

# 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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## President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT

### Time for the County Fair



Last Month would have been one of my favorite times of the year; the week long celebration of agriculture at the Santa Cruz County Fair. This year health restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 have impacted many events and prohibited mass gatherings of people, including the Fair. The Fair has operated in its current location since 1941 and its original agriculture celebration has origins dating back as far as the 1880's. This year's fair, themed "Cool Shades And Tractor Parades" was missed by many. I'll miss judging the apple pie contest, the rides, the shows, the livestock, the crafts, the music, the food, and the sense of community that the Fair creates. The Fair is the cornerstone of our county, bringing together residents from rural and urban areas. Many people from the city often only interact directly with the rural

environment through their experiences at the Fair. While unable to operate normally this year, the Fair was able to offer several alternative activities. An innovative drive-through Fair food experience provided all the incredible food delicacies often only enjoyed at the Fair, offering gyros, corn dogs, funnel cakes, and cinnamon rolls. The junior livestock

people, tents, RV's and animals. In March, as efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19 shuttered schools and businesses, the fairgrounds became an essential partner working with Second Harvest Food Bank to enable the county's largest drive-through food distribution in its history. Serving 1600 households each week, this distribution has

auction, a highlight of the annual fair, went online with a virtual auction. This allowed these incredible young people of 4-H and FFA, who work so hard to raise animals, the opportunity to showcase and sell the fruits of their labor; supporting them in their potential progression as future farmers.

The fairgrounds are active year round, not only during the fair in September. The fairgrounds is home to the Agriculture History Project, which honors and promotes knowledge about agriculture on the Central Coast; preserving and promoting community awareness of the economic, cultural, and ethnic aspects of agriculture, from both past and present. The fairgrounds hosts car racing, a weekend flea market, horse shows, and provides venues for private events, such as the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Awards Gala and the Farm Bureau's National Agriculture Day Luncheon that was held this September.

The fairgrounds is a state-designated disaster center that can accommodate

**"What are your fondest memories of the Santa Cruz County Fair? Let's hope we are all able to make new memories by this time next year. In the interim support the fairgrounds by attending one of the socially distanced events there as they begin to come back and please consider making a donation to help keep the fair viable for our community's future."**

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President's Message - Continued on Page 6

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SCCFB.COM](http://WWW.SCCFB.COM)

## A Registered Apprenticeship to Grow the Pipeline of Skilled Agricultural Workers

By Bri Grosskopf, Apprenticeship Outreach Coordinator

**A**mong the many challenges farmers are faced with today, labor shortages continue to burden the agricultural industry. With a generation of farmers and managers heading towards retirement, few are lined up to fill these key positions, leaving farmers anxious about labor at all levels of the farm.

The Center for Land-Based Learning (CLBL), a nonprofit organization based in Woodland, CA set out to support farmers and aspiring skilled workers alike, through the development of a registered apprenticeship. Through this proven training model, which has been used for over 100 years to train skilled workers across many industries, CLBL staff connect farm employers with pre-screened and highly qualified employees to train for managerial roles. Farmers can also send current employees through the program to gain skills and knowledge that will help them move into upper level positions.

"Going through this program can really mold a person who already understands [farming and what it means to work long hours] into a manager. Which is what we are all really trying to find - who is going to be that next manager as our current management teams all retire?" - David Ogilvie, Wilson Vineyards

Now in its third year, the Beginning Farm and Ranch Manager Apprenticeship Program, which takes roughly two years to complete, provides apprentices with the fundamentals

of agriculture and requires 3,000 hours of on-the-job training and 250 hours of coursework. While on the job, apprentices gain hands-on experience in core areas including tractor skills, plant care, irrigation, soil management, and even things such as regulatory paperwork, among others. Coursework is individualized to bridge gaps in the apprentice's knowledge and skills and may include community college classes, UC short courses, workshops, conferences, and more.

This statewide program is available year-round, allowing farmers to hire applicants or enroll employees at a time most suitable for their operation and is available for farms throughout California. Although coursework is currently being completed online, as pandemic restrictions loosen, apprentices will be eligible to complete courses through local community colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. CLBL currently has funding to cover all coursework tuition fees through 2021. To learn how you can get connected with your future top employees, contact us at [apprenticeship@landbasedlearning.org](mailto:apprenticeship@landbasedlearning.org) or call us at (530) 795-4146.



