

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

SEPTEMBER 2014  
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# FARM



# BUREAU

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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

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## Learning About Diversity Of Jobs In Ag

Watsonville High School Educators Tour Local Agriculture



Tony Vasquez, Jr. made the presentation to WHS teachers at Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

Sixty-five (65) **Watsonville High School** educators and administrators toured the Pajaro Valley learning about the diversity of jobs in agriculture. The purpose of the tour was to inform teachers about the wide variety of jobs available in agriculture so they can better inform their students of these job opportunities. The teachers were separated into three groups with each group taking a unique tour of various agricultural establishments. **Agri-Culture** President **Steve Bontadelli** stated, "We are extremely appreciative to Watsonville High School for taking a strong interest in agriculture. There are many career opportunities in our industry." Tour presentations were made by **Driscoll's, Lakeside Organic Gardens, McSherry & Hudson Insurance, Rabobank, Naturipe, Ag Commissioner's Office, Second Harvest Food Bank, Ag Against Hunger, Suncrest Nurseries, UC Cooperative Extension Office, Live Earth Farms, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and the California Strawberry Commission.**



**Don't Forget !**

**Santa Cruz County Fair - September 9 - 14, 2014**

**Apple Pie Baking Contest, Tuesday, September 9, 2014**

**Opening Day Barbecue, Tuesday, September 9, 2014**

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



# President's Message

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN, PRESIDENT

## The Golden State Celebrates

**“Over time, California has made significant contributions to the country and the world at large. We are one of the most productive places in the world in terms of food production and are actually the main source of food for much of the U.S. Our unique Mediterranean climate allows us to grow over 450 different crops that feed the world.”**

**A**s I travelled through Northern California this summer with my family we saw many fascinating landscapes which led to some interesting conversations about California. So it seems appropriate to share some of California's history this month.

On September 9, 1850, California became the 31<sup>st</sup> state in the Union; 2014 marks 164 years. Over time California has made significant contributions to the country and the world at large. We are one of the most productive places in the world in terms of food production and are actually the main source of food for much of the U.S. Our unique Mediterranean climate allows us to grow over 450 different crops that feed the world.

Here are some agricultural statistics about California to put things in perspective:

- California has been the number one food and agricultural producer in the United States for more than 50 consecutive years.
- California is the first state to ever reach a trillion dollar economy in gross state product.
- California has the largest economy of any state.
- California is the world's 5th largest supplier of food, cotton fiber, and other agricultural commodities.

- If California's economic size were measured by itself to other countries, it would rank the 7th largest economy in the world.
- California is the largest producer of food in the U.S., yet has less than 4% of the farms in the U.S.
- Some of the crops are exclusive to California: almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, kiwifruit, olives, persimmons, pomegranates, pistachios, prunes, raisins, clovers, and walnuts.
- California is the nation's leading producer of strawberries, averaging

The Golden State Celebrates..Continued on Page7

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# ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor, UCCE

## Spotted Wing Drosophila

**Q. It's getting to be that time of year again with the spotted wing drosophila making a mess of some of our fruit. What do you recommend for the small scale grower to do about this right now?**

Fruit growers should take on spotted wing drosophila two ways. First is use of Entrust (spinosad) as a spray, while at the same time, removing the rotten and over-ripe fruit from the field and disposing of them, either by burial or throwing them away in a closed container to the extent possible. For strawberry growers, running the tractor over the culls in the furrow can be useful - not so much because it crushes the larvae, but because the flattened fruit dries out quickly and loses its property as a suitable food source. The use of the Entrust spray is reducing the number of adults, while at the same time, with the removal of fruit either by harvest or disposal, all routes of maturation are no longer available to the fly. Harvested fruit is removed and sold, and cull fruit is removed or destroyed, so there is no way for the larvae to complete their life cycle and turn into more flies.

Our research tells us to recognize that removal of cull fruit alone will not be enough to bring the population down to acceptable levels. There will always be the one

fruit that is missed but yet contains the propagation potential in it to re-infest your field. That is why the best route for you is to spray along with practicing good sanitation.

Final word would be to take note of what is around your field. Are there any patches of uncontrolled spotted wing drosophila next door or wild blackberries? Both of these areas are serving as hosts and it will benefit you to get some control there also.

