

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCoCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

Mary Walter, Editor
Jess Brown, Managing Editor

141 Monte Vista Avenue
Watsonville, California 95076.
(831) 724-1356
scfb@sbeglobal.net
Website: www.scfb.com

Agri-Culture's Scholarship Programs

2024 Scholarship Applications Available Soon



2023 Scholarship winners (L-R) Madison Kelly - Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship; Priscilla Noh - Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship; Diego Ramirez - Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship, J.J. Crosetti Memorial Scholarship and the Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship

Agri-Culture was incorporated in 1990 with the purpose of educating the public about the impact of agriculture in our community. The board set out to do just that with the establishment of the Focus Agriculture program and their many successful scholarship programs. We have five active scholarship funds available to students in the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County.

Scholarships are awarded to model students following a rigorous application process and in-person interviews with the scholarship committee. The funds provided by these scholarships can and will help these students reach their academic goals and have a profound impact on their lives. Applications become available in December and the deadline for the applications is in late January. The following scholarships are available through the organization Agri-Culture:

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. Eligibility: Student and/or their legal guardian must reside either in Santa Cruz County or within the Pajaro Valley Unified School District boundaries, or be a current member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.

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

J.J. Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship:

A \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture.

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.

Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship:

A \$1,000 scholarship for a student who attended high school in Santa Cruz County or the Pajaro Valley and plans to major in agriculture or a field related to agriculture.

Applications will be available online at www.agri-culture.us/scholarships. For more information, you may contact the Agri-Culture office at 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville or by calling (831) 722-6622. These scholarships have helped many local students jump-start their college education or helped them continue what they had already started. You could be one of them. ■

President's Message



Dennis Webb, President

What Does El Nino Mean For Farmers, Ranchers and Residents?

Full is upon us, and with it the threat of impending winter rains has come again. For farmers and ranchers across Santa Cruz County, it's hard to believe that wet weather is here again. Last winter's deluge is barely in the rearview mirror, and we have already come upon what meteorologists are calling another strong El Nino pattern.

The National Weather Service's September 21, 2023 "Prognostic Discussion for Long-Lead Seasonal Outlooks" puts the chances of a strong El Nino from November to January at 70%. The chances of that El Nino pattern continuing from January to March are estimated at over 95%.

What does El Nino mean for farmers, ranchers and residents of Santa Cruz County? Put simply, El Nino increases the odds that we will

experience very heavy precipitation. While this doesn't always lead to havoc in Santa Cruz County, let's cross our fingers and hope we aren't on track to experience last winter all over again.

It's easy to read the latest long-term forecasts and get discouraged by the meteorological predictions. Keep in mind, though, these are the same meteorologists who said that last January through March would be drier than normal. Who knows what to believe anymore?

The best approach is to be prepared. Across the county, people are "storm-proofing" their farms, ranches and forests. In the forests I

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Saturday, October 21, 2023

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ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, County Director, Strawberry & Canberry Farm Advisor, UCCE
Kirsten Pearsons, IPM Entomology Farm Advisor, UCCE Monterey County

The Insect Zoo

Q. Since you've been doing so much sampling for insects in strawberries this year, can you share with us a little bit of what kinds of insects you are finding there?

A. Yes, over the course of the season, both on our own and together with private industry collaborators, we have taken several hundred insect samples. These samples were taken as a part of trials for new insecticides and a study looking at lacewings as a possible biological control of lygus bugs. Although we cannot account for every bug that ventures onto a ranch, these samples can give us a general sense of the insect and arachnid communities that are supported by strawberries.

Of the insects that feed on strawberries, **Lygus bugs** are of course a staple in our samples, with nymphal stages being more prevalent in the early parts of the season, and more adults later in the season. It is important for growers to note that it is the nymphs that are mainly responsible for the cat-facing damage of fruit, so these are the ones to pay attention to.

Throughout the season, **thrips** were also very common in our samples. Most of the thrips were Western flowers thrips, which we know can invade flowers and cause fruit bronzing. We don't recall catching any **whiteflies** and we rarely found **aphids**. Although too small to catch in our samples, **pest mites** like two-spotted spider mites were certainly around, especially at the start of the season.

Flies are always in great abundance, especially **vinegar flies** (this includes spotted wing drosophila). These are joined by others of the fly order like ordinary

house flies, crane flies and fungus gnats. While these other flies can be a nuisance, they are not really a concern for berries.

Also found in great numbers this year were tiny (4-5 mm long), insects of the order Psocodea. These **bark lice** or **psocids** are related to head lice, but instead of feeding on us, they feed on plant residues left over in the field. **Springtails** also feed on these leftover plant residues and were similarly abundant in our samples. Bark lice and springtail populations may be higher this year in response to our wet spring, but neither are pests of strawberries.

