

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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INSIDE this issue

3 Ask Laura
Beware of the Bagrađa Bug

4 Water Nanny
PVWMA Rate Review

5 Recipe
Hearty Artichoke Soup

12 Calendar



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BUREAU

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU TO RECEIVE “COUNTY OF THE YEAR” HONOR

Also Wins Five County Activity Of Excellence Awards & Two President's Awards



2013 Santa Cruz County Annual Meeting

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau has been informed that it will receive the “County of the Year” award at the California Farm Bureau 95th Annual Meeting in Monterey this December. It will also receive **five County Activities of Excellence Awards** in the categories of Membership, Policy Implementation, Leadership, Ag Education and Public Relations. The county will also receive **President's Awards** for Policy Implementation and Public Relations.

A local delegation of nine will be attending the California Farm Bureau Federation's 95th Annual Meeting in Monterey, California,

December 7-11. The official delegates representing the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau are **Cynthia Mathiesen**, President and **David Van Lennep**, 1st Vice-President. Alternate Delegates are **Tom Broz**, 2nd Vice President and **Chris Enright**, Past-President.

Also attending from Santa Cruz County are: **Nita Gizdich**, **Silvia Prevedelli**, **Matt Bissell**, **John E. Eiskamp**, Board Members; **Caroline Eiskamp**, Farm Bureau member; **JJ Scurich**, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Chair and **Rita Scurich**, District #10 Representative on Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee; and **Jess Brown**, Executive Director.

“We are very honored to receive the ‘County of the Year’ award in our membership category. We are proud to be one of the best County Farm Bureaus in California” said Mathiesen. She further stated, “The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for Farm Bureau members throughout the state to discuss mutual issues that affect farming. It is also an opportunity to meet, make new friends while preparing our organization for the legislative issues that lie ahead in 2014.” There are 53 County Farm Bureaus in California.

California Farm Bureau Federation
95th Annual Meeting

Growing Our Future, Valuing Our Traditions

December 7 through 11, 2013
Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, CA

Register electronically @ www.etches.com/65168 or register by mail - print the registration form (PDF) & return completed registration form and payment to CFBF or register by phone by calling (916) 561-5591

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President's Message

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN, PRESIDENT

Talking Turkey

Yes, it is November, when we look forward to the United States custom of Thanksgiving Dinner with family and friends. I grew up with the traditional turkey dinner including more food than I had seen all year. The smell of that turkey roasting most of the day was really worse than waiting for Christmas for me.

I often hear one of the topics banned from the dinner table is a discussion of politics. I find this interesting, since one of the events that also takes place in November is elections. This November is a lot quieter for us than last June; there isn't much on the ballots. But there is still plenty of politics to talk about.

One of the more controversial issues is the Fort Ord Reuse/Redevelopment Plan. There are two competing Measures on the Ballot this month. Measure K would change the Fort Ord reuse plan to make it more agreeable to the proposed Monterey Downs development, is called the "Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, Open

Space Preservation and Economic Revitalization Initiative." Measure M would rule out heavy development for about 540 acres of Fort Ord, including most of the proposed Monterey Downs site, known as the "Protect Fort Ord Open Space Access Initiative." This sounds like Watsonville's Measure U all over again.

The Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District has Measure H, which would impose a \$164 per parcel tax for seven years to fund core academic programs in reading, writing, math, and science and the city of Scotts Valley has Measure U to approve an eight-year sales tax rate increase of one-half of one percent to fund police, parks, and recreation services.

Next year's supervisorial race has already started to take shape. We've had discussions with of a couple of declared

Continued on Page 6

"Whatever your plans are for Thanksgiving, enjoy your family, enjoy the food, and maybe even the political discussions. But know that whatever commodity you produce, it is probably part of every American family Thanksgiving this year. Let's celebrate."

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ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Advisor, UCCE

Beware of the Bagrada Bug

Q. I have heard about an important pest that may impact the Central Coast farms and nurseries called the Bagrada bug. What is it?

