e fittow Ween R A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

MAY 2019 VOLUME 43, ISSUE 5

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

Agri-Culture's Scholarship Programs

he organization, Agri-Culture, has several successful scholarship programs available to students who reside within Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. Below we have summarized these available scholarships and highlighted some of the applicants who have been chosen to receive the scholarship.

The JIMMIE COX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP is a \$4,000 scholarship for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture. This award will be allocated for the remaining years in college (max. 4 years) with verification of registration for each session of full-time classes. This award is made possible through the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship Fund and a \$2,000 contribution from American AgCredit.

The latest recipients of this award were announced at the March 13th National Agriculture Day Luncheon. They were Joseph Ramirez from St. Francis High School in Watsonville, who was



Joseph Ramirez

the winner of the \$4,000 scholarship. Also, Henry Danner was awarded a one-time \$1,000 scholarship. Henry is a senior at Scotts Valley High School.

Henry Danner

The **JEANNIE WITMER**

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP is a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Students active (past or present) in California High School Rodeo

Association, District 4 (San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, Contra Costa, Alameda and San Francisco counties) or California 4-H Horse program, may apply for this scholarship to be used at a college or professional technical school of choice.

The most recent recipient of the Jeanne

Witmer Memorial Scholarship was Jillian Murray, a graduate of Oakdale Charter High School who is now attending Fresno State University. Jillian was an



active participant in both Jr. High School and High School Rodeo, 4-H and FFA Livermore Chapter.

The JJ CROSETTI, JR. MEMORIAL FUND was established in 2015. This is a \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture. This



Ashley Devery

award will be allocated for the remaining years in college (max. 4 years) with verification of registration for each session of full-time classes.

The first recipient of this Scholarships continued on Page 7

Get Your Reservations Early!! 102nd Annual Dinner Meeting Wednesday, June 26, 2019

More information coming soon!!



"Farmers will find new ways to market and sell crops, models of community supported agriculture, home produce delivery, and the marketing of "ugly" produce. **Farmers in Santa Cruz County have** changed the face of agriculture over the last hundred years. They have lead the way with their Ingenuity"

President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT

Change On The Farm

pring is a time of change. The rain of winter has finally given way to the sunshine of spring. Cover crops are disced, ground that has been fallowed over the winter is turned, apple trees break their dormancy. An influx of human activity starts in the strawberry fields that were planted last fall. Change is constant on the farm. The weather from one day to the next, the change of seasons, an evolving climate, changes in pest pressure, change of varieties, change in crops, market conditions, and consumer expectations.

While constant, change is not always embraced. Change can be hard. Human beings are creatures of habit and we generally

resist change. Successful farmers embrace change. One quote, unofficially attributed to Albert Einstein, is that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. If you want different results than what you're getting, you have to try a different approach. This requires change. Taking a new look at a problem, being willing to try a new tactic to find an effective solution.

Farmers today face challenges daily in every aspect of the

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operations they manage. Climate change is impacting temperature and rainfall patterns. New laws and regulations have made agricultural labor subject to new overtime burdens, pesticide regulations are becoming more restrictive, and additional restrictions around water use and nutrient reporting are being proposed. Consumer and societal expectations for environmental stewardship are growing.

To stay competitive, farmers will need to adopt new information technologies to help keep up with the monitoring and reporting requirements. Automation will be needed to alleviate the shortage of agricultural

President's Message - Continued on Page 9



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Information on Fruit Rot

Q• I heard that now that all the rain has stopped we are in the clear as far as fruit rot is concerned. Is that true?

A No, the end of the rain does not mean our fruit rot problems are over.

While this may be correct thinking about some of the diseases which occur on foliage, for example rust on raspberry and downy mildew on blackberry, this is not necessarily the case for fruit rots. In particular, the disease gray mold, caused by *Botrytis cinerea*, will start to show up several weeks after the rains have abated.

Understanding the biology of *Botrytis* will point out why, and furthermore, can help crop managers get better traction on controlling this disease.

Botrytis is mostly propagated by spores which are spread around by the wind and rain and thrive when there is a lot of moisture around. Spores will not germinate on the surface of uninjured fruit or foliage, and will rather do so on open flowers. The flower is susceptible since the spores land on the sticky surface of the flower's stigma, germinate on the fluid there and then start to grow down deeper via a threadlike extension called mycelia into the flower thereafter. This infection of the flower, after a time, goes dormant; but, as the fruit nears maturity and the soluble solids (think sugars) within in it reach a suitable concentration, the mycelia resume growing and ends up rotting the fruit.

