

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.

Mary Walter, Editor
Jess Brown, Managing Editor

141 Monte Vista Avenue
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sccfb@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.sccfb.com

Santa Cruz County Fair *Cool Shades & Tractor Parades*



Top Left: Janice Weaver, "Best of Show" winner of the Apple Pie Baking Contest.



Top Right: The Santa Cruz Farm Bureau's opening day activities were a huge success. The fair booth was a popular stop for fairgoers.

The Watsonville Firefighter's Association. (pictured bottom right) prepared a delicious tri tip barbeque lunch for our guests.



Bottom Left: Rita Hewitt, winner of the Adult Division, with her daughter and mother, Karen Allyn, who won the same division when she was pregnant with Rita in 1990.



See all of the 44th Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest winners on page 6.

The Santa Cruz County Fair was a tremendous success this year. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau held the 44th Apple Pie Baking Contest, the Opening Day Barbeque in conjunction with the Watsonville Firefighter's Association and had a fair booth. The Apple Pie Baking Contest is sponsored each year by the Pajaro Valley apple producers, growers and pie lovers in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. This year's sponsors were Mann Properties, Buak Fruit Co., Nita Gizdich, Five Mile Orchards, Butier & Bulich Brothers, C & N Tractors, Moon Glow Dairy, Jim Rider, Resetar Brothers, S. Martinelli & Co., Jess Brown, H.A. Rider & Sons, Debbie Soares, Robert Silva Orchards, Prevedelli Farms, Dave & Kathy Moeller and John Lukrich. This year's judges were Farm Bureau President, Arnett Young & Patricia Oliva Hagerty, Community Volunteer. Laura Rider is chair for this very popular opening day event.

See your President's Message on Page 9

Thank You

Thank you to the many contributors for financially supporting the Farm Bureau's effort to vaccinate farmworkers the past few months!

Please consider making a donation to the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau so we can continue this important work. You may send a check to Farm Bureau, 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076, or with a credit card go to the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau website, www.sccfb.com, and click on the general donation button. Be sure to add a note it is for Farm Bureau vaccines.



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ASK MARK

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

UCE Plant Pathology Position

Q. Can you tell us a little bit more about the Plant Pathology position UC Cooperative Extension is hiring in Santa Cruz County?

A. Yes, I can discuss this Plant Pathology position which is being brought into our Santa Cruz county UC Cooperative Extension office.

First, this position is one of a great many more UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor and Specialist positions made possible by the large 32 million dollar restoration of UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources which was championed by our District Senator John Laird, along with many other supporters including the California State Farm Bureau. Over the next two years, we as an organization will be working hard to get all of these positions placed where they are needed all across the state.

While the Plant Pathology Farm Advisor position will be headquartered in our office in Watsonville, it is intended to serve the region represented by Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties. The

position is to provide leadership in research and extension for the diagnosis, prevention and alleviation of plant diseases across the incredibly wide range of crops grown in this three county region. The advisor is also intended to work in research areas dealing with microorganisms, such as fungal ecology and food borne pathogens.

The Plant Pathologist will join a very talented, hard-working team with a long history of current and past Farm Advisors dedicated to helping the farming community of the Central Coast. It's a really a great team to be a part of and I can't think of a finer place to work.

Qualified applicants are much encouraged to apply, and the position announcement can be found on the UC ANR Jobs site.

For information about this position and other questions pertaining to the work that UC Cooperative Extension does, please contact Mark Bolda, UC Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz County, mpbolda@ucdavis.edu or (831) 763-8025.

What water bodies that are a major tourist destination in the west-central section of Upstate New York, are actually eleven in number, but only seven of the largest are commonly identified as such?

See answer on page 4

THE WATER NANNY

Fire & Smoke

Our friends who are rebuilding after last year's fire(s), and anyone attempting a major remodel, have run headlong into shortages of everything from lumber to appliances and labor resulting in higher costs. However, blame or profit is difficult to assign. Let's just look at lumber. Subfloors and exterior siding are covered with Oriented Strand Board, chips of wood glued together. The resin to glue these chips together is in short supply due to the Texas electrical freeze last February, which closed chemical refineries for months. Some lumber mills burned to the ground in last year's fires, and for a period of time in 2020 all the mills were closed, along with other non-essential businesses, due to COVID.

Seems like the cost of everything construction is going up. Not so. As any produce grower can attest, the price paid for the harvest is not related to the price in the store. Farmers cannot set prices, we are price takers, accepting what is offered. This applies to timber as well. Forest fires have burned through hundreds of thousands of acres. Loggers are pushing to cut and remove the salvage trees before they become worthless as timber due to decay. Makes great sense and is an environmentally sound benefit from terrible fires. The sawmills are inundated with way more logs than they can mill, so the price for logs declined. Typically, when there are not annual forest fires, much of the raw timber comes from tree farms and private lands. Prices offered this year may make harvesting uneconomical. Fortunately, trees can be harvested later, unlike fruit on the vine, but a bad result none-the-less.