A. Damage caused by the Bagrada bug, also called painted bug (*Bagrada hilaris*), has resulted in devastating crop losses for some California growers. This plant-feeding stink bug infests wild mustard, a common weed in California in late winter to early spring. Record numbers of bugs have invaded newly planted cole crops after the mustard weeds dry out in late summer. The heaviest pest damage has occurred in organic vegetables. The Bagrada bug has also become a major problem in nurseries where bedding plants, plugs, and transplants are produced, attacking young vegetable and ornamental plants in the mustard family Brassicaceae (Cruciferae).

Q. Where is it found?

A. The Bagrada bug is native to Africa and has spread to India, Pakistan, parts of Southeast Asia, and Italy. In the United States, it was first found in Los Angeles County in 2008. By 2011, the pest had disseminated throughout Southern California to San Diego, Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. In September 2012, the pest moved northward to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Other states where this pest is currently found are Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and possibly Texas.

Q. What is the regulatory status?

A. The Bagrada bug is regulated as an organism of known economic importance in state quarantine programs. It currently has a B rating by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This means that the pest is subject to eradication, containment, control, or other holding action at the discretion of the individual county agricultural commissioner. When found in the nursery, it is subject to state-endorsed holding action and eradication. Strict monitoring of outbound plants is required to prevent pest spread through the movement of plant material. Since the Bagrada bug can be found incidentally on a broad range of plant species, extensive crop monitoring for this pest in nurseries is necessary.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. See "Bagrada Bug" (Pest Alert) and "Management of the Bagrada Bug in Nurseries", which this information was excerpted. They can be downloaded at: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/pestalet/pabagradabug.html>



THE WATER NANNY

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

PVWMA Rate Review

Will a rose by any other name smell as sweet? The PVWMA has formed an Ad Hoc Funding Committee, truly a committee to a review and recommend increases to its rate structure. One agency's funding is a farm's higher water bill. This is one local committee that is worth your attention. But don't stress, farmers and apple buyers are well represented to look after Ag's interests. Together they are now searching for an equitable solution.

WHY A RATE INCREASE: There two reasons; the new Basis Management Plan under review by the Agency will construct new projects which must be paid for, and second, the Agency Board adopted a sunset for the existing charges which are scheduled to end in 2015.

HOW MUCH IS NECESSARY: The consultants figure the BMP projects will add about 30% to the existing PVWMA budget, increasing it from about \$10 million to \$13 million per year.

PROP 218: No fee hike, a tax by another name, can be adopted without a vote of those who must pay the tax. An entire article could be devoted to this, and most likely will. Suffice it to say this is a convoluted set of laws and court decisions with protest votes, weighted votes, mail-in ballots and strict limitations on creativity.

TIERED PRICING: Many growers in the Farm Bureau have advocated tiered pricing, use more pay more. This would encourage conservation, which is good as the BMP is based on 5,000 af/yr. of conservation as the least expensive way to solve the overdraft and saltwater intrusion. Tiers may be difficult to apply as there is a cap on how high the charges can go relative to Watsonville Municipal water rates.

The PVWMA would also confront a huge administrative challenge; how many acres does an Ag well serve, do you count gross acres or only farmable acres, if you the parcel includes range land does it count, what if the size of the farm changes ... to many questions for mere mortals to

answer, which is why we have a committee.

How could tiered pricing work if the above problems are resolved? Let's look at the present price structure of \$174/af for inland growers. First, change billing year to "water year", October through September. Second, set the tiers: low first tier (the apple tier), then two tiers with a 10-15% difference. Replacing the present flat rate with an imaginary tiered price structure:

- <1 af \$125/af (the apple tier)
- <2 af >1 af \$200/af
- >2 af \$235/af

At an average use per acre of farm land of 2.39 af/yr. both billings total \$416/yr. At 1.2 af/yr. = \$165 tiered and \$209 as currently billed. At 4 af/yr. the tiered rate would be \$793 and \$696 at current rates, or a 14% increase. Similar ratios would apply to the pumped water on the coast, only higher. To get started calculate tier pricing based on prior year water usage. Fourth quarter bill will balance out the tier. If grower used less water than prior year, enough to move up or down a tier, then this bill shows the adjustment. Most growers will stay in the same tier anyway.