There is a pesticide mentioned in this article for control of spotted wing drosophila on the small scale. As always, before using such a pesticide, refer to the product label for directions on use.



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Don't find fault, find a remedy.

Henry Ford

### 6th Annual Testicle Festival

**Saturday, September 20th  
3:00pm - 7:00pm**

It will be held again at the beautiful  
Estrada Deer Camp.

For more information or event tickets...  
Call Agri-Culture (831) 722-6622  
or visit their website at [www.agri-culture.us](http://www.agri-culture.us)

# THE WATER NANNY

## High Times Are Here Again

The recession is over, money is flowing again, enjoy the sunny day. Others seem to doubt my renewed optimism, but I have proof. Things must be going great because governments are considering humorous projects once again. How can this be? Local governments, cities and counties, have a very hard time raising taxes. Redevelopment revenues are gone. Watsonville employees remain on a continuing furlough. Without money, how can questionable projects proceed?

Look no further than the Santa Cruz Transportation Agency. In 2012 it bought a railroad. Cornelius Vanderbilt had better timing. Directly afterward, the main freight customer (there were no passengers) Cemex folded up shop in Davenport. State funding for the purchase requires the train to carry freight and passengers. The trains traveled north from Watsonville at about 10 mph. So if you get on in Watsonville, you would arrive at the Boardwalk in about 3 hours, our freeway at rush hour is twice as fast.

Solution, public meetings to determine why they bought the rail line. Almost everyone in Santa Cruz wants a rail-trail for walkers, dogs and bikes. Maybe great for Live Oak but not so hot south of La Selva through farm fields. Public meetings are relatively cheap, no capital outlay. The Transit agency is spending millions to upgrade existing railroad wooden trestles, which may be increasing the speed. When the smoke clears, maybe light rail between Aptos and Santa Cruz would be a better idea.



For vaporous planning, consider the restaurant and entertainment district in downtown Watsonville. Most locals are somewhat puzzled by this concept. Watsonville has repeatedly had problems with a few restaurants serving alcohol after hours, or without a license, so then let's go big on this idea.

The city wants to make downtown more customer friendly, which is positive, by reducing Main St. from four lanes to two, with reduced street parking. It is frustrated in this objective because Main St. from Highway 1 to Beach is State Highway 152. CalTrans does not want to reduce the number of lanes. However, CalTrans also pays to maintain the pavement and

stop lights, a savings for the city. So the city staff proposes to narrow Main from Beach to 1st St.

The city has scrounged together about \$500,000 to rip up the existing curbs, widen the sidewalk, install bike lanes and build tree studded islands in the median. Regrettably, there is no information available about the financing to complete the project, no traffic study has been posted on-line and they intend to avoid an EIR with a Neg-Declaration. There are great pictures of cool bike racks, cross walk art and parklets (i.e. plants where cars used to park) on the city's web site. Also no word on any interest of new tenants moving in to the new fun zone.



Those of you who travel down Main St. to get to Riverside or Pajaro may wonder where all of the daily traffic will go. The city's blithe answer is, they will find another way. With the high likelihood of another McDonalds on Main next to the old City Hall, travel to Pajaro from Watsonville will become gridlock. Making another good reason to avoid downtown. Should make for a great project EIR. However, something needs to be done to reenergize downtown, maybe this is it, or maybe it is the same hazy logic that gave birth to Measure T.

Not to be outdone by the locals, the State Water Board is implementing a tax on marijuana growers. Fortunately, the revenue is not yet coming to our central coast bud harvest, but valley and north coast growers beware.

| Cannabis | Acreage        | Tax      |
|----------|----------------|----------|
| Tier 1   | < 1/4 acre     | \$500    |
| Tier 2   | 1/4 to 5 acres | \$2,500  |
| Tier 3   | > 5 acres      | \$10,000 |



*"Agriculture, the Original Green"*

# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Brownie Marshmallow & Cereal Peanut Bars