But don't cry into your beer just yet, for there is the pernicious threat of smoke taint in your wine too. Grapes exposed to smoke can absorb chemicals that can alter the taste of cellared wines resulting in smoke taint. Some have said the tainted wine has a *lingering aroma like a campfire*, surely not adjectives listed on the back label of your Pinot. There is no certainty, nor understanding, of how much, how long or when in the growing cycle the grapes, which are exposed to wildfire smoke, will result in the evil taint. Research at Oregon State shows that smoke exposure does

not always mean the flavor will be impacted.

Regrettably, each year we see more fires near high quality vineyards. Why should smoke be an obstacle to equally exceptional wine? In 2019 grape growers, vintners and university researchers have formed the West Coast Smoke Exposure Task Force. Like wine terroir, smoke is complex. Filtration and egg whites do not remove chemicals associated with taint. From a nerd point of view, the fires burn lignin in the trees and produces phenols toxic to the plants. The vines respond by attaching these to the sugars in grapes, resulting in a grape indistinguishable from a non-exposed grape. The fermentation process releases these phenols causing an ashy smoky finish. Grapes from vineyards near fires will decline in value, or even become worthless. Thus far the only solution is to prevent more fires.



After reflecting on such somber economic topics I found two comedians to add a little levity. "*The No. 1 cause of forest fires is trees.*" (Pat Paulsen) and "*Men are like a fine wine. They all start out like grapes, and it's our job to stomp on them and keep them in the dark until they mature into something you'd like to have dinner with.*" (Jill Shalvis) Soon rain will come and wash all our troubles away.

Answer:

The Finger Lakes: At the end of the last ice age, over one hundred-thousand years ago, massive glaciers advanced southward from Canada, carving deep trenches in the earth. As the earth warmed and the glaciers receded, the trenches filled with water and formed what we now know as the Finger Lakes.

The eleven Finger Lakes range in length from 40 miles (Cayuga Lake) to only 3 miles (Canadice Lake) and in depth from 618 feet (Seneca Lake) to just 30 feet (Honeoye Lake), and are beloved for their natural beauty.



FAVORITE RECIPES

“Best of Show” Apple Pie - 2021

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

For the crust: Whisk dry ingredients together. Cut butter into flour in little pieces. Add cold water and combine until holding together. Divide in half, wrap in plastic and refrigerate at least one hour.

For the filling: Roll out one half of dough and fit into a 9" pie pan. Toss the filling ingredients together and pour into shell. Roll out second half of dough for top of pie. Crimp it together, add vents and bake at 400°F for 40-45 minutes.

CONGRATULATIONS!

JANICE WEAVER, SANTA CRUZ

2021 APPLE PIE BAKING CONTEST “BEST OF SHOW” WINNER



Interesting Trivia

Here are 30 (this is 18-20) awesome facts about California, the sunniest state in the U.S.

- The largest living tree in the world is in California's Sequoia National Park. It is only 275 feet tall, but it's circumference is 100 feet!
- The full Californian 1,100-mile long coastline is a national monument, ensuring constant conservation and guaranteeing there will not be new oil drilling within 12 nautical miles of the mainland.
- California has some weird laws – in Blythe, California, it is illegal to wear cowboy boots unless you own a minimum of two cows.

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

Apple Pie Contest Winners

Continue from Page 1

Youth Division

1st - Elijah Tomasini, Aromas

2nd - Cana Taylor, Aptos

3rd - Claire Madsen, Santa Cruz

Adult Division

1st - Rita Hewitt, Watsonville

2nd - Curtis Maxwell, Capitola

3rd - Jennifer Alberti - Santa Cruz

Masters Division

1st - Janice Weaver, Santa Cruz

Keena Kasunich, Royal Oaks

Cherice Titus, Aptos

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"Farmers are great people to work with and work for. I am 93 years young and still enjoy the time I spend with this organization."

Lorraine Mathiesen



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How to Join

Go to 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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Safety Continues To Be A Top Priority As Ag Season Winds Down



Fall brings with it much change and transition in our agricultural area, and it is arguably the busiest time of the year for many growers. Not only are growers continuing to coordinate day-to-day farming activities but this time of year also means beginning to plan and prepare to plant for next season. Additionally, the changing weather patterns can bring challenges that can impact the safety of agricultural workers and neighboring operators. It is not uncommon for October to bring some warmer than usual days to our region that can impact agricultural workers who are otherwise not accustomed to this quick change in weather. It is also likely that we will experience some windy weather that can potentially impact the integrity of the plastic tarp on fumigated agricultural fields, so closely monitoring the weather will be important to ensure a safe and effective fumigation. Adding to the list is the ongoing drought which has exponentially increased the risk of wildfires, so being ready in case of poor air quality by securing N-95 respirators to protect agricultural workers is another top priority. The following are some key elements to keep in mind that will help continue to ensure the safety of your workers and neighboring operations during this later part of our agricultural season.

