Two hundred twenty people gathered in Salinas recently to develop an action plan after reviewing the results of an 18-month study of farmworker housing conditions in the Salinas Valley and Pajaro Valley. The consultant team of California Institute for Regional Studies presented the data from an analysis of agricultural workers in the region and surveys of 420 farmworkers, 65 employers, and 32 stakeholders during harvest 2017. The California Coalition for Rural Housing described their research on best practices in the western US: case studies, sites, financing strategies, alternative types of housing, and effective regulatory reforms.

The idea for the study began in August 2015, when the Building Healthy Communities (BHC)-East Salinas Housing Workgroup submitted a letter to the City of Salinas requesting that the Draft Housing Element 2015-2023 include an action to “conduct a special study that requires a scientific community survey and/or a survey of agricultural employers in the county to further define housing needs of farm labor workforce, financing constraints and opportunities, and best practices.” The Salinas City Council agreed to the request and added the study to the Housing Element, but expanded the scope to be regional, since it is an issue that doesn’t stop at the city boundaries.

An Oversight Committee of twenty-eight organizations has guided the study since June 2016 with representatives from the funding partners and agricultural business interests such as Grower-Shipper Association of Central California and County Farm Bureaus, affordable housing developers and farmworker advocates.

The key findings of the study were that farmworkers housing in the region is severely overcrowded and that the most significant need is for permanent farmworker family housing in the Salinas-Pajaro laborshed. An overall goal to produce 5,300 permanent, affordable farmworker housing units over the next five years would help to stabilize the agriculture workforce in the region. For a safe and secure food supply for our country, and maintaining the strength of agriculture in the regional economy, farmers need a reliable and healthy workforce, who need affordable housing.

You're Invited
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

101st Annual Dinner/Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2018
Cowell Ranch Hay Barn at UC Santa Cruz
Get your reservations early!
Call (831) 724-1356 or visit www.sccfb.com/eventbrite
“In agriculture, the challenge upon us is to build the necessary resilience to sustain productive food systems that draw upon the intelligence of nature, while at the same time nourish the world’s living community as a whole.”

Warm weather, the replenishing rains and the noticeably longer daylight hours awaken the familiar urgency of spring; the “itch” to farm is in full swing and another season is upon us. The uncertainty of the weather is always on a farmer’s mind and this spring has been no different. February was warm and dry, March was cold and wet. Many of us apple growers are worried about another abnormal and delayed blooming cycle caused by uneven and low winter chill, similar to conditions we experienced only three years ago in 2015. Farmers by nature continuously adjust to their changing environment; however, when the pace and intensity of change accelerates with more frequent and extreme weather (heatwaves, fires, floods and droughts), it is more difficult and costly to adapt.

The digital age we are living in is the result of creative human achievements and our ability to adapt to our changing environment. It is driven by human creativity and agriculture is no exception. Computers and computing technologies have been evolving at an exponential rate resulting in the development of new tools and capabilities never imagined only a few years ago. The Internet, cloud computing, smartphones and an infinite number of software applications have revolutionized the flow and mobility of information. Today, information is fast, free and universally networked and accessible. All someone has to do is slide a finger across the screen of a smartphone to be connected globally. The rate of change the digital age is generating in every aspect of our individual and collective lives is unprecedented. In agriculture, GPS guided tractors, digital mapping and field data collection tools, scanning and tracking equipment to trace crops from seed to consumer, drone technology and remote monitoring of energy and water use are just a few examples.

Like with any tool, if used in a positive way, its power for change can be channeled for the common good. In agriculture the
Worth Looking Out for New Diseases

**Question:** I understand that downy mildew can be a serious problem on various type of iceplants in California?

**Answer:** Downy mildews have been increasingly important on ornamental plants over the last several years in California. Now downy mildew has been found in California on iceplants. Downy mildew was detected by officials on *Aptenia cordifolia* (red apple iceplant) in San Diego County in 2016. In San Diego it was found to be widespread in landscapes on this species in shaded areas and areas with limited periods of direct sunlight. In the Monterey Bay Area, it was found on *Delosperma* ‘Orange Wonder’ in a nursery following the very wet spring in 2017. It is also known to have been found on other species in the Aizoaceae including: *Dorotheanthus bellidiformis* (Livingstone daisy) in New Zealand and *Mesembryanthemum* in Denmark. Note that downy mildew has not been found on what is commonly called “highway iceplant” (*Carpobrotus edulis*), which is found infesting our local beaches and was commonly planted on our highway’s median strips.

