

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

SEPTEMBER 2018  
VOLUME 42, ISSUE 9

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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  
Watsonville, California 95076.  
(831) 724-1356 or (831) 763-4450  
Fax: (831) 724-5821  
Email: [scfb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scfb@sbcglobal.net)  
Web: <http://www.sccfb.com>

## Ernest and Beverley Bontadelli Memorial Fund



Ernest and Beverley Bontadelli attending a family wedding

It was announced that local farmer **Steve Bontadelli** has donated \$25,000 to the organization, **Agri-Culture**, for the purpose of establishing the **Ernest and Beverley Bontadelli Memorial Fund**.

**Ernie Bontadelli**, who was born in La Selva Beach and continued to reside there his entire life, passed away peacefully at his home this summer. On the evening prior to his passing, he had attended the 101st Annual Dinner of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, where his son, Steve, was honored as the 2018 "Farmer of the Year." Ernie was honored with the same award in 1984.

Ernie, and his brother Charles, were pioneers

in the Brussels sprout industry on California's central coast. He attended San Jose State University where he met and married his lifelong spouse **Beverley**, who preceded him in death in 2016.

Tax-deductible contributions in memory of **Ernest and Beverley Bontadelli** may be made to this fund. Checks should be written to **Agri-Culture** with a note that says, "**Bontadelli Memorial Fund**." Credit card donations can be made on the Agri-Culture website: <http://www.agri-culture.us/funds/>, under the "FUNDS" tab, or by calling the Agri-Culture office. **Agri-Culture, 141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA 95076 • (831) 722-6622 • [agri-culture@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agri-culture@sbcglobal.net)**

**DON'T MISS OUT - SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018 - 12:00 Noon**  
**Paddy Smith Park at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds**

- **Apple Pie Baking Contest**
- **Opening Day Barbecue**

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# President's Message

THOMAS BROZ, PRESIDENT

## Housing for Agriculture – Support the Affordable Housing Bond Measure

**A**s we head into fall, the busiest stretch of the season, I am a bit nervous realizing that the apple harvest is about four weeks later than usual. The crop looks good, however during a “typical” year our early apple varieties, Galas, Summerfelds and McIntosh, should be off the trees by now (end of August) and we haven’t started picking yet. It looks like my best laid plans to avoid a labor crunch will not pan out. Some of the farm’s main crops, dry-farmed tomatoes, peppers and blackberries will peak at the same time as the apples - September through early October. The challenge will be having enough workers to handle the workload and I can see many of you nodding your heads thinking: “you are not alone Tom”!

Farming is inherently unpredictable; however, for many of us who specialize in labor intensive crops, the stakes of dealing with labor shortages have severe consequences. At the macro-level we can place some of the blame on immigration policies, an aging workforce and competing opportunities in other industries; however, in Santa Cruz nothing is making the labor situation more dire than the shortage of affordable farmworker housing. With the average rental price for a two-bedroom house at \$3,200 and purchase prices for homes well above \$700K, Santa Cruz ranks among the least affordable housing markets in the nation. The health of our industry depends

on drastically increasing access to safe, healthy and affordable housing to attract and keep working families in agriculture. Don’t take my word for it. A recently completed farmworker housing study for Monterey and Santa Cruz gives us the data to comprehend the severity of the farmworker housing crisis. It is estimated an additional 1,600 housing units are needed in Santa Cruz to accommodate our agricultural workforce and improve the current overcrowded housing conditions.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, county supervisors unanimously approved a \$140M Affordable

[President's Message - Continued on Page 5](#)

**“We welcome your input and ideas. Now is the time to support the Affordable Housing Bond Measure on the November ballot and make sure we get our fair share to help address the housing needs of our agricultural community.”**

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# ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Advisor Emeritus, Environmental Horticulture UCCE

## What You Can't See



**A question for readers:** Which Gerbera plants above are infected with a deadly plant pathogen?

**Answer:** Most observers would say the badly wilted plants, that is, the second and fourth from the left. However, the correct answer is the second, fourth, and the *healthy-looking* third plant from the left!

