

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.

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Santa Cruz County Fair

2017 Fair Booth

**Apple Pie Baking
Contest**

**Opening Day
Barbecue**



The Apple Pie Contest Youth Division 1st Place honors went to Aidan Tomasini (above left)



2017 Opening Day Barbecue was enjoyed by a large crowd including Farm Bureau President Thomas Broz (above left) and Past President Kirk Schmidt (above right). Prepared by Watsonville Firefighters Association with Matt Ryan, Rick Pettigrew and their crew shown on the left.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCCFB.COM

President's Message

THOMAS BROZ, PRESIDENT



The Times They Are A Changin' - Bob Dylan

As I write this article, the County Fair has ended. It's hard to believe another summer season is coming to an end. These are the busiest months on our farm, with both summer and fall crops overlapping and preparations for the winter already underway. Although day-length is diminishing, we typically get to enjoy an extended growing season as the marine layer recedes and fall days turn sunny and warm.

But what is typical anymore? The weather is anything but...typical. After five years of drought, we had record-breaking winter rains, which delayed our planting dates in the spring, and then we were slammed by an extreme record-breaking heat wave. On the 2nd of September (Labor Day weekend) I measured 113°F on our farm. Many of the fruits crops were damaged, compromising the benefits of an extended growing season. None of this, of course, compares to the suffering and catastrophic damage caused by this year's hurricanes and wildfires. Whether these are the ominous storm clouds of a warming planet, may for some people still be debatable. But increasingly, we who are making a living growing food will have to adapt to a higher frequency of more extreme and unpredictable growing conditions.

Growing crops and raising animals for food requires an intimate familiarity with the biological and seasonal cycles of nature, and we depend on tools and technologies that help us

adapt to, and offset, potential uncertainties.

If I was to venture into the future, let's say a 100 years from now, when SCCFB will celebrate it's 200th anniversary, our grandchildren or great-grandchildren will most likely recount how agriculture adapted and played a role during the earth's changing climate.

We are faced with an enormous challenge; however, succumbing to pessimism won't do us any good. There are always opportunities and much will hinge on our creative and innovative attitudes in figuring out how we can return the carbon that has been depleted from our soils and released into the

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"We may not all see eye-to-eye when it comes to the politics around climate change and supporting programs like California's Cap and Trade. But surely we can find common ground to agree on ways in which we can collectively meet the demand to feed the world while at the same time enriching the most important bank we got -the soil under our feet. ."

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ASK LAURA

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

Why Am I Seeing Reddish Colored Blackberries?

Q. Why am I seeing so many reddish colored blackberries at the store right now? Is this something that regularly happens in the fall?

A. I've been seeing the same thing and it's a little disappointing. Blackberries are supposed to be black and seeing ones that are really red like what is on offer in our markets right now should not be.

What you are seeing in fact is something called "reversion", also known as, perhaps unsurprisingly, red drupelet disorder. It is a disorder which occurs after the fruit is harvested and if you ask the growers to whom this is happening they will also attest that everything went into the box nice and black.

The understanding is that the reddening originates from a loss of anthocyanin pigment in the affected drupelets of the fruit, but still scientists aren't totally clear as to what causes this loss. For one, physical damage, such as bruising or squeezing, to the drupelets of the fruit has been implicated.

The other cause, which is very likely has been happening to our fruit these past few weeks, is rapid changes in temperature. Research has shown that fruit with an

internal temperature of over 72.5°F followed by a fairly rapid drop to cold is most likely to experience red drupelet disorder. Given that in our pronounced heat spell over the past few weeks, with temperatures in production tunnels measured up to 120°F, it is not hard to see that movement of fruit from that environment to the mid 30's of the cooler (representing a drop of more than 80°F) is the definition of a rapid change in temperature.