Earlier in the season we were finding a lot of **damsel bugs**. Their numbers began to decrease in June, but then we started to find more **minute pirate bugs** and **big-eyed bugs**. We also found **lacewings** and **ladybugs**, in both larval and adult forms, as well as adult **syrphid** flies. While larval syrphid flies are predators, the adults are pollinators. In addition to syrphid flies, we caught a few **honey bees** and **bumble bees**. Although too small to catch in our samples, **parasitoid wasps** and **predatory mites** help to round out the community.

Spiders were abundant throughout the season. These were mostly **dwarf spiders** that tend to feed on springtails but will occasionally catch thrips. We also came across **crab spiders** and on one occasion a **wolf spider**, which are both generalist predators of insects. Spiders are sensitive to insecticides like malathion and pyrethroids, so finding spiders in great numbers can be a good sign that these broad-spectrum insecticides have been used sparingly and in rotation with softer chemistries.

There were also some unexpected insects

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THE WATER NANNY

Boondoggle

In the spirit of Halloween, we need to revive the whimsy of Trick or Treat. More like a lottery to determine what you receive, not your neighbors' good will of providing candy to all who call, but maybe a more dramatic version of egging your house and wrapping toilet paper in your trees. Just in time for Halloween hijinks the City of Watsonville released the *Downtown Watsonville Specific Plan*, which will haunt our urban landscape for years to come. It's a Boondoggle; "work or activity that is wasteful or pointless but gives the appearance of having value."

Since the Loam Prieta earthquake, Watsonville has been blessed with several plans to redesign our city center. Initial studies focused on building facades, as reconstruction was of upmost importance, using our existing infrastructure. There has been an undercurrent of design studies to reduce traffic for our flourishing bicycle, including reducing Main Street to two lanes. In a 2014 study Main between Riverside and Beach would become 2 lanes. Two years later this was dropped in lieu of trees in the sidewalk. In 2018 the idea came back with Complete Streets, which languished. Now we have another poorly conceived rerun at reducing Main St., but also bottling up traffic throughout downtown.

Each revised plan has all the earmarks of a proposal dropped by parachute on our unsuspecting town. Grants from Cal Trans and others are used to hire consultants to deal with land use, design, and community engagement. Each plan is myopic, focusing on the end result instead of community benefit. The College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley sums up the approach, "faculty and students have always seen environmental design as an exploratory spatial practice, aimed at creating forms of building, landscape, and urban plans that have yet to be imagined."



Our new Specific Plan is a wonderful exercise in fanciful thinking, visualizing an urban environment that has never existed here, and cut and paste ideas from other proposals. "Downtown is, however, challenged by the lack of cohesive identity and functionality, density, and synergy between residents and businesses. There

is also a lack of activity necessary to feel like a 24/7 bustling downtown." Apparently, the objective is to lure residents downtown through walkable treelined streets from the focus of commercial activity further north on Main St. at Target, Starbuck(s), and Nob Hill, or even from further away destinations. The proposals for just street modifications will make it difficult to drive to, or park in downtown, so you can walk here or ride your bike.



A review of the scary postulates indicates why this plan should be shown the ash can soon, like its predecessors. Of course, Main St. would be reduced to two lanes, this time from Freedom to Riverside, with a "road diet" with restoring E. Lake and E. Beach to two-way streets. Now other cities have sought to reduce traffic on a thoroughfare have allowed for quick one-way traffic on adjoining streets. Not so here, as parking will be eliminated, too. "Opportunity" sites for increased development include the Post Office lot, the old City Hall and police station, the CVS parking lot, and elimination of Union St. between Beach and E. Lake, along with parking and El Frijolito and the buildings at the southwest corner of Main and 5th. Of greatest fascination is the elimination of Union St. with the goal of unifying properties on both sides of the street, similar to pre-1960's and hope for housing instead. Into the darkness, avoiding Main St. by using Union would become impossible, high school and Cabrillo traffic would be snarled, and how does the city propose removing the utilities under the closed street. As a tradeoff, maybe a bike path along the river levee, which is where we see most bikes anyway.

The Specific Plan paints a ghoulish specter of 24/7 gridlock, no parking, and a long walk to a bustling downtown. The City Council will have to review and possibly approve this Specific Plan. Be sure to ride your bicycle. ■



FAVORITE RECIPES

Roasted Pork Loin with Cider Sauce

The following recipe comes from the cookbook "A Taste of the Pajaro Valley" published by the Soroptimist International of Watsonville. The recipe was submitted by Martinelli's.