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# ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

## Effect of Ash From Recent Fires on Agriculture

**Q.** Can you speak briefly about the effect of the ash from the recent fires on Pajaro Valley agriculture?

**A.** Yes, absolutely I can write a little about the effect of the fires, occurring at the end of August and continuing on into September, on our local agriculture. Additionally, I have attached a couple of pictures below.

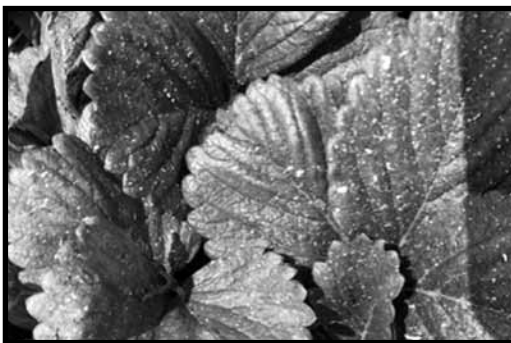
The bottom line about these fires, which for readers perhaps unfamiliar with the situation here, is that they were located on the north side of Santa Cruz County and most of our agriculture is on the south. In turn, tragically, there were several cases of severe damage to farms on the north coast, while here on the south around Watsonville, where the majority of Santa Cruz county farms are located, damage was fortunately limited to light ash deposits on leaves and fruit (see photos below). Covered cultivation, such as that of blackberries and raspberries under macro-tunnels, was not affected at all.

The smoke was usually a haze, but for the most part field work was still doable, especially since many of us are already used to using masks for prevention of the spread of Covid19.

If you recall there were several days, those being September 7 and 8, of very heavy but high smoke with very limited light penetration. The sun was invisible and it was interesting, since I have an instrument to measure ultraviolet (UV) radiation for some other fruit work, to measure on these days UV light as zero. It is true that UV light is of a wavelength not generally usable by plants which generally use wavelengths within the visible spectrum but is nonetheless an

indication of the magnitude of shading and inhibition of light. This concurs with anecdotal reports from farmers of slowed fruit maturation and subsequent smaller harvests.

The above has been a summary of the effect of the recent fires in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties on local agriculture. 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.



Ash deposits on strawberry leaves, San Andreas Road, Watsonville, August 21, 2020



Even with ash deposits on the leaves, very little ash was found on many fruit, since for the most part they are protected by the leaves above them. San Andreas Road, Watsonville, August 21, 2020.



# THE WATER NANNY

## Diamond in the Rough

Every town, every valley, every county has a few gems that no one notices until they are necessary for community health and betterment. They are like unpolished diamonds, that to the untrained eye, look like any other rock, only to come to life and dazzle with a little polish. Recently our community benefited from an unassuming gem.

Last month your Nanny wrote about the way cool virtual 4H livestock auction to be held in September when we should have a County Fair. Well, as of Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, there was another reason we were not going to have a Fair, or Junior Livestock Auction...the CZU Lightning Fires in north Santa Cruz County and San Mateo County. For a while the fairgrounds was humming with over 850 guests in tents and RVs, not to mention over 1200 animals...horses, goats, parrots, and mostly 738 chickens

We all go to the Fair; have a corn dog, personally review the 4H animals, ride the Ferris wheel; maybe even check out the Farm Bureau booth in the Harvest building. Many attend a quinceañera, Chamber Business Expo, Holiday Fair or ride in a horse show. One of the lesser known uses of our Fairgrounds is disaster shelter and community support. After the Loma Prieta earthquake it was home to FEMA housing for displaced families. In 2018, the Fairgrounds installed giant water storage tanks to further support its emergency role. The Governor praised the recent fire sheltering during a visit in August.