**Question:** What causes downy mildew on these iceplants?

**Answer:** *Peronospora mesembryanthemi* causes downy mildew disease in its host plants. Downy mildews are fairly specific in the host plants that they attack so, in this case, as noted the hosts of *P. mesembryanthemi* are found within the plant family Aizoaceae. It is likely that the pathogen survives as mycelium and/or conidia (spores) in infected plant buds, plant debris, leaf tissue and shoots.

In general, downy mildews can be severe in cool or warm (but not hot), high humid climates and when a film of water is present on plant tissue. They primarily cause foliar blights and rapidly spread in young green leaf, twig and fruit tissues. They produce spores on the ends of stalks and the spores can be carried by wind and rain to new infection sites of the same or different plant. The pathogen can be present in soil associated with host and non-host plants and therefore, can spread by any means that aids in the movement of soil and/or water from infected plants to noninfected ones. The pathogen can spread through contaminated plant cuttings, transplants, fresh leaves and sometimes within seeds.
This article has nothing to do with the Irish, but “Luck of the Pajaronians” just is too hard to grasp. The Irish never seemed to have any luck, thus the faint praise. Unlike the Irish, we are lucky to live and farm here. The downside of our good fortune is a limited amount of good farm land and way expensive housing. Since this is Between the Furrows, let’s just consider the prime ag land.

The luck of the Irish is more apt for our fellow farmers in Kern County, but again Luck of the Bakersfieldians is an even worse title. Bakersfield ranks 1, 2 and 3 in the Air Resources Board (ARB) air pollution index. This is not a title you strive to attain. On the other hand, it is the top ranked ag county in the state with over $7.2 billion in annual production, Monterey is 4th with $4.25 billion and tiny Santa Cruz comes in at 22nd with about $637 million. Six of the top seven counties are in the San Joaquin Valley producing about $28 billion, or slightly more than Iowa, the #2 ranked ag state after California. California’s annual 2016/2017 ag production was $46,041,467.

The San Joaquin Valley is fortunate that it has mountain rivers to provide water, and sits on a truly gigantic groundwater basin. Unfortunately, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed in 2014 requiring all critically overdrafted basins to become sustainable by 2040. Good luck with that in Bakersfield.

Annual groundwater overdraft in the San Joaquin Valley is estimated to be about 2,000,000 ac.ft./yr., although some Department of Water Resources (DWR) research shows the amount could be as high as 5M ac.ft/yr. Over 50% of this overdraft is in Kern and Kings Counties, at the southern end of the valley. Fallowing land to make up for the overdraft becomes a real specter, unless there are alternative water sources. Irrigation districts cover some of the area, so in an average year their customers receive close to their needs and the remainder pump water from wells. Many farms have only wells. Fallowing ag land with only wells would take over 250,000 acres out of production in these two counties, or almost equal to all the irrigated land in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

The obvious result is a sudden decline in farm land value since SGMA. Here is a tale of those in irrigation districts and those left out. While almond land values went crazy high a few years ago, and are gradually returning to logic, farm land values have declined, based on actual sales, between 15 and 30% in the past two years for land with only well water. Out of town investors are moving on before 2020 when the local groundwater agencies must adopt a program to bring their aquifers into balance.

Monterey, which has spent $100s of millions on water storage, recycling and recharge projects over the decades has seen no such decline in values. The Pajaro Valley, with our almost historic Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), which may achieve sustainability as soon as 2025, has seen an increase in crop land values.

As Will Rogers said (he seems to have been quoted a lot) “Buy land, they ain’t making more of it.” (In full disclosure, he was also the developer of Beverly Hills, named after his wife.)

I’m a Farm Bureau Member because...

“Farm Bureau is an advocate for my industry in both Sacramento and Washington DC”.

John E. Eiskamp, Berries, SCCFB Past President
Mushroom Pizza Bites

INGREDIENTS:
8 ounces Monterey Mushrooms® Baby Bellas
1/2 cup pizza sauce (marinara, alfredo or pesto)
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
Pizza toppings of your choice
Topping ideas: Mini turkey pepperoni, sausage, olives, parsley, red pepper flakes

DIRECTIONS:
Preheat oven to 375°F. Remove stems by snapping loose, discard. Gently wipe the mushroom caps with damp paper towel.
Spoon 1/4-1/2 teaspoon pizza sauce into each mushroom cap, then top with shredded cheese and pizza toppings of your choice.
Bake the pizza bites on a non-stick sprayed, foil-lined baking sheet for 15 minutes or until cheese is completely melted and slightly bubbly.
Serve warm.

