

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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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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The Water Nanny



There Will Be Blood



Californians have fought over gold, oil and water for the better part of two centuries. This is only a prelude to what we will experience in the next two years. Even if it rains in biblical proportions next winter, water ownership and allocations will be shuffled, the game has changed.

Consider life as an urban commuter, *Bob* (OK, but try). Bob's view of the outdoor environment is limited to TV and vacations with the kids. Unless he commutes from Stockton to Oakland, he may never see fruit trees blooming and knows less

of where his salad comes from. Yet he is losing his lawn and can't flush unless it's brown. TV talking heads blame greedy almond farmers. Between green soccer fields and greedy farmers, farmers lose. After all there has never been a food shortage during his lifetime.

Two things caused this circumstance, droughts and one rancher. Surface water law is writ large in California Supreme Court records: *Miller & Lux vs. Henry Miller*, a German immigrant, became the largest cattle rancher in the west; owned 1,000,000 acres and leased 10M more. With all those cows, Miller was the largest shipper on the Central Pacific Railroad. The California Supreme Court was a fraternity of former railroad corporate attorneys. Miller got water use first and benefited from a water right priority based on time. (In Nevada, same fraternity of attorneys, he got there second, so water law is the opposite.) In 1914

The Water Nanny-Continued on Page 4

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President's Message

DAVID VAN LENNEP, PRESIDENT

"Here is the problem. If you do not participate in the formulation of policy, regulations or other matters that affect you, then you certainly will not get any different outcome. This holds true at all levels, from homeowner associations to Federal Endangered Species listings."

Participation Makes a Difference

We have all heard the platitudes about participating; "you need to play to win" or "those that show up make the rules". If you have ever participated in some public process or rule-making, you likely came away with the feeling that you wasted your valuable time and the entire affair was a forgone conclusion regardless of your input.

There is a reasonable possibility you were right, on both counts.

Here is the problem. If you do not participate in the formulation of policy, regulations or other matters that affect you, then you certainly will not get any different outcome. This holds true at all levels, from homeowner associations to Federal Endangered Species listings.

This is one reason to be a part of an organization. You share values, ideals or common interests or similar problems. The organization provides more weight and many hands to work toward common goals. Like getting friends to help you move a piano, more is better.

For many months, the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau has participated in drafting, revising and finally co-signing a Resolution that is supportive of local working lands and their ecological, financial, and ethical benefits to our county. This is merely acknowledgement and recognition of the importance of those lands and those who steward them. Working lands

are basically defined as lands that have agriculture as a primary or important use. Without this shrinking base of land, the business of agriculture cannot survive.

Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution

"...recognize the critical importance of Santa Cruz County's private and public working farm, forest and range lands. These lands support unique and important ecosystems which provide food, fiber and materials."

This preamble is followed by a number of *Whereas* and *Therefore* statements,

President's Message-Continued on Page 11

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ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor, UCCE

Understanding More About Water & The Drought

Q: What resources do you have to help us understand more about water and the drought?

A: You will want to visit the California Institute for Water Resources (CIWR) website at <http://ciwr.ucanr.edu>.

The mission of the institute, which is part of UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is to integrate California's research, extension, and education programs to develop research-based solutions to water resource challenges.

When you visit the site you will see a link to Research and Outreach Projects, which lists and describes various statewide efforts that are currently underway. In addition, within the Tools and Resources tab, you will find:

- A link to CropManage, an online irrigation and nitrogen management program, developed by local UCCE Farm Advisor Michael Cahn, along with other collaborators.
- A link to the Nitrite Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index, which provides information to farmers interested in voluntary management practices that reduce nitrogen contamination potential in groundwater.
- A link to Drought Resources, Events, and Experts.

Within the Drought Resources, Events, and Experts tab, you will find:

- A link to upcoming workshops and other local and statewide events.
- A link to statewide experts on water resources, drought, and irrigation,

including contact information.

- A link to more drought and information resources.