The fact that the greatest risk of *Botrytis* infection takes place when the flowers are open and there is a lot of free moving water around during a period of time from rain, heavy fog and dew, gives growers, and others tasked with the protection of the crop, very good information on optimizing the use of any antifungal measure. Any placement of crop protection materials should take place before these moist conditions so as to protect the flowers rather than after when the disease becomes obvious, but then too late to control it.

The above has been a brief clarification of managing gray mold caused by *Botrytis cinerea* in strawberries and caneberries. Please contact Mark Bolda at UCCE Santa Cruz if you have more questions on this topic or any other topics concerning blackberry, raspberry or strawberry production.



HE WATER NANNY

Nothing to See Here

Where, nothing to see here", is the new approach to hemp farming. Now you may correctly point out that hemp and cannabis look identical, and are, with the caveat that industrial hemp contain less than 0.3% THC. Since this is Santa Cruz, the land of hippies on Medicare, you may wonder why anyone wants a joint that doesn't get them high; wonder no more. The cannabinol of importance in hemp is CBD, the most used over the counter drug with no medicinal or safety research.

The long story is that cannabis is a Federal Schedule 1 controlled substance, a category reserved for drugs that have "no currently accepted medical use." This is a circular definition since no research can be conducted for medicinal uses, as there are none by definition. Apparently the academic background for this finding was watching *Reefer Madness* in the 30's.

California, and other states, have legalized medicinal and/ or recreational (adult) marijuana, while it is still a federal crime. Many states have legalized growing cannabis. Some states have even worked to address hemp production. But it was not until the 2018 Farm Bill included an amendment, sponsored by Speaker Mitch McConnell, that hemp with less than 0.3% THC, became not cannabis. Of note, this will be a boon for Kentucky farmers as tobacco is not so profitable now. The Farm Bill turns hemp into an agricultural commodity. It even allows for interstate transportation, crop insurance and university research.



So all is good with hemp? Not so fast. Santa Cruz County's new cannabis law provides: (D) "Cannabis" means all parts of the plant Cannabis sativa Linnaeus, Cannabis indica, or Cannabis ruderalis, whether growing or not, as defined under the California Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act at Business

and Professions Code Section 26001(f), as may be amended.

State B&P code §26001 (f) "Cannabis" means all parts of the plant Cannabis sativa Linnaeus, Cannabis indica, or Cannabis ruderalis, whether growing or not. ... For the purpose of

this division, **"cannabis" does not mean "industrial hemp"** as defined by Section 11018.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

H&S §11018.5. "(a) "Industrial hemp" means a crop that is limited to types of the plant Cannabis sativa L. having no more than three-tenths of 1 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) contained in the dried flowering tops, ... shall be regulated by the Department of Food and Agriculture ..."



This makes hemp an agricultural crop, while cannabis is a horse of a different color. So while hemp and cannabis are the same plant, look the same, smell similar and can be grown in identical fields, one version of the plant, hemp, is regulated by the County Agricultural Commissioner, and common pot is regulated by the County Planning Department and Cannabis Tsar. The Regional Water Board places hemp in the Ag Order, but cannabis is subject to the Cannabis General Order. With a state and county license you can now grow cannabis, but it is not possible to grow hemp as there are no adopted regulations at this time.

The Monterey County Ag Commissioner's website summarized this succinctly: "Registration with the Agricultural Commissioner may be available in early 2019. Planting of hemp is not permitted **at this time.** ... Any landowners who are approached by hemp growers seeking to lease ground should contact the Agricultural Commissioner."

There are several practical problems with this schizophrenic regulatory scheme. Since hemp is a weak-kneed version of cannabis, if the hemp plant is stressed during cultivation the THC may easily be higher than 0.3%. The sales woman at the local dispensary said some strains of cannabis may have over 30% THC. *Leafly*, an online pot blog, notes that high CBD low THC plants can have up to 20% CBD and THC under 5%, still way above the hemp de minimis limit. What is the Sheriff or the Ag Commissioner to do when they seize bags of non-licensed resinous buds or inspect an immature field of "hemp"? "*May the forces of evil become confused on the way to your house.*" (George Carlin)



FAVORITE RECIPES

Quick Chicken in Wine

This recipe comes from a cookbook put together by the Mothers' Guild of Moreland Notre Dame School in Watsonville somewhere around the late 1970's or early 1980's. My copy has been well used and the cover is no longer attached. I chose a recipe to share that was submitted by Sandi Miller, who at that time was the mother of two daughters and an active member of the Mothers' Guild. Hope you enjoy her recipe and this little blast from the past.

