

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

SEPTEMBER 2021
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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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President's Message

Farmland Preservation Is All Of Our Responsibility



ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT

For the past 16 years, every Saturday morning I have been going to my local farmers' market to purchase my fruit and vegetables for the next week. Over the years I have made many friends, seen growers start, some retire; their kids grow and graduate college. Like many other participants at the market, I have become part of this smaller community. We all talk to each other about families, weather, politics and agricultural concerns. Farmers' markets are one of the few places where people connect to where their food comes from and who produces it. But that is not the way it has always been.

From the time our nation was formed to the early 1900's, roughly 90% of the population's primary source of income was agriculture. During this same period of time, the number of farms grew to a height of 6.4 million in

1910. Since then, the number of farms has declined to roughly 2.2 million (2010 Census) and the percentage of the population that relies on agriculture as a primary source of income is >1%. We went from 90% of the population having a direct relationship with agriculture to roughly 1% in a hundred years.

In California, this same pattern of growth and decline of farmland is happening. In 1859, 8.7 million acres of farmland was in production. That grew to a height of 36.9 million acres in 1959. Since then, farmland acreage has decreased to 24.5 million acres in 2017. This decline of farmland is primarily due to real estate development to meet California's population growth, which has grown from less than 2 million people in 1900 to nearly 40 million people

(2020 Census). The American Farmland Trust calculated that, annually, 40,000 acres of farmland is being lost to development in California alone.

Now that we have covered the facts about how farmland is being lost at an alarming rate, what can we do about it? One thing we

"Part of the early extensive growth of farmland acreage was that there was an abundance of land suitable for farmland conversion; however, that is not the case anymore... It isn't easy work, but together we can protect our farmland and our agricultural future."

Continued on Page 6

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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The Sturdy Oil Company wishes to thank all of our firefighters, including those who are here from other states and communities, who are putting their lives on the line to save California from the devastation of these wildfires. We will be forever grateful for the work you do. Stay safe, stay healthy and we hope you will return home soon.

Thank You

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ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor,
Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

Soil Diseases In Caneberries

Q. It seems some soil diseases are starting to pop up in the caneberries. Could you do a brief review of what we should be looking for?

A. Soil diseases in caneberries, that is to say raspberries and blackberries, are thankfully few in number, but still there are several that can be damaging at times.

By far the most common soil pathogen of raspberries is root rot caused by several species of *Phytophthora*. Since *Phytophthora* is a water mold, it very much favors areas of the field where it is wet, so low spots and heavy soil, in addition with overwatered pots in substrate culture are areas where it is found the most. The disease presents as an abrupt wilting of the floricane of the plant, especially as temperatures rise and the plant is loading up with fruit. It is important to note that areas which are excessively wet may result in raspberry root death even in the absence of a pathogen, making a positive disease diagnosis important. For management of *Phytophthora*, there are several fungicides which can be applied directly to the plant or through the drip tape which give some measure of control, but growers should know that most of these fungicides have very long pre-harvest intervals, thus limiting their usefulness during fruit production. Soil fumigation, maintaining a level field and having a well-drained soil or substrate are keys to limiting the destructiveness of

Phytophthora. Resistance to this pathogen in raspberries is not known in our area.

Blackberries are rarely affected by root diseases. I have yet to find a blackberry plant on the Central Coast affected by *Phytophthora* which causes the root rot common to raspberries. However, there have been a few cases over the past few years of wilt in blackberries caused by what is known as a form species of the fungal pathogen *Fusarium*. This wilt manifests itself as a wilt of the floricane from the bottom to the top in the blackberry field in distinct parts of the field, although it is generally found in the warmer sections such as the middle of tunnel complexes or other areas of water stress. While *Fusarium* is still uncommon in our area, it will serve to pay attention to this issue, as in strawberry another form species of this pathogen has become very widespread and damaging. The best control for blackberry growers is soil fumigation and avoiding areas for several years where it has been known to occur. Resistance in blackberries to this pathogen is not known.