An astonishing observation was made recently in a series of experiments to determine efficacy of several conventional and biological fungicides to control disease caused by the deadly plant pathogen, *Phytophthora cryptogea*. This soil-inhabiting pathogen begins its deadly course by infecting susceptible roots. It develops up to the root crown near the soil line; the plant wilts and eventually dies. However, Gerbera were mostly free of any above-ground and root symptoms, when a conventional fungicide, mefenoxam, was applied to the soil several days *after* the soil was infested with *P. cryptogea*. At the end of the experiment, however, the pathogen was recovered from healthy looking root balls when the roots were cultured in the laboratory. Mefenoxam was stopping or slowing the development of the disease once it was initiated but did not kill the

pathogen. Of the other 7 fungicides tested, no other fungicide masked the existence of root infection in this way.

Normally fungicides are applied before disease occurs to prevent infection. But in another twist to the story, when mefenoxam was applied *before* *P. cryptogea* was applied to the soil, it just did not work well, and plants died at the end of the experiments. As expected, other fungicides controlled disease, some of them very well, when applied before the pathogen was applied to the soil.

This provides some very interesting new information about the unique mechanism of action of mefenoxam. Since mefenoxam treatment of plants with infected roots could still produce plants of high quality, they could easily be inadvertently harvested and shipped in the trade. This "masking of symptoms" is thought to occur in the trade but until now has not been experimentally demonstrated for *Phytophthora* root infections. Still to be determined: does the mefenoxam suppressive activity wear off and, if so, could disease progress again (perhaps as a potted flowering plant on the dining room table or planted in the landscape).



# THE WATER NANNY

## Old McDonald

Old McDonald still owns his farm, he has a cow and a pig, a flip phone and no computer, E I E I O. His is also old. Now I am one of the first old biddies to defend my tottering demographic, but old age is not curable, and at some point the likelihood of learning Excel becomes remote. Unfortunately for Mac food safety, regulatory reporting and sales require the internet and data skills just as much as a tractor.

Not only is Old McDonald lacking in Facebook skills, he is old. The average age of California farmers rose from 56.8 years in 2002 to 61.0 years in 2012. Nationally farmers are only 58.3 years old on the average. California field workers average 38 years up from 30 in 2000. 65 year old farmers outnumber 25 to 34 year old farmers (millennials) by 6 to 1. We need some new blood here.

The place to find it may be at Cabrillo College. Over the past few years Cabrillo has converted their horticulture program from just ornamentals and landscaping to include commercial agriculture and greenhouse operations. While it is still true that they hold a Mother's Day spring plant sale, there is now so much more. The courses include soil science, greenhouse design and operation, irrigation systems, propagation, pest management and organic production.



Beyond the dry academic studies, Cabrillo Horticulture has to have the most spectacular views of any farm, looking out over all of Monterey Bay. I hear rumors the Cabrillo President thinks his office should be up on this hilltop for the impressive views. Not to worry, he won't be moving as the space is all spoken for by the new programs. Education requires facilities and the Hort program has them with greenhouses, plant nursery, botanic gardens, organic farm, hydroponic and aquaponics food production, to augment the views from the community building. Check out their brand new greenhouse, all the bells and whistles.

Starting in January, 2019, the Hort dept. is launching an A.S. degree in Sustainable Agriculture Technology. This really is a pathway to great employment opportunities with Ag

companies in Watsonville, Salinas and beyond. It is a mind meld of core agriculture courses with Ag tech and computing. The course of study of course will include horticulture, enough to make a Cal Poly grad blush, with GIS mapping, computer science, engineering and controlled environment agriculture. The last item may be a hit with all the newly licensed cannabis employers. Hopefully all the classes fill up as Old McDonald needs to take some time off.



**The Santa Cruz County Fair** is a *Bounty of the County* this September 12-16<sup>th</sup>. Not only do they have a return of the Alaskan Racing Pigs, there is the Wild West Turkey Stampede. The turkeys could have done better but they were put under a spell by Mezmer the Phenomenist, who can hypnotize anyone. So much for the frivolous fun, our Farm Bureau is hosting its annual BBQ with the Firemen on Wednesday, along with the county classic apple pie baking contest. Don't forget to drop by our perennial State Fair award-winning booth in the Harvest building. Be sure to grab a beer (21 years old please) at the Fair Foundation watering holes as all their proceeds go to improving the fairgrounds. See you at the Fair.

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

"the farm bureau advocates on my behalf to address federal, state, and local issues that directly impact my business. As a Farm Bureau member I can focus on farming and know that there is a strong team representing me and fellow farmers locally, in Sacramento, and Washington DC."