1/2 cup flour	6 slices bacon	6 halved carrots
1 teaspoon salt	6 small onions, peeled	1 cup burgundy wine
1/4 teaspoon pepper	1/2 teaspoon salt	1 clove garlic, crushed
3 pounds chicken, cut up	1/2 pound fresh mushrooms	

Wash, trim and slice mushrooms. In a bowl mix flour, salt and pepper. Coat the chicken with flour mixture. In large frying pan, cook bacon until crisp; drain on paper towel. Brown chicken well in hot bacon drippings, set aside. Add onions and mushrooms to pan and brown. Pour off fat. Crumble bacon and add to the pan along with the chicken. Add the remaining ingredients, carrots, burgundy and garlic, and season with remaining salt if necessary. Cover and cook slowly for 1 1/4 hours until chicken is tender. Serves 6



Winning Poster & Poem from National Ag Day

Below is the 2019 Poster Contest winner drawn by Luna Caddes, 6th grade, Santa Cruz Montessori

On the right is the 2019 Poetry Contest winner written by **Bridget Smith, 7th grade, Monte Vista Christian School**



Waves of Green

Everyday I drive past the fields of ripe fruit. I watch the colorful plants grow on my daily commute. Waves of green leaves ripple across my vision. The blackberries, carrots, and apples more beautiful than I could envision. I see the sprouts building from the ground into the fresh air I see them turn into fruit and vegetables beyond compare. They bloom in the warming light of the sun, and are tended to by farmer's gentle hands for everyone. There is a story behind the food that ends up on your plate. A tale of how it was cared for right in your state "Agriculture, the Driginal Green

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Submitted by Alan J. Smith, Attorney at Law The Grunsky Law Firm

RoundUp Litigation News



his article briefly summarizes the latest news on cancer litigation over the herbicide RoundUp as of April 22, 2019. Bayer bought St. Louis-based Monsanto, maker of Roundup, last year.

The first Roundup cancer trial, Dewayne "Lee" Johnson v. Monsanto Co., a

California state court case, resulted in a \$289.2 million jury verdict in August 2018. However, the judge later reduced the damage award to \$78.5 million. Monsanto (now Bayer) filed an appeal.

The second case, Edwin Hardeman v. Monsanto Co., in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California resulted in an \$80 million jury verdict against Monsanto. The Jury Verdict Form filed March 27, 2019 found \$200,967.10 in past economic loss, \$3,066,667 in past non-economic loss and \$2,000,000 in future economic loss and \$75,000,000 in punitive damages. A proposed judgement was filed April 5 for \$80,267,634.10. As of April 18, Monsanto has filed an undertaking for an appeal.

Hardeman's lawyers provided research on the harmful effects of glyphosate, the key ingredient in Roundup, in the second phase of the trial. The Environmental Protection Agency released an assessment in 2017 that concluded that glyphosate is not carcinogenic. However, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a part of the World Health Organization, reported in 2015 that <u>the chemical likely does cause cancer</u>.

The third case is Alva and Alberta Pilliod v. Monsanto Co. (Case No. RG17862702, JCCP No. 4953). Pilliod is the first Roundup non-Hodgkin lymphoma lawsuit from the California Roundup Judicial Council Coordination Proceedings (JCCP) to go to trial. Hundreds of lawsuits filed in California state courts are consolidated in the Roundup JCCP before Judge Winifred Smith for the Superior Court of Alameda County. <u>some 8,700</u> people who blame their cancer on Bayer's recently acquired Monsanto unit.

Alva and Alberta Pilliod, both in their 70s, are plaintiffs in the third lawsuit against Monsanto to go to trial. Twelve jurors

and five alternates were selected, and opening statements were made in Alameda County Superior Court in Oakland. The trial began March 28 and is expected to end in Early May.

The next Roundup trial starts in October in state court in St. Louis, where Monsanto is based. Two more trials are scheduled there in early 2019. Hundreds more cases are pending in San Francisco, Oakland, California, and Delaware.

