

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

OCTOBER 2019  
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 10

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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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## Farm Bureau at the 2019 County Fair "Round Up the Red, White & Blue"



Top Row: (L-R) Janice Weaver, Apple Pie Best of Show winner, Farm Bureau fair booth and hungry BBQ guests looking forward to enjoying some great food. Bottom Row: (L-R) Debbie Justice, Apple Pie Adult Division 2nd place winner, Farm Bureau booth and the Firefighters Association crew who prepared and served a great Opening Day BBQ.



## President's Message

### Best Holiday of the Year

I noticed the first truly all year for. Fall signals a slow decline in berry cold crisp morning production and the start of hard squash season. today, hinting at the Tomatoes and peppers see their final picks, change of season and brussel sprouts begin the start of theirs, while cooler weather to come. pumpkins turn from green to orange revealing

Fall is here. The Autumn is one of the most beautiful times of year on the central coast, foliage.

the fog recedes and the days are warm. Apple harvests are underway and if you don't visit your favorite "You Pick" early you might miss out on those rare special varieties you've waited

Take a poll as to people's favorite holidays and most respond Christmas followed by Thanksgiving. While I enjoy the bounty of a Thanksgiving feast and the incredible aroma

President's Message - Continued on Page 8



*Agri-Culture Presents*



*23rd Annual  
Progressive  
Dinner*

**Saturday, October 26**  
**3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**\$150 per person**  
**Only 100 tickets sold!!**

**Surprise Locations!**  
 Buses meet at  
 Casserly Hall  
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**GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!**  
 Tickets and sponsorship  
 opportunities are available on  
 Eventbrite. (Search for 23rd Annual  
 Progressive Dinner in Watsonville)



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# ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, County Director, Strawberry & Caneberry Farm Advisor, UCCE

## Leak Rots

**C**an you elaborate a little bit about the “leak rots” that become so prevalent around this time of year in the berries?

To begin with, the leak rots as they are called, are caused by pathogenic fungi *Rhizopus* and *Mucor*. These are quite different from the gray mold caused by the fungus *Botrytis* and worthy of some attention, especially as you note at this time of year.

Both *Rhizopus* and *Mucor* have similar effects on the fruit. Once infected, the fruit becomes very soft and after a short time it starts to leak juice from the tissues. In fact, in the latter steps of infection, the fruit loses all of its integrity and can no longer be picked up without falling apart. At this stage, the fruit is covered with a fluffy white to black growth. It should be noted that none of this happens with fruit infected with *Botrytis*, which while infected does not become soft to a great degree, in addition to having a tan to gray fungal growth on the surface instead of the fluffy growth of the leak rots described above.

Leak rots become an issue in the late part of the season rather than the early since most of the initial inoculum blows in from the outside of the field at the beginning of the season. These blown in spores need fruit injury to infect a fruit, but once established a population of *Mucor* and *Rhizopus* will advance very quickly given the right conditions of free moisture and an abundance of damaged mature fruit.

An important fact to note about both leak rot pathogens is that there are currently no effective fungicides registered for use against them in California. In fact, for fruits

in general there is only one, marketed under the name of Botran, but since it has issues with Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) in many countries, it is not a good option for pursuit of a label here. The development and identification of fungicides for this pathogen complex is an area of interest for this office of UC Cooperative Extension.

The lack of usable fungicides means that these pathogens must be managed culturally in our berries. Growers could do worse in managing their leak rot problems than retaining the integrity of their plastic mulch and drip tape, to deny the leak rot pathogens access to moisture needed to grow. Field sanitation by removing rotting fruit is a key to keeping fieldwide infections under control. That this step of sanitation is also a big step in reducing vinegar fly (including spotted wing drosophila, SWD) should really underline the value of this practice to growers.

Post-harvest cooling is the critical and final step in reducing the problems presented by leak rots. Even though *Mucor* grows very slowly in low temperatures, *Rhizopus* does not grow very much at all in temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, placing cooling at the top of the list in leak rot management. Nevertheless, growth of either of these will continue apace once the fruit is at warmer temperatures again, so one should be vigilant about the integrity of the cold chain.

