

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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INSIDE this issue

- 3 Ask Mark**
Field Chill in Northern California
- 4 Water Nanny**
Thankful
- 5 Recipe**
Cider Sprouts & Maple Bourbon Candied Pecans
- 12 Calendar**



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

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Epilogue to a Presidency

By Brendan Miele, Outgoing Farm Bureau President



President and represent our membership is one that I will fondly look back on. As I reflect on my tenure, I see the past two years have been full of challenges and opportunities. Together, we have worked on issues around land use, cannabis, the census, pesticides and implemented programs to provide technical support for growers.

Covid-19 has brought many businesses to the brink. Agriculture has been a national lifeline during the 2020 pandemic, providing stability to the local economy and supporting those in need across the country. The character

There are experiences in our lives that shape and define us; significant events we carry forward through our lives. Having the honor to serve as the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau President and represent our membership is one that I will fondly look back on. As I reflect on my tenure, I see the past two years have been full of challenges and opportunities. Together, we have worked on issues around land use, cannabis, the census, pesticides and implemented programs to provide technical support for growers.

of an organization can be measured by how it responds during times of crisis; the Farm Bureau has risen to the challenges before it. Our grassroots organization has advocated ensuring the safety of farm workers, who as essential workers, must be a priority in public health planning. We've adapted how we do business, moving our board and committee meetings online. The Farm Bureau hosts several incredible events each year to engage the public and drive fundraising. Health concerns have precluded most social gatherings, but we have innovated and altered the delivery of our events, providing engaging experiences while keeping the community safe and ensuring critical fundraising.

During my presidency I've had the support of our incredibly talented Executive Director, Jess Brown, and the dedicated past presidents providing guidance and counsel. Our success as an organization is due to the hard working staff, board members and community support of donors and business sponsors. Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau members can have the confidence that they are represented by a

Continued on Page 2

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCCFB.COM



President's Message

ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT - Meet Our New President, Arnett Young - See Page 8



California Farm Bureau

ANNUAL 2020 MEETING

December 6 through December 9, 2020

Epilogue to a Presidency

By Brendan Miele, Outgoing Farm Bureau President

Continued from Page 1

leadership team committed to working in the best interest of our agricultural industry.

Farming in Santa Cruz County is not what it was fifty years ago. Farming fifty years from now will look different than it does today. The resiliency of farmers to innovate and adapt to change will remain constant. The coming year holds both uncertainty and promise. Developing a rejuvenated agriculture that can sustain the natural environment upon which agriculture depends while being socially and economically sustainable will

require the leadership of the Farm Bureau to drive collaboration throughout the county. I look forward to supporting our new President, Arnett Young, as we continue the hard work needed to give agriculture a voice ensuring that the agriculture industry in Santa Cruz County remains viable and continues to generate financial security for the entire community.



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ASK MARK

**Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor,
Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE**

Field Chill in Northern California

Q. It looks like the amount of field chill in Northern California this year is quite low for the strawberry transplants, some are even saying it won't be sufficient. How big a deal is that and do you have any thoughts on what growers should be doing to work with this?

A. Strawberries (and caneberries) rely on enough accumulation of chill during the winter, in other words cold temperatures within a certain range, most often 28 to 45° F, to develop normally the following season. Insufficient chill in strawberry results in lower vigor and productivity.

You are correct that the amount of chill hours for strawberries this year are pretty low in comparison with most others, with the implication that growers will be faced with lowered fruit productivity because of it. At last view on October 15, 2020 we had accumulated 267 hours of cold between the critical temperatures of 33-45 °F, where in the previous two years it already above 300 hours by this time. Then again, looking back to 2017, the amount accumulated on by October 15 was 257, and most people will say that the fruit production that year was good. However, the catch this year there has been an abnormal amount of hot weather during the day, which according to several chill accumulation models, subtracts from that accumulated at the colder end. We are clearly lacking in cold accumulation in 2020.

So what does a grower do to accommodate this situation of low chill? Supplemental chill, which is the cold storage of the transplants postharvest, can't substitute for the chill accumulated in the

field. It does however make a lot of sense to nevertheless to apply the correct amount of supplemental chill for the variety one is planning to plant, rather than too much or too little. These numbers are available through the University of California, or UC Cooperative Extension.