Within the Drought Information and Resources section, you will find:

- A link to Insights: Water and Drought Online Seminar Series, which contains over 30 videos, of roughly 20 to 30 minutes each, on a selection of topics under the headings Drought Impacts on Water Supply, Drought Preparedness Practices and Policies, Water Management in Urban Landscapes, and Crop Management Practices under Limited Water Supply for Annual and Perennial Crops.

This is only a small part of what is available on the CIWR website. If you keep exploring the site, you will also see links to a new blog called The Confluence, which posts a variety of stories on water and drought from throughout the state. You may also follow the most recent news and information via Twitter or Instagram (@ucanrwater), or receive periodic updates by joining the CIWR email list.

Please let me know if you have additional questions:

ljtourte@ucanr.edu or (831) 763-8005.

THE WATER NANNY

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

There Will Be Blood - Continued from Page 1

these water rights became known as senior. Age matters. California also has riparian, settlement, exchange and other water preferences. Groundwater rights are owned by the landowner above. You now know the basics of California water law.



Droughts on the other hand are less predictable, but as certain. Bad droughts are common. I recall most vividly the 1828-1830 drought *"when the countryside was baked in the relentless sun. Watering holes dried up, stream flows dropped and the cattle and horses died by the thousands. Buzzards grew so fat they couldn't fly."*¹ Today the dam in Tahoe City is way above lake level and Sierra rivers run at September flows. Small communities are running out of water. No boating vacations this year.

Bob can't water ski, so alfalfa is evil. He was never clear about broccoli anyway. We don't think about the 1%, as it is not our family, but we (my readers) are the 1% of people who grow food in the United States. GoldmanSachs needs good PR, so do farmers.

Let's face the problems confronting us. The Pajaro Valley receives no imported water, and our aquifer is closer to sustainable than most. The Governor strives for 25% reduction, yet ag pumping between December and March in the Pajaro Valley is down 40%. When Bob travels to Monterey all he sees is miles of sprinklers. A 40% water use decline is pretty darn good, we need to tell Bob. It is important we show we know how to conserve irrigation water. We need to build a strong media story now about efficient water use before the next stage of rationing or risk being swept up in the rush to punish almond farmers.

What does this have to do with Henry Miller's senior water rights? The LA media may rouse the commuters to believe if water was only fair, Bob's lawn would be green. Henry's water rights could be changed by legislation. Maybe groundwater's link to the overlaying land will be questioned. These are not far fetched concepts. Just consider the history of water in the Owens Valley, the source of water for LA's first aqueduct. Ultimately, President Theodore Roosevelt decided the matter saying: *"It (water) is a hundred- or a thousand-fold*

*more important to the state and more valuable to the people as a whole if used by the city than if used by the people of Owens Valley."*² As only Governor Brown would say: *"I think we'll have some changes, but don't wait around for anything too fundamental. People love transformative. So I'll say we're going to be doing transformative things, but they're probably less transformative than you might think."*



Endnotes

- 1 Sandy Lydon's *Central Coast Secrets*, http://www.sandylydon.com/sec_26.html
- 2 *LA Times*



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FAVORITE RECIPES

Zucchini Loaf

While searching for this month's recipe, I came across this one in a cookbook, "*Recipes of Yesteryear*", published by the California Grey Bears in 2003, their 30th Anniversary edition. The recipe was submitted by **Lucy Selak**, a longtime member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. Twelve years ago, Lucy's note in the cookbook said, "I have been using this old family recipe for over 70 years." Give it a try...old tried and true recipes are usually pretty tasty. Enjoy!

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 3 eggs | 2 teaspoons baking soda |
| 1 cup salad oil | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 2 cups sugar | 1/2 teaspoon baking powder |
| 2 teaspoons vanilla | 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon |
| 2 1/2 cups zucchini, coarsely grated | 3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg |
| 1 can (8 1/4 oz.) crushed pineapple, well drained | 1 cup chopped nuts |
| 3 cups flour | 1 cup currants |

Preheat oven to 350°F. With a rotary beater, beat the eggs. Add the oil, sugar and vanilla. Beat until thick and foamy. With a spoon, stir in the zucchini and pineapple. Combine the remaining ingredients and gently stir into the zucchini mixture until blended. Divide the batter equally between two greased and floured loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour. Cool in pans 10 minutes. Turn out on wire racks to finish cooling. Makes two loaves.



