

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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## INSIDE this issue

- 3 Ask Mark**  
Why Strawberry Flowers  
Will Fail To Make, Abort
- 4 Water Nanny**  
Three Little Pigs
- 5 Recipe**  
The Perfect Pie Crust
- 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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World Premiere

## The Perfect Pie Song



The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers premiered "The Perfect Pie" song written and performed by Suzanne Cornelius (photo 2nd from left) and the band at Agri-Culture's Farm Dinner. Suzanne was rewarded with her own "Perfect Pie" by Nita Gizdich (Inset).

**A**t the recent Farm Dinner, hosted by the organization Agri-Culture, the guests were entertained by The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers. The band and its musicians premiered a new song written by band member Suzanne Cornelius titled "The Perfect Pie" about Nita Gizdich. Here's more information from Suzanne, her band and how she came up with the new song.

**What made you want to write a song about Nita Gizdich?** My band, the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, has been playing parties and special events for the Farm Bureaus for a number of years. The first one was at Coyote Creek Gun Club and Nita was helping with the BBQ and serving her apricot pie. I was struck by her energy and enthusiasm through the evening...with raffle tickets, center piece sales, awards and her apricot pie was fabulous. As

*the years went by I would always look forward to seeing Nita: her sparkle, her laughter, her love and, of course, her pie.*

**How did you develop this song?** I wouldn't say I love to write songs. Sometimes songs just come into my head and I have to put them on paper and let them out. Songs have woken me up and I've gotten out of bed to write them down. This one came to me at a farm bureau event listening to people talk about some of the issues they were facing. I think it had to do with a change in zoning and how that would impact their farms and businesses. Then they all came together to eat and share some delicious food, including Nita's pie. The hook was there and all I had to do was let it play itself out.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** Some thoughts about my background. I've been in

**Continued on Page 5**

**Dennis Webb, New President - See Page 11**

# President's Message



Arnett Young

## Thank You!

For the past two years I have had the honor and privilege to serve as the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau President. This experience has given me new insight into our agricultural community and those who support it. As I reflect on the past two years, I have seen how our community values its agricultural heritage as well as its current contributions. This has validated my belief that agriculture will continue to thrive here for many years.

The pandemic was in full swing when I came aboard. The Santa Cruz Farm Bureau had already begun responding through a collaborative task force with the Santa Cruz County Health Department and the Agricultural Commissioner's office. Together we staged the first mass vaccinations in the United States which resulted in over 6,800 farmworkers and community members being vaccinated. As the pandemic restrictions eased, it was

the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau who was first in finding solutions to safely hold community events, helping our community reconnect as well as leading the way for other organizations to follow.

Even during a pandemic, agricultural land still needed to be protected. With Watsonville's Urban Line Limit ending in 2022, our organization has supported local efforts to extend the ULL protection until 2040. These efforts have resulted in getting Measure Q on the ballot for Watsonville voters and hopefully a win in November.

Throughout my presidency, I have been eternally grateful for the support and guidance from the Executive Board and our Executive

Continued on Page 6



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*Thank You*

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# ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor,  
Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

## Why Strawberry Flowers Will Fail To Make, Abort

**Q.** Can you give some of the reasons as to why strawberry flowers fail to make, in other words abort?

**A.** Yes, there are many reasons why strawberry flowers will fail to make, abort and result in what many growers refer to as "duds". While this happens pretty well through the season at low levels, it can sometimes occur at scale, so it does serve us to understand what reasons for this issue can be at hand.

Before considering the possible causes of a strawberry flower abortion, it's important to remember that a flower is composed of several parts, those being the female pistil and male stamen, which themselves have their own constituent parts. Should any of these parts not be functioning correctly, the transfer of pollen to the stigma will not go well with resulting fruit malformation or total failure. Any sort of interference, for example from insects, extreme heat or cold, or chemical insult can cause these parts to fail.

**Insects:** Lygus bugs are well known for their ability to malform strawberry fruit from feeding on the floral parts, but readers should also be aware that in heavy infestations their feeding can result in total fruit failure. The failed flower will have sort of a button like appearance. Thrips, while normally associated with bronzing of ripe fruit, can also at high numbers result in total failure from the disturbance of the flower and pollen feeding, often leaving a failed flower very dark in appearance. In both of these cases, obviously, the presence of the pest will be essential to make this determination.

