

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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

Mary Walter, Editor  
Jess Brown, Managing Editor

141 Monte Vista Avenue  
Watsonville, California 95076.  
(831) 724-1356 or (831) 763-4450  
Fax: (831) 724-5821  
Email: [sccfb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sccfb@sbcglobal.net)  
Web: <http://www.sccfb.com>



(L-R) Tom Broz, incoming SCCFB President with Past President, David Van Lennep

## Time Flies....

By David Van Lennep

Sometimes things work out better than you expect in a situation, be it luck or help from others it just goes easier than you thought. This is not to say that you jump into something necessarily thinking it will be difficult, but the path you choose may not be easy. Part of making a commitment to something is seeing it through regardless of difficulty. I would certainly characterize my presidential term as easier than I expected.

Over the last two years there has been a broad range of issues to address, some more contentious than others. Looking back, we have elevated the importance of Working Lands in Santa Cruz County, pushed for improved law enforcement in rural areas, weighed in on a National Monument, a local

Open Space District, and cannabis to name a few. Farm Bureau has supported local and state candidates to improve the political climate, and is making steps to strengthen the protections for agricultural land around the City of Watsonville. We also have much stronger ties to our neighboring county Farm Bureaus in Santa Clara and San Mateo.

Because of great participation from our board, a dedicated staff, and active members and volunteers, it all comes together in the end. Everyone contributes. That is one of the best parts of our organization is that people give their time because they live and breathe farming, and want to be involved at a higher level.

**Time Flies- Continued on Page 9**

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# President's Message

THOMAS BROZ, PRESIDENT

## Meet Our New President, Thomas Broz

### Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Middletown, Ohio, but as my family's destiny would have it, I did not stay to be raised in the Midwest. Instead, I was raised in South America. Shortly after I was born my parents moved to Venezuela where we lived until I was 10 years old. Then we moved to Ecuador where we lived until I was 18 years old. I finished high school in Ecuador and then moved to the United States to attend College.

### Where was your wife raised?

My wife was born and raised in France. If you are curious to know – we met in college.

### How have your children benefited from the diverse backgrounds of their two parents?

Many families living in the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County at large trace their roots to different parts of the world weaving together a community that is built upon a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Just like our family, we all have our unique stories that tell of the circumstances that brought us to live and work here. For us as a family, and for our children in particular, we feel blessed to feel so integrated and settled in this community where we get to share and learn from each others unique family backgrounds.

### When, and why, did you first come to California?

Upon my return from the Peace Corps in 1988 I followed my wife Constance (girlfriend

at the time) to California for her graduate studies in Agricultural Economics at Stanford University. During that time, I accepted a job at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9's office in San Francisco.

### How did you end up living in the Pajaro Valley?

In 1995 our young family of three , Constance, myself and our then one-year old son David, moved to Santa Cruz from San Francisco while I attended the organic farming apprenticeship program at UCSC. During that time, we discovered the Pajaro Valley and were fortunate to settle down on a beautiful 20-acre piece of land to start Live Earth Farm.

President's Message - Continued on Page 7

**"The Pajaro Valley is blessed with one of the best agricultural land and growing climates in the world. Due to it's proximity to one of California's largest population centers, the Bay Area, I envision farming to continue thriving 50 years from now."**

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# ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor, UCCE

## California Leads the Nation in Organic Agriculture

### Q: Is California still the leader in U.S. organic agriculture?

**A:** Yes we are, when measured in sales of certified organically produced commodities! Results from the USDA's 2015 Certified Organic Survey were recently released and show that California is by far the nation's leader in organic agriculture, with sales of \$2.4 billion or about 40 percent of the \$6.2 billion sales total nationwide. Washington was second with \$626 million, or 10 percent of total sales. Certified organic sales continued to rise in the U.S. in 2015, with a 13 percent increase over the value in 2014.

Category	U.S. (\$1,000)	CA (\$1,000)	CA as percent of total U.S.
All products <sup>†</sup>	6,163,472	2,435,594	40
Crops <sup>‡</sup>	3,509,632	1,795,582	51
Vegetables, potatoes, melons <sup>§</sup>	1,361,747	904,009	66
Broccoli	70,919	63,713	90
Lettuce	262,246	236,624	90
Spinach	154,471	126,136	82
Fruits, tree nuts, berries <sup>¶</sup>	1,203,382	718,581	60
Berries	344,635	251,415	73
Apples	302,404	21,263	7

<sup>†</sup> Value of products sold is before taxes and/or production costs.