Ways to avoid this problem during high ambient temperatures are to avoid getting fruit that hot into the box in the first place. To whatever extent possible, early picking and quick transport to the cooler are clearly one of the best. The other, which has been explored by researchers and may be in effect in some areas, is a staged cooling which gradually brings down the temperature to avoid the rapid shock of what forced air at 35°F imposes.

The above has been a brief guide of the causes and some thoughts on how to manage reversion in blackberry. Please contact Mark Bolda at UCCE Santa Cruz if you have more questions on this topic or any other topics concerning blackberry, raspberry or strawberry production.

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~ Just Keep It Simple ~

THE WATER NANNY

The Good, Sad & Ugly

Good The annual Santa Cruz County Fair concluded last month with record-setting attendance and universal accolades. Fairs are fun for everyone because they are one of the last remaining events that embodies safe predictable chaos. We attend each year for the bright lights, food, local flair and carnival. We leave dazzled by the 4-H/FFA livestock auction, our perpetually award winning Farm Bureau kinetic booth and the new old at the Ag History Project. There were even historic recollections to be witnessed; who knew that it was once the height of country fashion to give your new bride a custom saddle as a wedding gift? Diane Porter Cooley's father did, but then he gave his fiancé a horse as an engagement gift. While a saddle maker explained the markings on high-end tack, Frank Estrada opined that team ropers spent little time cleaning their plain jane gear. Some things never change.

Sad The sudden heatwave at the beginning of September wilted plants, melted apples yet to be harvested, and allegedly exploded a giant pumpkin destined for the Fair. The



Harvest building has morphed into a quilt display as produce space lacks exhibitors. Kudos though to Lakeside Organic and other growers for the remaining excellent presentations. The dearth of local crafts, collections

and even competitive Lego displays left the Crosetti building half full, but the newly remodeled Arts building was full to the brim, even showing "alien" art. As one fair goer commented to the press, people spend most of their time online and handy work is a lost art.

Ugly Not only is there little to show fair goers in the Harvest hall, but there is even less factual understanding of farming at all. Listening to people walk through the fair you could hear conversations of "farm practices" invented and repeated without any substance in fact. We may be the original victims of *Fake News*. Some patrons have deified organics with health claims far exceeding reality, while casting unwarranted aspersions of farms in general. Popular urban myths are hard to dispel, but as populations increase and affordable housing availability declines, agriculture needs to make

sure we preserve our right to farm without debilitating residential encroachment.

The Farm Bureau and Agri-Culture have worked non-stop to advocate and educate about commercial farming, both conventional and organic. Focus Ag's annual leadership classes and community participation go a long way, but daily discussions with local politicians and community leaders show there is far to go. Lack of knowledge of farming as a business, and all the legal and regulatory restraints we already face, is clear when discussing cannabis "growing opportunities" with our county leaders. It's as if farmers are unregulated, so they need to make sure that marijuana is, not realizing that some new "stronger" limits on cannabis are actually less onerous than those already in place for legal farms. Reinvention of farm regulation is not called for, maybe it is time to call pot what it really is, another crop, subject to existing regulations, plus new ones applicable only to drug crops. Or, at least we could do a better job of explaining how over regulated farms truly are to our naive politicians.



And now your monthly quote: "My feeling was that I simply didn't have the enthusiasm to do reinvention." (Roger Daltrey)



"Money talks as much as ever, but what it says nowadays makes less cents."

Farmers' Almanac



FAVORITE RECIPES

“Best of Show”

2017 Apple Pie Baking Contest

Karen Allyn, Watsonville, Retains Her Title



Karen Allyn

Crust:

- 3 cups flour
- 3/4 cup of butter
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 8 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon salt

Filling:

- 15 Pippin apples
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 1/2 lemon (juice)

Combine salt, flour, butter & shortening. Toss in water. Chill for 1 hour. Cut & peel apples. Roll out dough. Add filling. Bake for 1 hour and 15 mins.