The above has been a brief discussion of root diseases in raspberries and blackberries on the Central Coast. For further information on these, along with other information on berries or other crops grown in this area, please contact Mark Bolda, UCCE, Santa Cruz County at mpbolda@ucanr.edu or 831 763 8025.

These two rivers' confluence was the site of the Philadelphia Navy Yard,
the USA's first naval shipyard.

See answer on page 4

THE WATER NANNY

Wishing Well

Once upon a time, as the West was settled in the 1800's, people built homes and cities sprang up near plentiful water. Over time we manipulated the water supply and population ballooned in the knowledge that if we built something water could be found or imported. Like a foretold outcome, that time has passed. However, in 2012 Governor Brown signed AB 985, the Human Right to Water Bill, with the objective of universal access to clean, safe and affordable drinking water for all state residents, even those who live in circumstances without available potable water. No funding or organization accompanied this bill.

The State Water Board has compiled a list, of 339 deficient water systems, with more than 15 connections, throughout the state. Most of these are due to an exceedance of one MCL (contaminate) in their delivered water. Three are in North Monterey County. Monterey County also has 235 small water systems, mostly in North County, which fail to meet state MCL standards. No one knows the number of individual wells which are contaminated or may fail due to poor construction or drought.

East Porterville, near Visalia, an area served by many small wells, mostly ran dry during the last drought. Porterville built an extension to their municipal water system, but the residents complained that they were then charged for the service. San Jerardo, in the Salinas Valley, had suffered from polluted groundwater due to a World War II munition plant, which Monterey County replaced with a new, and expensive remote well. The locals again complained that their rates went up.



For years Monterey County worked on a plan to bring water to the Granite Ridge area of Prunedale where there is no true aquifer and many wells are deficient. Between 2008 and 2011 engineers prepared studies, held community meetings and a solid plan was presented for

not only Granite Ridge but the areas along Maher Rd., for an estimated 2012 cost of \$26.5M. Aromas proposed extending their water system to some of these homes. Both were not supported by the residents due to the cost.

Locally, the Rural Residents for Water, advised by Community Water Center, want to alert the PVWMA that it is bad "when they turn the water faucet on and the water is rusty, sandy, takes hours for the water tank to refill or no water comes out." While this is unfortunate, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors was besieged by rural residents from the same neighborhood objecting to an ordinance that would allow for the *voluntary* instillation of contaminant water filters for small water systems; one going so far as to say that he has had brown water coming out of his tap for 20 years and the county was not going to require him to do anything about it.



The problem is not that there are deficient, contaminated and dry wells; it is that the problem is in search of a solution. Historically you owned a well, you were responsible for the good and bad days. Every farmer knows this burden. When cities are confronted with huge bills for desalination, purification systems or earthquake repairs, the costs are financed and spread out so their customers can afford increased monthly bills. While there may be a right to water, the right comes with a cost to the consumer. If you don't pay the utility bill the service is cut off, right to water or not. The State Legislature needs to supplement the Human Right to Water theory with a scheme to allow bond financing, at the low government rates, to be repaid by the families benefiting from improved water, providing a solution, even as the cost of the clean water is more than the existing undrinkable well water. There ain't no such thing as a free lunch

"My therapist set half a glass of water in front of me. She asked if I was an optimist or a pessimist. So, I drank the water and told her I was a problem solver." (Unknown) Hopefully, this optimist will step up with a solution here.

Answer:

Delaware and Schuylkill



FAVORITE RECIPES

CHICKEN ADOBO

Below is the recipe for Lyza's family Chicken Adobo. Lyza DeCastro Gianelli's family (the DeCastro family) emigrated from the Philippines in 1985, from a small town called Morong, Rizal, which is near Manila. They settled in Los Angeles, where her father got a government job and her mother worked in bookkeeping. She has two older sisters and an older brother. Her sister (Glenda) actually produced DVDs through her company, and included this recipe in a "Best of Filipino Food" version. This recipe has been enjoyed by the family for many generations. Lyza works for S. Martinelli & Co., who is a big Farm Bureau supporter, and is married to Matt Gianelli, Farm Bureau's Assistant to the Executive Director. Thank you DeCastro/Gianelli family for sharing this recipe!

