

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

MAY 2025  
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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCoCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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## 2025 Scholarship Recipients

Winners Announced at the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon



From L-R: 2025 National Agriculture Day Scholarship Recipients Jonathan Gutierrez, Sebastian Perez, Odalis Garcia, Andrea Puente and Samuel Garcia

**F**ive college-bound seniors and one student already enrolled in college were awarded scholarships through the organization Agri-Culture at the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon. See more coverage on page 8.

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

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



# President's Message



Dennis Webb, President

## Navigating Trade Uncertainty

In recent months, the agricultural community has faced rising uncertainty surrounding international trade policies. As President of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, I want to share how these developments impact our local farms—and, by extension, the broader economy we all share.

Agriculture in Santa Cruz County has long been a cornerstone of our local prosperity, producing berries, vegetables, wine grapes, and other crops that feed not just our community, but families around the world. Yet, when trade relationships shift abruptly—whether through new tariffs, changing export regulations, or supply chain disruptions—our growers are left navigating unpredictable markets. This affects planning, pricing, hiring, and investment decisions at every level.

The ripple effects extend beyond the fields. Transportation companies, processors, equipment suppliers, and many local businesses depend on a healthy agricultural sector. When growers hesitate to plant or expand due to market uncertainty, the entire local economy feels the impact. Jobs, tax revenue, and community services can all be affected.

One important way we can strengthen our resilience is by continuing to invest in robust local supply chains. By selling more products regionally, supporting local processing and distribution, and strengthening relationships with nearby markets, we can better withstand the volatility of global shifts.

Continued on Page 5



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**Congratulations to Agri-Culture's  
Scholarship Winners and the  
winners of the Farm Bureau's Poster  
and Poetry Contest.**

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# ASK BRIAN

**Brian Woodward, Forestry Advisor,  
UCCE, Santa Cruz County**

## Shothole Borer (SHB)

**Q.** I own property near Felton, and have noticed that my riparian trees are being attacked by the invasive shothole borer (ISHB). What can I do to manage heavily infested trees and prevent its spread?

**A.** As Agricultural Commissioner David Sanford reported in the January edition of *Between the Furrows*, invasive shothole borer (ISHB) has officially reached Santa Cruz County. In an unexpected and unfortunate twist, we recently learned that we are the first county in the western U.S. to host a new species: the Greater Shothole Borer (GSHB), *Euwallacea interjectus*. This species is larger than other ISHB types but causes similar damage and mortality to our riparian trees.

On my regular walks through riparian corridors around Felton and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, I've found this beetle attacking boxelder and other native riparian species in new areas and across property boundaries. As a result, I've received a number of inquiries lately from landowners wondering how best to manage infested trees. While eradication of GSHB is unlikely at this point, there are several steps property owners can take to slow its spread and reduce local beetle populations.

The most effective approach is to locate and manage "amplifier trees." These are trees with heavy GSHB infestation -- typically 150 or more visible entry holes -- and can harbor hundreds to thousands of beetles, becoming major sources of reproduction and spread. These trees should be targeted for removal and the

wood managed carefully to maximize beetle mortality.

After removal, the wood should be chipped, burned, composted, or kiln-dried—as soon as possible. Simply cutting the tree down and leaving it on site won't prevent further spread. The most practical method for most landowners will be chipping the wood and leaving the chips on-site. Chipping down to 1 inch in diameter kills nearly all beetles; even 3 inches is effective in eliminating the majority. Stump grinding is also important, as beetles can survive and reproduce in stumps for many generations.

Keep in mind: it only takes one female beetle hidden in infested wood to spread GSHB to a new area. Do not remove infested wood from the property or use it as firewood or send it to the landfill.