**Brendan Miele, Herbs**  
Incoming President



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## TOMATO BRUSCHETTA

This recipe comes from the Jacob's Farm/Del Cabo website (<https://www.jacobsfarmdelcabo.com/field-notes/recipes>) where you can find many more delicious recipes using locally grown organic products. Be sure you check it out!

8 Roma tomatoes, diced **OR** 1-1/2 to 2 pints cherry tomatoes (any variety), quartered **OR** 6 to 8 medium tomatoes, diced

2 tablespoons garlic, finely minced

1/2 cup fresh basil, coarsely chopped

1/4 cup fresh parsley, finely chopped

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1/2 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

1 teaspoon fresh tarragon, finely minced

1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

2 baguettes, cut in 1/2-inch-thick slices

6 cloves garlic, cut in half

1. Mix all ingredients in a bowl, except for bread and garlic cloves.
2. Add salt and pepper to taste.
3. Allow to stand unrefrigerated for 3 hours to allow flavors to develop.
4. Heat the oven to 350°F and toast the bread on a baking sheet.
5. Rub the cut side of garlic on each slice then top with the tomato mixture.



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

Housing Bond Measure to be placed on the November ballot. There is a lot at stake and the agricultural community needs to collectively engage to advocate in support of the measure and, if approved by voters (2/3 majority needed), make sure that farmworker housing funds are prioritized and leveraged with available state, federal and private funds.

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau continues to advocate for opportunities to create housing for farmworkers and we encourage the County to continue to focus on eliminating unnecessary regulatory obstacles to expedite the approval of farmworker housing construction.

With the potential for increased funding (if the Bond Measure is approved) some immediate steps we can take to jump-start the process are:

1. Help identify and review appropriate sites for multifamily housing for farmworker families
2. Encourage landowners and farmers to become more involved in building housing on-site and help the County develop guidelines to streamline the approval process
3. Investigate the potential of creating shorter term housing opportunities that could make decent, safe and sanitary housing available quickly but that would not be a permanent loss of ag land.

We welcome your input and ideas. Now is the time to support the Affordable Housing Bond Measure on the November ballot and make sure we get our fair share to help address the housing needs of our agricultural community.

# MORE NEWS



## Joanne Peixoto Lynch April 15, 1955 - Aug. 5, 2018



**J**oanne Peixoto Lynch, 63, of Watsonville, passed away on Sunday, August 5, 2018 at Stanford Hospital after a 103 day hospitalization fighting a battle against myelofibrosis. She passed in the company of loved ones with her beloved husband, children and her newest grandchild by her side.

Joanne was born to Francis "Pex" and Sadie Peixoto on April 15, 1955. She went to Morello High School and graduated in 1973. She married Chris Lynch on July 17, 1987 and together they raised their children in Watsonville. Joanne dedicated nearly 30 years of her life to working for her brother at Dick Peixoto Company, which has since evolved into Lakeside Organic Gardens. Joanne loved traveling, learning about family history and living on the property her parents began building together in 1957. Nothing made her happier than her three grandchildren.

Joanne is survived by her husband Christopher Lynch, daughter Jaimie (Derek) Jordan, stepson Chad (Rhonda) Lynch and grandchildren Jasper Lynch, Carson Jordan, Sadie Jordan, 6 siblings, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Over the last year Joanne focused her energy to promoting awareness of the need for donors at bethematch.org. Joanne's wish would be for everyone eligible to join. By joining you could save someone else's life. In lieu of flowers please consider donations to The Leukemia And Lymphoma Society, Caring Bridge or Be The Match.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, September 9th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the California Grill in Watsonville. Mehl's Colonial Chapel was entrusted with the arrangements.

## Participate in Santa Cruz County's AgTech Conversation

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

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

The Meetups are organized by Jacob Martinez of Digital Nest and Khaled Mabrouk of Sustainable Productivity Solutions.

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

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



"Today is a most unusual day, because we have never lived it before; we will never live it again; it is the only day we have."

