

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

SEPTEMBER 2023
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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCoCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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Young Farmers and Ranchers 15th Annual Testicle Festival Another Successful Event



Above: Derek Witmer and his crew have been cooking for the Testicle Festival for 15 years. Pictured with Derek (L-R) Cole Moules, Derek Witmer, Robert Amirsehhi, Jake Dellamonica, Dean Moules and Zach Estrada. A \$1,000 contribution is made to the Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship Fund each year. Pictured below is this year's crowd enjoying the delicious barbeque meal.



On the left is this year's winner of the "It's All In The Sauce Contest", Lourdes Cordova. Her sauce, Grasshopper Sauce, was voted #1 by the crowd.



On the right is, Loretta Estrada, winner of the "Best Name" for the "All In The Sauce Contest". Loretta named her sauce "Bustin' Balls BBQ Sauce". Loretta has also been preparing the deep fried testicles for the past 15 years. Both ladies were presented with their award by C. J. Miller, Chair of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. Thank you all for your participation.

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Fall is here!

**Hope you enjoyed the
 Santa Cruz County Fair**

**Don't Forget the Annual Farm Dinner
 Saturday, October 21, 2023**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Enjoyed the Fair!



Dennis Webb, President

It was Santa Cruz County Fair time again! Despite the many challenges our fair has faced in the last year, many of its great traditions remain. Here are some of the things I enjoyed each and every year:

Junior Livestock Auction. Raising livestock for the fair is an endeavor that has taught so many local kids the value of investing, committing to hard work, and seeing a project through to completion. Every year when I visit the fair, I am encouraged to see young people in our community continuing to learn these lessons. When I was a kid participating in 4-H, I didn't understand that I was building a set of skills that I would use the rest of my life. Now, I see how important it is to have an opportunity to learn the satisfaction of seeing your hard work pay off.

Local businesses showcasing their contributions to the community. From the produce on display from Lakeside Organic Gardens, to Martinelli's apple cider, to redwood picnic tables by Big Creek Lumber, there is always something fun to enjoy from our many local businesses who participate in the fair. Local businesses (many of them Farm Bureau members) help make the fair a reality each year.

Arts and crafts. Make no mistake, we have some real talent on display each year at the

fair. Last year, I had the pleasure of realizing a lifelong goal - I got to serve as a judge for the Farm Bureau's apple pie baking contest! This year, I had to settle for just looking at the local arts and crafts. My favorite entry in this year's "inventions" category was a working miniature carousel of cars, which my father-in-law designed and built as a way of teaching his grandchildren how a carousel works. This is just one of many incredible creations you found on display every year at our fair.

Fundraising for local organizations. The Clover Deli, the Corralitos Padres food stand, and the Pajaro Valley Fire Department barbeque are just a few of the many delicious ways to support local organizations who make it their work to give back to the community all year round.

Seeing friends and neighbors. Doesn't it seem like every year, you run into someone at the fair who you haven't seen in years? The fair is more than food and fun for your family, it's a way of bringing the community back together to enjoy good times and share what we have in common.

The Santa Cruz County Fair is an institution that our community has enjoyed and cherished for generations. Now more than ever, the fair and its many traditions need our support. Hope you enjoyed this year - and every year - at the fair! ■

THE WATER NANNY

Mastodon

Recently a seaside visitor discovered Mastodon teeth in the sand near Rio Del Mar. As your old Nanny, I have known several fossils, many who are local farmers. But, I digress, this Rio Del Mar Mastodon may not have been a very old fossil, as they only recently went extinct, after the first pyramids were built in Egypt. Native Americans shared the landscape, possibly causing their eventual demise. So, this Mastodon really represents extinction.

Extinction can be caused by an asteroid slamming into the earth resulting in the end of dinosaurs, over hunting like the Passenger Pigeon, or a failure to adapt to change, as coral reefs die off due to warming seas. There is an extinction event coming, eventually, to old school agricultural practices in California, particularly focused on nitrate fertilizer. However, unlike the clueless corals, we can see it coming as the Regional Water Board (RWQCB) rolls out ever stringent Ag Orders.

Over the years your Nanny has discussed, maybe ranted, about the proposed irrigation and fertilization requirements. This year the game is for real with actual mandated recordation of water and fertilizer applied. There are several strategies to play this out, **1)** be clever; **2)** have a degree in grad level statistics; **3)** study the latest UCCE or Strawberry Commission research for your crops, and **4)** amass a large-scale database for daily activities like irrigation, fertilizer applied and the weight of crops removed by field by day.