<sup>‡</sup> Value of crops sold includes nursery and greenhouse.

<sup>§</sup> For open (field) harvested crops.

<sup>¶</sup> Includes apples and grapes.

U.S. certified organic crops, at \$3.5 billion, accounted for over half of the total value of all certified organic products nationwide. Not surprisingly, the categories 'vegetables, potatoes and melons', and 'fruits, tree nuts and berries' combined accounted for almost \$2.6 billion in crop sales, or almost three-quarters of the total value of crops nationwide. This demonstrates the importance of fresh products to the organic industry.

California certified organic crops, at \$1.8 billion, accounted for about three-quarters of the total value of all certified organic products statewide. The 'vegetable, potato, and melon' category accounted for 50 percent of all organic crop sales in the state; 'fruit, tree nuts and berries' accounted for another 40 percent. Floriculture, nursery, field and other miscellaneous crops accounted for the other 10 percent of sales. California is the major supplier of many organically grown vegetable, melon, fruit, nut and berry crops; the table above shows just a few examples. Other examples include, but are not limited to, fresh snap beans, blackberries, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cantaloupes and muskmelons, raspberries, sweet potatoes and tomatoes.

There is much, much more information contained in the survey, which can be found at: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\\_to\\_NASS\\_Surveys/Organic\\_Production/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Organic_Production/index.php).

You are also welcome to contact our office with any other questions you may have.



# THE WATER NANNY

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

## Happy Trails

It is hard work writing a thoughtful article every month. I mean it averages about 500 words, 16 words a day, every single word born out of the sweat of my brow. Only slightly less painful than childbirth, but I digress. Used to be that whenever I encountered writer's block the next month Between the Furrow would contain something scorching about the PVWMA's finances, or board, or general chaos. (i.e. BTF October 2002) So it is again.

The PVWMA has become less fun to tease. It is so much easier to write about a house-a-fire than well balanced books. Just look at the Agency's recent newsletter, they reduced their debt service, principal and interest, by over \$30,000,000. This was possible through two coincident events; 1) the recession lowered borrowing costs, so refinancing existing debt made great sense, saving \$1.4 million a year, and 2) over \$12,500,000 in grants because they had shovel ready projects and took advantage of drought inspired State funds, sometimes to the detriment of counties to the south.



The PVWMA has approved a program to pay growers to fallow land for the entire 2017 season. *Between the Furrows* contained an application to participate last month. The Agency will pay \$1,000 per acre of fallowed land participating, up to 200 acres total. It is estimated that each acre fallowed will result in an irrigation water savings of 2½ acre feet of water in one year, for a total projected savings of 500 acre feet. This will cost the Agency \$400 per acre foot not pumped. The BMP has identified several capital projects to produce or move water to make it available for irrigation in lieu of groundwater pumping which have an annual per acre foot cost for each acre of water of between \$100 (Harkins Slough Recharge Upgrades) to \$792 (Watsonville Slough and North Dunes Recharge Basin) to \$1,000 (College Lake with a pipeline to CDS). Incentivized fallowing may be a more cost effective alternative.

Local growers have consistently, excepting droughts, used less water than predicted in the Agency budget. While this may result in a hit to income from augmentation fees, it is great for bringing our aquifer into balance. Starting in 2014 the current BMP is premised on a ten year water

conservation goal of 5,000 af/yr. by 2023 against an historic average of irrigation use 55,484 af/yr. Looking at a five year consumption average of 53,517 af/yr. during a major drought we are almost 40% there, with eight years to reach the target. Besides the fallowing experiment, there is support for irrigation efficiency, a wireless irrigation monitoring equipment loaner program and rebates for aquifer recharge, rain barrels and graywater systems. Fortuitously, the PVWMA was written into the Sustainable Groundwater Act leaving it above the fray of the upcoming groundwater wars surrounding other regional aquifers.