The Governor has a more nuanced financial view of all the fairgrounds in the state. There are 79 fairs in California, of which 53 are state owned and operated by District Agricultural Associations, ours is the 14<sup>th</sup> DAA. The State used to support these fairgrounds with horse racing profits and direct funding. Those days are only a memory. Now it appears that the whole DAA concept may be in for a change. Between March and June 2020 statewide fairgrounds had to cancel \$98,000,000 in events, and many have not opened since. Our Fair was canceled, along with most everything else since March, and the income has disappeared. The State puts it bluntly:

*"The Administration will work with fairs, local governments, and partners toward alternative options due to the lack of General Fund subsidies available in this budget. The Administration plans to engage the Legislature and stakeholders over the course of the next year to develop a thoughtful approach to transition the state's relationship with fairs, while acknowledging the need to continue supporting property that may be necessary for emergency operations."*



We have one really solid option, along with a handful of other fairs, a successful Fairgrounds Foundation, which is currently raising funds to keep the fairgrounds alive during this period of social distancing. If you can, it is great to give a hand here, see <https://fairgrounds-foundation.org/>. Maybe there could be even closer cooperation between the Fairgrounds DAA and the Fairgrounds Foundation. The fair in Antelope Valley, has been taken over by a local fairgrounds foundation with State sanctioned long term leases and agreements. In order for "fairs, local governments and partners" to accomplish something similar in Santa Cruz the Fairgrounds will need our support and encouragement.

Our Fairgrounds have been here since 1941. Hopefully we can celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> year on a solid financial footing, with less reliance on the State, and some type of local management; far better than seeing the gates locked. *"Let us not be too particular; it is better to have old secondhand diamonds than none at all."* (Mark Twain)

### WANTED: WINTER BEE LOCATION



Looking for a home for bees during the Winter in Santa Cruz or Monterey County. Contact: Carl Kruppa  
@Kruppa Farms (209) 617-6721



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## French Style Winter Squash Soup with Gruyere Croutons

This recipe comes from Monterey Bay Farmers Market's Edible Paradise - Cooking Seasonally from the Farmers Markets and written by Annaliese Keller.

### **INGREDIENTS:**

#### Soup:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 4 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups peeled butternut squash, cut into 1 inch cubes (about 1 1/2 pounds)
- 4 cups peeled acorn squash, cut into 1 inch cubes (about 1 1/2 pounds)
- 1 1/4 teaspoons finely minced fresh thyme
- 1 1/4 teaspoons finely minced fresh sage
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

#### Croutons:

- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 12 1/2-inch-thick baguette bread slices (francese)
- 1 cup grated Gruyère cheese
- 1 teaspoon finely minced fresh thyme, minced finely
- 1 teaspoon finely minced fresh sage
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

### **METHOD:**

#### For soup:

Melt butter in large stock pot over medium heat. Add chopped onions and garlic and sauté until tender, about 10 minutes.

Add broth, butternut and acorn squash and herbs; bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until squash is very tender, about 20 minutes.

Working in batches, puree soup in blender. Return soup to pot.

Stir in cream and brown sugar; bring to simmer. Season with salt and pepper.

#### For croutons:

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Brush butter on 1 side of each bread slice. Arrange bread, buttered side up, on baking sheet. Bake until light golden, about 7-10 minutes.

Turn bread slices over. Sprinkle cheese evenly over each piece of bread, then sprinkle thyme and sage over. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Turn on broiler. Broil until cheese melts and the tops are toasted and golden, about 1 minute.

Ladle soup into bowls. Top each with a cheese croutons and serve.

YIELD: Serves 8.

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## Interesting Trivia

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'



### **President's Message - Continued from Page 1**

helped provide a critical resource to a struggling part of our community. In August the fairgrounds became a primary evacuation site for county residents fleeing the raging wildfire of the CZU Lightning Complex. Covid-19 made normal indoor hall evacuee capacity challenging. Alternative means to house those directly impacted by the fire such as tents and trailers were used to provide shelter and ensure social distancing. People were also provided with food, clothing, supplies, and access to an onsite medical clinic. Fairgrounds maintenance crews and volunteers worked tirelessly putting up stalls and pens for evacuated animals. Over 1400 animals, including horses, goats, sheep, chickens, geese, turtles, cats, birds, and rabbits, all had safe accommodations and received incredible levels of compassionate care.

What are your fondest memories of the Santa Cruz County Fair? Let's hope we are all able to make new memories by this time next year. In the interim, support the fairgrounds by attending one of the socially distanced events there as they begin to come back. Also, please consider making a donation to help keep the Fair viable for our community's future:

<https://fairgrounds-foundation.org/support-californias-fairgrounds/>.