The above has been a description of leak rot disease in berries caused by *Mucor* and *Rhizopus*. For more information on this pathogen and other issues affecting berries on the Central Coast of California, please contact Farm Advisor Mark Bolda at 831-763-8025 or [mpbolda@ucanr.edu](mailto:mpbolda@ucanr.edu).

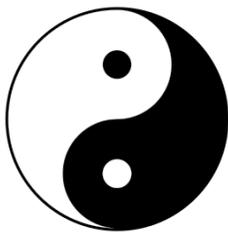
# THE WATER NANNY

## Harmony

Yin and Yang is a foundational Chinese concept of dualism, where apparently opposite opposing forces may be complimentary and interdependent, resulting in balance in the natural world. Similarly, but not the same, a raucous night of little monsters on Halloween, All Hallows Eve, is followed by All Saints day, they cannot exist apart, the universe is in balance.

Conflict is full of opposing forces, sometimes within the same being. Psychiatrists exist to bring balance to people with conflicting personalities. While they are not psychiatrists for government, the press, now the media, tries to bring harmony through clarity, exposing the good and bad.

Even farmers can become conflicted. While Jerry Brown was winding down his second term as governor, 1983, Pajaro growers were working with our state Senator, Henry Mello, to create a groundwater management agency for the Pajaro Valley. Earlier in the Brown governorship he tried, unsuccessfully, to mandate groundwater agencies throughout California. It would take until 2014, during his fourth term, to pass the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), most governors did not have the longevity for such a long curtain call. This idea of a Pajaro agency was pushed by our Farm Bureau. In 1983 the Legislature passed the Agency Act authorizing the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), subject to a vote of the Pajaro residents, which passed, fulfilling the farmers' request.



The PVWMA was needed as we, that is ag, were over drafting our aquifer, with no relief in sight. PVWMA was to develop solutions. Fast forward to 1993, the Agency determined that to pay for solutions, water use, that is water extracted from the ground would have to be taxed. Now, there is not a farmer alive that wants to pay more taxes, especially for something that was a water right. This caused conflict within the ag community, but eventually meters were mandated, and projects commenced.

Only in fairy tales, and maybe not even there, can we find a government agency that can efficiently, and successfully, achieve their state goal. The PVWMA was no different. The agency had two conflicting philosophies; the overdraft

would be solved with imported water or local users needed to develop and pay for in basin solutions. Either way it would be expensive and execution was the key to economically solving the overdraft. Your Nanny first called out the Agency in 2001 for myopic vision by spending scarce resources in sole pursuit of the grand import pipeline. There were lawsuits that the Agency was incorrectly charging for extractions, which the agency lost resulting in refunds to growers. The path became dark. PVWMA Board meetings were only memorable for their lack of harmony. Yelling was common. One board member even sued his own board, not a typical show of affection. The PVWMA even gave your Nanny a derisive nickname in recognition of her in-depth coverage.



All that is a distant memory. The PVWMA has successfully built one of the largest recycled water projects dedicated to agriculture in the country; innovated with recharge projects and water use offsets to encourage farmers to encourage winter recharge, funded water conservation, and kept rates under control as our taxes were supplemented by millions of dollars of grants to help pay for these projects.

The circle is complete. When SGMA was enacted it required that all unsustainable water basins to develop a management plan. Critically over drafted basins, like ours, have the highest burden to attain sustainability soon. These plans are due to the State Department of Water Resources by early 2020. There are a few existing water agencies listed in SGMA as exempt from the new sustainability regulations, PVWMA is one, if their existing management plan is determined to be adequate. The PVWMA was one of nine management agencies statewide with an approved alternative plan, and the only one managing a critically over drafted basin. The PVWMA will not have to spend our money on a new plan, and can turn their attention to the College Lake project, which is part of the solution. Great Job.

Because success in government is so rare, there are no relevant, nor humorous quotes to be found. Don't forget the Progressive Dinner on October 26<sup>th</sup>, soon to be followed by All Hollows.