**Temperature extremes:** Temperature extremes are also common causes of flower failure in strawberry. Pollen and stigma are only viable for one or two days, and if weather is too hot or too cold, the opportunity for good pollination will be missed and the flower will fail. Extreme cold or frost, or very warm temperatures above 85 degrees would normally be associated with visible flower failure a few days later. Such failed flowers are usually very dark brown in appearance, and again would belong to the same cohort, in other words all being of the same age.

**Chemicals:** Lastly, chemical damage can result in flower failure. In particular spray oils and sulfur, which can be caustic to plant tissues especially the delicate flower parts, should be used with care, at proper rates and temperature ranges to avoid damaging flower parts. Much like the weather, chemical spray damage will appear very dark brown and be limited to a certain cohort of flowers, since it happened at only one moment and not any other.

The above has been a discussion of flower failure in strawberry. For questions regarding this subject or any other relating to strawberries and caneberries, please contact Mark Bolda at [mpbolda@ucanr.edu](mailto:mpbolda@ucanr.edu). ■



# THE WATER NANNY

*"Agriculture, the Original Green"*

## Three Little Pigs

**F**orget the Big Bad Wolf, let's examine the pigs on an individual basis, their houses: straw, twigs and stone. So much happened recently that I only have time for an architectural summary.

**Straw:** In case you haven't heard, there is new management at the Fairgrounds. Dave Kegebein was summarily removed from his long time job as fairgrounds manager by mandate from Sacramento CDFA Fairs and Expo branch minions. They descended on a closed session meeting of the Fair Board, composed of members all appointed by a Governor, and demanded that Dave go or the board would be dismissed en masse. This was based on a hit piece state audit, and there was no opportunity for the Fair Manager, or Board, to discuss the conclusions. Dave was clearly denied due process, and should be given an opportunity to respond. But then again you have all read about this at length through the marvel of social media.

The straw question is, what cometh of the fairgrounds now? Dave's predecessor left the fair broke and in poor reputation. Dave worked for two years as a volunteer Fair Manager to right the ship, and then as Fairgrounds' CEO, a state employee. Positive results all around. Will the new management be able to rally all of the volunteers, community support and operational efficiency of the recent past, or will the whole operation blow away with one puff? Only time will tell.



**Twigs:** I never know when each issue of *Between the Furrows* will arrive in your mailbox, but if you are reading this before November 8,

and live in Watsonville, vote **Yes on Measure Q** and No on Measure S. Measure Q continues the existing Watsonville urban boundaries voted in by the public 20 years ago with Measure U. It was put on the ballot through the initiative process, after gathering over 3,000 signatures. Measure S is a wolf in sheep's clothing (sorry for the mixed metaphor) put on the ballot to deceive and confuse as an attempt to take decisions on growth and farms away from the citizens and

keep it in the clutches of the City Council, and it barely did that with a vote of only 4 council members. In this case go with the popular choice, Q. Don't be deceived by the slap dash efforts of a few politicians to deceive the electorate. Q is durable, while S is only a pile of twigs.

**Stone:** Just in time for the holidays (2024) a major change to the hunting regulations on "exotic" feral swine mitigation, wild pig hunting (SB 856). Now historically there were no pigs in California until a Spanish ship brought them here for food in 1769. A Carmel Valley rancher, who ran a profitable side business for guided hunts, either introduced Russian wild boars, or intentional cross bred them with domestic swine for a livelier hunt, and better flavor, in 1925. In either case this is a very successful non-native invasive species.



However, Fish and Game Wildlife saw pigs as a source of hunting license revenue and deemed them a "protected game animal." It should be noted that every other state requires no license for pig hunting, and no limit. In Texas, sport hunters even shoot wild pigs from helicopters. F&W classifies animals as "game mammals" or "nongame mammals." Wild pork is now a new category, "exotic game mammal." Maybe this will make shooting them more attractive or exciting. After 2024, you will not need either a depredation permit or a hunting tag, but a "wild pig validation", for a mere \$25 per year, with unlimited take.