Number 1 is easy, you only need to be clever enough to enroll with Preservation Inc. (CCWQP). Working with them not only makes your regulatory life simpler, deadlines are

#1 $A_{FER} + (C \times A_{COMP}) + (O \times A_{ORG}) + A_{IRR} - R = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
or

#2 $A_{FER} + (C \times A_{COMP}) + (O \times A_{ORG}) = R$
or

#3 $A_{FER} + (C \times A_{COMP}) + (O \times A_{ORG}) - R = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

also delayed by one year, and the reporting requirements are through CCWQP, not with direct filing with RWQCB. **Number 3**, research, is readily available, at least for those who moved out of the stone age and use computers. For example, spinach research by UCCE in 1999, when fertilizer studies reported use in gross pounds per bag, N was estimated at 72 lbs. N per acre

per crop. In 2011, our friends at Salinas UCCE estimated maybe 20 to 40 lbs. per acre for the first harvest and less for the second. RWQCB sets spinach use at 240 lbs. per acre per crop (90th percentile) meaning most farmers are paying for more fertilizer, but still within this year's limits.

#2, Graduate statistics and **#4** databases are necessary. Again, CCWQP can help with the analysis; however, you still need to track the data throughout the year, even with only a log book and pencil. For example, the RWQCB adopted a total farm discharge target of 500 lbs/acre at 12/31/23, while CCWQP members delay this that goal one year through 2024. The cost of CCWQP membership is insignificant compared to the burden of going it alone. Statistically CCWQP already show, with fancy analytics, that while the initial maximum RWQCB target for strawberries is 320 lbs., the mean is only 196 lbs./acre, easily achievable. The same for broccoli with a target of 295# and a mean of 214#; Lettuce has a 275# target with a mean of 186#. However, data for each crop show some growers exceeding the target by over 100 lbs/crop/acre. Maybe these are the fossil farmers.

If you want to figure out the equation above, and have time, enjoy *Ag Order 4.0*, part 2, §C.1, or the lighter version which applies to CCWQP member at §C.2, which deals with nitrate removed from the field during harvest. "He was so learned that he could name a horse in nine languages; so ignorant that he bought a cow to ride on." (Benjamin Franklin) ■




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FAVORITE RECIPES

2023 “Best of Show” 46th Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest

FILLING:

- 3-4 apples, depending on size, peeled and cut into thin slices
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons nutmeg
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 cup water

CRUST:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix the crust ingredients until well blended and roll out two crusts (top and bottom) into a pie dish.
2. Toss the filling ingredients and place into the pie dish with the bottom crust rolled out.
3. Place the top crust and cut vents on top.
4. Bake at 350°F for 50-55 minutes.



Top: Best of Show winner Rowena Bacher.
Bottom: (L-R) Apple pie judges Dave Kegebein, Suzanne Suwanda, contest winner Rowena Bacher, Laura Rider, Chair, Apple Pie Contest, and judges Jessica Ridgeway and John Skinner

46th Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest Winners by Division

YOUTH DIVISION

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1st Place | Keara McNutt
Watsonville |
| 2nd Place | Jordan Miltzer
Watsonville |
| 3rd Place | Claire Keithly
La Selva Beach |

ADULT DIVISION

- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| Rowena Bacher
Scotts Valley |
| Jennifer Alberti
Santa Cruz |
| Laura Spiegel
Watsonville |

MASTERS DIVISION

- | |
|--|
| Cherice Titus
Aptos |
| Julie Titus
Aptos |
| Stephanie Hedgpeth-Lopez
Watsonville |

Save the Date

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

Santa Cruz County Fair

Wednesday, September 13 to Sunday, September 17, 2023
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

46th Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Paddy Smith Park

Opening Day Barbecue

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Paddy Smith Park - 12 Noon

Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 2, 2023
Location to be determined

CFBF Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Reno, NV

Agri-Culture

27th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023
Location to be determined



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...



"I like the aspect of community that the Farm Bureau brings and it's access for solutions to farm related problems."

Dave Cavanaugh
Cavanaugh Colors

Interesting California Trivia

California Has Some Weird Laws

In Blythe, California, it is illegal to wear cowboy boots unless you own at least two cows. ■

Applicator & Grower Responsibilities for Field Fumigations



As we find ourselves in another pre-plant field fumigation season, it is important to briefly re-identify some obligations of both the certified applicator (i.e., the licensed agricultural pest control business conducting the work) and the grower regarding paperwork, notification, specific notification and buffer zone maintenance. While many of these tasks can be performed by the licensed agricultural pest control business making the application, the grower is also responsible for ensuring regulatory requirements and conditions are met.

Paperwork: The grower must possess a valid restricted materials use permit which reflects both the site to be treated and the specific fumigant material(s) intended to be used; a complete and correct worksite plan and map must be on file with the Ag Commissioner's Office at least seven days prior to the submission of a notice of intent (NOI); submit a complete and accurate NOI and detailed map at least 48 hours prior to the proposed fumigation.

