af.

What, you say, does this have to do with tax avoidance? No one goes tax free, but you can avoid some potential taxes through financial planning. The augmentation fee can be minimized with similar diligence in conserving irrigation water use. However, avoidance of pumping can only be achieved if we hone our skills in irrigation and fertilization. Counter intuitively, the PVWMA has even held ~~conservation~~ **avoidance** seminars, most recently in conjunction with the RCD, Community Water Dialogue and your Farm Bureau at the Fairgrounds last month. They have contracted with the Ag Water Quality Coalition to do continuing individual farmer outreach and education. You just need to take advantage of these ~~conservation~~ **tax avoidance** planning opportunities.

Confucius laid it out simply: *He who will not economize will have to agonize.* We can save on water use, we cannot avoid solving problems with our aquifer.



*"Agriculture, the Original Green"*

# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Beer Batter

**Kevin Katsulis** is a local cook in Santa Cruz county. Katsulis says, "Food is one of the most intimate ways to reach a person's soul by feeding them the food they love." Kevin swears you can't go wrong with good beer, good food, and good people. This recipe is great for bringing everyone together. Kevin says, "I use this recipe a lot. Great for fish and chips, onion rings and many other things. Use your imagination. (This recipe was procured by Fearon Hosmer as part of her Cal Poly SLO internship in the Farm Bureau office.)

### Beer Batter Recipe

- 3 cups flour
- 4 tablespoons cayenne
- 2 1/2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons onion powder
- 3 tablespoons paprika
- 4 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 egg
- 2-4 cups of ale beer

Start with all the dry ingredients in a bowl and make a well in the center. Start by slowly pouring the beer in the dry mix whisking. You want a consistency of something just past pancake mix, a bit thinner. After you've got the beer mix right, add your egg (leftover beer? Time to drink up!). Mix in the egg well and you're set for some beer battered frying. Best to do your frying generally around 350 degrees.

SMILE!

A man was walking on the beach one day and he found a bottle half buried in the sand. He decided to open it. Inside was a genie. The genie said, "I will grant you three wishes and three wishes only." The man thought about his first wish and decided, "I think I want 1 million dollars transferred to a Swiss bank account. POOF! Next he wished for a Ferrari red in color. POOF! There was the car sitting in front of him. He asked for his final wish, "I wish I was irresistible to women." POOF! He turned into a box of chocolates.



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# FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

Mary Lou Nicoletti, Agricultural Commissioner

## A DAY IN THE LIFE



**A**s you know, our office inspects many shipments of plants, fruits, and vegetables, which are entering the county or being exported out of the county. Recently, staff members assigned to the pest exclusion division inspected a large shipment of potted plants that originated in Florida. Our office is notified when shipments from out of state arrive in the county. Sometimes we know shipments are relatively low risk, with only a few potential pests, such as nursery stock from Oregon. But perhaps due to the tropical climate, nursery stock from Florida can harbor a diverse array of pests and requires a more intensive inspection.

Sharp eyed inspectors found two ants, a springtail, a snail, a weed, and a moth. The shipment was safeguarded and held pending identification of the specimens by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). All but the moth were determined to be common pests. But the moth was rated "Q", meaning it is suspected to be of economic importance but the status is uncertain due to incomplete identification or lack of information. CDFA informed us that the only options available were to destroy the shipment or to return it to Florida. The state, and not the Agricultural Commissioner, has final authority on disposition of pests

that are rated "A" (known economic importance) and "Q" (suspected economic importance). The receiver, having a customer wanting the shipment, asked our office to try to petition CDFA to allow a treatment and re-inspection. We discussed the request with the state. However, the CDFA Plant Health Division was concerned about the presence of so many live pests on a shipment that had been treated at origin. We were sorry that the receiver would be unable to supply the customer, but we agreed with the state's decision to prevent the risk of harm to the agricultural industry in our county. So our staff witnessed the shipment being loaded onto trucks for return to Florida. It can be a daunting task to perform a thorough inspection on large shipments such as these, and I am grateful for the diligence and dedication of our staff members!



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I love to go to Washington - If only to be near my money.

Bob Hope

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## Mendocino Farmers Challenge State Water Board Regulation Limiting Water Use



**A**n important case is being argued on May 1 in the California Court of Appeal, First District in San Francisco on appeal from a March 15, 2013 decision of the Mendocino County Superior Court. The Superior Court invalidated Section 862 of Title 23 of the California

Code of Regulations because it violated article X, section 2 of the California Constitution and conflicted with California water law. The Superior Court also ruled that Section 862 is not "reasonably necessary" - a requirement for all newly enacted regulations. The decision was a significant victory for hundreds of grape and pear growers who wished to divert water for frost protection to avoid crop losses.