All of this word smithing is for one reason; no one likes wild pigs. Pigs cause \$1.5 billion in annual damage to row crops, pasture and well-manicured lawns. It is estimated that there are between 200,000 to 400,000 wild pigs in California. Fish and Game "studies show that 70% or more of the pig population must be removed each year to prevent population growth." This bill is solid and a keeper, and will be a good strong start to reducing this infestation, bringing joy to the heart of the old wolf, and ranchers throughout California. ■



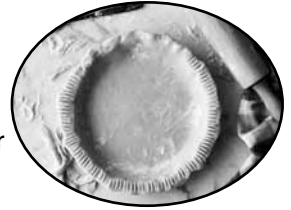
# FAVORITE RECIPES

## The Perfect Pie Crust

Yes, this is Ina Garten's famous recipe for the perfect pie crust. So, I thought it fitting that we share the perfect pie crust recipe and fill it with your favorite pie filling for the "Perfect Pie" just in time for the holiday baking season. Have fun!!

12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) very cold  
unsalted butter  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon kosher salt

1 tablespoon sugar  
1/3 cup very cold vegetable shortening  
6 to 8 tablespoons (about 1/2 cup) ice water



Dice the butter and return it to the refrigerator while you prepare the flour mixture. Place the flour, salt, and sugar in the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade and pulse a few times to mix. Add the butter and shortening. Pulse 8 to 12 times, until the butter is the size of peas. With the machine running, pour the ice water down the feed tube and pulse the machine until the dough begins to form a ball. Dump out on a floured board and roll into a ball. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Cut the dough in half. Roll each piece on a well-floured board into a circle, rolling from the center to the edge, turning and flouring the dough to make sure it doesn't stick to the board. Fold the dough in half, place in a pie pan, and unfold to fit the pan. Repeat with the top crust.

### The Perfect Pie - Continued from Page 1

*love with music, horses, travel and learning something new all my life. Song writing is a wonderful creative outlet for me. One of my "covid gifts" was writing a song a week with a friend during the 2020 quarantine. The result was more than sixty new songs.*

*My family has always embraced a reverence for good cooks and I have tried hard to be one. I have a little bread business in the Santa Cruz Mountains where we live and I'm working on making the perfect pie.*

Thank you Suzanne! The words to the song "The Perfect Pie" below.

## The Perfect Pie

By Suzanne Cornelius

*We all have lots of issues that weigh heavy on our minds  
Like will there be enough water or will there be more fines  
What about those health care fees and the cost of hay per bale  
Don't even start about immigration and especially high-speed rail...*

*Everyone's got an opinion, everyone thinks they're right  
Be careful what you say unless you're looking for a fight  
But there's one issue on our plates where we all see eye to eye  
No matter how you slice it, Nita makes a darn good pie*

**Chorus:**

*Early in the morning, late at night, all I want is some of Nita's pie  
If I don't get some I think I'll die...Oh gimme another slice of Nita's pie  
Just one slice of Nita's pie...Gotta have another bite of Nita's pie*

*This golden land is a paradise of the fruit we love to eat  
Ripened to perfection in the California heat  
Choose apple, berries, apricots and pumpkin in the fall  
You don't know what you're missing if you haven't tried them all*

**Chorus**

*And when you take your slice of pie to crown your meal tonight  
You'll taste the best of California in every tender bite  
Just one issue you must consider before you take a nibble  
Put the ice cream on the side or right square in the middle*

**Chorus**





## "Agriculture, the Original Green"

### President's Message

Continued from Page 2

Director, Jess Brown. This organization's success relies on the creativity and dedication of our hard-working staff and board members, community/business contributions, as well as our members. With all these committed people, the Santa Cruz Farm Bureau will continue to protect and support agriculture within our community.