Additionally, close adherence to good planting practices, again outlined in many places such as the UC IPM guidelines and other sources on California strawberry, will grant benefit to the plant and overcome some of the dearth of vigor we expect from less than normal chill. Good field preparation, planting roots straight down rather than J rooting, delaying bed plastic placement, keeping plants moist at all times until planting and afterwards with abundant irrigation will enhance plant productivity in any case.

The above has been a brief article for strawberry growers how to address the expected low amounts of field cold conditioning this year in strawberry. For questions about this and other topics in berries, please contact Mark Bolda at UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Cruz County, 831 763 8025 or mpbolda@ucanr.edu.

THE WATER NANNY

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

Thankful

"There's always something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving. Even if it's just not being a turkey."

As fall brings a change in the color to the landscape each year, articles are written extolling how we individually and collectively are so blessed and thankful. Regrettably, for many of our friends, the scenic color this year is a palette of gray. There are still bright rays of light which provide optimism, resources and hope. Collectively our community has stepped up, with masks on, to aid and assist.

RCD & NRCS. The farm and timber community on our north coast suffered a loss of thousands of acres of farmland and tens of thousands of commercial timberland. There are local programs which can help in the short and long term to recover. Our very own Resource Conservation District held a seminar last month, along with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation District on post fire watershed recovery... *What Works and What's a Waste of Time*, which is now posted online. It included their ability to provide on-site services for landowners and land managers regarding debris runoff, erosion, stream impacts and tree health. The real short term focus is mud flows and private roads. Permit assistance is also available. (www.rcdsantacruz.org/post-fire)



Cannabis. CDFA's CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Division has a website for disaster relief measures for torched pot farmers. Now don't get too high about this one, CDFA is providing relief from existing regulations which may be problematic due to extensive fires. For example, the relocation of a harvested crop to safer ground to prevent loss, theft or degradation is allowable without prior approval if you give notice within 24 hours. This seems a pyrrhic victory as the fire may still be raging. A grower may also ask for an extension for paying renewal fees and complying with the track-and-trace system. (cdca.calcannabis@cdca.ca.gov)

UC Davis wants to remind us that as employers we need to

provide our employees with protection from wildfire smoke. The Ag Commissioner (www.agdept.com/) has more details on wildfire safety. Sorry, not everyone who has good advice is able to help financially.

CCOF. Sometimes we forget our masks, and forget that many business and farms are still severely impacted by COVID-19. CCOF is accepting applications for a second round of federal COVID-19 farm relief, which translates into possible payment support for organic producers. This is part of over \$14 billion of CFAP 2 funds administered by the USDA. Now this sounds good, but it's more important for Midwestern farmers. For 230 specialty crops, read this as vegetables, the support is based on the decline in crop price between 2019 and 2020. (www.farmers.gov/)



Ag Commissioner. Yes, even more info and requirements from our Ag Commissioner on Covid-19 and farmworker safety. This is a long term issue, easily through 2021, so best to brush up. Besides your food safety auditor will want to know what you are doing to prevent spread. Both the Santa Cruz and Monterey Ag Commissioners have been distributing sanitizer and face masks for field workers. Every little bit helps.

Every cloud has a silver lining, this year may be a thin lining, about the same thickness as a good facemask, take it and run. 2020 is almost over, have a happy Thanksgiving. *"Life is a shipwreck but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats."* (Voltaire)



FAVORITE RECIPES

Cider House Sprouts

It's one of our favorite times of the year...fresh Brussels sprouts are in season and our great apple cider is plentiful and delicious. They are a great addition to any Thanksgiving celebration. I saw a new version of preparing Brussels sprouts that comes from a popular Folsom restaurant, J Wild's Livery & Feed on Sutter Street in Old Town Folsom, and I wanted to share the recipe. Hope you will try it and enjoy those Brussels sprouts. Happy Thanksgiving!!!

- 1 cup apple cider
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon honey
- 1 Tablespoon corn starch
- 1 pound Brussels Sprouts
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 1 slice bacon
- 2 Tablespoons red onion, diced

Combine the apple cider and apple cider vinegar in a small stockpot and bring to a simmer. Add honey and cornstarch, simmer until the sauce thickens slightly. *Set aside.

Cut Brussels sprouts in half and remove any loose outer leaves. Add butter to a saute pan with the sprouts and bacon. Cook over medium heat until the sprouts start to caramelize.

Add the onions and cook till tender. Deglaze the pan with 1/3 cup of the cider mixture (the rest can be kept for another batch) and heat until the sauce starts to thicken.

*Sauce can be made in advance and kept refrigerated for up to 4 days.