Mary Walter, Editor

**D**uring the last month, we have traveled from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho through Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota to Minnesota, Wisconsin and now Indiana. What stands out to both of us is the enormity of the agriculture industry. We have seen thousands of acres of corn, soy beans, wheat and oats, not to mention the dairy farms that dot the horizon. We have asked for a number of recipes using the local produce, but what struck me was a visit with my cousin in a small unincorporated community outside of the village of Denmark, Wisconsin. Denmark is considered a village, in Brown County. It comprises 1,227 acres with a population of 2,200 people. It was first settled in 1848 by immigrants from Langeland, Denmark. My Aunt Clara and Uncle Ed settled in this area in the late 1920's. Denmark is located 20 miles southeast of Green Bay, WI; 15 miles south of the Port of Green Bay; and about 20 miles west of Lake Michigan. Three major colleges are located nearby: Northeastern Wisconsin Technical School, University of Wisconsin Green Bay and St Norbert's College, DePere, Wisconsin. The area is not immune to issues that Santa Cruz County experiences. Currently Brown County and adjoining Kewaunee County are studying the effects of farming on the groundwater, even when accepted farming practices

are being used, and the conversation is ongoing and will continue for some time. Kewaunee County has the largest concentration of dairy farms in the state of Wisconsin.

My cousin, Jeanette, is 85 years old and has lived in this area most of her life. She married a local farmer and truly became the farmer's wife. On a daily basis she could be found milking cows, driving tractors, harvesting crops; all the while raising four children of her own, most of which are involved in farming today. I asked her if she had any favorite recipes that she would like to share and she was, of course, willing to share many of them. But the recipe she chose to share was the recipe she shares with the 4-H club in her county. Yes, at age 85, she is still a leader in her local 4-H Club and she participates in the meetings, activities and fundraisers throughout the year. She always bakes for the fundraisers and has taught her 4-Hers to bake right along beside her. She also has a son and two daughters who are 4-H leaders and her youngest 13 year old grandson is still in 4-H and this year took a steer and a heifer to the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee. I'm sharing two of the recipes for bars she teaches her 4-H kids to make. I sure hope you enjoy them. Yes, they did pass the taste test...with flying colors!

### Brownie Marshmallow Rice Krispie Bars

1 box Brownie Mix

1 Package Mini Marshmallows

Make brownies according to box directions. When done baking, put 1/2 package mini marshmallows on top and return to the oven for 3 minutes until marshmallows are melted. Cool well.

Mix together:

1 cup melted chocolate chips

1 cup peanut butter

1 1/2 cups Rice Krispies

Pour over the top and spread to cover. Cool thoroughly before you cut into bars.

### Cereal Peanut Bars

1 cup light corn syrup

1/2 cup brown sugar

dash of salt

Combine in a saucepan and bring to a full boil. Stir in 2 cups peanut butter

Remove from the heat and add:

2 teaspoons vanilla

4 cups Rice Krispies

2 cups Corn Flakes

1 1/2 semisweet chocolate chips

Pour into a 10" x 15" buttered pan and spread evenly over pan. Cool thoroughly and cut into squares. May be frozen. Recipe may also be cut in half and placed into a 9" x 9" x 2" pan.

## Using Pesticides Around the Home



Most people associate pesticides with agriculture, but a study by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) showed that in 2011 about two-thirds of the illnesses from pesticide exposure came from non-agricultural settings such as homes, gardens, and golf courses. And, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops! Pesticides used on lawns and gardens may be washed to street storm drains and into local rivers, streams, and sensitive wetland areas miles away. Urban use is responsible for pesticides found in many waterways.

Flea and tick sprays, household disinfectants, and pool chemicals are pesticides. People also use insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides in gardens. Growers and homeowners alike benefit from Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. IPM emphasizes proper identification of the pest, and pest control/prevention by use of a combination of biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical methods. There is much useful information about IPM on the University of California's IPM website: [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu). When it is necessary to use pesticides around the home, certain common sense practices will help ensure safety and minimize environmental impacts: ALWAYS read and follow the label instructions. AVOID runoff of the product from the treated areas. NEVER store pesticides in a container other than the original container. Another person, including a child, could be harmed not knowing there is a pesticide in the container.