## **I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...**



**Mary Lou Nicoletti, Retired,  
Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner**

"Agriculture plays a key role in sustaining a healthy local economy. And I greatly enjoy the diverse abundance of food grown here by our wonderful farmers."

What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?

See Answer on page 7

## **Small Office for Rent in Watsonville**

Small office for rent in Watsonville. Ideal for sole proprietor. The office is part of a larger shared office building, complete with two bathrooms and a shared conference room and copy room. The private office is approximately 80 sq. ft, with a window and private locking door. The building has its own parking lot with ample parking. An independent insurance agent and his assistant have used the office for over 25 years, but have retired.

\$695 per month, includes NNN. For more information, please call (831) 724-1356.

## **2020 Events Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau**

**103rd Annual Meeting via Zoom**  
October 29, 2020

**Annual Directors' Dinner - Canceled**  
November 5, 2020

**CFBF 102nd Annual Meeting**  
Location to be determined  
December 6 - 9, 2020

### **Agri-Culture**

**24th Annual Progressive Dinner**  
Take-Out Dinner Event  
Saturday, October 24, 2020  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## Keeping Agricultural Workers Safe from Wildfire Smoke

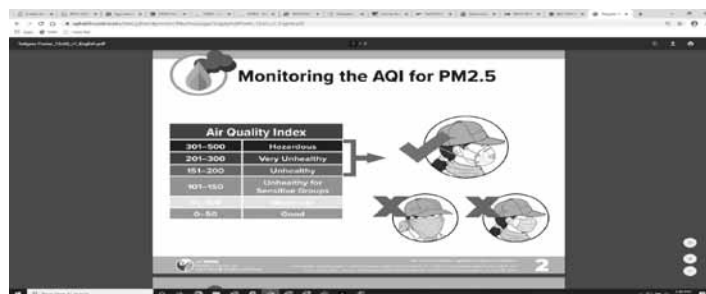


**T**his year, our region has been impacted by unprecedented wildfires. Lightning strikes during a heat wave in mid-August initiated the CZU lightning complex fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains, burning more than 86,000 acres. At the same time there were three different fires in

Monterey County and several other fires burning throughout the State. The impact of the multiple fires and the weather pattern during this time resulted in poor air quality in our region for several days. In July 2019, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, better known as CalOSHA, put in place emergency regulations to protect workers from wildfire smoke. CalOSHA's regulations (found in Title 8, section 5141.1) require employers to monitor the Air Quality Index (AQI) during wildfires for PM 2.5 levels. PM 2.5 are fine inhalable particles with diameters of 2.5 micrometers or less. As a point of reference, these fine particles are about 30 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair. PM 2.5 particles can be emitted from various sources including wildfires. These tiny particles are suspended in the smoke and travel through the air over a wide area. Inhalation of these particles can result in adverse health effects including lung irritation, coughing, wheezing, bronchitis, difficulty breathing or worsening of asthma.

CalOSHA regulations require that if an employee may be exposed to wildfire smoke, then the employer must find out the current AQI at the worksite and lower employee exposure if the index level is 151 (Unhealthy) or higher. The regulations provide some examples of protective methods that may be used to lower exposure including moving work to enclosed structures where the air is cleaner, moving employees to areas where the AQI is lower, or providing NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) approved N-95 respirators to employees. In our region, most agricultural work takes place outdoors and the most practical protective option for agricultural employers has been to provide N-95 respirators to their employees. When the AQI is determined to be 151 or more employers must provide N-95s to their employees and train them on wearing the respirators properly and should

encourage their use. The Air Quality Index is divided into six categories as shown in Figure 1. Although the requirement to provide respirators to employees does not become mandatory until the AQI is 151, CalOSHA acknowledges that respirator use can be beneficial in protecting employees when the AQI is less than 151. Employers should consider offering respirators to employees when the AQI is in the 101 – 150 range (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) based on availability of supplies. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, agricultural employers can check with their local Agricultural Commissioner for available free supplies of N-95 respirators to protect agricultural workers. Lastly, filtering facepiece respirators such as N-95s are disposable and cannot be cleaned or disinfected. CalOSHA recommends replacing N-95 respirators for employees at the beginning of each shift and when they get damaged, deformed, dirty or are difficult to breathe through.