Maple Bourbon Candied Pecans

And to compliment those fresh green salads, how about some candied pecans (or a delicious snack):

- 3 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 3 Tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup bourbon (or whiskey)
- 2 cups pecan halves

Preheat oven to 325°F. Combine butter, brown sugar, maple sugar, vanilla, cinnamon and salt in medium-sized saucepot on medium heat. Bring to a simmer for three minutes, stirring occasionally. Add bourbon (be mindful of rising flame due to the alcohol) and simmer for five minutes. Remove pot from flame and add pecan halves, mixing well to coat evenly. Spread your seasoned pecan mixture onto a foil or parchment-lined baking sheet in one even layer. Bake for 15-20 minutes until sugar begins to bubble. Allow to cool.

Interesting Trivia

Central Park's lampposts have numbers on them specific to their location. Lampposts in Central Park have numbers on them to help you keep track of where you are. If you're lost in the massive park, take a look at the nearest lamppost. There will be four numbers on it. The first two are the digits of the nearest numbered street, and the second two reveal whether you're on the east or west side of the park. Odd numbers reveal that you're on the west side of the park; even numbers signify east. The numbers have been there as long as the lampposts themselves—since the 19th century.

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2020 Events

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

CFBF 102nd Annual Meeting

Virtual - Be sure to register!

www.cfbf.com

Look for the link to the 102nd Annual Meeting
December 6 - 9, 2020

The Annual Meeting has long been a Farm Bureau tradition bringing together members from every county in our state. While this year's experience will look a bit different as we take our conference virtual, we will continue to carry the Farm Bureau tradition forward by celebrating our essential industry that is STILL FARMING. Join us as we continue to uphold the traditions that have established Farm Bureau as California's largest active grassroots organization, uniting agriculture with a common goal to make our industry, communities and families better off.

We are looking forward to having you join your fellow farmers and ranchers for this unique Annual Meeting in December.

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THANKSGIVING DAY**



What country has the most fresh water?

Hint: It's in South America. See Answer on page 7

Permit Renewals and Continuing Education Courses Move Online this Year



As we have all experienced, COVID-19 has defined the 2020 year in unprecedented ways. Looking forward to the new year, I am hopeful but realistic about how the continuing challenges posed by the pandemic will impact Santa Cruz County citizens and

businesses. Many of the ways we have had to modify our activities – both at work and at home – are likely to remain aspects of our daily lives for the foreseeable future. These include wearing a face covering in public places, taking care to regularly wash/sanitize our hands, maintaining social distancing, and avoiding indoor group settings.

During the past several months, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office has transitioned to remotely providing many services to the local agricultural industry and community. As the new calendar year approaches we will continue this process, and services that would traditionally have taken place in-person (e.g. Operator ID and permit issuance and renewal; business and/or agent registration; continuing education courses for license/certification credit hours; etc.) will instead take place via email, using online resources and communication tools, and over the phone. To this end, if you are a permittee or registrant with our office for any of your farming business operations, we would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that we have your most current contact information. You can reach our office at **831-763-8080** to update your contact information or to make inquiries about appointments for permit, registration or certification renewals.

The ongoing pandemic has impacted the availability of in-person classes and trainings to satisfy California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) requirements for credit hours to renew private applicator certificates, commercial applicator licenses/certificates and pest control advisor licenses. If you need to obtain additional credit hours in order to renew your certificate or license this year, there are a number of remote learning classes that can be completed online, as well as text-based correspondence classes that have been approved by

DPR. Please reference DPR's webpage for more information on these remote class options at cdpr.ca.gov or find a link to the information on our department website at agdept.com.

Please have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.



For more resources & updates
go to
www.cfbf.com



Answer: Brazil has approximately 8,233 cubic kilometers of renewable fresh water resources, which is around 12 percent of the world's total. Russia comes next with 4,508 cubic kilometers; then comes the United States with 3,069 cubic kilometers.

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Arnett Young Takes Reigns as SCCFB President

Arnett Young began his two-year term as the President of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau on November 1, 2020. As an introduction to our membership and readers, we asked him a few questions and below are his answers:

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Valley Springs, CA and raised in Cupertino, California.

When did you first think of agriculture as a career?

Agriculture was not my first choice as a career. After the military, I went back to school thinking I would go into the environmental field. Somewhere along that path I found myself back into agriculture. Frankly, I never thought of it as a career but something I just fell in love doing.

What was your first job in agriculture?