The Superior Court decision rejected the State Water Board's claims that it could declare water uses unreasonable without a case-by-case analysis and appropriate findings. The case is significant beyond Mendocino and Sonoma Counties because it purports to clarify limits on the State Water Board's power that should prevent the State Water Board from adopting similar regulations on other types of water users including irrigators. The State Board made its decision to protect salmon after urging by the National Marine Fisheries Service which has jurisdiction to protect the salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act. Scientists for the National Marine Fisheries Service argued that over 25,000 salmon died in 2008 when farmers withdrew water from the Russian River to protect grapes from frost.

If the Court of Appeal reverses the Superior Court decision, the State Board may set water limits for agriculture elsewhere.

The State Board argued in its briefs that the Superior Court "erred by substituting its judgment for that of the Board" as to how to address the problem. The Board's legal arguments accused the farmers of proposing "an incorrect, out of date, cramped reading of the Board's authority."

The California Farm Bureau Federation filed a "friend of the court" brief asking the Court of Appeal to rein in the State Water Board.

This decision tests the fundamental doctrine of "reasonable use" which affects all water rights in California.



### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Events

#### 96th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 26, 2014

#### 20th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 11, 2014

#### Santa Cruz County Fair

September 9-14, 2014

#### Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 6, 2014

#### CFBF Annual Meeting

December 6-10, 2014

### Agri-Culture Events

#### Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 15, 2014

#### California State Fair

July 11-27, 2014

#### YF&R Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 16, 2014

#### 18th Annual Progressive Dinner

October 25, 2014



# NEWS FROM THE NRCS

By Rich Casale, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## CCOF Fee Reduction and Waiver When Referred by NRCS

"CCOF would like to make it easier and more affordable for farmers applying to NRCS programs to become certified, especially during the transition period between conventional and organic production" according to Jake Lewin, President of CCOF Certification Services, LLC.

CCOF is now providing NRCS with waiver letters that can be copied and supplied to any grower applying to NRCS programs who may also be interested in attaining organic certification. The letter grants requesting producers a waiver from the one-time \$325 new application fee for CCOF certification. The waiver also guarantees CCOF's lowest fee category (\$200) during the grower's first year of certification. Growers that submit waiver letters signed by NRCS to CCOF along with their application for certification will not be charged a new application fee. "Growers using this waiver would still be required to pay inspection fees, which are based on time and travel", according to Lewin.

Both NRCS and CCOF are very excited about this new program designed to assist growers seeking organic certification and to help further NRCS's work with organic growers. To find out more about NRCS's work with transitional farmers and related organic incentive programs, contact the Capitola NRCS office at (831) 475-1967.

Prospective applicants who wish to learn more about the certification process can contact CCOF Applicant Support Specialist, Jane Wade, by calling 831-423-2263, ext. 43 or emailing [jwade@ccof.org](mailto:jwade@ccof.org). CCOF was founded in 1973 to promote organic food and agriculture as a nonprofit organic trade association, foundation and certification agency.

# # #

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### Another Tool...Continued from Page 2

So, how much are these drones? The answer ranges from \$2,500 - \$15,000 per drone, depending upon how sophisticated the software used. And what can they do for us? Surveying, field mapping, flood management, crop pest analysis, spot pesticide spraying instead of spraying the entire field, to name just a few applications.

Drones can be fitted with payloads, such as cameras, enabling farmers to get a bird's-eye view of their crop by flying at low altitudes. Using Infrared imaging, drones can also detect which plants are sick and which ones are healthy. Healthy plants reflect more infrared radiation; plants with fungal infections reflect less infrared radiation.

Drones are still fairly technical and require specialized knowledge. Wind speed and direction affect how the vehicles are flown, or how many flights are needed to collect data, as well as the load on batteries. Changes in weather and sun will dictate whether the data needs to be adjusted for interpretation.

And, of course, there is the privacy issue, especially in the US where licenses for commercial-use drones are granted on a case by case basis. The FAA has banned drones for commercial use but one \$10,000 fine was overturned by an administrative judge saying, the FAA's ban is a policy and not legislation.

The majority of the drones are made and available from the US but the lion's share of customers are outside of the US as most countries have loose guidelines to govern drone use. Japan has been using drones extensively for agriculture purposes for almost 20 years. With regulation governing drone use up for discussion in 2015, the United States could soon follow Japan's lead.

In an industry that is always pushed to do more with less, we may see farmers taking over some airspace. Who ever thought that a childhood hobby of flying model airplanes would someday become an integral tool for agriculture?



# SAFETY FIRST!

Mike Burns, Farm Bureau Group Manager

## Be Diligent to Prevent Heat Illness Among Employees

**W**eather conditions play a major role in working conditions, with summertime temperatures climbing to well over 100 degrees in summer. Without proper acclimation to these high temperatures, serious consequences may develop.

Working outdoors during the hot summer months puts special demands on the body's cooling system. Under certain conditions, a person's body may have trouble regulating its temperature. The harder a person works, the more heat his or her body needs to lose.