This recipe comes to us courtesy of Monterey Mushrooms and their downloadable book, “Mushroom Small Bites and Beer Pairings” which is available on their website at https://info.montereymushrooms.com. According to the book “Baby bella mushrooms pair with pale ales and IPAs because of their deep, earthy flavor and meaty texture. Baby bella mushrooms may be used to sauté, grill or bake.” Download your copy and enjoy our locally grown mushrooms.

President’s Message - Continued from Page 2
challenge upon us is to build the necessary resilience to sustain productive food systems that draw upon the intelligence of nature, while at the same time nourish the world’s living community as a whole. It remains to be seen if we can mitigate the impact of our collective human footprint.

Of course, when I make a comment at the dinner table about how fast technology is changing our lives, my 13 year-old daughter just rolls her eyes and says the obvious: “Daddy, you sound like an old man”. Admittedly, at my age, I am not of the same millennial, tech-savvy mindset as she is and I am grateful when she helps me maneuver through smartphone settings or social media applications. When I listen to my children and observe the thousands of students who tour our fields and orchards, I am optimistic that creative and shared ideas will flow quickly through the globally connected networks our younger generation use to meet the global challenges and adapt to the accelerated rate of change happening all around us.
Maintaining Electrical Systems And Machinery

The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.

If not detected and corrected early, excessive heat due to problems with electrical or mechanical systems can lead to equipment failures, lengthy production shut-downs and catastrophic fires.

More than two-thirds of electrical system failures can be prevented by having a routine preventive maintenance program. In fact, the failure rate of electrical equipment is three times higher for components that aren’t part of a scheduled preventive maintenance program.

Infrared thermography is the practice of using specialized electronic cameras to identify heat patterns and, in special situations, to measure temperatures. The most typical type of thermography cameras produce live and still images of heat radiation, called thermograms or thermographs. Thermal imaging cameras can detect very minor temperature differentials that can be useful in analyzing potential problem areas in your electrical production equipment.

Benefits of thermographic surveys

• Early detection of problem areas, allowing sufficient time to acquire replacement parts or perform necessary maintenance
• More accurate estimates of equipment life span
• Reduction or prevention of emergency maintenance
• Improved overall productivity and profitability

Who should consider thermographic surveys?

• Businesses with very limited operational seasons that cannot tolerate even minimal downtime
• Businesses with continuous multiple shifts, which do not permit extended maintenance periods
• Operations with critical equipment that could pose a severe bottleneck to production, or which have a substantial replacement lead time
• Businesses with budgets that want to reduce maintenance costs

Nationwide maintains a staff of trained Level 1 certified thermographers available to conduct site surveys of your facility. Associates are located in Alabama, California, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio and Oklahoma, but surveys outside of these states can be arranged.

Upon completion of the site survey, a report is provided that includes thermal images of any potential problem areas and recommendations for corrective actions.

To learn more or to request a thermal imaging survey, contact your agribusiness risk management consultant at Nationwide by calling 1-800-228-6700 or visit nationwide.com/cfbf.

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MyNSightOnline.com features extensive risk management and safety expertise articles. Nationwide customers can log into MyNSightOnline to access additional risk management tools, resources, training and worker’s compensation information developed specifically for farmers and ranchers. Simply visit Farm.NationwideAgribusiness.com to log in or click “Sign up for account access.” For help signing up, contact the Farm Service Center at 1-800-418-3188.

“‘I’ve learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way (s)he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.”

Maya Angelou
The Food Safety Modernization Act

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law by President Obama on January 4, 2011. This law gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate how food is processed, and oversight over agricultural practices to help prevent food contamination. The goal of the program is to find ways to prevent foodborne illnesses. According to FDA statistics 48 million people (1 in 6) get sick every year, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 deaths are reported from foodborne illness. FDA will be collaborating with State Departments of Agriculture for oversight and compliance. FSMA will be implemented through the California Produce Safety Program operating under the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s (CDFA) Inspection Services Division. The program aims to help California farmers comply with FSMA.

During 2018 CDFA will work to ensure California produce farmers understand the requirements of the Produce Safety Rule. In 2019, CDFA will begin conducting on-farm inspections to verify compliance with the Produce Safety Rule. CDFA will educate farmers on how to comply with the requirements.

Compliance requirements include:

- Agricultural Water: testing of water for microbial water quality, implementation date of 2022;
- Biological Soil Amendments: set standards for application of raw manure and harvesting dates, and stabilized compost;
- Sprouts: set standards to prevent contamination of sprouts. These have been frequently associated with foodborne illness. The standard will include testing of irrigation water and growing medium for harmful microbes;
- Domesticated and Wild Animals: growers will be required to conduct visual inspections in growing areas and take necessary measures to identify and not harvest produce that is suspected to be contaminated;
- Worker Training, Health & Hygiene: includes taking measures to prevent contamination of produce by ill or infected persons, implementation of hygienic practices such as hand washing and taking measures to prevent contamination of produce by visitors;
- Equipment, Tools and Buildings: set standards for proper sanitation of equipment, buildings and storage facilities to prevent contamination.