1 pork loin, approximately 6 pounds

1/4 cup Dijon mustard

Cider Sauce:

1 quart beef stock

1 cup apple juice or cider

1/4 cup roux (equal parts flour and butter)

1 cup heavy cream

1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard

Brush the pork loin with Dijon mustard. Place on rack in an open roasting pan with fat side up and roast at 325°F for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Sauce: Bring stock and cider to a boil in heavy saucepan. Whisk in roux to thicken; simmer for at least 5 minutes. Then whisk in heavy cream and mustard. Keep warm until ready to serve.

To serve, slice pork in 3 to 4 ounce pieces, layering several on each plate. Spoon sauce over meat. Serves 10

The Insect Zoo

Continued from Page 3

that we came across, including some spikey, eccentric looking **assassin bugs**. Finding unique predators is of course super interesting to the researcher, but it is also a good sign of a field that supports a robust and diverse predator community. Even if assassin bugs themselves are not voracious predators, a diverse predator community can help stabilize the overall insect community and defend against pest outbreaks.

The above has been a brief summary of what insects we have been finding in strawberry this past season. For questions about this article and other issues arising in berries, please contact us at UC Cooperative Extension, mpbolda@ucanr.edu and kapearsons@ucanr.edu. ■

The President's Message

Continued from Page 2

manage, we have been focusing on upgrading and maintaining our infrastructure to help it withstand more extreme weather. It's also worth being ready at home. Power outages, road closures and falling trees happen every winter in Santa Cruz County, regardless of whether we are in an El Nino pattern. Now is the time to plan and prepare for these disruptions. ■

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

Save the Date

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Location to be determined

CFBF Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 2 - Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Reno, NV

Agri-Culture

27th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Horticulture Center at Carbrillo College

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Purchase tickets on Eventbrite:

Search for "27th Annual Farm Dinner"



BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER

Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership and receive the many benefits and services available.

By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

How to Join

Go to www.cfbf.com 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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I'm a Farm Bureau Member/ Supporter because...

"We are Farm Bureau members because we want to support the local agriculture industry."

**Brandon & Trisha Kett
Interlaken Lands**

Interesting California Trivia

California contains the most diverse environment in the world – it varies from hot desert to subarctic depending on latitude and elevation.

Invasive Fruit Fly Detections in California



The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Agricultural Commissioner Offices are dealing with an exceptionally busy season for invasive fruit flies this year. The Tau Fruit Fly was detected in the Santa Clarita region of Los Angeles County in late July, prompting an 80-square-mile quarantine zone to contain the potential spread of this agricultural pest. Quarantines have also been put in place due to various invasive fruit fly finds in multiple other parts of the state, including for the Queensland Fruit Fly, Peach Fruit Fly, Guava Fruit Fly and Oriental Fruit Fly. As detections of these exotic and potentially economically damaging fruit flies hit closer to home (even as I write this, both Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties are contending with expansive quarantines as a result of Oriental Fruit Fly finds, impacting the movement of agricultural commodities and prompting significant increases in state-mandated monitoring and mitigation activities), it is important to remind people how critical it is that we have these invasive pest detection programs in place and properly resourced.

The Pest Detection Branch is part of the Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division within CDFA, and County Agricultural Commissioner's throughout the state develop workplans and contracts with CDFA to conduct extensive monitoring activities for multiple pests of quarantine concern. A central effort of this program involves trapping – the placement and servicing of specialized insect traps in residential yards throughout the county. Traps are placed in grids based on square miles and depending on residential density and prevalence of host plants (e.g., fruit trees). Assistance and participation by the public is extremely important to the program's success as it relies on the goodwill of homeowners to allow these insect traps to be placed in their yards. Detecting and identifying these invasive pests early is crucial for containment and eradication before further spread of a pest which could render it potentially impossible to control. Those who remember the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) infestations of the early 1980's in Santa Clara County will recall the extensive (and expensive) efforts that took

place to manage the outbreak, efforts that lasted over two years and impacted agricultural operations, economic trade, and people's daily lives.

Please remember to be vigilante with respect to invasive pest species, allow county or state detection staff to place traps on your property if ever requested, and respect any quarantines that are in place for the movement of agricultural commodities. One of the major routes of introduction of these types of pests is through the inadvertent (occasionally illegal) movement of plant material where the pest of concern is present as a "hitchhiker." Once established, insects such as the Oriental Fruit Fly, which Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties are now fighting to contain and eradicate, would pose threats to our agricultural production and commerce in significant ways... Let's continue to do our best to keep them out! ■

27th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

\$150 per person

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Get your reservations early!!

Hope to see you there!

What Is A Subpoena?



A subpoena is an order requiring people to provide documents or testimony for a court case. Attorneys are authorized by law to issue subpoenas to compel people to appear at a hearing or produce documents.