INGREDIENTS

Chicken: 5 pounds (whole or thighs)
Onion: 2 pieces (medium or large)
Garlic: 5 cloves (chopped)

Soy Sauce: 2/3 cup
White Vinegar: 1/4 cup
Ground Black Pepper: to taste*
Cooking Oil: 2 tablespoons

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut your whole chicken to preferred sizes OR use chicken thighs.
2. Prepare 2 onions julienne. Chop 5 cloves of garlic
3. Set to medium heat (from start to finish). Add cooking oil.
4. Saute garlic until light brown.
5. Add the onions. Saute until onions caramelize.
6. Put the chicken in, add 2/3 cup of soy sauce, sprinkle black pepper over chicken, and stir everything. Leave lid semi-open (small crack).
7. After 15 minutes, add more black pepper and stir well.
8. Repeat Step 7 twice (30 min mark and 45-minute mark). Make sure to stir well each time, with the lid semi-open.
9. At the 60-minute mark, add 1/4 cup of white vinegar and DO NOT STIR. Option to add more black pepper. Leave lid semi-open.
10. After 10-15 minutes, stir everything. Option to add more black pepper. Turn off stove. You are DONE! (*Prior to eating, skim excess fat/oil.)

Chicken Adobo Recipe by Glenda De Castro, Best of Filipino Food Vol. 1 Cooking DVD, DC Entertainment (2008)

Interesting Trivia

Here are 30 (this is 14-17) awesome facts about California, the sunniest state in the U.S.

- The population of California is over 39 million – one out of eight Americans is from California. California is larger than Canada's population by about 3 million.
- In the midpoint of California, there is a palm tree and a pine tree planted next to each other to signify the meeting point of Northern and Southern California.
- Due to its Mediterranean climate, California is able to produce over 17 million gallons of wine each year.
- There is a popular burger chain, In-N-Out, that is specific to California. The first one opened in 1948 which was California's first drive-through burger stand. No stores were opened outside California until 1992.

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

President's Message

Continue from Page 1

cannot do is make new farmland. Part of the early extensive growth of farmland acreage was that there was an abundance of land suitable for farmland conversion; however, that is not the case anymore. What we *can* do is engage in preserving and protecting farmland locally. It is our responsibility to:

1. Communicate to others outside of the agricultural community the importance of protecting farmland.
2. Engage in local land use decisions. Local governments often see development on surrounding farmland as an easy way to increase tax revenues. They often undervalue the economic benefit of agriculture to justify their decisions.
3. Support local organizations that protect and preserve agriculture.
4. Support community "Smart Growth", where a community can still grow and prosper without sacrificing farmland.
5. The last thing is probably the hardest: We have to engage **every** time farmland is threatened.

It isn't easy work, but together we can protect our farmland and our agricultural future.

I'm a Farm Bureau Member/ Supporter because...

"the farmers need someone to help them
stand up to all the issues today."

Doug Buessing
TriCal Inc.



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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.

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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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COVID-19 Support and Resources Continue to be Available



It is hard to believe that more than one and a half years have passed since COVID-19 upended our lives. As we continue to navigate our way through living with the pandemic, it is important to keep in mind the various resources that are available to support our communities. The County of Santa

Cruz Health Services Agency has done a great job over the last several months maintaining a COVID-19 informational website that is comprehensive and easy for the public to navigate. I frequently reference two tabs on the website: the dashboard which contains information on the current status of COVID-19 cases in the county including hospitalizations and geographic data, and the vaccine tab which includes the latest information on vaccine administration in our county and instructions on how to make a vaccination appointment. It has never been easier to get the vaccine, either by booking an appointment or finding a walk-in clinic using the **My Turn** website at <https://myturn.ca.gov>. New to the website is a calendar listing vaccination pop-up clinics in our area which are open to the general public and do not require an appointment (walk-ins are welcome). The clinics also offer options for the different vaccines available. The County's website also contains a tab for employers and provides important information on how to prevent exposure to employees in the workplace, what to do in case of an exposure and when an exposed employee is able to return to work. For more information on the resources listed above please visit: <http://santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>