While chipping is generally the most feasible approach, each site is different, and other options may be available. I strongly recommend reviewing the excellent best management practice factsheets at [www.ISHB.org](http://www.ISHB.org). As always, I'm happy to assist with site visits or to discuss management strategies. Feel free to reach out to me anytime at [bdwoodward@ucanr.edu](mailto:bdwoodward@ucanr.edu) or 831-348-7305. ■

# THE WATER NANNY

*"Agriculture, the Original Green"*

## Back to the Future

I look around and find that most everything is frenetic and sudden, so I take refuge in those things that are in slow motion. For example, the Monterey County Water Resources proposed, and much delayed Interlake Tunnel, connecting usually full Lake Nacimiento with seldom full Lake San Antonio for ground water replenishment. As proposed back in 2014 this would cost a princely sum of \$50 million, subject to environmental reviews. Now the project with a spillway modification could cost \$226,355,736, again subject to further CEQA reviews. Not to be outdone the Santa Cruz City is slowly watching the birth of a new library, including 124 affordable rentals, parking for 203 bicycles and 240 cars, to be built on a parking lot on Cathcart and Lincoln streets. The mixed-use library was proposed in 2016, subject to typical Santa Cruz debates, CEQA and protests, with groundbreaking maybe this summer at a cost of only \$154 million, much of due to delays, and the unfortunate relocation of the farmer's market. Ah, the stories I have to tell about project slothfulness, but maybe another day.



In the past we could dream of another future. A future where in 2025 carbon free energy is cheap and plentiful, with solar, wind, hydro, nuclear and batteries disbursed throughout California. A future where

housing is affordable and transportation is readily available. Farmers flourish and fresh food is abundant. This is the story spun in the prolog of the new book, **Abundance** by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson (described by George Will as center-left journalists). Unfortunately, the prolog is the only fictional part of this scholarly text. I seldom (never) have written a book review, but this is a great analysis of how California, the Golden State, and our country, has for years proceeded down a path of chosen scarcity. It outlines a path of unaffordability and shortage, refusal to build housing and not enough workers due to limited immigration. We are not close to clean energy, because we don't build new sources, and reject current opportunities (maybe batteries). We have become very good at focusing on problems and have lost our skill at solving them. Liberals need to recognize

that our government is failing, and conservatives need to understand that government action, and funds, are required to solve problems, so something can be built in our short lives. If you don't like the national news, don't by this book because it is unsettling, even depressing.



Pajaro levee project shows some a possible solution of delay, when Governor Newsom waived CEQA requirements so construction could start without years of review. When the Loma Prieta earthquake collapsed Highway 1 in Watsonville the contractor was paid to immediately start construction, with a bonus for finishing early. This is contrasted with the futuristic and never finished high speed railroad connecting Bakersfield to Merced, with a completion in 2033 (22 miles are completed today) at a cost of \$28-35 billion. Dream on in a world of abundance to travel in three hours by rail from San Francisco to LA.

In Santa Cruz we have what the authors call *lawn-sign liberalism* endorsing Kindness and the Ukraine, and opposing housing, new water projects and removal of plentiful and invasive Eucalyptus trees. Its twin is *everything-bagel liberalism*, which overloads public projects with collateral wonderfulness, like the very expensive rail-trail. Maybe new development ideas could be subject to a time limited CEQA process, where ideas are debated and decisions are made, be it up or down, in a few months, not decades. As farmers, we need to plant our crops at the right season, and not after review so we miss the spring and summer and are then compelled to plant after Halloween. *"Indecision and delays are the parents of failure"* (George Canning) ■



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Strawberry BLT Lettuce Roll-ups

This recipe comes from the California Strawberry Commission recipe website. It sounds like a delicious, light summer lunch or a great addition to a Memorial Day gathering. And there's nothing quite like those sweet local strawberries.

Prep Time: 5 minutes   Cook Time: 10 minutes   Yield: 2   Calories: 329kcal

### Ingredients:

1 head of lettuce (iceberg/romaine/butter)  
3 oz or 6 slices turkey/chicken breast  
8 slices of bacon cooked  
2 Tbsp mayo  
12 California strawberries sliced



### Instructions:

- On a large piece of parchment paper layer 5-6 big lettuce leaves in the middle, as if they are one large single piece of lettuce.
- To the center, add 3 slices of lunchmeat, 1 Tbsp mayonnaise, 4 bacon slices, and half of the sliced strawberries.
- Grab the top and bottom of the large lettuce layer, like you're folding them in together, then start using the parchment paper to help you roll it up.
- Use the parchment paper to snugly wrap & roll like a jelly roll, tucking & tightening as you go.
- Tuck in the ends like you would a burrito or twist off ends very securely.
- Repeat steps above for second lettuce roll-up.
- Use a knife to cut roll-ups in half.
- Roll down parchment paper as you eat and enjoy!