I worked for my uncle doing odd jobs around an almond hauler when I was very young. Usually painting, cleaning or moving pipe.

What job are you currently holding?

I manage a vegetable seed research farm.

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

Labor (employee health and housing), water and land use.

How do you envision farming in the Pajaro Valley 25 years from now?

I have no idea. Agriculture is ever changing, so I am excited to see where we will be 25 years from now.

Why is it important that non-farmers support farmers?

Agriculture is a key economic industry in Santa Cruz County. As the pandemic has gripped our country, agriculture has continued producing food and fiber for our nation while providing jobs and economic opportunities for our community.

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

Productive agricultural lands are a limited resource that need to be protected and preserved for future generations. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau has a 100 year history doing so in our community.

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

I am excited for the opportunity to contribute to the organization at this capacity.



Arnett Young (R) as a young boy, hunting with his cousin



A young Arnett Young

Post Wildfire Restoration Practices

What to Do and What's a Waste of Time?

The 6 Most Mis-Used Practices on the landscape following wildfire:

(That are, in many circumstances, incorrectly installed or not needed at all)

1. Straw wattles
2. Jute netting (especially without underlying mulch or seed)
3. Removal of burn/damaged trees and/or other vegetation
4. Water bars (especially on fire breaks and trails) and other forms of diversion ditches, including diversions made with sand bags.
5. Seeding with non-native erosion control grass mixes
6. Plastic sheeting

The 6 Best Practices to perform on the landscape following wildfire:

(Note: #2-6 if applicable)

1. **Work with Nature** especially in wildlands. In other words, let nature be a Best Management Practice. Only cut down/prune back fire damaged trees if they present a hazard to life or high value property improvements such as homes, utilities and access routes. Limit disturbance to soil, slopes, trees, plant root systems, seed bank, riparian areas, streams, etc.
2. **Apply loose straw mulch** (preferably rice or weed-free straw) 1-2" thick with minimum disturbance to soil. "Punch in" (with shovel) on steeper slopes. No need to spread straw under trees especially those that did not burn or only received heat/smoke damage because of heavy leaf drop.
3. **Repair, eliminate existing drainage systems** and/or install new systems, as needed, then monitor and maintain, including roadside ditches, throughout future winters. Provide inlet and outlet protection on road culverts and other existing drain outlets. Inspect

and replace road culverts that have been compromised or burned through. Remember, "All drainage systems are undersized after wildfire".

4. **Limit seeding** to native species or fast growing non-native sterile cereal grain to only disturbed soil/slopes around home sites, along driveways and access roads, areas damaged by the fire-fighting effort, & upslope of waterways to provide soil protection, filter runoff and protect water quality. Protect seedbed with 1-2" of weed free straw mulch. Note: Some seedbed preparation/hand raking may be necessary especially if there is an ash layer. No widespread seeding on open landscape and wildland slopes is advised.
5. **Properly place and install straw wattles**, using the right type for the right purpose. Straw wattles for runoff and sediment. Stormwater filter socks to trap chemicals, oils, hydrocarbons, heavy metals, sediment/ash and other toxic substances in runoff from burned house sites and other structures containing or made from hazardous materials.
6. **Lop & Scatter** fire damaged tree & brush branches can be used on loose & bare soil areas disturbed by the fire-fighting effort, such as dozer & hand cut trails, firebreaks, access routes, etc. This practice will provide soil cover, slow runoff and reduce erosion & sediment. Scatter should be laid in a crisscross blanket format no 12-16" in depth allowing for natural regeneration and regrowth to occur.

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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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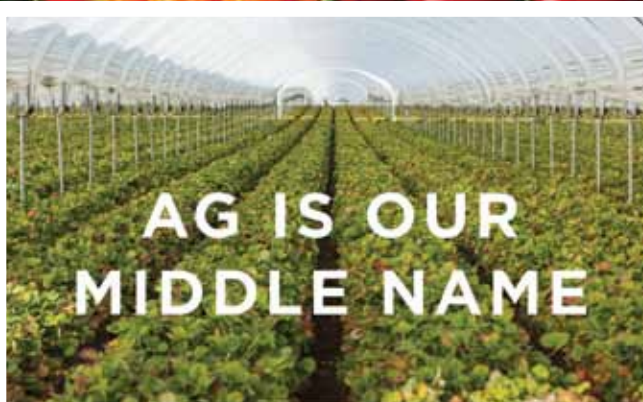
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