**Figure 1. The Air Quality Index is divided into six categories. A reading of 151 or more requires the use of a NIOSH approved N-95 respirator to protect employees.**

More information on these requirements can be found on the Department of Industrial Relations website: [www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke/Wildfire-smoke-emergency-standard.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke/Wildfire-smoke-emergency-standard.html)

You can check air quality for our region on the following websites: [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) and [air.mbuapcd.org](http://air.mbuapcd.org)

Answer: The North American landmark constantly moving backward: Niagra Falls...The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it ever minute.

# NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

## ANNOUNCING AGRI-CULTURE, INC. 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

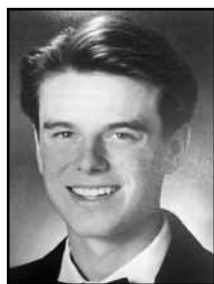
**A**gri-Culture, Inc. announced today that it has selected five local students to receive awards from its 2020 Agri-Culture Scholarship Program. The four scholarships offered through the organization are for students entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture, animal science or culinary arts. The four scholarships and five recipients are:

**JIMMIE COX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - A \$4,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture. This award includes \$2,000 from American AgCredit.



**Jessica Rodriguez-Reyes** is currently a senior at Watsonville High School, where she has carried a 3.6 GPA. She was a member of both the French Club and Social Emotional Club. This Fall she plans to attend California State University at Fresno where she will pursue a career in agricultural education. Jessica is receiving a \$4,000 Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship.

**Henry Danner** is currently in his first year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he is majoring in animal science and preparing for a career as a veterinarian. He had a 3.7 GPA in his first quarter of college, and earned a spot on the Dean's List. In high school, his peers selected Henry for the "Kindest Student Award". Henry is receiving a special \$1,000 Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship.



**JEANNIE WITMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - A \$1,500 award for a student active (past or present) in California High School Rodeo Association District 4 or California 4-H Horse Program, entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture and/or animal sciences.

**MaryGrace Dudek** is currently a senior

at Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill, where she has earned a 3.67 GPA. She plans to attend Oregon State University in the Fall, and major in animal science/sustainable ag. Gracie has competed in horse riding competitions for several years, and started riding when she was six years old. Gracie is receiving a \$1,500 Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship.

**J.J. CROSETTI, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - A \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture.



**Jose Villanueva-Vigil** is currently in his second year at California State University at Fresno. He is majoring in plant science, and preparing for a career as a farm supervisor or pest control advisor. Jose's parents migrated from Mexico and worked in the fields. They installed a strong work ethic in Jose. He is receiving a \$1,500 JJ Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

**LAURA BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - A \$2,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture or a related field, or majoring in culinary arts. This is the first year that this award is being awarded.

**Meghan Clifton** is currently in her second year at California State University at Fresno, where she has a 3.56 GPA. She is majoring in agricultural communication and preparing for an agricultural career in marketing, public relations, sales or human resources. Meghan wants to use her voice to be a champion for local agriculture. Meghan is receiving a \$2,000 Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship.





# NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

## 2020 National Agriculture Day Poster & Poetry Contest Winners Announced

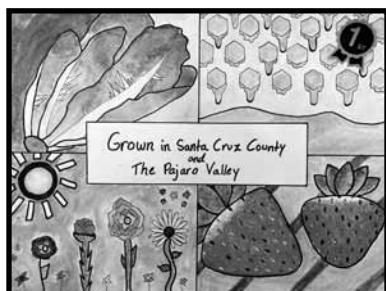
Over 170 tickets were sold for the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon that was to be held in March, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, was finally held September 16th at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. The event was reconfigured to allow for people to take-out their lunch, or attend an in-person, socially-distanced lunch. The annual event was coordinated by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and the educational organization, Agri-Culture. At the luncheon, the 2020 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture award was presented to **Sam Earnshaw** for his strong support of local agriculture. The award was announced by **Tom Broz**, Past President, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.

This award is named after Al Smith who was the founder of Orchard Supply Hardware and donated 3,000 acres (Swanton Pacific Ranch) on our north coast to Cal Poly. The ranch has row crops, timber and even a one-third-scale railroad, which was Al's hobby. It was noted that the Swanton Pacific Ranch,

like so many properties on the North Coast, was severely damaged by the recent fires. The award is on a piece of redwood with a train depicted on it. It is presented annually to an individual, business or organization not involved in production agriculture but has done much for the industry.