### Nutrition:

Serving: 1 roll-up | Calories: 329kcal | Carbohydrates: 12g | Protein: 20g | Fat: 23g | Saturated Fat: 6g | Cholesterol: 58mg | Sodium: 1027mg | Fiber: 3g | Sugar: 7g ■

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## President's Message

### Continued from Page 2

Agriculture has always demanded perseverance and adaptability. By focusing on solutions and reinforcing our ties to the community, we can continue to thrive despite these challenges. Thank you for your ongoing support of Santa Cruz County agriculture—and for standing with the farmers, ranchers, and businesses that sustain our way of life. ■



*Remember and Honor  
All Those Who Have  
Served!*

## "Agriculture, the Original Green"

### BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER

#### Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to be a member and receive the many benefits and services available. By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

#### How to Join

Go to [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com) and click on the "JOIN" button. No need to log in on this page. Go to the bottom of the page and click on NEVER BEEN A MEMBER to set up a new account.

Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
sccfb@sbcglobal.net  
(831) 724-1356  
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### I am a Farm Bureau member because...



"I am a Farm Bureau member because not only do they deal with the issues of today, they mentor the youth through different programs to be successful farmers of the future."

Derek Witmer

New member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

#### **SCCFB 108th Annual Meeting**

Thursday, June 19, 2025  
Paradise Garden

#### **32nd Annual Golf Tournament**

Friday, July 11, 2025  
Pajaro Valley Golf Club

#### **California State Fair**

Friday, July 11, 2025 to Sunday, July 27, 2025  
Cal Expo, Sacramento

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

Wednesday, September 10 to Sunday, September 14, 2025  
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

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

Thursday, November 6, 2025  
Location to be determined

#### **CFBF Annual Meeting**

TBD

### Agri-Culture

#### **17th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon**

Thursday, May 15, 2025  
Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

#### **17th Annual Testicle Festival**

Saturday, August 23, 2025  
Estrada Deer Camp

#### **29th Annual Farm Dinner**

Friday, October 10, 2025  
Land Trust Little Bee Barn





# THE AG COMMISSIONER

David Sanford, Agricultural Commissioner,  
Santa Cruz County

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO FIELDWORKER SAFETY



David Sanford

Spring is here and agricultural activities are ramping up as usual as we head into summer. Key among these activities for local growers are determining which fields to harvest and when, coordinating the best timing of pesticide applications, and protecting the health and safety of fieldworkers. As you do this important work this season, keep in mind that communication with your own employees and those of neighboring growers is essential and necessary.

Whenever possible, you should inform your neighbor of any planned pesticide application at least two 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. Certain pesticides can have strong odors that remain for some time even after the application has been completed.

It is essential that you and your pesticide handlers remain alert while conducting pesticide work and be proactive at

keeping fieldworkers and other bystanders safe. Always 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 determine if it is safe to continue. Due to the type of commodities that are produced in our county, fieldworkers rarely remain in one location for more than one or two hours. Fieldworker crews are constantly moving from one part of a field to another, and if there is ever any question it is best to stop an application and wait until fieldworkers have moved a safe distance away. Please keep in mind that protecting the well-being of fieldworkers is everyone's priority.

If you are ever unsure of who your agricultural neighbors are, or any property adjacent to your operation, please let us help. Call our office at (831)763-8080 and we will be glad to look into it and provide you with that information. It takes all of us working together to have a safe season and to protect one of our most valuable assets: the fieldworkers that play such a key role in bringing food from farm to table. ■



### Ford



Farm Bureau Recognition Program is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2022/2023/2024 Ford Maverick, Ranger, F-150 or Super Duty. This incentive is not available on F-150 Lightning®, F-150 Raptor®, F-650 and F-750 Super Duty. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 2, 2025.

Visit [FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau](https://FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau) or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details.