Heat Illness Prevention

- Continue to communicate with your workers about Heat Illness Prevention. Remember to train, provide water, access to shade, allow for cool-down-rest periods and ensure your field supervisors know and are ready to implement your high-heat emergency plan. Training resources and information on heat illness prevention can be found here: <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/training/heat-illness>

Field Soil Fumigation Safety

- Work closely with your PCA and become familiar with field soil fumigation requirements for this season. Communication with your PCA, adjacent agricultural

operators and neighbors is essential to ensure a safe and effective soil fumigation.

- Monitor the weather conditions at least 48 hours before the fumigation and on the day of the fumigation. Pay close attention to any forecasted weather inversions or wind advisories and plan accordingly. If you suspect the weather may impact the safety and effectiveness of the fumigation, work with your PCA to reschedule the job for another day.
- Be Proactive. If you suspect a problem at your fumigated field may lead to the exposure of nearby fieldworkers, contact the grower(s) to get those workers away from the area and contact your PCA and Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
- If a fumigation tarp is compromised (e.g., hole in the tarp, tarp pulling out of the soil, large bubbles, torn tarp) contact your PCA and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office immediately.

Wildfire Smoke Safety

- Be familiar with CalOSHA's requirements for protection of workers that may be exposed to wildfire smoke. These can be found here: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke/Wildfire-smoke-emergency-standard.html>
- Understand the Air Quality Index (AQI) and know the triggers that require employers to provide N-95 respirators to workers in outdoor settings. Also know how to monitor AQI in our region. Useful websites include: www.airnow.gov and <http://air.mbuapcd.org>
- Ensure that you have secured a supply of N-95 respirators for your workers in the event of a wildfire smoke event. PPE supplies are now more readily available and accessible than in 2020.
- Lastly, wildfire smoke training resources can be found in English and Spanish from the UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety here: <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/wildfires>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Arnett Young, President

Memories of Grandma's Pies



ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT

This year I was able to attend the opening day of the Santa Cruz County Fair for the first time. Every year I hear of the Opening Day BBQ and the Apple Pie Contest, and I say to myself I will be there next year. This time it was next year. The main purpose was not self-driven; it was to be one of two judges for the 44th Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest.

I don't think I could have imagined a better way to attend an opening day of a fair for the first time.

I wish I could claim that I have superior qualifications to judge such a competition, but I do not. I could not prepare a filling, select the right variety of apple, nor make the dough for the crust. My only qualification is that I enjoy eating pie. Whenever given the choice between cake and pie, it is a no-brainer, pie every time.

My love for pie extends from eating my grandmother's pie growing up. I know it's cliché to say my relative makes the best pies, but my grandmother truly did. Where she learned, I have no idea. Her pies were present at every family picnic and holiday dinner. She would put them out with all the other desserts, on display before dinner. And we would have to

wait. When it was time to eat dessert, none of her pies would have any crust left. This was because we were all impatient and would do "drive by" crust poaching, grabbing a piece of crust and eating it before we were caught by others.

As a judge at this year's Apple Pie contest, I had to resist my urge to do "drive by" crust poaching, at least until the judging began. Although I have great enthusiasm for pie, I must admit that the sight of 23 pies lined up for tasting was a little daunting. As we moved through tasting them, my first inclination was to begin with the crust edge. I was not disappointed. Each crust had a different texture and flavor unique to the baker. Each pie reminded me of my grandmother's, and for that I am grateful to all who participated in this year's contest.



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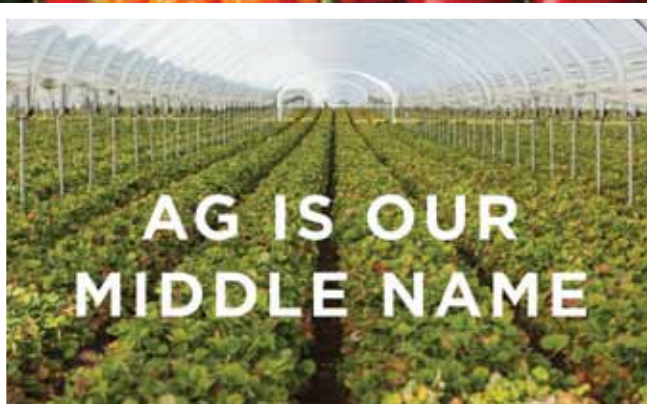
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