Organized by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
Sponsored by local apple producers, processors and supporters



2017 Apple Pie Baking Contest Judges: (L-R) **Nikki Castro Yoshinaga**, Assistant General Manager, Severino's Bar & Grill;
Ella King, Owner, Ella's at the Airport;
Zach Friend, 2nd District Supervisor, County of Santa Cruz;
Steve Bennett, Advertising Director, Santa Cruz Sentinel

Apple Pie Contest Winners

Youth Division

- 1st - Aidan Tomasini, Aromas**
- 2nd - Maile Sussman, Scotts Valley**
- 3rd - Jordan Biddle, Felton**

Adult Division

- 1st - Brook Titus, Aptos**
- 2nd - Debbie Biddle, Felton**
- 3rd - Janice Weaver, Santa Cruz**

Masters Division

- 1st - Karen Allyn, Watsonville**
- 2nd - Monika Corey, Watsonville**
- 3rd - Cheryl Pettigrew, Watsonville**

“A Backward Glance - 80 Years in Review”

Ronald H. Tyler, UC Farm Advisor, Emeritus*

It all started with the Farm Advisor! In 1927, Henry Washburn was appointed Farm Advisor for Santa Cruz County. A vehicle was needed to get information developed by the University of California out to the farmers. Farm Bureau was to be that vehicle.

From the first, Farm Bureau was to be democratic, with programs originating at the membership level; and the basic philosophy was not so much what Farm Bureau could do for the farmers, but what farmers could do for themselves through Farm Bureau.

To achieve this, farm centers were organized in each community. Santa Cruz Farm Bureau had eight centers in 1918: Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Highland, Soquel, Aptos, Scotts Valley, Happy Valley and Mountain District Centers. The centers elected a representative to the County Farm Bureau as directors and two directors at large were elected. The centers were to be the grass roots origin of programs. Later, other centers were organized in Corralitos, Larkin Valley, Valencia and Seaside up the coast. Valencia Hall was owned by the Farm Bureau from the 1930's to the early 1970's. Centers came and went as communities changed. The Farm Advisor presented an educational program each month for every farm center. The last active center was the Highland. The last program I presented to this center, in the 70's, was accented with a snowstorm. I followed two wheel tracks up Miller Road to Highland Community Church where they met. The farm centers sponsored the first 4-H Clubs.

One of the first issues facing farmers and the Farm Bureau



Ron Tyler, County Director & Farm Advisor, 1971-1991

was World War I. The need to improve production of food and fiber. Starting with a membership of 500, many programs were started to beat “Kaiser Bill”. Sheep were promoted to provide wool “so the boys could go overseas with a coat”. Raising poultry was another, and it led to an egg laying contest which became the California Farm Bureau Egg Laying Contest with a new building in Aptos in 1921.

During the 1920's, forest fires were a major concern. Good forest practices and firefighting were issues tackled by the Farm Bureau. Roads were improved by farm centers donating cash and work. Water was an issue as well.

Women have always made contributions to Farm Bureau and it's policies. This was a separate department.

Santa Cruz Farm Bureau incorporated in 1933 and family memberships were started. The mid 1930's brought labor troubles. The apple pickers went on strike, agitated by communist outsiders. This led to Steinbeck's book “In Dubious Battle”.

The California Farm Bureau Federation convention was held in Santa Cruz in 1935. Five farm centers were abandoned in 1938 because encroachment of recreational interests in former mountain farming areas.

In the 1940's and another World War brought on labor shortages again. Newsletters must have gone into the war effort, but this shows its evolution. It was requested to pay



Sherry Mehl was the first woman to serve as a County Farm Bureau President in the United States

Leland Ford's name, Farm Bureau President, 1947-1948, was spelled incorrectly in September's issue of *Between the Furrows*. We apologize for the oversight.



(L-R) Lud McCrary with Sam Farr, 1988



Jimmie Cox received the 1991 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture Award (L-R) Don Hagerty, Jimmie Cox, Ron Tyler and Delbert Hirschbach

the secretary \$5 per meeting. In 1944, you could be penalized for paying more than 85 cents an hour for farm labor.