The Produce Safety Rule is a law that applies to all produce farms in the US. California fruit, vegetable and nut farms must follow the Produce Safety Rule. Beginning January 26, 2018, produce farms designated as “large” (those with annual sales greater than $500,000) are expected to comply. Smaller farms will be phased in over the next few years. Farms that grow produce only for personal consumption or limited distribution may be exempt. Exemption status will be verified.

A list of exemptions from the Produce Safety Rule can be found at: https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm#exemptions

Approved grower training courses, CDFA subsidized training, how to schedule an on-farm readiness review, required practices, resources to understand required practices, how to comply with the produce safety rule and frequently asked questions can be found at:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/producesafety/about.html

A smile is something that you cannot just give away. It will always come back to you.
In early 1868, almost exactly one hundred fifty years ago, Watsonville’s first settlers were applying to the State legislature to organize as the “Town of Watsonville” as a municipal corporation to be controlled by an elected Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile in Washington DC, Congress faced critical issues resulting from the defeat of the Confederacy in the Civil War. Black slaves had been freed by the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery, but did not yet have the right to vote. Nor were they yet counted in a state’s total population for legislative representation in Congress or taxation. Republicans were concerned that full Congressional representation of freed slaves in the South would dilute Congressional representation and therefore reduce power in the North since freed slaves still could not vote. The US Constitution still excluded “three fifths of all other persons.”

There was also a desire, particularly in the North to establish Constitutional civil rights guarantees for African Americans rather than rely on temporary political majorities. There was much debate and more than seventy versions of the 14th amendment considered between the first in 1865 and the last version on June 18, 1866.

The state legislatures of every former Confederate state refused to ratify it. As a stop-gap, Congress, (still composed of only Northern states) passed the Reconstruction Acts and then in March 1867, Congress passed a law that no former confederate state could be entitled to representation in Congress unless it first ratified the 14th Amendment. This law accelerated the process so that the required 28 states had ratified the 14th amendment by July 1868, only four months after Watsonville’s incorporation.

The 14th Amendment is one of the most significant amendments to the US Constitution. It requires the States to afford all people equal protection under the law, including non-citizens. The due process clause of the 14th amendment has been held by federal courts to prohibit state and local government from denying life, liberty or property without due process of law. The 14th Amendment also makes many of the first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights, applicable to state and local government. Until judicial interpretation applying it to the states, it was thought that due process restrictions applied only to the federal government and not the states.

2018 Calendar of Events

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

101th Annual Meeting
Cowell Ranch Hay Barn at UCSC
June 21, 2018
5:45 p.m.

California State Fair
Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA
July 13 through July 29, 2018

25th Annual Golf Tournament
Seascape Golf Club
12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 13, 2018

Santa Cruz County Fair
September 12 through September 16, 2018

Annual Directors’ Dinner
Location to be determined
November 1, 2018
5:45 p.m.

CFBF 100th Annual Meeting
Reno, NV
December 2 through December 5, 2018

Agri-Culture

11th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon
Driscoll’s Rancho Corralitos
May 10, 2018
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

10th Annual Testicle Festival
Estrada Deer Camp
August 18, 2018
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

21st Annual Progressive Dinner
Location: Top Secret!
October 27, 2018
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
How To Estimate The Irrigation System Run Times For Mature Strawberries Based On Soil Type And Irrigation System Configuration

In an agricultural field, the soil acts like a tank, holding water for plant uptake, just like the tank of your car holds gas. The size of your soil tank is determined by the soil type of the field and by the depth of the root system of a crop. Applying water beyond what the soil can hold will cause drainage below the root zone and water will be wasted, just like overfilling the tank of your car would cause gasoline to overflow. The quantity of water that a drip irrigation system applies in one hour depends on the configuration of the system and on the driptape flowrate.

The table below indicates the run times needed for different irrigation systems to fill the soil tank of different soil types for mature strawberries. The idea here is, whenever you decide to irrigate, don’t exceed the run times corresponding to the maximum holding capacity of your soil. The table is intended as a quick reference tool and not as an alternative to advanced tools such as soil analysis, soil sensors, etc. Additionally, some amount of drainage can be beneficial in some cases to leach salts.