It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.

Jerry Seinfeld

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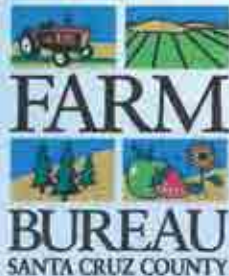
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*Journal of International Law and Economics

113446 *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 2010, 35(1), 1-12. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* is a quarterly journal of health politics, policy, and law. It is the only journal in the field that is devoted to the study of health policy and politics. The journal is published by the American Society of Health Politics, Policy and Law (ASHPPL). The journal is required reading for all those interested in the study of health policy and politics. The journal is also a good source of information on the latest developments in the field of health politics, policy, and law. The journal is available online at <http://jhppl.sagepub.com>.

Capturing Hidden Water in the Landscape

Drought can affect many aspects of how we utilize water as a resource on the farm. The longer the drought, the more our need for clean and potable water grows and the less water there is to extract from groundwater aquifers, the primary source of water in Santa Cruz County. Overuse of groundwater can lead to or has already caused problems like seawater intrusion, ground subsidence, damage to well facilities or other infrastructure, and loss of use. Therefore, finding new ways to obtain water is of increasing importance.

There are other potential sources and ways of capturing water in the landscapes for use in agricultural operations besides pumping it from the ground. Two such ways include subsurface and spring water capture. Subsurface water capture is possible on farm and ranch sites that have high water tables and/or with soil types with buried impervious layers,

conditions that can create shallow underground sources of water. Through the use of a properly designed subsurface drainage system shallow subsurface water can be harvested, treated if necessary, and used as supplement water to reduce demand on groundwater sources.

The second under-realized source of water is from natural springs that may exist on the farm or ranch property. Spring water sources can be substantial or minor but whatever water is retrieved from springs further reduces the need to pump more from wells. *Note: Spring developments may affect surrounding wetlands and wildlife so any development of spring water should consider these resources and be in accordance with any regulatory requirements.* For more information on ways to save and/or develop new water supplies on your farm or ranch contact NRCS at 475-1967.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

By Alan Smith, Attorney at Law, Grunsky, Ebey, Farrar & Howell



Attorneys filed a lawsuit in connection with the 2013 nationwide Hepatitis A outbreak arising from imported pomegranate seeds. The plaintiffs are six children of a Tucson, AZ octogenarian who used a pomegranate product daily in her smoothies. They are

suing Townsend Farms, Inc. which allegedly manufactured Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend. Their mother died in hospice of liver failure within a month of contracting the Hepatitis A virus.

The children are also suing Costco Wholesale for allegedly selling the product and three pomegranate retailers for not testing the seeds it received from another defendant, Goknur Foodstuffs Import Export Trading and Production Co., a Turkish company.

For five months in 2013 over 150 people became ill from

eating the Townsend Farms product and developed a rare strain of Hepatitis A native to the Middle East and North Africa. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was therefore able to pinpoint the cause as the tainted seeds from Turkey. The CDC reported earlier outbreaks in Europe and British Columbia of Hepatitis A laced berries imported from countries like Turkey, Egypt and Morocco. Hepatitis A is transmitted through ingesting fecal matter even at microscopic levels.

The lawsuit will carefully review the process used to make sure the foods were safe before being put on the retail shelf. Most food companies still test foods from partner companies to make sure they are safe to eat.

The original Hepatitis A outbreak hit states from Hawaii to New Hampshire. But nearly half the cases were in California. The Tucson case is the only wrongful death case. The rest were personal injury damages, medical expenses, lost wages and general pain and suffering.

FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

By Mary Lou Nicoletti, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner

DUMP AND DRAIN



Formed in 1993 by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors as a result of public demand, Mosquito Abatement / Vector Control CSA53 is a division of the Agricultural Commissioner. Our mission is to protect the quality of life and property values

here in Santa Cruz County by managing pests that are a threat to public health, such as mosquitoes, rats, flies and yellow jackets, and we also educate the public about bed bugs and ticks and monitor tick-borne diseases. We practice non-pesticide and least-toxic solutions in pest management, and collaborate with resource, regulatory and wildlife agencies.

Heading into a fourth year of record drought, this last year was surprisingly a bad West Nile virus year for the State and particularly for neighboring Santa Clara County. Although we battled large hatches of mosquitoes in our sloughs, we finished the year without a locally-acquired human case.

However, there was more alarming news in the State: exotic *Aedes* mosquitoes were spreading out from infested areas of neighboring San Mateo County, the San Joaquin valley and southern California, and will require our vigilant monitoring. We will also step up our public education, so that the public is aware of these day-biting mosquitoes that can spread dengue fever and chikungunya (breakbone fever). These viruses are not currently in California, but tourists returning from the Caribbean and Central America have contracted the diseases while traveling. It is important to prevent the establishment of these *Aedes* mosquitoes. If you notice black and white striped mosquitoes that bite during the day, please contact us.

Mosquitoes can lay eggs in even the smallest amount of water. Water that stands for more than a week can breed mosquitoes. In this time of drought, people often collect and store water for later use. It is very important to cover containers of water with a screen or mesh to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs. Drain water out of containers, plant saucers, old tires, and any other potential mosquito breeding source. Our office can provide mosquitofish that feed

on mosquito larvae for use in ponds and unused swimming pools.

People should apply repellents containing EPA registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label). Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are most active. Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. More information on mosquitoes and other vectors can be found in the Mosquito Abatement/Vector Control division's link on the Agricultural Commissioner's webpage. The address is www.agdept.com

Thanks to Paul Binding, Vector Control Manager, for assistance with this article.

STABLE STEADY STRONG

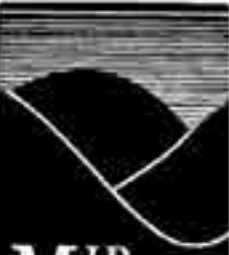
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President's Message - continued from Page 2

all complimentary of working lands, their benefits, services and a commitment to uphold and protect those values. It was undersigned by the Farm Bureau and other organizations; the Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District, Santa Cruz Land Trust and Cal-Poly Foundation.

This is where it gets interesting. This resolution eventually made it to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, who on April 14th 2015, approved the resolution on a 5-0 vote. This approval was hard-won, as the resolution faced considerable opposition. All of the supervisors were under tremendous pressure to substantially change or gut the wording to neutralize it. Bear in mind that this resolution causes no change in policy, rules, regulations, laws or anything else for that matter. It was opposed because it was a county level policy statement that gave intrinsic value to working lands, an ideal opposed by some.

Farm Bureau was very supportive of this resolution. Our participation, on behalf of our members, was to craft a strong supportive document that could become a worthwhile county policy statement. No one organization could have carried this alone and without a broad base of support, Supervisors may have yielded to pressures and rendered it useless. Farm Bureau's participation in this process was lengthy and often frustrating, but resulted in a policy statement supportive and protective of local working lands. Without the time investment and commitment to see the process through, the outcome would have been different.

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CALENDAR

FRIDAY - MAY 8
Focus Agriculture, Session 3

WEDNESDAY - MAY 13
YF&R meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 14
Down to Earth Women
Luncheon, Rancho Corralitos,
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

THURSDAY - MAY 28
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission

THURSDAY - MAY 28
Board of Directors' meeting

MONDAY - MAY 25
Memorial Day Observed
Office Closed

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 3
• Legislative Committee
meeting
• Executive Committee
meeting
• Membership Committee
meeting

FRIDAY - JUNE 5
Focus Agriculture, Session 4

MONDAY - JUNE 8
Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 10
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

SUNDAY - JUNE 14
Flag Day

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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