Agriculture is continually evolving within Santa Cruz County. Over the past 100 years, we have seen crop changes, logging and cattle evolutions, and an increasing population that is not involved in agriculture. These changes require the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau to adapt as well. Finding new ways to protect and support agriculture while contributing to the whole community demands new and innovative ideas. I am looking forward to supporting our new President, Dennis Webb, for the next two years as the Farm Bureau continues to prove how valuable agriculture is to our community. ■

### Meet our new

**Farm Bureau President, Dennis Webb,  
on Page 11**

### BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER

#### Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership 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  
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## Prepare For Drought With An Effective Drought Plan

*The following information is provided by Nationwide®, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.\**

**I**t lacks the immediate impact of natural disasters like wildfires and severe storms. But drought can be just as damaging to the landscape and the agricultural families who rely on it for their livelihoods.

And right now, much of the U.S. is in its grip. Safeguard your farm or agribusiness from immediate and long-term drought damage by creating an effective drought plan.

Nothing can replace adequate moisture for crops and livestock. But you can plan ahead and have strategies in place for when conditions deteriorate. Doing so can enable you to lessen drought's effects on your operation.

"We're seeing major impacts of drought around the country this year. It's challenging farmers and ranchers from California to the East Coast," said Nationwide Sr. Consultant Marc Pearson. "Start your drought mitigation planning well before drought conditions develop. It's the best way to make sure you're doing everything you can to minimize its effects."

### Create a written drought preparedness plan

It all starts with a written plan. Include input from stakeholders from agronomists to risk management partners. The plan should include:

- Vision statement for your farm or ranch
- Inventory of output, key inputs and other resources like grain or livestock feed
- Key dates like planting and harvest for crops or grazing timeframes for livestock
- How you will monitor key resources
- Outline of strategies for how you'll respond to drought

"Thinking through the feasibility, impact, and cost/benefit ratio of each potential management option will help you identify the strategies that will work best for your operation," according to a report from the University of Nebraska National Drought Mitigation Center. "Your list of reasonable options for this year may look completely different from your list of reasonable options for next year."

### How to create a drought plan

In writing your plan, include the best management practices that fit your operation, then answer key questions:

- Does the plan advance work toward my overall goals?
- Is my plan feasible?
- Will it be effective?
- Will the benefits outweigh the costs?

### Consider specific tactics in your drought plan

Think about the specific things you can do to prevent excessive drought damage. For example, cattle producers can make plans to use alternative forage and feed sources if pasture output falls short because of drought. Others include:

- Stockpiling forages ahead of livestock feeding needs
- Contact feed suppliers early to ensure adequate supply
- Monitor and build soil health to sustain crop production
- Limit tillage to sustain soil structure and moisture
- Plant continuous cover crops to help soil retain moisture

Finally, consider the cost for those alternative tactics. And review your plan regularly to ensure you're ready when drought starts eroding your operation's bottom line.

"You will likely want to re-evaluate your 'in-drought' options on an annual basis, at minimum," according to The National Drought Mitigation Center. "The length of the drought, the severity of the drought, market conditions and other factors have a great impact on what you can do during drought."

If you're facing severe drought on your farm or ranch and need help with this planning process, talk to your Nationwide Farm Certified agent today.

Visit **AgInsightCenter.com** for expert tips and information from Nationwide to help you navigate the changing agricultural landscape, run a successful business and maintain the safety of your farm operation. ■

# THE AG COMMISSIONER

Juan Hidalgo, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION PILOT UPDATE



**B**ack in March of this year, I provided information regarding the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) plans to begin the development of a statewide pesticide notification system. As part of this process, the counties of Riverside, Stanislaus, Ventura, and Santa Cruz volunteered

to participate in implementing local pesticide notification pilots. Santa Cruz County conducted a soft launch of its pesticide notification pilot website in June and informed residents in the pilot community with a mailer describing the project and how to sign-up at our pesticide notification website. An official launch of the website to the public took place in July with a press release to make the community aware of this project. The website provides background and information on the pilot, including a map of the pilot community, and frequently asked questions regarding pesticides.