Santa Cruz County continues to participate in the Housing for the Harvest Program. This program was launched last summer by the California Department of Food and Agriculture to provide COVID-19 related resources to agricultural employees. The goal of the program is to assist agricultural employees who have or might have COVID-19 by providing a free hotel room to quarantine for up to 14 days including wellness checks, meals, and other supportive services. Isolation can help protect family members and co-workers

from exposure to COVID-19. Agricultural employees can also elect to isolate at home and receive the same level of support and whether choosing to isolate at home or in a hotel room the employee is eligible to receive up to \$1,000 in incentives for participation in the program. **Employees can call for participation or an employer can refer an employee by calling the Santa Cruz County COVID-19 Hotline at 831-454-4242.** The information is kept confidential, and individuals are not asked about their immigration status.

Lastly, employees have the right to receive up to 80 hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave to 1) care for themselves and quarantine due to COVID-19, when advised to quarantine by a medical provider, or when experiencing symptoms and seeking diagnosis; 2) care for a family member subject to quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19 or to care for a child whose school or place of care is closed due to COVID-19 on the premises; or 3) to attend a vaccine appointment or if they cannot work due to vaccine related symptoms. The sick pay is effective immediately upon an employee's oral or written request to their employer. COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave is in effect through September 30, 2021. For more specific details please visit the California Department of Industrial Relations at: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/COVID19resources/>

All of these resources are available to make it easier to protect our community from the continued impacts of COVID-19. If you have any questions regarding these programs or to inquire about eligibility, you can contact the Santa Cruz County COVID-19 Hotline at 831-454-4242.

**Life is the only game where the object of
the game is to figure out what the rules are.**

Tom Seeley

Federal CDC Eviction Moratorium Remains In Effect, For Now



Earlier this year, a federal district court vacated an eviction moratorium issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) but stayed the final judgment until an appeal could be heard. The United States Supreme Court eventually declined to vacate or change the stay in an unpublished order. *Alabama Association of Realtors,*

et al v U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Et al 594 U. S. ____ (2021)

In a concurring opinion, Justice Kavanaugh agreed with the District Court that the CDC exceeded its statutory authority by issuing a nationwide eviction moratorium but said he chose to “vote at this time” not to vacate the stay solely because the CDC planned to end the moratorium in only a few weeks, i.e., by July 31, 2021, and because those few weeks would allow additional and more orderly distribution of the congressionally appropriated rental assistance funds.

As July 31 approached, the White House urged Congress to enact a moratorium. But Congress did not act. So, on August 3, the CDC announced its eviction moratorium would be extended until October 3, 2021 and said the October 3 expiration is subject to revision based on the changing public health landscape.

With support from the National Association of Realtors, the Alabama and Georgia Associations of Realtors immediately asked the district court to vacate its earlier stay pending appeal. But the district court declined to remove the stay concluding that the CDC’s latest order was an extension of its earlier vacated moratorium and so covered by its earlier judgment.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has now denied a request by the Realtors to block enforcement of the CDC policy while the Realtors challenge the legality of the CDC order. Obama appeals court appointee Cornelia Pillard, Trump appointee Neomi Rao and newly confirmed Biden appointee Ketanji Brown Jackson all voted to reject the Realtors’ request.

The Realtors argued that the CDC ignored the June 29 US Supreme Court decision in the case suggesting the CDC did not have the authority to impose a moratorium when the agency ordered the latest ban on Aug. 3.