CREDIT FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS: This sounds great, but how can it be fairly administered? The real problem seems to be a conflict with Prop 218, which requires no preference within a rate class. A rebate could be construed as a preference. Then again how do you determine how much water the conservation practice saved? The monitoring expense may eat up any savings and discourage implementation.

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in the fruit salad.





"Agriculture, the Original Green"

FAVORITE RECIPES

Hearty Artichoke Soup

Christina Turbeek owns her own leather crafting business. When she is not making a leather collar by hand for the best in show, Christina spends much of her creative time in the kitchen. One of her favorite recipes incorporates one of the areas most famous crops, the artichoke. Christina says, "This soup is my favorite because I can make extra, freeze it and have leftovers. This was passed down to me from my mother." (This recipe was procured by Fearon Hosmer as part of her Cal Poly SLO internship in the Farm Bureau office.)

1 leak
2 carrots chopped
2 cloves of garlic minced
3 stalks of celery chopped
1 large potato peeled and diced
¼ cup of dry sherry
½ cup white wine



4 chicken breasts
½ cup chicken broth
Sprig of thyme and tablespoon of chopped parsley
1 cup artichoke hearts
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
½ cup crème

Directions: Start by sautéing the leaks, carrots, diced potato, garlic and celery in olive oil and butter. Once tender, add dry sherry and white wine and reduce. Add chicken breast, chicken broth, artichoke hearts, thyme and parsley and simmer for about an hour. Remove the chicken after 30 minutes and half the artichoke hearts. Purée the remaining mixture and add back in chicken breasts and artichoke hearts cut into pieces. Add crème, salt, and pepper, simmer for five minutes and enjoy.



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President's Message

Continued from Page 2

and not-yet-declared candidates, at their request. They are very different candidates for the same seat with interesting views. While it is still early in the campaigns, when we really started to discuss the local issues, or talk turkey, it was clear the candidates need to do some homework.

Then there is Obamacare and California Covered that have six months to sign up several million people for medical insurance using a frustrating system that still isn't fully operational. And the Farm Bill with the main sticking points between the parties being nutrition, crop insurance, dairy, commodity title, and food aid. Like the recent government shutdown, I'm sure no agreement

will be reached until the 11th hour on January 15th. And that is only because the legislature just voted through a continuing resolution to fund the Farm Bill programs that officially ended in 2008. Sometimes, I think Will Rogers was right when he once said, "It's a good thing we don't get all the government we pay for".

Whatever your plans are for Thanksgiving, enjoy your family, enjoy the food, and maybe even the political discussions. But know that whatever commodity you produce, it is probably part of every American family Thanksgiving this year. Let's celebrate.

Protect Your Family From ATV Injuries and Liability

Contributed by John Valentine, Nationwide Insurance

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are frequently used on the farm or ranch to haul supplies or get to the field, but ATVs often serve another purpose: recreation. It's important all family members know and follow necessary precautions every time ATVs are used – for work or for play. It's also important to know that liability for off-premises recreational use of an ATV is not covered by most farm policies.

MUST-KNOW ATV SAFETY RULES:

Parents should determine each family member's readiness to operate an ATV based on physical size, coordination, balance, ability to judge distances, willingness to follow rules and peripheral vision.

All family members should follow the ATV Safety Institute's Golden Rules:

- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear
- Never ride on public roads
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle
- Supervise riders younger than 16

- Ride only on designated trails, and at a safe speed
- Take a hands-on safety training course

The ATV Safety Institute also recommends riders use an ATV that's right for their age:

- 6 and older – under 70cc
- 12 and older – 70cc to 90cc
- 16 and older – over 90cc
- ATV off-premises protection

If you or your family ride your ATV(s) off your property, make sure your agent is aware of how you use these vehicles. The AgriChoice® policy from Nationwide Agribusiness can be endorsed to provide liability coverage for off-premises recreational use of an ATV. Without that endorsement, most policies limit coverage to on-premises use.