Life has not always been a bed of roses for the PVWMA. In 2007 the then General Manager resigned leaving the agency in such a mess that the Board took over direct control, pruning staff, auditing the books, and, literally, changing the locks on the doors. Court mandated refunds of augmentation fees almost killed it off. In this nadir the Board hired long time employee, Mary Bannister, as General Manager. Mary is now retiring. Best to leave on top. She deserves great accolades from the PVWMA Board and thanks, maybe reluctantly, from rate payers for having the courage to turn things around. Mary, many happy trails to you. *If I had a horse, I'd ride off in the sunset, where dreams, and shadows lie. To a life, where pain and sorrow don't exist, and to where hopes, and dreams become reality.* (Unknown)



"Interest without activity is similar to having a vehicle that is out of gas - it won't take you anywhere."

Eimantas Gabalis, How To Get Smarter



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Carrot, Apple and Pecan Muffins

*This recipe comes from the Live Earth Farm website recipe page. It was posted to the page by Rebecca Mastoris. The website may be found at <http://www.liveearthfarm.net> and is a great source of recipes using farm fresh, local fruits and vegetables. Live Earth Farm is owned and operated by our new county Farm Bureau President Tom Broz and his wife, Constance. Be sure you check it out!*

### Ingredients:

#### Topping:

3 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon unsalted butter, cut into small pieces  
½ cup flour of choice  
5 teaspoons dry sweetener of choice  
½ cup rolled oats  
1½ tablespoons sunflower seeds  
3 tablespoons pumpkin seeds  
1½ tablespoons black sesame seeds  
1 teaspoon water  
1½ tablespoons honey

#### Muffin:

2 cups plus 6 tablespoons flour of choice  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
Pinch of sea salt  
4 eggs  
2/3 cups sunflower oil  
1 cup sweetener of choice (dry)  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
8 ounces carrots, grated  
7 ounces pink pearl apples, grated  
1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped  
2/3 cup golden raisins  
2/3 cup unsweetened flaked coconut

### Directions:

1. To make the topping, in a bowl, stir together the butter, flour, and sweetener. Rub with your fingertips until the butter is incorporated and you have a crumbly texture. Mix in the oats and seeds and then the water, oil, and honey. Stir everything together, resulting in a wet, sandy texture. Set aside. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Line a muffin pan with paper liners.
2. Sift together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, oil, sweetener, vanilla, and grated carrot and apple. Gently fold in the pecans, raisins, and coconut, and then the sifted flour mixture. Do not over mix, and don't worry if the batter is lumpy and irregular.
3. Spoon into the muffin liners and scatter the topping generously over top. Bake for about 25 minutes, until a skewer inserted comes out clean. Remove the muffins from the pan when they are just warm and allow to cool before serving. The flavor will actually improve in a couple of hours.
4. Makes 10-12 muffins.





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## **Meet Thomas Broz - continued from page 2**

### **When did you first think of agriculture as a career?**

I got interested in agriculture, in particular plant science, while pursuing my undergraduate studies at Cornell. My passion for farming and the desire to farm on my own was probably triggered while in the Peace Corps in Samoa. There, I had the opportunity to meet and work with incredibly inspiring farmers and immerse myself in farming on a daily basis. Upon my return, I was fortunate to stay connected to farming through my work at the EPA where I became particularly interested in the growing organic and sustainable farming movement.

It wasn't until Constance and I got married and started a family that we decided to settle down in Watsonville and start farming.

### **What are the three most important issues affecting agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley?**

For farms growing labor intensive crops such as berries and vegetables the number one issue is the on-going farm labor shortage. Related and equally important is the lack of affordable housing for people employed in farming. Conflicting urban and agricultural interests will continue to be an important issue as urban development encroaches upon surrounding farmland placing increased scrutiny and regulatory burdens on farming operations in those boundary areas.

### **How do you envision farming in the Pajaro Valley 50 years from now?**

The Pajaro Valley is blessed with one of the best agricultural land and growing climates in the world. Due to its proximity to one of California's largest population centers – the Bay Area, I envision farming to continue thriving 50 years from now. I am confident the public will increasingly recognize the importance of keeping healthy, local food producing areas like the Pajaro Valley protected. In turn, farmer's, as they always have, will continue to adapt to the challenges inherent in farming. Santa Cruz agriculture and the Pajaro Valley in particular I predict will stay on the cutting edge of farming by integrating new technologies and farming techniques, growing economically profitable crops in ever more sustainable ways.