People often apply pesticides themselves in their gardens, and they sometimes employ landscapers. Under California law, anyone who applies pesticides for hire, even if only incidental to other maintenance gardening tasks, must have a maintenance gardening pest control business license from DPR and be registered with the local county agricultural

commissioner's office. The pesticide applicator must pass an examination to obtain a Qualified Applicator Certificate. This Certificate is renewed every two years, and requires continuing education credits. Homeowners and landlords using the services of landscape maintenance gardeners should ask if the business is properly licensed by DPR to apply pesticides. Gardeners with proper training are more likely to use safer methods to better protect the family and the environment. More information can be found on DPR's website at [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov) under Programs, then Licensing, then Maintenance Gardener Pest Control.

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## Sprinkler Irrigation Water Management

**A**merican farmers and ranchers use 138.92 billion gallons of water per day for irrigation, livestock water and aquaculture, according to the U.S. Geologic Survey. This is an impressive number and a true indicator that agricultural producers play a massive role in water management and conservation, especially during the worst drought on record for a major part of California including Santa Cruz County.

Many farmers still utilize sprinkler/spray irrigation to water their crops. Unfortunately, this method can be very inefficient with much of the water landing in the wrong place or evaporating before it ever reaches the desired area. Drip/Trickle/Micro irrigation systems tend to be much more efficient, especially with proper water management, but for many growers converting to a drip system is economically unfeasible.

Fortunately, there are ways farmers can increase water use efficiency without converting to a whole new irrigation system including:

- Irrigation water management and scheduling by

utilizing the Wireless Irrigation Network (WIN). Contact Lisa Lurie with RCD of Santa Cruz County for details and information regarding their free equipment loaner program at 831-464-2950 ext. 27.

- Leveling of fields. The more variable a field's surface and soil type is, the less likely water will be distributed evenly. Leveling can help sprinklers reach more land area with less irrigation runoff. If you don't already know the soil types found on your farm than visit the Santa Cruz County Soil Survey on line and create your own soil map (<http://websoilsurvey@sc.egov.usda.gov>.)
- Scheduled maintenance. Regular irrigation system monitoring will help insure: there are no leaking valves; worn out sprinkler heads; no irrigation runoff; and sprinkler coverage that only involves your crops and not the adjacent farm road.

To find out more, including information on financial incentives for system improvements and conversions, contact the NRCS at 831-475-1967.

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### President's Message - The Golden State Celebrates (Continued from Page 2)

1.4 billion pounds of strawberries or 83% of the country's total fresh and frozen strawberry production.

- California is the largest exporter of almonds in the world.
- California is the number 1 dairy state in the U.S.
- California produces over 86% of all the lemons consumed in the United States.
- California is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest wine producer in the world and produces over 90% of the wine in the U.S.
- 70% to 80% of all ripe olives are grown in California.
- California accounts for 94% of the processed tomatoes in the U.S.
- California produces 25% of the nation's onions and 43% of the nation's green onions.

California is divided into 58 counties. Twenty-seven existed in some fashion when the area was first carved into counties on February 18, 1850. Sixteen more were added by 1860, and four more by 1865. Another ten were added by the turn of the 20th century, and the last, Imperial County, was formed in 1907. Santa Cruz County is the second smallest county in California, after San Francisco County, with 445.24 square miles but Santa Cruz County is one of the most productive and ranks in the top 20 counties of the state's agricultural income.

From fresh conventional and organic fruits and vegetables, to nursery plants, cattle, and timber, from sandy shores to redwood-topped mountains, the fertile soils and moderate climates of the Golden State make California one of most magnificent places on earth to work and live. Happy Birthday, California!

# LEGALLY SPEAKING

Alan Smith, Attorney at Law, Grunsky, Ebey, Farrar & Howell

## GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS



Robert Frost wrote about fence repair a century ago:

*"I let my neighbor know beyond the hill; And on a day we meet to walk the line And set the wall between us once again. We keep the wall between us as we*

*go,"* The Mending Wall, Robert Frost 1874-1963

It doesn't always work so well however. In California, for almost 150 years, the law has been that adjoining property owners must share the cost to maintain a boundary fence between their properties. The public policy has been that neighbors are presumed to gain mutual benefits from the construction and maintenance of a boundary fence between their properties, and as a result are generally equally responsible to contribute to the construction, maintenance or necessary replacement of their shared fence. *Civil Code Sec. 841, AB 1404. Chapter 86 Statutes of 2013*

AB 1404, approved by the Governor on August 12, 2013 says landowners share an equal benefit from any fence dividing their properties and, absent a written agreement to the contrary, are equally responsible for the reasonable costs of maintaining, repairing or replacing the fence. The law does not make it clear whether it addresses only true "boundary fences", i.e. fences that straddle a common boundary and are more or less on both properties or whether it applies also to fences that are entirely on one parcel but a few inches from the other boundary.