**All offers shown may be subject to change. Please email [membership@cbbf.com](mailto:membership@cbbf.com) with any questions or concerns.**

## Being a Member Pays Off!

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\*Must be a valid member of Farm Bureau for 30 days. A valid member email address is required for eligibility



# 2025 Agri-Culture Scholarships

## **Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship**

The recipient of the Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship is Lillian Mendonsa. Lillian is a senior at Hollister High School with a GPA of 4.5 and plans to attend Cal Poly where she will major in Agriculture Engineering in hopes of pursuing a career as an Engineer focusing on water systems. Lillian competed on High School Rodeo for seven years, starting in 6th grade. She is also the current President of the California High School Rodeo Association. Lillian will receive \$1,500 from the Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship fund to help further her education.

## **JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**

The recipient of the JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is Odalis Garcia. She is a senior at Watsonville High School with a GPA of 3.8 and plans to attend either UC Davis, Cal Poly, Chico State or Fresno State where she will major in Animal Science in hopes of pursuing a career as a veterinarian. Odalis serves as Secretary for FFA and she works as a ride operator at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Odalis will receive \$1,000 from the JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

## **Lou & Carol Calcagno Memorial Scholarship**

The recipient of the Lou & Carol Calcagno Memorial Scholarship is Riley Whisler. Riley is a senior at Salinas High School, where she holds a GPA of 3.9. She plans to attend Modesto Junior College, after which she will attend a four-year university and major in Dairy Science in hopes of entering a career in the dairy industry. Riley is a Salinas FFA Chapter Treasurer from 2024-2025 and is a member of the California Jersey Cattle Association. She will receive \$1,000 from the Lou & Carol Calcagno Memorial Scholarship fund.

## **Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship**

The recipient of the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship is Samuel Garcia. Samuel is a senior at Aptos High School with a GPA of 4.1. He plans to attend Cal Poly where he will major in Agriculture Science in hopes of pursuing a career as a Production Area Manager. Samuel has served as Watsonville FFA President and Vice President, is a 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus and is the Captain of his High School Baseball team. American AgCredit has partnered with Agri-Culture for this scholarship and Samuel will receive \$8,000 from the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship fund.

## **Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship**

The recipient of the Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship is Jonathan Zarate Gutierrez. He is a first year student at Cabrillo College and graduated from Watsonville High School last year, where he earned honors such as Honor Roll and Principal's List. Jonathan was Watsonville FFA Chapter President from 2023-2024 while serving as the ECHO Academy Secretary at the same time. Jonathan will receive \$4,000 from the Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship.

## **Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship**

The recipient of the Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship is Andrea Puente. Andrea is a senior at Watsonville High School and will graduate in June with a GPA of 4.1...which is impressive enough. But what is more amazing is that Andrea has already earned her AA degree, with honors, from Cabrillo College which she earned while attending high school. She plans to attend either Cal Poly or USC, where she will major in Agricultural Business in hopes of becoming an accountant. Andrea will receive \$1,000 scholarship from the Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship Fund.

## **Matt Ryan Community Service Scholarship**

The recipient of the Matt Ryan Community Service Scholarship is Sebastian Perez. He is a senior at Watsonville High School and plans to attend Hartnell College in Fall 2025 to pursue a career as an entrepreneur, restaurant owner. Sebastian has volunteered on many community service efforts, including the Pajaro Floods Relief Food Sale; the Nor-Cal Girls Flag Football Food Sale; was a food ministry volunteer for Sunshine Ministries; a Second Harvest Food Bank Thanksgiving Food Distribution volunteer; and many, many more. Sebastian will receive \$1,000 from the Matt Ryan Community Service Scholarship. ■



## “What is Irrigation Efficiency”



**W**hen discussing irrigation systems, it is very helpful to understand the basic concepts of efficiency. The terms “uniformity” and “efficiency” are often used interchangeably. These terms are similar but not interchangeable. For a deep dive into uniformity (the measure of how evenly water is applied to an area) please look back to the March 2025 issue of this publication. This month, with production and irrigation in full swing, we are going to look into the world of *irrigation efficiency*. What exactly is irrigation efficiency and why is it important?