Article contributed by Nationwide Insurance, which is endorsed by the California Farm Bureau Federation. John Valentine, Sponsor Relations Account Executive, can be reached at 916-802-1785 or valentj4@nationwide.com.

SAFETY FIRST!

Mike Klimenko, State Fund Farm Bureau Group Manager

Take Extra Precautions When Using A Ladder

Whether you are farming pistachios in the Central Valley or running a cattle operation in the North State, there will be times when you or your employees need to use a ladder. When used properly, a well maintained ladder is an indispensable tool for a variety of “elevated” jobs on the farm or ranch—anything from harvesting or pruning trees to repairing the roof of the farm shop.

But ladders can pose a serious danger if they are not properly used and maintained. In the United States, falls are the third leading cause of worker deaths, and half of these deaths resulted from falls from ladders. Sometimes a faulty ladder was to blame, sometimes the ladder wasn't set up properly, and at other times the ladder was used improperly. All three of these causes were preventable.

Before using a ladder, check its condition closely. Look for loose steps and rungs and make sure they are clean and free from oil or other slippery material. All surfaces of the ladder should be free of cracks, splits and bent edges, and the braces should be solid. If a ladder fails a visual safety inspection, it should not be used until it is properly repaired.

One of the biggest dangers related to ladder use is the danger of coming into contact with above-ground power lines. It is particularly important for pruning crews to keep this in mind when moving through orchards.

When carrying your ladder, do it horizontally to avoid power lines. Keep your hands away from the center of the rungs because the third leg can smash your fingers. Watch your step—look out for irrigation pipes, mud, holes, and fallen branches. Be sure to look up frequently for electrical lines.

The most common cause of falls from ladders is overreaching. Sometimes when a person is high on a ladder and a needed object is just out of reach, the temptation is almost overwhelming to stretch and reach out as far as possible—it seems so much simpler than climbing back down the ladder and repositioning it. Wrong! The farther one reaches out from a ladder, the greater the chance of becoming an agricultural statistic. A good rule of thumb is to keep your belt buckle inside the rails of the ladder to avoid overreaching.

Unattended ladders should be kept in an upright position to prevent tripping accidents and damage to ladders. When your task is completed, be sure to store the ladder properly so it will be in good working order the next time you need to use it.

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

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

For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the State Fund Web site at www.statefundca.com.

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FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

Mary Lou Nicoletti, Agricultural Commissioner

Pesticide Air Monitoring at Ohlone Elementary School



The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) routinely monitor for pesticides in air. Monitoring occurs in various locations throughout the state, for various pesticides, and for

various reasons. The main purpose of the air monitoring at Ohlone Elementary School is to measure the effectiveness of current legal requirements for using methyl bromide. Ohlone School is one of six locations in the state where DPR and ARB are monitoring methyl bromide.

The Watsonville area, including Ohlone School, is located in a high use area for methyl bromide. Therefore, it is an appropriate location to monitor to confirm that the level and method of use of this fumigant are acceptable. Methyl bromide is a fumigant pesticide most commonly injected into the soil of agricultural fields prior to planting to control weeds, insects, and plant diseases. Compared to most other pesticides, methyl bromide is applied in high amounts and is highly volatile. Steps are taken to keep methyl bromide in the soil, but some escapes to the air. Most methyl bromide in the Ohlone School area is applied during the late summer and early fall. Air concentrations are highest at that time, and are low or not detectable during other times of the year.

Through its continuous evaluation process, DPR first revised the legal requirements for the use of methyl bromide in the mid-1990s, and has made the requirements more stringent since then. The requirements include application methods with lower emissions to air, such as tarpaulin specifications; buffer zones; worker protections; and limits on field size and amounts of methyl bromide. These requirements reduce methyl bromide air concentrations to a level where health effects should not occur, either from short-term exposure of a few days or less, or from long-term exposure of several weeks or years. Additional restrictions were added in December 2012 to prohibit applications within a minimum of 1/8 mile and up to a 1/4 mile when schools are in session.