In 1950, this Farm Bureau organized the Farm Supply Company. Members bought stock in it to furnish capital. This provided competition and prices of fertilizer and other materials came down. The local merchants were not happy. The farm supply was eventually abolished in 1985.

Member services were expanded by the CFBF during the 1950's. One of the most successful was the insurance company.

Farm Bureau became property owners in 1955 with the purchase of the Walker Street property. This year ended with a flood and, oh yes, problems with the animal pound.



Celebrating women in farming (L-R) Sherry Mehl, Maybelle Silva, Loretta Estrada, Jean Clough, Nita Gizdich and Steve Siri, President

***About the Author:** Ronald H. Tyler was born in Oakland, CA in August of 1933. He attended Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, CA, going on to the University of California at Davis where he earned a degree in Pomology. He graduated in 1955 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Following two years of active duty, he served in the California National Guard where he reached the rank of Captain. He joined the University of California Agricultural Extension Service in 1957. He worked in the Central Valley, San Benito County and Santa Clara County before he became the County Director and Farm Advisor for Santa Cruz County in 1971. He served this county until his retirement in 1991.

Ron was a founding member of the Agricultural History Project, a director for the organization Agri-Culture and involved in the Focus Agriculture program. He was also the Farm Bureau's first recipient of the Al Smith Friend of Agriculture award.

Part V, by Ronald H. Tyler, U.C. Farm Advisor, Emeritus, continues in the November, 2017 issue of *Between the Furrows*.

I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...



"it keeps farmers informed of local issues and statewide politics, gives local growers a better voice in local government and has great social events like the Annual Dinner and Golf Tournament. Everyone needs another reason to party!"

Kirk Schmidt

Keys to a Safe Soil Fumigation Season



As this harvesting season is winding down and you are in the planning stages for next year's planting season, field soil fumigation may be on your list of things to do. Safety is paramount and starts with becoming familiar with the label of the pesticide product you intend to use

and understanding any additional conditions required by the Agricultural Commissioner. Staff from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office can help clarify any questions you may have regarding these requirements. Working closely with your Pest Control Adviser will help to further clarify requirements and taking time to review the fumigation plan with your PCA is essential to a safe and effective soil fumigation. The various elements and requirements that must be followed from the time you draft your fumigation plan to the time the plastic tarps are removed from the field have one important goal: the SAFETY of pesticide handlers, fieldworkers and bystanders. When it comes to field fumigations the following are a few reminders regarding practices and requirements that must be followed to ensure safety:

- Provide at least a 48 hour notification to any adjacent grower, business or property owner that provided you with a buffer zone encroachment agreement, will be vacating a structure or has requested specific notification.
- Ensure that buffer zone postings on neighboring fields and properties are in place before the fumigation starts and remain in place for 48 hours after the fumigation is completed.
- If you will have employee handlers participate in the fumigation, ensure that they have received handler training on the pesticide product used and that they have been trained and cleared to use respirators if required.
- Be alert of weather conditions at least 48 hours before

the fumigation and on the day of the fumigation. Be aware of any forecasted weather inversions or wind advisories and plan accordingly. If you or your PCA suspect the weather may negatively impact the fumigation, consider postponing and rescheduling the job for another day.

- To prevent people from entering or parking in buffer zone areas, ensure your employees are aware of areas that will be fumigated and areas that are off limits due to the fumigation. Consider posting buffer zone signs on your own fields.
- Be proactive. If you suspect a fumigation may result in the exposure of nearby fieldworkers, contact the grower to get them away from the area, and contact your PCA and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
- If a tarp is compromised, contact your PCA and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office immediately.
- Remember that when an employee complains of illness or pesticide exposure that might reasonably be expected to lead to an employee's illness, the grower must ensure that employee is taken to a physician immediately.
- Stay in contact with your PCA and have them visit your field to ensure it is ready and in compliance with requirements before submitting a notice of intent (NOI) to fumigate. Ensure the map submitted with the NOI reflects current conditions in the field with respect to sensitive sites and other areas that may be impacted by the fumigation job.