The new law requires property owners to give thirty days written notice to the other owner of the presumption of equal responsibility for the reasonable costs of maintenance, repair or replacement, the nature of the problem facing the shared fence, the proposed solution for the problem, the estimated cost and the timeline for resolving the problem.

The new law also allows a property owner to overcome the presumption of equal responsibility. The new law then sets forth five factors a court is required to consider in determining whether equal responsibility would be unjust. Those factors are: (1) whether the financial burden to one

property owner is disproportionate to the benefit conferred by the fence, (2) whether the cost of the fence would exceed the difference in value of the property before and after its installation, (3) whether the financial burden to one landowner would impose an undue financial hardship given that party's financial circumstances, (4) the reasonableness of a particular maintenance or construction project and (5) any other factors appropriate under the circumstances.

This new law has particular application to places like Santa Cruz County where many of our common property boundaries originate from rancho boundaries rather than straight lines and square corners of section land.

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**CONTEST**

6th Annual Testicle Festival  
September 20, 2014  
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194 Hazel Dell Rd.

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- One quart of sauce
- Bring to the event by 2:30pm
- Entry forms provided at the event.
- Please leave your testicle-covered winning sauce be fit.

**How to Enter**

| Cooking Rules   | Judging   | Contest Schedule    |
|---|---|---------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just have a ball with it!</li> <li>• Sauces can be hot, spicy, wild, ethnic, traditional and/or wild!</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone is a judge. Those who attend will be able to vote for their favorite sauce</li> </ul> | <b>3:30-4:45 PM</b> |

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"It's All in the Sauce"  
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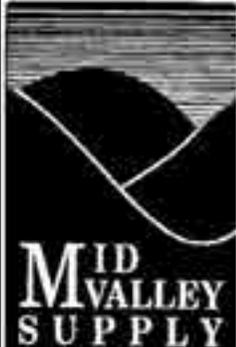
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# Membership News

## CFBF Farm Team

### AB 2416 Places Liens on Property for Unproven Wage Claims

**A**B 2416 (Stone, D-Monterey Bay) will allow employees who believe they have not been paid all wages due to them, to place a lien on property of their employer or property where they worked with no requirement to seek approval of a judge, the Labor Commissioner, or any neutral third-party.

These “wage liens” will tie up property for sale or lease, and jeopardize third-party property owners who had no control of how the employee was paid or not paid.

Since the California Labor Code already provides for enforcement of employees’

rights through the Labor Commissioner, AB 2416 is unnecessary. On top of this, just last year Governor Brown signed AB 1386 (Committee on Labor & Employment), which allows the Labor Commissioner to file a lien on an employer’s property within the state after a final order has been issued. There has not been sufficient time to determine whether the increased authority effectively resolves the alleged acts of bad employers.

Act today to urge your Senator to STOP AB 2416!

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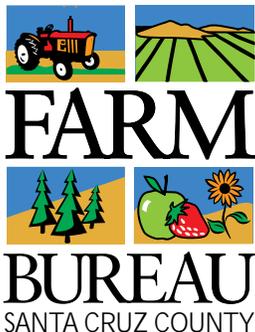
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## CALENDAR

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

**FRIDAY - SEPT. 9 - 14**  
Santa Cruz County Fair

**THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 18**  
Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Commission

**SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 20**  
Annual YF&R Testicle Festival  
For more information, please  
call (831) 722-6622  
or visit [www.agri-culture.us](http://www.agri-culture.us)

**THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 25**  
Board of Directors meeting

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 1**

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

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 3**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 8  
Class XXV

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 8**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**MONDAY - OCTOBER 13**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee mtg.

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