The monitoring at Ohlone School includes methyl

bromide as well as 1,3-dichloropropene (Telone®, Inline®), another fumigant pesticide. Monitoring began at Ohlone School in January of 2012 and will continue through December 2013. In contrast, monitoring at the other five sites has additional purposes and includes additional pesticides. ARB began monitoring for several fumigants in Oxnard (Ventura County) and Santa Maria (Santa Barbara County) in August 2010 and will end monitoring in December 2013. DPR established an air monitoring network for 34 pesticides in Ripon (San Joaquin County), Salinas (Monterey County), and Shafter (Kern County) in January 2011 and will continue at least until December 2013.

The Ohlone School monitoring consists of air collected in a stainless steel canister for a 24-hour period every 6 days. DPR staff places and picks up the canisters at Ohlone School, and transports them to Sacramento for laboratory analysis by ARB staff. While individual samples are 24 hours in duration, the monitoring is designed to measure concentrations over several weeks and months. DPR calculates the average of several samples to estimate the 4-week and 1-year air concentrations. To estimate the potential health risk, these air concentrations are compared to DPR's regulatory target concentrations for 1-day and 4-week periods, and a screening level for the 1-year period.

DPR recently published the results for the methyl bromide monitoring in 2012, including the results for the first year of monitoring at Ohlone School. As summarized in the table below, all measured air concentrations at Ohlone School were less than DPR's regulatory targets or screening level, indicating a low health risk. Air concentrations at the other five monitoring sites were also less than the regulatory targets and screening level.

Highest methyl bromide air concentrations detected at Ohlone School during 2012

Monitoring Period	Highest Concentration Detected (parts per billion)	Regulatory Target or Screening Level (parts per billion)
1 day	1.50	210
4 weeks	0.85	5
1 year	0.13	1

FOCUS AGRICULTURE CLASS XXIV GRADUATES 21 COMMUNITY LEADERS

A graduation ceremony and reception was held November 1st at the Pajaro Valley Historical Association's Bockius-Orr house on Beach Street in Watsonville for Class XXIV of the Focus Agriculture program.

Focus Agriculture, an educational program of the organization Agri-Culture, is a first-in-the-nation program to allow community leaders to learn firsthand about agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. The nine sessions cover such topics as ethnic groups in agriculture, labor, new technology, land use, politics, the environment and health care.

Agri-Culture Executive Director Jess Brown stated, "This was an excellent class. We appreciate the participants and speakers for giving their time to the program this year".

If anyone is interested in applying for the next class, which will begin in March 2014, please contact the Agri-Culture office at (831) 722-6622 or you can email your request for an application to agri-culture@sbcglobal.net. Your name will be placed on our mailing list for applications that will be released in December.



Focus Agriculture Class XXIV - 2013

(L-R)

Front Row:

Jess Brown, Mauricio Urzua, Cathy Caljo, Joel Campos, Elaine Legorretta

2nd Row:

Laura Marcus, Debbie Connell, Barbara Mason, Mary Anne Carson, Kalyne Foster, Lisa Glick

3rd Row:


Rob Love, Deborah Luhrman, Allyson Violante, Cathy Conway, Kerri Miljanich

Back Row:

Richard Rue, David Mirrione, Nic Keiderling, Ted Burke, Blane Bachan

Photo Shy: Bryan Largay

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Food For Thought



AS WE EXPRESS OUR *gratitude*, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS, BUT *to live* BY THEM.

-JOHN F. KENNEDY

Happy Thanksgiving

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 21
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission meeting

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 28
Office Closed



FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 29
Office Closed in observance
of Thanksgiving

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 4
• Executive Committee
meeting
• Membership Committee
meeting

**SUNDAY- DECEMBER 7 THRU
WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 11**
CFBF 95th Annual Meeting
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WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 11
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

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