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## “Best of Show” Apple Pie

*The 2019 Apple Pie Baking Contest was won this year by Janice Weaver of Santa Cruz.*



Janice Weaver

### Crust:

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup water

### Filling:

- 4-5 pounds apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 Tablespoon cornstarch
- bit of milk

Roll out one half of dough and fit into 9” pie pan. Toss filling ingredients together and pour into shell. Roll out second half of dough for top of pie. Crimp it to the shell, cut slits, brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 400°F for 45-50 minutes.

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau’s **43rd Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest** was held at the Santa Cruz County Fair last week. Winners were selected for each of the three divisions, Youth, Adult and Masters. **Janice Weaver**, of Santa Cruz took the top overall prize by winning “Best of Show”. The Apple Pie Contest Judges are different every year. The judges for this year’s contest were **Francisco Estrada**, Mayor, City

of Watsonville; **Pam Zamani**, Retired Community Leader; **Maryann Bulich Schnitter**, Owner, Butier & Bulich Brothers; and **Brendan Miele**, President, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. The Pajaro Valley apple producers, growers and pie lovers sponsor the annual event in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. **Laura Rider**, Farm Bureau Member, is Chair for this very popular opening day event.



**Apple Pie Contest Judges (L-R)**  
Maryann Bulich Schnitter, Owner, Butier & Bulich Brothers & Brendan Miele, Farm Bureau President



**Apple Pie Contest Judges (L-R)** Francisco Estrada, Mayor, City of Watsonville & Pam Zamani, Retired Community Leader



**Apple Pie Contest Pies from around the county**

### 2019 Winners Are:

#### YOUTH DIVISION

- 1st: **Kaia Harrah**, Aptos
- 2nd: **Claire Madson**, Santa Cruz
- 3rd: **Aiden Tomasini**, Aromas

#### ADULT DIVISION

- 1st: **Connie Elmer-Akin**, Santa Cruz
- 2nd: **Debbie Justice**, Santa Cruz
- 3rd: **Jill Martin**, Felton

#### SENIOR DIVISION

- 1st: **Janice Weaver**, Santa Cruz
- 2nd: **Kelly Kersten**, Watsonville
- 3rd: **Ruth Ernest**, Watsonville

## Understanding Your Outbuilding Insurance Options

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

An important part of your farm or ranch policy is the protection it offers for damage to farm or ranch buildings and structures. These buildings must be listed on your policy to be covered.

In addition to barns, stables, pens, confinement buildings and sheds, other outbuildings include cold storage structures, rice dryers, nut hullers, packing houses, prune dehydrators and potato storage sheds, for example.

Coverage for farm buildings includes:

- Water pumps, motors and other outdoor equipment used for the operation of the building
- Furniture, fixtures, machinery and equipment – pertaining to the use of the building – located in, on or within 100 feet of the building

Also talk to your agent about:

- Insuring your farm buildings for replacement cost or actual cash value
- The Causes of Loss (Broad, Basic or Special) for which you want to insure
- How much deductible to carry. A higher deductible may lower your premium, but you would have to pay more in the event of a loss.
- The current values of your farm buildings

Under certain conditions, AgriChoice® may also provide coverage for collapse of farm buildings.

### Extended coverage for new farm buildings

If you add a new barn, shelter or other confinement building, AgriChoice extends your coverage of up to \$100,000 for 60 days (beginning when the building materials are delivered) or until your next renewal date. When your policy is about to renew, discuss the values of any new structures with your agent to be sure you're properly insured.

### Don't forget the fixtures

The AgriChoice policy provides coverage for equipment breakdown and mechanical failure of fixtures or systems built into farm buildings. Be sure your agent is aware of the values of all fixtures, systems and equipment associated with your barns or other structures.

Nationwide has been protecting agriculture for more than 100 years, including commercial agribusinesses. For more information contact your local Nationwide agent or visit [nationwide.com/business/agribusiness](http://nationwide.com/business/agribusiness).

Farm and ranch products are not available in: Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Oklahoma.

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

#### Annual Directors' Dinner

Location to be determined  
November 7, 2019  
5:45 p.m.