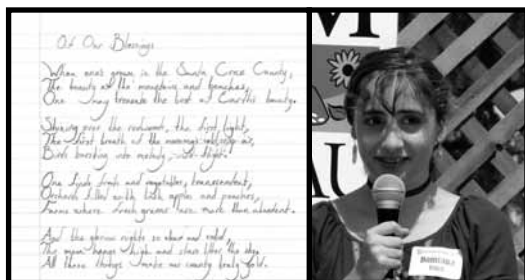
Also presented at the luncheon were the winner of the 2020 National Ag Day Poster and Poetry Contests. **Zoe Alma Torres, 6th Grade, Tierra Pacifica Charter School**, won the poster contest. And **Dimiana Sarah Trigg, 7th Grade, St. Lawrence Academy**, won the Poetry Contest, and read her winning poem at the luncheon. Below is a list of all winners.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Farm Bureau President **Brendan Miele**. The featured speaker for the luncheon was **Matt Wetstein**, President, Cabrillo College, who spoke on the topic "Importance of Educating Ag's Future".



**1st Place Winner**  
**Zoe Alma Torres**  
**6th Grade**  
**Tierra Pacifica Charter School**  
**Santa Cruz**

**1st Place Winner**  
**Dimiana Sarah**  
**Trigg**  
**7th Grade**  
**St. Lawrence**  
**Academy**  
**Ben Lomand**  
**"Of Our Blessing"**



**(L-R) Sam Earnshaw, 2020 Friend of Agriculture award winner**  
**accompanied by his wife JoAnn Baumgartner**

### More Poster & Poetry Contest Winners

#### Poster Contest

**2nd Place:** Carem Ho, 6th Grade, Linscott Charter School, Watsonville  
**3rd Place:** Amelie Skelton, 5th Grade, Bay View Elementary, Santa Cruz  
**Honorable Mention**  
**Cameron Carlock, 3rd Grade, Delaveaga Elementary School, Santa Cruz**  
**Leonardo Cerillos, 4th Grade, Linscott Charter School, Watsonville**  
**Fernanda Pinho Chagos, 5th Grade, Bay View Elementary School Santa Cruz**  
**Angela Gonzalez-Rojas, Delaveaga Elementary School, Santa Cruz**  
**Piper James Jessee, 2nd Grade, Vine Hill Elementary School, Scotts Valley**  
**Lenna Rose Jordan, 4th Grade, Linscott Charter School, Watsonville**  
**Jaden Qian, Kindergarten, Vine Hill Elementary School, Scotts Valley**  
**Jolene Qian, 2nd Grade, Vine Hill Elementary School, Scotts Valley**

#### Poetry Contest

**2nd Place:** Sophia Sandoval, 10th Grade, Watsonville High School, "A Watsonville Strawberry"  
**3rd Place:** Jan Rodriguez, 10th Grade, Watsonville High School, "One by One"

#### Honorable Mention:

**Jocelyn Carrera, 10th Grade, Watsonville High School, "Pajaro is Home"**  
**Miguel Yerena, 11th Grade, Watsonville High School, "Pain"**

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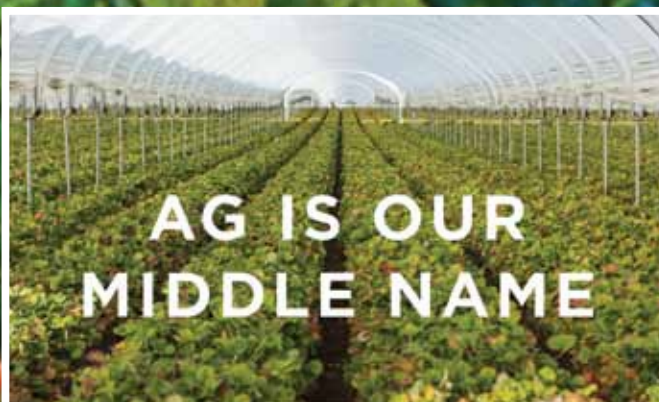
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## CALENDAR

**SATURDAY - OCTOBER 24**  
**24TH Annual Progressive**  
**Dinner**

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 29**  
**Board of Directors' meeting**

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 29**  
**Annual Meeting via Zoom**



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