*Irrigation efficiency* (IE) is a ratio comparing the *amount of water used for crop production* to the *total amount of water applied*. At the most basic level efficiency is used to describe the amount of water that is beneficially used by the plants. In an ideal scenario, the plants would use all of the water applied by the irrigation system, however this is not possible even in laboratory conditions. An irrigation efficiency greater than 90% is considered high and an IE of less than 60% is considered low. An IE of 60% means 60% of the water used in production of the crop, and 40% of the applied water was lost to evaporation, deep percolation, and runoff.

The three most important factors that influence irrigation efficiency are:

•**Irrigation scheduling:** When and how much to irrigate. Can be weather based or use tools such as soil sensors or software (CropManage) to help inform decisions. Replace what was lost to ET, if the plant lost 2” we want to replace that 2” of water.

•**System design:** Overall layout/water delivery method, how much pipe to use, what size/length/type.

•**Operation and maintenance:** Find and repair leaks, prevent clogging, periodic flushing, pressure management, use of filters, monitoring, recording keeping, what we see day to day in the field.

I like to think of these factors like the “three-legged stool” or “triple bottom line” of IE, removing any of the three and the others will fall. Note-each one of these factors can be its own class, keep your eyes peeled for future articles and deep dives into these subjects! Why worry about all of that, you

ask? Well, the list of efficient irrigation benefits is long and includes improving crop growth & yield, facilitating uniform fertigation, minimizing nutrient loss, and saving money!

If you are interested in improving the overall irrigation efficiency on your farm, reach out to your local RCD today. We have a team of experienced in-house experts ready to assist you, with a robust local water conservation program running for over ten years. We would be happy to explore tangible ways you can improve your operation’s efficiency through monitoring, evaluations, system design and scheduling. Doing this could benefit your production and system efficiency for years to come!

To learn more and connect with RCD programs and services contact: Cameron McDonald (cmcdonald@rcdsantacruz.org), Dan Hermstad at (dhermstad@rcdsantacruz.org), or Sacha Lozano at (slozano@rcdsantacruz.org). The RCD also has programs related to forest health, fire prevention and environmental restoration. You can learn more about all our work at [www.rcdsantacruz.org](http://www.rcdsantacruz.org). All RCD services and programs are voluntary and non-regulatory. ¡Hablamos Español! ■

### Strange But Impossibly True!

#### Frogs’ eyes help them swallow.

Like snakes, frogs swallow their food whole...and alive. When a frog closes its eyes, they are pressed into their sockets and down towards the roof of its mouth, pushing on its food and moving it down their throat.

Excerpts from the Readers Digest



“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap  
but by the seeds that you plant.”  
—Robert Louis Stevenson

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**FarmTeam.**  
California Farm Bureau.

## FarmTeam Alert! Stop Copper Theft

Copper theft and related activity are on the rise once again. These acts threaten public safety, utility and telecommunications services and connectivity, agricultural operations, and other California businesses. While the actual theft of such materials can be addressed by current law, proving the elements of the theft crime itself can be difficult.

AB-1218 gives law enforcement tools to prosecute those who illegally possess stolen copper.

**Please contact your Assemblymember and urge them to support AB-1218!**

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[pitchinsantacruz.org](http://pitchinsantacruz.org)



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## CALENDAR

**FRIDAY - MAY 9**  
Focus Agriculture  
Session 3

**SATURDAY - MAY 10**  
PITCH IN/All Santa Cruz  
County

**SUNDAY - MAY 11**  
Happy Mother's Day

**THURSDAY - MAY 15**  
17th Annual Down to Earth  
Women Luncheon

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

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

**THURSDAY - JUNE 5**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**FRIDAY - JUNE 6**  
Focus Agriculture  
Session 4

**SUNDAY - JUNE 15**  
Happy Father's Day

**THURSDAY - JUNE 19**  
108th Annual Meeting

**WEDNESDAY - JUNE 25**  
Focus Agriculture  
Session 5

**THURSDAY - JUNE 26**  
Board of Directors' meeting

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

**MEET  
OUR  
OWNERS.**

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MEMBERS, OUR  
CUSTOMERS SHARE  
IN OUR SUCCESS.**

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