Finally, remember that COMMUNICATION with your PCA, Agricultural Commissioner, other growers, and neighbors is a key step in ensuring SAFETY.



By Gerry Spinelli, Agronomist,
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

Estimating The Application Rate Of Drip And Sprinkler System Improves Irrigation Scheduling

Determining how long to run your irrigation system can be challenging because typical irrigation recommendations are provided in inches (or feet) of water depth. Basic knowledge of the application rate of a specific irrigation system will allow you to convert these recommendations into daily or weekly hours of irrigation needed.

The application rate is the depth of water applied by an irrigation system over a certain period of time and is typically expressed in inches per hour (in/hr). Note that the application rate is a depth per time (not a volume), so it is independent of the area. In other words, a one acre block has the same application rate as a five acre block on the same ranch.

In drip systems, the variables determining the application rate are the bed width, the number of tapes per bed and the flowrate of the driptape (assuming the average pressure in the driptape is close to the design pressure, usually 8 or 10 psi). The driptape flowrate can be obtained from the label on the tape coil (see Figure 1), it has units of gpm/100ft.

To estimate the application rate in sprinkler systems (aluminum hand-move pipes) you need to know the spacing of laterals, the sprinkler nozzle size and the pressure at which the system is run; this can be measured with a pressure gage with Pitot tube.

Estimates of application rates for drip systems are reported in Table 1, and application rates for sprinkler systems in Table 2. From Table 1, one can determine that a drip system for strawberries with 52-inch beds, two driplines per bed and a flowrate of 0.5 gpm/100ft, has an application rate of 0.22 in/hr. Similarly, a sprinkler system for lettuce with 7/64" nozzles and 30 by 33.3 feet spacing, run at 55 psi, has an application rate of 0.27 in/hr.

An application rate of 0.27 in/hr means that if the system is run for one hour, 0.27 inches of water are applied, if it is run for 45 minutes, 0.2 inches (0.27 ÷ 60 x 45) are applied and so on.

As a reference, on an average year in the Pajaro Valley, a strawberry crop needs one inch of water in one typical week in August and about 28 inches for an entire crop cycle. A grower with an application rate of 0.22 inch/hour will need to irrigate four and a half hours (1 inch ÷ 0.22 in/hr = 4.5 hr) in a week in August and 127 hours (28 in ÷ 0.22 in/hr = 127

hr) for the entire season.

This method only provides an estimate of application rates when direct measurements are not available. For a direct measurement of the application rate, schedule an on-site irrigation evaluation with the RCD of Santa Cruz County at: 831-464-2950, info@rcdsantacruz.org



Figure 1: Examples of driptape flowrate from the labels on the rolls

Tape Flowrate [gpm/100 ft]	1 Dripline Per Bed	2 Driplines Per Bed	
	Bed Width 48 inch	Bed Width 48 inch	Bed Width 52 inch
0.25	0.06 inch/hour	0.12 inch/hour	0.11 inch/hour
0.3	0.07 inch/hour	0.14 inch/hour	0.13 inch/hour
0.4	0.1 inch/hour	0.19 inch/hour	0.18 inch/hour
0.5	0.12 inch/hour	0.24 inch/hour	0.22 inch/hour
0.63	0.15 inch/hour	0.3 inch/hour	0.28 inch/hour
0.67	0.16 inch/hour	0.32 inch/hour	0.3 inch/hour

Table 1. Application rate in in/hr for drip systems or different flowrates and bed widths