#### CFBF 101st Annual Meeting

Monterey, CA  
December 8-11, 2019

### Agri-Culture

#### 23rd Annual Progressive Dinner

To be determined  
October 26, 2019  
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## Helping to Keep Mosquitoes at Bay



**T**he Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control Division of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office helps to keep our communities safe through responsible management of mosquitoes and other vectors. A vector is any pest that can spread disease to humans or that

causes discomfort or injury. Our primary focus is to manage mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile virus (WNV) and other diseases. WNV is spread by mosquitoes and was first detected in California in 2003. The virus quickly spread and was found throughout California by 2004. The virus affects people differently causing fever, headache and nausea in about 20% of individuals, and serious illness in about 1% of individuals leading to impacts to the brain and nervous system which can include vision loss, numbness and paralysis. Most people (about 80%) will have no symptoms.

In addition to managing native mosquitoes, our division is working hard to manage and prevent invasive mosquitoes. In recent years *Aedes aegypti* (the yellow fever mosquito) and *Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito) have been found in Central and Southern California. These invasive exotic mosquitoes, collectively known as "Invasive *Aedes*" are making their way to the northern part of our State. In August, *Aedes aegypti* was detected in Stockton (San Joaquin County) and Roseville (Placer County). Other nearby counties where these mosquitoes have established include Merced (as close as Los Banos) Fresno, and Madera. Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are capable of transmitting several viruses, including dengue, chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever. Fortunately, these viruses are not being spread by Invasive *Aedes* in California at this time. However, travelers going abroad to Central and South America, the Caribbean, or other tropical locations may become infected increasing the possibility of disease transmission in areas of the State where these mosquitoes are found. Travelers should take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites when traveling to areas where dengue, chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever are known to occur. These mosquitoes are black in color and can be identified by white stripes on their legs. Unlike our

local mosquitoes, these invasive mosquitoes are aggressive, bite during the day, and can lay eggs in very small sources of water, as small as a water cap.

Mosquito and Vector Control is counting on our communities to help reduce mosquito breeding sources around the home by dumping and draining, and to be aware of belongings that can carry water when traveling throughout the State. Community participation will be key to prevent the spread of invasive mosquitoes and reduce the potential transmission of serious disease viruses. For more information on these exotic mosquitoes and where they can be found in California, visit the California Department of Public Health website at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Aedes-aegypti-and-Aedes-albopictus-mosquitoes.aspx>

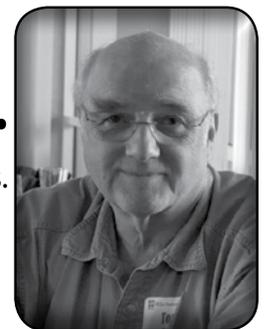
For more information about mosquitoes and other vectors in our County, visit the Mosquito and Vector Control Division website at: <http://www.agdept.com/AgriculturalCommissioner/MosquitoAbatementVectorControl.aspx>



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**Tom Rider,  
H.A. Rider & Sons**





**President's Message - Continued from Page 2**

of fresh locally grown douglas fir in the house, my holiday favorite lays with something traditionally darker and steeped in agricultural lore, Halloween.

Our modern holiday originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-win); taking place at the midpoint between the fall equinox and the winter solstice. The harvest was underway and the beginning of the dark half of the year had begun. The belief was that the barriers between worlds become thin and people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Over the years and as societies merged through conquest Celtic traditions were merged with Roman and later Christian holidays. The Romans brought apples to Britain and the holiday celebrating Pomona the goddess of abundance and orchards, which coincided on October 31st is the likely origin of bobbing for apples on Halloween.

The most iconic symbol of Halloween, the pumpkin has a more sinister origin that lies in an Irish myth about a man nicknamed Stingy Jack. Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack

decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil, but soon after died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern." in England and Ireland the carving of turnips and potatoes gave way to pumpkins when immigrants came to the new world and were introduced to pumpkins by Native Americans.