### **Why is it important that non-farmers support farmers?**

Today farmers are a minority who make up less than 2% of the population. Most consumers of food (that's all of us) are so removed from the actual practice of growing and raising food that for the majority, food is nothing but a commodity... expecting it to be there when we want it, continuously produced on some unknown farm, by unknown farming practices, performed by unknown people. The more awareness non-farmers have about the importance of farming, understanding where their food is grown and how complex and often risky the process is to grow food, the more farmers will get the political and financial support needed to continue to succeed in sustaining a healthy and abundant food supply.

### **Why is it important to be a member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau?**

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau plays a critical role in educating, communicating and defending the agricultural interests of its members. Farm Bureau in Santa Cruz plays a vital role in raising awareness and bridging the information gap between folks in the farming community and those outside of farming.

As a member of Farm Bureau, one has the opportunity to network with fellow farmers and ranchers and folks engaged in all the diverse sectors of agriculture represented in the county. Next year, in 2017, the SCCFB celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is a wonderful occasion to support this historic event by becoming a member and discovering the rich agricultural history upon which today's diverse and thriving agricultural sector is built. Food and farming is fundamental to the health of our community and I hope everyone has the opportunity to participate in this celebration.

### **Are you looking forward to your two-year term as President?**

It's both an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. I look forward to working together with the rest of our directors and feel grateful to receive the support from the experienced staff who are working so hard under the exceptional and longstanding leadership of our Executive Director, Jess Brown.

## Use Extreme Care When Working With Or Near A Forklift

**W**hile the farm tractor is the traditional implement that comes to mind when one thinks about agriculture, there's another piece of equipment that frequently plays an important role—the forklift.

Depending on the time of the year and type of commodity, the forklift is operated on farms, warehouses, and processing facilities up and down the state. Use of the forklift increases dramatically during the fall harvest season as more and more California crops reach maturity. With this increased activity comes an increased safety hazard for both the forklift operator and others in the vicinity, primarily other workers.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), there are more than one million forklifts in operation in the United States on any given day. While most are involved in non-agricultural activities, there are a significant number that are used in the production of food and fiber. Statistically, about 100 workers are killed each year and a staggering 95,000 are injured in accidents involving forklifts. These grim numbers serve to emphasize the importance of forklift safety for everyone who must work around these machines.

The most obvious danger is the decrease in stability of the forklift as a heavy load is lifted higher and higher into the air. Heavy loads held aloft exert increased leverage and improperly trained operators can quickly find themselves and persons around them in an extremely dangerous situation.

Injuries usually involve employees being struck by forklifts or falling while standing or working from elevated pallets and tines. Many employees are injured when forklifts are inadvertently driven off loading docks or when the forklift falls between a dock and a trailer. Most forklift accidents also involve property damage, including damage to overhead sprinklers, racking, pipes, walls, machinery, and other equipment.

Unfortunately, employee injuries and property damage can frequently be attributed to lack of procedures, insufficient or inadequate training, and lack of safety-rule enforcement.

Operating a forklift safely means you are not only responsible for your own safety, but also for the safety of the other people around you. If you operate a forklift, remember the

most important safety device is you. Remember to practice safety at all times, don't wait for an accident to implement safety practices.

State Fund has a wealth of information on safety topics available for easy access on our website at [www.statefundca.com](http://www.statefundca.com). Click on "Employers" and then "Resources" to find the extensive list of topics.

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.





## Confidential Communications Between Spouses



"The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret." That's the Henny Youngman joke at least. If the secret of a happy marriage remains a secret today, perhaps it is because of the marital privilege.

The marital privilege is an exception to the general rule that all relevant evidence is admissible at trial. Similar privileges exist for communications between priest and penitent, attorney and client, and doctor and patient. Privileges exclude evidence from trial in order to advance some social goal. The goal of the marital privilege is free and open communication between spouses, which is believed to strengthen and further the marital relationship, is given greater weight than the need for evidence (the information exchanged by the spouses) to resolve a legal dispute.