Clay soils have high water storage capacity (up to 2 inches of water per foot of soil), while sandy soils have low water holding capacity (about 0.5 inches per foot of soil). Typical irrigation management allows only a fraction of this storage capacity to be depleted between irrigations in order to maintain high soil moisture and to maximize yields. This fraction is called maximum allowable depletion or MAD. In the table, a maximum allowable depletion of 20% was used because strawberry is very sensitive to water stress. A root depth of 12 inches (typical of mature strawberry) was used. Smaller amounts of water (and smaller run times) should be used for young plantings.

The soil type does not determine the total quantity of water used by your crop in a week or in a month, just like the size of your gas tank does not determine how much gasoline you need to drive to San Francisco. The size of your gas tank will determine how many times you stop for gas, and how much gas you pump each time. Thus, a sandy soil will require a larger number of irrigation events, with smaller quantities of water applied, while a clay soil will require fewer irrigations, with more water applied each time. It is recommended to get your soil tested in a lab, but you can get an estimate of your soil type from the USDA soil survey here: https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/

In the calculations, a distribution uniformity (DU) of 0.9 was used. DU is essentially the efficiency of your irrigation system, if you have a bad distribution uniformity, you need more water to apply the same quantity of water, to make up for poor uniformity. Just like you need more gas to drive to San Francisco if your car gets low gas mileage.

How to use the table: Jason grows organic strawberries in loamy sand, with 52” beds, 2 driplines per bed and a 0.65gpm/100ft drip tape. He should run the system 46 minutes per irrigation. Alejandra grows organic strawberries in clay loam, with 48” beds, 2 driplines per bed and a driptape flowrate of 0.4 gpm/100ft. She can irrigate up to 2 hours and 27 minutes.

For more information, or for a free irrigation system evaluation or irrigation management assistance, contact the RCD of Santa Cruz County: (831) 464-2950, info@rcdsantacruz.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tape Flowrate gpm/100ft</th>
<th>Application rate inch/hour</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Clay Loam</th>
<th>Loam</th>
<th>Sandy Loam</th>
<th>Loamy Sand</th>
<th>Fine Sand</th>
<th>Coarse Sand</th>
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<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>3 hrs 14 min</td>
<td>3 hrs 7 min</td>
<td>2 hrs 35 min</td>
<td>1 hrs 50 min</td>
<td>1 hrs 28 min</td>
<td>1 hrs 6 min</td>
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<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.18</td>
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<td>0.22</td>
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<td>0 hrs 60 min</td>
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<td>1 hrs 41 min</td>
<td>1 hrs 38 min</td>
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<td>0.30</td>
<td>1 hrs 38 min</td>
<td>1 hrs 35 min</td>
<td>1 hrs 18 min</td>
<td>0 hrs 56 min</td>
<td>0 hrs 45 min</td>
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<td>0.16</td>
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<td>0.15</td>
<td>3 hrs 13 min</td>
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<td>1 hrs 50 min</td>
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<td>2 hrs 56 min</td>
<td>2 hrs 25 min</td>
<td>1 hrs 43 min</td>
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<td>1 hrs 3 min</td>
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</tbody>
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* A Maximum Allowable Depletion of 0.2, and a Distribution Uniformity of 0.9 were used
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Attendees included the mayors of Watsonville and Gonzales, Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo; staff from the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, Monterey and Santa Cruz; farmers and labor contractors from the region and Ventura County; members of the Study's Oversight Committee, surveyors of the farmworkers; staff from Sacramento's CA State Office of Monitor Advocate for farmworkers, US Department of Agriculture, and Monterey County Agriculture Commissioner.

In breakout discussion sessions, attendees discussed nearly 60 potential actions in a Draft Action Plan in the areas of suitable sites, financing, regulatory reforms, and housing types. Based on feedback at the Forum, the Action Plan was revised and will be reviewed at a follow-up meeting on May 16, 2018. Forum participants agreed that continuing regional collaboration is key to implementation. Responsibilities and timeline will be identified in the refined Action Plan.
CALENDAR

THURSDAY - MAY 10
Down to Earth Women Luncheon

MONDAY - MAY 14
Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 24
Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 31
Board of Directors’ meeting

FRIDAY - JUNE 1
Focus Agriculture, Session 4

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 6
• Legislative Committee meeting
• Executive Committee meeting
• Membership Committee meeting

MONDAY - JUNE 11
Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 13
Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

THURSDAY - JUNE 21
101st Annual Meeting

THURSDAY - JUNE 28
Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee meeting

THURSDAY - JUNE 28
Board of Directors’ meeting

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 27
Focus Agriculture, Session 5

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