William Arthur Ward



## Keeping Agricultural Workers Safe During the Late Summer Heat



**A**s we begin the transition from summer into fall it is typical for the Central Coast to experience late summer heat. September and October bring with them clear skies and warmer days and on a few occasions temperatures that exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

This is quite a change from the cool foggy weather we are accustomed to. The weather can change rapidly during this time of year resulting in a shift from cooler temperatures to warmer temperatures in a short time period. This change in weather may place agricultural workers at risk for heat stress. As you are aware, outdoor places of employment must comply with CalOSHA's Title 8, CCR 3395 that requires development and implementation of a Heat Illness Prevention Plan. The goal of the plan is to adopt procedures that keep workers safe. These procedures incorporate the following practices:

- **Effective Communication** - Forepersons and supervisors in the field should be aware of weather conditions, maintain communications with employees and make adjustments in work practices to prevent illness and to respond quickly in case an incident occurs.
- **Monitor Workers** - Forepersons and supervisors should communicate with employees periodically throughout the day to monitor their wellbeing. Employees should be encouraged to report any sign of heat illness.
- **Exercise Preventative Cool Down Periods** - Provide a rest period in the shade for employees that may be exhibiting or complaining of heat illness symptoms and monitor those employees. If the employee continues to exhibit symptoms, implement appropriate emergency response.
- **Drinking Water** - Provide employees fresh, cool, drinking water.
- **Training** - Train employees to identify signs and symptoms of heat illness, the importance of reporting symptoms and the importance of staying hydrated by drinking water frequently.

guidelines and best practices visit CalOSHA's website at: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/etools/08-006/>

Warm weather can also impact agricultural workers indirectly by the affect it can have on other agricultural activities such as pesticide applications. Warmer temperatures can increase the volatility of the pesticides being applied resulting in unpleasant odors that can move away from the application site and impact neighboring operations. These odors can make people sick. As you are well aware, growers in our area farm very close to each other and in many instances the only thing separating a strawberry field from a lettuce field is a narrow dirt road. Odor can easily travel this short distance. Communication between growers, their supervisors and forepersons in the field is essential to find out the timing of harvesting activities on neighboring operations and ensure the best timing of pesticide applications. Providing your neighbor at least a 24 hour notification ahead of a pesticide application gives that operator the opportunity to change harvest site locations or schedules to prevent possible exposure of agricultural workers. When planning a pesticide application consider the following proactive measures:

- Apply pesticides after agricultural workers on neighboring farms have completed their work day.
- Apply pesticides after agricultural workers have moved at least 660 feet away from where the pesticide will be applied.
- Complete pesticide applications that take place in the late night hours or early morning hours at least four hours or more before agricultural workers in neighboring fields begin their work day. This includes your own agricultural fields.
- Always check neighboring fields for the presence of agricultural workers prior to starting a pesticide application and during the pesticide application.

Implementation of these proactive measures would be in addition to current requirements for the safe and effective application of pesticides. For additional questions on this topic or to find out who farms next to you, please do not hesitate in contacting the Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (831) 763-8080.

For more information about these requirements and for

## California Supreme Court Protects Rural Private Property Owner from Neighbors' Claim of Public Use Easement



**M**r. and Mrs. Scher owned property in rural Los Angeles County. The Schers wanted to drive vehicles on two roads over their neighbors' property to get to the Schers' property. The Schers had other ways to get to their property but the road across their neighbors' property was a more convenient route for the Schers.

The neighbors objected and put up a gate to block the Schers. The Schers filed a lawsuit saying the neighbors had allowed the Schers to use the road across the neighbors' property for more than five years and therefore the neighbors impliedly dedicated an easement to the Schers for vehicle use over the neighbors' land.

The neighbors relied in part on a 1970 case called *Gion v. City of Santa Cruz* which gave the public a claimed public recreational easement over coastal land if the easement had been used over time. The legislature in 1972 enacted Section 1009 of the California Civil Code. Section 1009 said no recreational use by the public could confer upon the public or a government agency a right to continued use.

Scher argued in their lawsuit against the neighbors that Civil Code 1009 which prohibited establishment of an implied dedication of an easement by the public or a public agency did not prohibit their claim since their use was non-recreational.

The California Farm Bureau Federation and the California Cattlemen's Association filed friend of the court arguments opposing the Schers' easement and supporting the neighbor's blocking the Schers'.

The California Supreme Court on June 15, 2017 sided with the neighbors and decided that the "plain language" of Section 1009 unambiguously says that "no use" after Section 1009 was enacted in 1972 shall ever ripen into an implied easement.

This case affords some protection for property owners from the public establishing easements across their lands, especially on rural lands where the owner may not easily detect such intermittent use. This new California Supreme Court case holds that no use of any kind by the public gives the public or a government agency a right to continued use, that is, no implied easement. This case is seen by many as an important win for owners of rural lands. See *Scher v. Burke* (June 15, 2017) 3 Cal.5th 136, modified 3 Cal.5th 766.