The Realtors on August 4, 2021, filed a motion in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, seeking enforcement of the June 29th U.S. Supreme Court Order that the Realtors contend said the CDC could not extend the moratorium beyond July 31st, without congressional authorization via new legislation.

On August 13, 2021, after holding a hearing on the motion, the D.C. District Court denied the realtor’s motion to lift the stay of the District Court’s order pending appeal. The effect was to leave the CDC’s extension of the eviction moratorium in effect. So, on August 14, the Realtors appealed the District Court’s decision to the D.C. Circuit.

Meanwhile, on August 20, 2021, a three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court likewise denied the Realtors’ request to vacate the stay pending appeal. As a result, the Realtor’s appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Realtors and the government agreed to a very accelerated briefing schedule requiring the government to file its reply by 9 am on August 17 and have the Realtors file a reply on the 18th and asked the Supreme Court to rule by August 19th. As this article is written on August 21, I am however not aware of a decision by the Supreme Court.

No one should take immediate action related to evictions based on any of these initial rulings until the issue is more clearly resolved after the ongoing appeals. And of course, there are state and local government moratoriums that may control. Many have detailed standards for qualifying.

**Keep on smiling and one day, life will get
tired of upsetting you.**

Funding For Farmers And Ranchers Is Anticipated



The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has recently announced the proposed timeline for the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP).

HSP provides financial assistance for California farmers and ranchers that are looking to adopt new soil health practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon and improve soil health. Examples of these practices include compost application, cover cropping, mulching, and hedgerow planting.

SWEEP provides financial assistance for implementing irrigation practices that will reduce water usage, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve irrigation efficiency. Examples of these practices include installation of a variable frequency pump drive, conversion to drip irrigation, and pump retrofit or replacement.

Both programs are likely to begin accepting applications in **October of 2021**. Technical assistance providers will provide updates to Farm Bureau and others when they become available. If you are interested in applying or have any questions please feel free to reach out to the **free** technical assistance providers listed below:

Sacha Lozano, RCD Santa Cruz County at slozano@rcdsantacruz.org or (831) 464-2950 ext. 11 * Habla Español

Erin McCarthy, RCD Santa Cruz County at emccarthy@rcdsantacruz.org or (831) 336-9282

Valerie Perez, Santa Cruz UCCE, at valperez@ucanr.edu or (831) 763-8028

For more information please check out CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming & Innovation page online at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/>.

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau 104th Annual Meeting

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Please RSVP by September 23, 2021

Tickets: \$100 per person

5:45pm – Reception

6:45pm – Dinner

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- JJ Scurich, Creekside Farms



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Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 15
Santa Cruz County Fair
Opening Day BBQ - starts at
noon in Paddy Smith Park

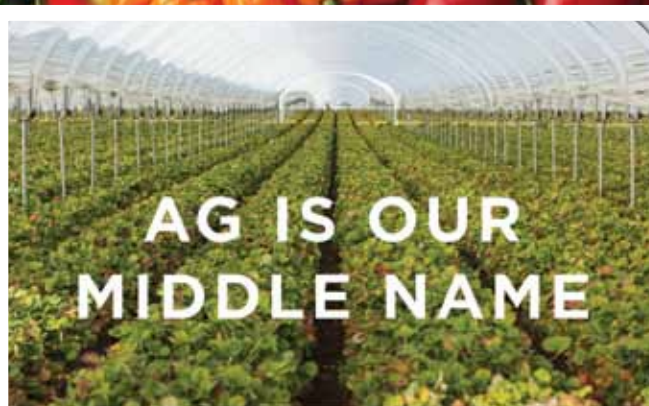
Apple Pie Baking Contest -
Check in is 8:00 am

The Fair runs from
Wednesday, September 15 to
Sunday, September 19. Be
there to check out all of the
fun activities and be sure to
visit the Farm Bureau booth.

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 30
Santa Cruz County Farm
Bureau Annual Meeting

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 14
Down to Earth Women
Luncheon

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 23
24th Annual Progressive
Dinner



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