A subpoena, which means “under penalty,” requires a person to testify about facts at issue in a pending case. A subpoena is typically issued by an attorney. A subpoena is typically served on an individual by personal delivery. A subpoena cannot be ignored as it is a court order and a failure to respond to it may be punishable as contempt of court.

Attorneys in civil and criminal cases use subpoenas to obtain information that can be evidence or lead to evidence in a case. If a witness for trial is served with a subpoena but does not appear on the specified date, the attorney who initiated the subpoena can ask the court that the case be delayed to a later date to allow more time to contact the witness. Alternatively, the attorney may request that the court issue a warrant for the witness’s arrest due to failure to appear in court.

Subpoenas can be divided into three categories.

A *subpoena duces tecum* requires the subpoenaed individual to produce documents or records at a specified time and place before a case goes to trial. This is usually done as part of the pre-trial “discovery” process to gather evidence. Attorneys often hire private companies to request and process *subpoenas duces tecum* and often the party whose records are subpoenaed merely provide the records and need not appear if the records are produced. Subpoenas *duces tecum* must identify the person, business or organization that has the documents and describe the documents to be produced.

A *deposition subpoena* is a court order requiring a person who is a third-party – in other words, not a party to a lawsuit – to provide copies of records and/or appear before a court reporter to answer questions asked by one or more of the parties involved in a lawsuit. The questions and answers are

typically audio recorded and sometimes video recorded and typed up into a transcript. Under certain circumstances, a deposition transcript may be used as evidence at trial. Parties to a lawsuit may also depose each other but a subpoena is not required to make a party to a lawsuit appear to testify for a deposition.

A *witness subpoena* or witness subpoena *duces tecum* requires someone to appear in court on a certain date and time and testify as a witness during a civil or criminal trial and sometimes to bring records.

A subpoena *duces tecum* often requires not only paper documents, but also photographs, sound or video recordings, electronic data. If you receive a subpoena *duces tecum*, you should determine who is requesting the records and why so that you can understand the scope of the subpoena *duces tecum* and are sufficiently prepared if you receive a deposition subpoena.

You should conduct adequate due diligence to determine what the underlying lawsuit or proceeding is about. This may reveal whether the company whose records are subpoenaed, or one of its officers or employees is the target of a criminal or civil investigation, or whether the company may be likely to be added to the lawsuit later. Your attorney may help you determine how best to respond to the subpoena.

The law requires payment of witness fees and depending on the circumstances, mileage to witnesses who are compelled to attend a hearing by subpoena or respond to a subpoena *duces tecum*.

A subpoena can be enforced by seeking a contempt order from the Superior Court in the county where the case is pending. ■



Compost for All



A couple of years ago the California legislature approved a bill (SB1383) that requires state municipalities (cities, counties, etc.) to divert their food wastes away from landfills, redirecting them for separate collection and recycling, and to use the products made from this recycled organic material, such as renewable energy, compost, and mulch. This makes environmental sense considering that food waste in landfills accounts for a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions that accelerate climate change. It also makes economic sense to better re-use food residues since so much of the inputs we apply to our cropping systems ultimately end up in that "waste". The legislation has resulted in a surge of composting efforts, increasing demand, and funding to subsidize compost end users throughout the state, as local governments seek to meet their procurement targets. Ramping up composting efforts and subsidies has opened up a new opportunity for farmers and ranchers to more broadly adopt a long-recognized practice that offers agronomic value and multiple benefits to our soils.

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County is leveraging this opportunity to bring new funding to our area and supply local farms with compost at greatly reduced rates. Our program can cost-share up to \$50/ton for compost purchase, delivery and spreading. Any charges above that amount have to be paid by the grower. As municipalities have begun implementing composting programs the need to find places to put all that compost has begun in earnest. In addition, we have other funding that's come online to help cover the cost of cover crop seed and sometimes compost as part of the State's investment in healthy soils for improved resilience to climate change. This program is available to historically underrepresented farmers.

With so much buzz and funding available for healthy soil practices, now is a perfect time to take advantage of these programs, and tap on a low cost opportunity to improve your soil fertility as well as its structure, infiltration, water holding capacity and many other benefits. Please reach out to Sacha Lozano at the RCDSCC for more information. ■



"It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.."

Queen Elizabeth II



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Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 4
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 13
Focus Agriculture, Session 9

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21
27th Annual Farm Dinner

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 2
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 2
Annual Directors' Dinner
Location to be announced

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 23
Thanksgiving - Office Closed

FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 24
Thanksgiving holiday
Office Closed

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 2 TO
WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 6
CFBF Annual Meeting
Reno, NV

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