If the verdicts stand that Monsanto failed to warn consumers of glyphosate's hazards, Bayer may pull the product for common gardening use and require a license to handle it.

The move would shift liability to users, and while the company would lose household customers, farmers may simply add it to their list of regulatory requirements.



Participate in Santa Cruz County's AgTech Conversation

The Santa Cruz County AgTech Meetup was formed in March, 2015, to facilitate the conversation between produce growersshippers, and technologists in Santa Cruz County. We meet every other month with an agenda that rotates to reflect the "process" growers-shippers go through.

June - Production

August - Harvesting, Productivity Solutions. October - Processing &

Shipping December - Planning and Resource Allocation

February - Land Preparation

April - Planting

The meetups are held in Watsonville on the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Food & Refreshments are provided and the speakers start at 6pm.

Please attend and promote attendance to these unique AgTech conversations. More information can be obtained at:<u>https://www.meetup.com/</u> <u>Santa-Cruz-County-Ag-Tech-</u> <u>Meetup/</u>

AG COMMISSIONER

Submitted by Juan Hidalgo Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights & Measures

Key Reminders To Protect Fieldworkers When Pesticides Are Used



Spring is here and agricultural activities will continue to ramp up as we head into Summer. These activities include determining which fields to harvest, coordinating the best timing of pesticide applications and protecting fieldworkers and others. As you take on this important work

you must keep in mind that **communication** with your own employees and those of neighboring agricultural growers is absolutely essential.

It is strongly recommended that you inform your neighbor of any planned pesticide application at least two (2) days ahead of time so that they can plan their harvesting or other agricultural activities accordingly. Take time to assess any neighboring fields that have recently been treated before you direct your employees to harvest adjacent to those areas. Remember that certain pesticides can have offending odors even after the application has been completed.

It is essential that you and your pesticide handlers remain

alert while conducting pesticide work and take a **proactive** approach to keep fieldworkers and other bystanders safe. Remember to continually monitor the weather and wind direction and be familiar with the application equipment you are using. If you or your pesticide handlers see fieldworkers within 100 feet of the application site, **STOP** the application until you can assess the situation and can determine if it is safe to continue. Keep in mind that thanks to the type of commodities we have in our county, rarely do fieldworkers remain in one location for more than one hour. Fieldworker crews are constantly moving from one part of a field to another. It is best to stop an application and wait until fieldworkers have moved to a safe distance. Remember that protecting the well-being of fieldworkers is everyone's priority.

If you are not sure who your neighbors are, please let us help. Call our office at (831)763-8080 and we will be glad to provide you with that information. Remember that it takes all of us working together to have a safe harvest season and to protect one of our most valuable assets: the **fieldworkers** that play a key role in bringing food from farm to table.

Scholarships continued from Page 1

award was Ashley Devery, who is currently attending Oregon State University. She graduated from Aptos High School in 2016 and is majoring in Agricultural Business. She was an active member in the Corralitos 4-H horse program and a member of the California Scholarship Federation.



The newest scholarship fund is the **LAURA BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**. This is a \$2,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college. This award will be allocated for the remaining years in college (max. 4 years) with verification of registration for each session of fulltime classes. Applicants must be majoring in agriculture or a related

Laura Brown

field...or...majoring in culinary arts. The student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.5 and must reside in Santa Cruz County or the Pajaro Valley. Preference will be given to qualified students who have been members of 4-H.

Selection for all scholarships will be based on the student's scholastic record, agricultural potential, special activities, personal history, letters of recommendation and financial need.

Applications are available at the Agri-Culture office, 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95077. You may also call the office at (831) 722-6622 or visit their website at www. agri-culture.us.

Contributions to these scholarship funds, or any of the funds housed at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Agri-Culture.

Don't miss the opportunity to apply for one of these scholarships. You could be the winner!!



Soil Nitrogen Quick Tests: A Tool To Improve Nitrogen Fertilization Management



The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County and the CDFA Fertilizer Research and Education Program offer free field assistance for irrigators and ranch managers to collect, process and interpret a soil nitrogen quick test for strawberries and vegetables. Equipment, consumables and a step-by-step guide in English and Spanish are provided for free. Availability is filling up quickly! Call the RCD of Santa Cruz County: (831) 464-2950 ext. 14, or email: gspinelli@ rcdsantacruz.org.