The agricultural traditions behind Halloween can be seen across Santa Cruz County this autumn. Enjoy a local fall harvest festival and get your pumpkins at one of our local pumpkin patches from Davenport to Watsonville. How will you choose to celebrate the best holiday of the year?



**Participate in Santa Cruz County's AgTech Conversation**

The Santa Cruz County AgTech Meetup was formed in March, 2015, to facilitate the conversation between produce growers-shippers, and technologists in Santa Cruz County. We meet every other month with an agenda that rotates to reflect the "process" growers-shippers go through.

- October - Processing & Shipping
- December - Planning and Resource Allocation
- February - Land Preparation
- April - Planting
- June - Production

August - Harvesting, Productivity Solutions.

The meetups are held in Watsonville on the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Food & Refreshments are provided and the speakers start at 6pm.

Please attend and promote attendance to these unique AgTech conversations. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.meetup.com/Santa-Cruz-County-Ag-Tech-Meetup/>

## Save the Dates!

### Free Upcoming Events with the Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District and UC Cooperative Extension:

The Santa Cruz RCD in partnership with the UC Cooperative Extension will be hosting two valuable workshops for farmers and ranchers in the Pajaro Valley, so be sure to save these dates in your calendar. We look forward to seeing you out there!

#### CropManage Workshop for Pajaro Valley ag:

- **What is CropManage?** CropManage is a free online decision support tool for water and nutrient management of coastal crops. Based on in-depth research and field studies conducted by the University of California, CropManage provides **real-time recommendations for efficient irrigation and fertilization applications**— while maintaining or improving overall yield.
- **When:** November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 8:00am to 12:00pm
- **Where:** UC Cooperative Extension Auditorium (1430 Freedom Blvd. Watsonville, CA 95076)
- **Who should participate?** Vegetable and berry growers, ranch managers, other farm staff, and technical service providers are welcome. The workshop is for both new *and* current CropManage users.
- **Spanish translation will be provided**



#### Strawberry Nitrogen Management Workshop and Mariscada:

- **What is it?** A great opportunity to exchange knowledge and socialize with fellow growers about nitrogen management in strawberry production, while enjoying a delicious seafood platter (mariscada).
- **When:** October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- **Where:** 880 Airport Blvd. Watsonville, CA 95076
- **Who should participate?** Strawberry growers and farm staff involved in nitrogen management.
- **To register please call (831) 224-0293**



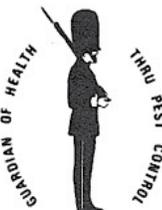
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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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## CALENDAR

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

**MONDAY - OCTOBER 7**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 9**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 12-13**  
Open Farm Tour  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY - OCTOBER 18**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 9  
& Graduation

**SATURDAY - OCTOBER 26**  
23rd Annual Progressive  
Dinner

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 31**  
Board of Directors' meeting

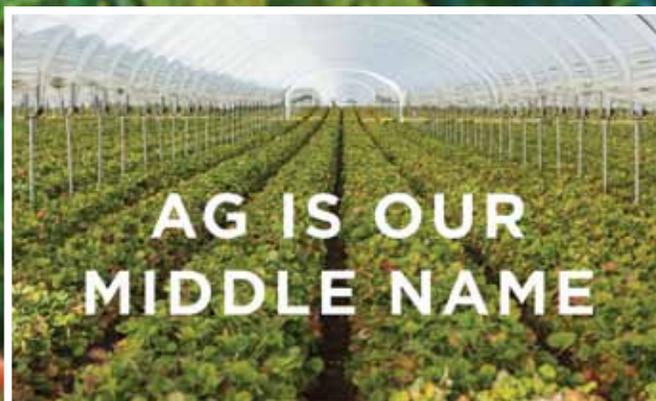
**MONDAY - NOVEMBER 4**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 6**  
• Legislative Committee  
meeting  
• Executive Committee  
meeting  
• Membership Committee  
meeting

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 7**  
Annual Directors' Dinner

**WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 13**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 28-29**  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
observed - Office closed



## AG IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

We see things from the ground up, all of the small details that go into the big picture of farming. Because agriculture is what we know, it's all we do.



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