Nozzle size inch	Pressure psi	Flowrate gpm	Spacing 30 by 30		Spacing 30 by 33.3		Spacing 30 by 35		Spacing 30 by 40	
			Flowrate	Application Rate	Flowrate	Application Rate	Flowrate	Application Rate	Flowrate	Application Rate
3/32	40	1.64	0.18 inch/hour	0.16 inch/hour	0.15 inch/hour	0.13 inch/hour				
	45	1.75	0.19 inch/hour	0.17 inch/hour	0.16 inch/hour	0.14 inch/hour				
	50	1.86	0.2 inch/hour	0.18 inch/hour	0.17 inch/hour	0.15 inch/hour				
	55	1.96	0.21 inch/hour	0.19 inch/hour	0.18 inch/hour	0.16 inch/hour				
	60	2.05	0.22 inch/hour	0.2 inch/hour	0.19 inch/hour	0.16 inch/hour				
7/64	40	2.45	0.26 inch/hour	0.24 inch/hour	0.22 inch/hour	0.2 inch/hour				
	45	2.58	0.28 inch/hour	0.25 inch/hour	0.24 inch/hour	0.21 inch/hour				
	50	2.70	0.29 inch/hour	0.26 inch/hour	0.25 inch/hour	0.22 inch/hour				
	55	2.82	0.3 inch/hour	0.27 inch/hour	0.26 inch/hour	0.23 inch/hour				
	60	2.93	0.31 inch/hour	0.28 inch/hour	0.27 inch/hour	0.23 inch/hour				
1/8	40	3.26	0.35 inch/hour	0.31 inch/hour	0.3 inch/hour	0.26 inch/hour				
	45	3.41	0.36 inch/hour	0.33 inch/hour	0.31 inch/hour	0.27 inch/hour				
	50	3.55	0.38 inch/hour	0.34 inch/hour	0.33 inch/hour	0.28 inch/hour				
	55	3.69	0.39 inch/hour	0.36 inch/hour	0.34 inch/hour	0.3 inch/hour				
	60	3.81	0.41 inch/hour	0.37 inch/hour	0.35 inch/hour	0.31 inch/hour				
9/64	40	4.08	0.44 inch/hour	0.39 inch/hour	0.37 inch/hour	0.33 inch/hour				
	45	4.25	0.45 inch/hour	0.41 inch/hour	0.39 inch/hour	0.34 inch/hour				
	50	4.41	0.47 inch/hour	0.42 inch/hour	0.4 inch/hour	0.35 inch/hour				
	55	4.55	0.49 inch/hour	0.44 inch/hour	0.42 inch/hour	0.37 inch/hour				
	60	4.69	0.5 inch/hour	0.45 inch/hour	0.43 inch/hour	0.38 inch/hour				

Table 2. Application rate in in/hr for hand-move aluminum pipe sprinkler systems with Rainbird 20JH head for various nozzle sizes, spacings and pressures

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President's Message

Continued from Page 2

atmosphere back to the soil. If too much carbon in the atmosphere is causing the warming of our planet, then it makes a lot of sense to return as much carbon back to the soil as we possibly can. For centuries we have grown food while depleting soil carbon. Sequestering carbon in the soil with the help of plants and animals is what farmers and ranchers are best equipped to do. Our challenge is to grow food and fiber while at the same time returning carbon and fertility to the soil. We may not all see eye-to-eye when it comes to the politics around climate change and supporting programs like California's Cap and Trade. But surely we can find common ground to agree on ways in which we can collectively meet the demand to feed the world while at the same time enriching the most important bank we got -the soil under our feet.

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Tom Broz, Owner of Live Earth Farm

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A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 11
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 20
Focus Agriculture XXVIII,
Session 9

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 26
Board of Directors' meeting

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 26
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission meeting

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 28
21st Annual Progressive
Dinner, an Agri-Culture event

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 1

- Legislative Committee meeting
- Executive Committee meeting
- Membership Committee meeting

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 2
Annual Directors' Dinner

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 8
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

MONDAY - NOVEMBER 13
Public Relations &
Information Committee
meeting



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