The marital communications privilege originated in England. The English Evidence Amendment Act of 1853, said that neither husbands nor wives could be forced to disclose any communication made to the other during their marriage.

The rule in California is two years older, first adopted in 1851. California reformulated the law in 1965 when the legislature placed the rule in the California Evidence Code and created two separate and distinct types of marital privileges:

Regarding Testimony: The right not to testify or be called as a witness against your spouse; and

Regarding communications: The right not to disclose private marital communications

The definition of "communication" is broad. It includes all oral, written, and electronic forms of sharing information. However, physical acts seen by spouses are not "communications." (*People v. Cleveland*, 32 Cal.4th 704, 743 (2004).)

For a "communication" to be protected, it must have been made "in confidence", that is, with a reasonable expectation of privacy and no intent that anyone else would receive it. (*Cleveland*, 32 Cal.4th at 744.) Communications made when other people could easily overhear or with the intent that they be shared with others are not confidential.

There are numerous exceptions to both privileges, and many of them overlap. So no marital privilege applies: in civil or criminal cases between spouses; in a legal case to commit a spouse or establish that spouse's competence; in juvenile court; or when one spouse is criminally charged with bigamy, child neglect, or failure to provide spousal support

Also, the "communication" part of the marital privilege does not protect communications made "in whole or in part, to enable or aid anyone to commit or plan to commit a crime or a fraud." (Cal. Evid. Code § 981.)

The "communication" privilege can be waived by either spouse if they disclose "a significant part of the communication" or consent "to disclosure made by anyone" so long as there was no coercion. Failure to claim the privilege in any proceeding where the spouse has standing and the opportunity to claim it constitutes consent. (Cal. Evid. Code § 912;

The complexity of the marital privilege keeps attorneys on their toes but it is an implementation of important public policy.

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### **Time Flies - Continued from Page 1**

Beyond the issues and meetings and phone calls, there are fun events and opportunities to interact with people from all walks of life. For me, one of the most enjoyable aspects was the opportunity to talk with people. Whether I was speaking about local agriculture, or learning about different aspects of our community, those experiences stand out the most. It is a unique opportunity that I will miss.

I have truly enjoyed my time, and know Tom Broz will be a fantastic advocate and emissary for farming in our county. Tom has great partners in the Farm Bureau staff, his Executive Team, and Board, to help navigate issues as they arise.

I wish Tom the best of luck over the next two years, confident he will have all the help and support he needs.

It has been an honor to represent the local agricultural community in this capacity, and I appreciate the unique experience it has provided.

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# AG NEWS

By Chris Coburn, Executive Director,  
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

## Soil Erosion Control Programs

Last month, I wrote about several programs available to interested growers from the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD). The RCD provides technical assistance related to irrigation efficiency year round, but as the winter season approaches, the emphasis shifts toward conservation practices for erosion control and runoff reduction. During October and November, RCD offers cash rebates for planting cover crops and technical assistance for implementation of row alignment to minimize furrow steepness, storm runoff and soil loss, particularly on hillslope farms. Soil erosion control programs help growers protect the integrity of their farms and their bottom line by avoiding damage repair costs and/or regulatory enforcement

for sediment discharges. Each of these programs also support ongoing efforts in the valley to address groundwater overdraft and protect water quality. They support the goals of the Community Water Dialogue and implement actions identified in the Basin Management Plan. Each project reflect strong partnerships with partners including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.C. Cooperative Extension, PV Water and willing landowners, among many others.

The RCD is a non-regulatory special district that works voluntarily with landowners to provide stewardship for natural resources. If interested in any of these opportunities, please contact the RCD, (831) 464-2950 X11 or visit [www.rcdsantacruz.org](http://www.rcdsantacruz.org).

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A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

## CALENDAR

**FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 11**  
Veteran's Day

**MONDAY - NOVEMBER 14**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee  
meeting

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 24**  
Thanksgiving Day Observed  
Office Closed

**FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 25**  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
Office Closed

**WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 7**  
• Legislative Committee  
meeting  
• Executive Committee  
meeting  
• Membership Committee  
meeting

**MONDAY - DECEMBER 12**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY- DECEMBER 14**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting



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