The website can be accessed here:

<https://www.agdept.com/AgriculturalCommissioner/PesticideNotificationPilot.aspx>

The Santa Cruz County notification pilot includes an area of approximately 1,200 homes that encompasses the senior community neighborhood in Watsonville and surrounding homes near Bridge Street and Bronte Avenue. Residents in the pilot area can sign up through the website to receive a text and/or email notification of upcoming applications of field soil fumigants 36-hours ahead of time. Notifications are also posted on the website which is available to any member of the public to access and view. Notifications for the pilot are limited to include the soil fumigants: chloropicrin, 1,3-dichloropropene and metam potassium. The information provided to the community for these California Restricted Materials includes the product brand name, EPA registration number, application date, application time, acres to be treated, application rate, and application method. There is no site location or map associated with the notifications. The primary goal of the pilot is to receive feedback from community members and growers to help inform DPR on

the development of their statewide pesticide notification system.

Several notifications have been sent out and posted on the website since late August when the use of the pesticide materials began to take place within the one-mile notification area. Our office has received comments and observations from residents in the pilot community regarding the notifications. Some of the more common feedback includes requesting that specific location information be provided and including information on safety precautions community members should take. Our office has been clear with community members from the beginning that the intent of the pilot is to provide transparency about the use of the listed pesticide products applied within one mile of the pilot community and that this information is complementary to our robust state pesticide regulatory program. Community members should feel free to continue to go about their daily activities and understand that these notifications are not "warnings" and not intended to create alarm or worry.

As DPR continues to move forward with the development of their statewide notification system it is important that they are clear with the public about the purpose and intent of the notifications to avoid misunderstandings about the information. A strong educational component on pesticide regulation and the measures in place for safe and effective use of these materials should also be part of the statewide notification system, with the objective of disseminating this information in a repetitive manner and in different formats. Our state's pesticide regulatory program is complex, and the public will need to hear this information more than once to fully understand how it functions. Continued feedback and comments from growers like you are extremely important as DPR continues the development of their statewide notification system. Stay tuned on updates and public participation opportunities by visiting DPR's website: [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pesticide\\_notification\\_network/](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pesticide_notification_network/) ■



## US Supreme Court To Decide Explain Scope Of Attorney-Client Privilege



On October 3, 2022, the United States Supreme Court agreed to decide an important attorney-client communication issue that impacts all American businesses. *In re Grand Jury*, \_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_ (No. 21-1397). The case will resolve three different conflicting appellate court tests for when the attorney-client privilege protects dual-purpose communications between attorney and client from discovery.

Dual-purpose communications have mixed legal and business purposes. They provide confidential information to the lawyer to obtain legal advice. And the same communications provide information for obtaining non-legal advice from the lawyer. The lawyer in response may provide both legal and business advice. Dual-purpose communications are common in American business. Attorneys in their role as trusted advisors are often asked for advice that is both legal and business opinion.

Companies and their counsel must know with reasonable certainty whether such dual-purpose communications will be protected from disclosure. But there is uncertainty at this time due to conflicting privilege tests for dual-purpose communications in three federal circuit courts.

In September 2021, the Ninth Circuit (affecting the Western United States) adopted a “primary purpose” test for dual-purpose communications. The test requires the privilege claimant to prove the primary purpose of the communication was legal. The test is criticized for, among other things, being impractical and unrealistic, because deciding whether the legal or business purpose was the primary purpose presumes all communications have a single, predominant purpose. Finding a single purpose is often impossible. The test thus requires court intervention to resolve many privilege disputes.

The 9th Circuit test conflicts with tests adopted in the District of Columbia and Seventh Circuit (Midwestern states). The D.C. Circuit in 2014 adopted a different primary purpose test. The DC primary purpose test requires the privilege

claimant to establish that the dual-purpose communication had a significant legal purpose without considering the relative importance of any business or non-legal purpose.

Both the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit and DC primary purpose tests conflict with a test the Seventh Circuit adopted. The Seventh Circuit test, which applies to communications that mix tax preparation (*i.e.*, non-legal) advice with legal advice regarding tax issues, rejects attorney-client protection for any mixed communication. Whether that test applies outside of the tax context is unclear.

In April 2022, the privilege claimant in *In re Grand Jury* asked the Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit’s decision and resolve the circuit split and adopt the D.C. circuit’s interpretation. The US Supreme Court on October 3, 2022 agreed to take the case and decide whether the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit’s “primary purpose” test was good. “Friend of the Court” briefs were filed by the Washington Legal Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce, and the California Lawyers Association—each urging the Court to resolve the split and adopt the D.C. Circuit’s test.