Prevention is the best course of action. Here are some tips to help prepare you and your employees for summer temperatures:

- Drink small amounts of water frequently. Be sure to avoid alcohol because it increases the loss of body fluids.
- Whenever possible, schedule hot jobs for cooler times of day or cooler seasons of the year.
- Take rest breaks in cool areas and add more workers to reduce the workload or shorten the workday.
- Gradually adapting to heat will reduce the severity of heat stress.
- Mechanize heavy jobs and when possible increase air movement with fans or coolers.
- Clothing can affect heat buildup, so it is recommended that loose, lightweight and light colored clothing be worn.
- Do not use salt tablets. Taking salt tablets can raise blood pressure, cause stomach ulcers and seriously affect workers with heart disease

Heat stroke occurs when the body has used up all of its water and salt and stops sweating as a result. As the body temperature rises, the person feels weaker and weaker, and may start acting confused or upset. As the situation becomes direr, the victim may pass out or have convulsions. If heat stroke is suspected, it is imperative to call 911 immediately because this condition can kill a person quickly.

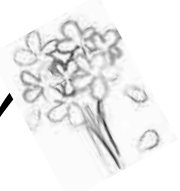
While waiting for the EMTs to arrive, there are things that can be done to aid the victim. Remove excess clothing from the victim, fan and spray him or her with cool water. Offer sips of cool water if the person is conscious.

State Fund has a wealth of information on safety topics available for easy access on our website at [www.statefundca.com](http://www.statefundca.com). Click on "Employers" and then "Resources" to find the extensive list of topics.


Today, State Fund is the largest workers' compensation carrier in California. State Fund has regional offices throughout the state, which provide a full range of services to policyholders and injured workers. We provide coverage to employers of all sizes, from "mom and pop" operations to major organizations.

Since 1943, the California Farm Bureau and State Fund partnership has provided farmers with affordable worker compensation insurance coverage and accident prevention training for agricultural employers and their employees. In addition to providing farm and ranch employers with workers' compensation insurance protection, we also have taken on the mission of assisting employers in providing safe places to work.

Happy  
Mothers  
Day!



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# Membership News

## USDA Disaster Assistance Programs Restored by Farm Bill

**A**griculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced eligible farmers and ranchers can sign up for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs restored by passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

Depending on the size and type of farm or ranch operation, eligible producers can enroll in one of four programs administered by the Farm Service Agency. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have suffered losses because of disease, severe weather, blizzards and wildfires.

Enrollment also began for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), which provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Producers signing up for these programs are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information on the types of records needed and to schedule an appointment. Taking these steps in advance will help producers ensure their application moves through the process as quickly as possible.

Continued in sidebar.....

Supporting documents may include livestock birth records, purchase and transportation receipts, photos and ownership records showing the number and type of livestock lost, documents listing the gallons of water transported to livestock during drought, and more. Crop records may include purchase receipts for eligible trees, bushes, or vines, seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records, and documentation of labor and equipment used to plant or remove eligible trees, bushes, or vines.

Producers have three to nine months to apply depending on the program and year of the loss. Details are available from any local FSA office.

For more information, producers may review the 2014 Farm Bill Fact Sheet, and the LIP, LFP, ELAP and TAP fact sheets online, or visit any local FSA office or USDA Service Center.

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MAY, 2014  
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## CALENDAR

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

**THURSDAY - MAY 15**  
Down to Earth Women  
Luncheon - For Reservations,  
please call Agri-Culture at  
(831) 722-6622 or visit  
[www.agri-culture.us](http://www.agri-culture.us)

**THURSDAY - MAY 15**  
Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Commission

**MONDAY - MAY 26**  
Memorial Day Observed  
Office Closed

**THURSDAY - MAY 29**  
Board of Directors' meeting

**WEDNESDAY - JUNE 4**

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

**FRIDAY - JUNE 6**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 4  
Class XXV

**MONDAY - JUNE 9**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee mtg.

**WEDNESDAY - JUNE 11**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

An advertisement for American AgCredit. The top half of the ad features a collage of three images: a close-up of a red strawberry, a close-up of blueberries, and a close-up of blackberries. Overlaid on the top right of the collage is a white banner with the text "MAKE YOUR GROWING SEASON MORE FRUITFUL" in black and red capital letters. Below the collage is a large, light-colored curved shape that resembles a bowl or a piece of a field. Inside this shape, on the left, is the American AgCredit logo, which is a green stylized four-leaf clover with a white star in the center. Below the logo, the text "AMERICAN AGCREDIT" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, and below that, in a smaller font, "MONEY FOR AGRICULTURE". To the right of the logo, there is a text box with the following content: "Blueberries, strawberries, blackberries... and more." followed by "Whatever you're growing, we can help finance it with services and programs custom tailored to your needs." and "Lending, leasing, appraising, insurance — American AgCredit does it all". At the bottom of the ad, the text "SALINAS • 831.424.1756" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "924 East Blanco Road" and "Call 800.800.4865 today or visit us at [AgLoan.com](http://AgLoan.com)". At the very bottom, in a small font, it says "A part of the Farm Credit System. Assets community owned."