El Distrito de Conservación de Santa Cruz y el Programa de Investigación y Educación de Fertilizantes (FREP) de CDFA ofrecen asistencia gratuita para regadores y gerentes de rancho para colectar, procesar e interpretar una muestra rápida de nitrato en el suelo para fresa y vegetales. Se ofrecen gratuitamente equipos, insumos y una guía paso por paso en español y en inglés. Contáctenos pronto, cupos limitados! Distrito de Conservación (831) 464-2950 ext. 14, correo electrónico: gspinelli@ rcdsantacruz.org.





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"Farm Bureau continues to impress me with the representation they give agriculture on local, state and federal issues."

Dick Peixoto, Owner, Lakeside Organic Gardens, Watsonville



"People tell me, 'You're such an optimist.' Am I an optimist? An optimist says the glass is half full. A pessimist says the glass is half empty. A survivalist is practical. He says, 'Call it what you want, but just fill the glass.' I believe in filling the glass."

Louis Zamperini, Don't Give Up, Don't Give In



President's Message - Continued from Page 2

labor and rising costs. New crops will replace old ones; apples giving way to lettuce, then strawberries, raspberries, and the rise of organics. New growing practices are coming into the Pajaro Valley; Cane berries now being grown in containers, increased yields may require a reduction in planted acreage to stay within market tolerances for demand.

Farmers will find new ways to market and sell crops, models of community supported agriculture, home produce delivery, and the marketing of "ugly" produce. Farmers in Santa Cruz County have changed the face of agriculture over the last hundred years. They have lead the way with their ingenuity. Imagine what agriculture will look like in another hundred years. Crops may change, growing practices may change; as long as people eat, there will be farmers and those farmers will adapt to the challenges that face them with resilience growing into the future.



FROM THE FRIDAY REVIEW: AIR QUALITY

The Carl Moyer Program would allow for truck trade-ups under a bill being carried by Senator Cathleen Galgiani, SB 216. The bill would allow fleets that are using Carl Moyer funds to replace relatively new trucks to trade those newer trucks with fleets that have older heavy-duty vehicles. Instead of scrapping the newer trucks, those would be provided to another owner with older vehicles and the older vehicle would be scrapped. Farm Bureau is supporting SB 216, which passed out of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee 7-0. Farmers, agricultural operators, and agricultural processors are being asked to complete the 2019 agricultural equipment survey. This survey will help gather an accurate count of agricultural equipment in California, which will be used to allocate incentive funding to replace agricultural equipment. The previous survey distributed in 2008 helped distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in incentive program funds. The survey is open until May 15, 2019. The survey data will be kept completely anonymous and is being gathered by Cal Poly to ensure that the Air Resources Board doesn't have access to the data submitted by individual farmers. Paper surveys are available to download at https://aqb.calpoly.edu/2018equip-survey?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery or they can be obtained from your County Farm Bureau. Paper surveys are being collected by County Farm Bureaus. Farm Bureau urges participation to help improve distribution of incentive programs to help replace older agricultural trucks and equipment. Staff contact: Noelle Cremers at ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

102nd Annual Meeting

Location to be determined June 26, 2019 5:45 p.m.

California State Fair

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA July 12 through July 28, 2019

26th Annual Golf Tournament

Seascape Golf Club 12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 12, 2019

Santa Cruz County Fair September 11 through September 15, 2019

> Annual Directors' Dinner Location to be determined November 7, 2019 5:45 p.m.

CFBF 101st Annual Meeting Monterey, CA December 2019 TBA

Agri-Culture

12th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos May 9, 2019 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

11th Annual Testicle Festival Estrada Deer Camp August 24, 2019 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

23rd Annual Progressive Dinner To be determined October 26, 2019 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

"Agriculture, the Original Green





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Ruth Bader Ginsburg



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CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY - MAY 8 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 9 12th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

MONDAY -MAY 13 Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 30 Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - MAY 31 Focus Agriculture, Session 4

- WEDNESDAY JUNE 5 Legislative Committee meeting
- Executive Committee
 meeting
- Membership Committee
 meeting

SATURDAY - JUNE 8 Greenhouse Growers Open House

MONDAY -JUNE 10 Public Relations & Information Committee mtg.

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 12 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

WEDNESDAY- JUNE 26 102nd Annual Dinner Meeting

FRIDAY - JUNE 28 Focus Agriculture, Session 5

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