The choices before the Supreme Court will be (a) adopting the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit’s test; (b) adopting the D.C. Circuit’s test; or (c) devise a different test. The D.C. Circuit test seems to have the most appeal. It is more predictable and in line with the realities facing businesses. It is less subjective and easier for claimants and courts to apply. And, it promotes the goal of obtaining and providing fully informed and complete legal advice, analysis, and services.

The offsetting concern is that the test may be so broad as to prevent litigation discovery of relevant business communications that would have occurred regardless of whether the company concurrently sought legal advice. So, the scope of the privilege under the test could end up broader than necessary to achieve the goal of the attorney-client privilege, *i.e.*, ensuring that clients can obtain fully informed legal advice.

Whether a majority of Supreme Court justices will side with the Ninth Circuit’s “primary purpose” test in the *In re Grand Jury* case, the D.C. Circuit’s “primary purpose” test, or another test remains to be seen. ■

# "Agriculture, the Original Green"

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## Meet Dennis Webb

**D**ennis Webb assumed the presidency of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau as of November 1st, 2022 and will serve a two year term. We recently asked Dennis if we could get to know him a little better and here are his responses. Welcome Dennis and many good wishes!

What generation do you and your sister represent in your family being born and raised in Santa Cruz County?

**We're sixth-generation in Santa Cruz County. Starting in the 1860's our relatives, the Staub family, had a ranch north of Davenport on what is now Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch. Today, my parents live about a mile away from the Staub ranch.**

Who inspired you the most to have a career in the timber?

**My parents did. My dad worked as a timber faller and my mom is a forester. They showed me how satisfying the work can be. What I like most about forestry is the sense of satisfaction you get from seeing your work through from start to finish. You can improve the forest in ways that can be seen, and that last.**

What is your current job responsibility?

**I am Chief Forester, which means I oversee Big Creek's forestry and logging operations. My team plans, permits and executes forest management work on company and client-owned timberlands in Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. I also source the timber supply for our sawmill in Davenport.**

What is something most people don't know about the timber industry?

**Most people don't realize that the timber industry is responsible for conserving a huge portion of the intact forests in our**

**region, and statewide. The major threat to local forests is conversion to other land uses, particularly development. Use of the forest for timber production keeps the forest as open space, maintains wildlife habitat, and provides a local, sustainably produced product.**

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

**Water, workforce, and development.**

How do you envision agriculture in Santa Cruz County 25 years from now?

**I see our industry relying more on technology to meet the new challenges we're facing. We're always asked to do more with less – less water, less labor, less farmland. But the demand for local, sustainably-grown food and fiber is not going anywhere. New technologies and new approaches are going to keep our growers competitive.**

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

**Chances are, you want to make a positive difference in the community – to make it a better place to live and a better place to farm. Membership in the Farm Bureau is that difference. ■**

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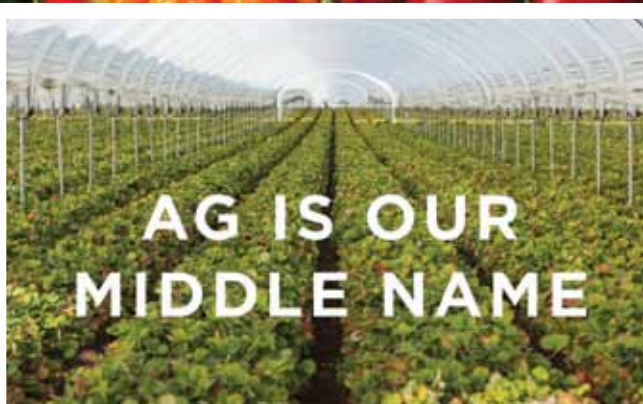
A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

## CALENDAR

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 24**  
**FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 25**  
Thanksgiving holiday  
Office closed

**MONDAY - DECEMBER 4**  
**THROUGH WEDNESDAY**  
**DECEMBER 7**

**CFBF 104th Annual**  
**Meeting**  
Monterey, CA



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