## **RCD NEWS - How To Size The Oval Hose For Strawberry Irrigation Based On Field Size And Drip Tape Flowrate**

**S**izing an oval hose for strawberry irrigation is a challenge because of the tradeoff between high costs of the hose (since larger hoses are more expensive) and pressure loss along the hose (if the hose is too small). High pressure losses across an oval hose create non-uniform distribution of water and water wastage. In our valley, water is precious and growers do all they can to irrigate more efficiently and save water. In this article, we provide recommendations on how to correctly size an oval hose for strawberry production based on a) oval hose length; b) bed length; c) bed width; d) drip tape nominal flowrate.

To achieve high water distribution uniformity, the pressure loss across hoses and tapes in the field should be kept to a minimum. This way all emitters will be exposed to roughly the same amount of pressure and will produce about the same flowrate and consequently all plants will be irrigated uniformly. Pressure losses in a pipe or hose are larger when: a) the pipe length is larger; b) the flowrate traveling inside the pipe is higher; c) the diameter of the pipe is smaller; d) the internal surface of the pipe is rougher (this is determined by the pipe material and its age). In other words, to keep the pressure loss in a pipe at a minimum, the diameter of the pipe should be sized based on pipe length and flowrate. In strawberry irrigation, the length of the oval hose is determined by the block size while the flowrate is determined by 1) how many drip tapes are inserted into the hose (which in turn is determined by the bed width and the number of tapes per bed); 2) the length of the drip tapes; 3) the nominal flowrate of the drip tapes (which is expressed in gpm/100

ft and can be found on the drip tape label). In this area, 48-inch beds with 2 drip tapes per bed and 52-inch beds with 2 drip tapes per bed are the most common configurations. The two tables (see note below) were created for these two configurations. The columns list the length of the oval hose and the rows list the length of the drip tapes and their flowrates. For each combination of rows and columns the tables list the diameter in inches of the oval hose needed to keep the pressure loss below 2 psi across the hose. Hazen-Williams equation was used to calculate the tables, with a multiple outlet F factor of 0.4. The table was calculated based on flat ground, if the oval hose is oriented so that water is flowing downhill, it is recommended to install gate valves to burn off excessive pressure and Schrader valves to measure the pressure. Never orient an oval hose so that water is flowing uphill!!!

An example of how to use the tables: Lupe grows organic strawberries on 48-inch beds with 2 driplines per bed. Her beds are 300 ft long her tape has a flowrate of 0.67 gpm/100ft. Her oval hose is 200 ft long. From the table, Lupe finds that she needs a 4 inch oval hose. Another example: Grace grows conventional strawberries on 52-inch beds with 2 drip tapes per bed. Her beds are 200 ft long and her oval hose is 250 ft long and the flowrate of her tape is 0.5 gpm/100 ft. Grace should install a 3 inch oval hose.


For more information, questions, comments, for a free irrigation system evaluation or irrigation management assistance, contact the RCD of Santa Cruz County: (831) 464-2950, [info@rcdsantacruz.org](mailto:info@rcdsantacruz.org).

**Note: To view and print the tables listed in the article above, please visit <http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/agriculture>**

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*A smile may take just a moment, but the memory of that smile can last forever.*

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*Aaron Dillon, Lexa Dillon, & Don Dillon, Jr.  
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**SEPTEMBER 2018**  
**VOLUME 42, ISSUE 9**

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## CALENDAR

**MONDAY - SEPT. 10**  
**Public Relations &  
Information Committee  
meeting**

**WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 12**  
**Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting**

**WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 12**  
**Santa Cruz County Fair  
Opens**

- Apple Pie Baking Contest
- Opening Day Barbecue

**THURSDAY - SEPT. 27**  
**Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Committee meeting**

**THURSDAY - SEPT. 27**  
**Board of Directors meeting**

**FRIDAY - SEPT. 28**  
**Focus Agriculture, Session 8**

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 3**

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

**MONDAY - OCTOBER 8**  
**Public Relations &  
Information Committee mtg.**

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 10**  
**Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting**

**FRIDAY - OCTOBER 19**  
**Focus Agriculture, Session 9**

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 25**  
**Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Committee meeting**

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

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication



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