Notification: At least seven days prior to submitting a field fumigant NOI, notify all property operators within 300 feet of the fumigant buffer zone containing a school, residence, hospital, convalescent home, onsite employee housing, or other similar site(s), in English and Spanish, that a permit to use the field fumigant has been issued; assure that operators of other surrounding properties notify onsite employees about the planned fumigation, including those of a licensed pest control business or farm labor contractor, prior to the commencement of employee work activity.

Specific Notification: After providing notification to those within 300 feet of the buffer zone, specific notice must be provided to those that request such notice at least 48 hours prior to the start of the fumigation and must include the date and start time of the fumigation.

Buffer Zones: Assure that all buffer zone distances are measured from the perimeter of the field to be fumigated; assure that no persons are allowed within the buffer zone

except to transit and perform fumigation-handling activities. Please be advised that buffer zones may only extend into neighboring agricultural properties at the discretion and permission of the adjoining property operator or across public roadways with the approval of this office.

Safety is the foremost concern during field fumigation season and if our office can assist with addressing any questions regarding the use or handling of fumigant materials, or any other agricultural pesticides, please call our pesticide use enforcement division at (831) 763-8080. ■

27th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

\$150 per person

The evening will include:

Tours & Hor d'Oeuvres

Dinner & Dessert

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Agri-Culture's Farm Dinner

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2009 BIG CREEK SUPREME COURT DISTINGUISHED IN AUGUST 2023 DECISION



An August 3, 2023, decision by the California Supreme Court addressed preemption of local government regulation of land use, for example, cities and counties. *Chevron U.S.A. Inc v. County of Monterey v. Protect Monterey County (PMC)*, California Supreme Court, S271869, filed

August 3, 2023.

Six lawsuits were filed alleging that a local ballot measure, known as Measure Z, passed by voters in 2016 creating an ordinance regulating oil and gas operations was preempted by the State Constitution and state oil and gas laws. Measure Z, banned fracking, new oil and gas wells, and wastewater injection.

The lawsuits were filed by Chevron Corporation, San Ardo Union Elementary School District, business owners, individual petroleum extraction royalty owners, Aera Energy LLC; California Resources Corporation; National Association of Royalty Owners-California, Inc., Eagle Petroleum LLC; and others. The California State Association of Counties filed a “friend of the court” brief arguing there was no preemption. In 2018, a Monterey County Superior Court judge upheld the fracking ban but overturned the rest of the ballot measure. The California Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the initiative was preempted by state law and therefore invalid.

Preemption is a legal doctrine that allows a higher level of government to limit or eliminate the power of a lower level of government to regulate a specific issue. State law can preempt local ordinances. And Federal law can also preempt state or local law. Preemption occurs when a higher level of government restricts or withdraws the authority of a lower level of government to act on a particular issue. For example, a state law might void local laws. A town might want to ban smoking in restaurants, but a state law might prohibit localities from restricting tobacco use in public places.

Measure Z passed with 56 percent of the vote. The measure applied only to oil and gas operations and prohibited: (1) well stimulation treatments including fracking;(2) use of facilities

to support oil and gas wastewater injection; and (3) new oil or gas wells were prohibited.

A suit was filed against Monterey County two days before the ballot measure was to take effect.

Article XI, section 7 of the California Constitution provides that a “county or city may make and enforce within its limits all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws.” If otherwise valid local legislation conflicts with state law, it is preempted by such law and is void.

California Public Resources Code 3106 authorizes the State’s oil and gas supervisor to supervise the exploration and production of hydrocarbons, including drilling, stimulation, and well completion techniques. The Supervisor is also responsible for maintaining and plugging wells. The purpose of these regulations is to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources.

Protect Monterey County argued a strong presumption against preemption applies because Measure Z is a “land use ordinance.” The California Supreme Court however held that regardless of whether Measure Z qualifies as a “land use ordinance, we conclude that any presumption that might apply is amply rebutted by the fact that the measure clearly contradicts California Public Resources Code Section 3106.

The Court distinguished *Big Creek Lumber Co. v. County of Santa Cruz* (2006) 38 Cal.4th 1139. In 1999, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors adopted several ordinances that would have affected timber harvesting operations in the County. The County’s ordinances restricted timber harvesting to specified zone districts within the County. The Court had to decide in *Big Creek* whether two county zoning ordinances relating to permissible locations for timber operations were preempted by state forestry statutes and concluded the local ordinances were not preempted. ■

Don't Let That Rain Run Off – We Can Use It!

Last Winter's rains caused flooding and widespread damage for many, however, there are steps we can take to help turn that risk into a resource. Keeping that rainfall and water on the land and in our soils is one of the things we can all do to put that water to beneficial use for our crops. Prior to these past rains we were in a drought! Keeping water clean and beneficially on the land is a key component of the Resource Conservation District's work, and our farming community plays a central role in two primary strategies for doing that: winter cover crops and managed aquifer recharge (MAR).

The benefits cover crops provide to the soil have been much talked about in the last decade but what's less acknowledged is the role cover crops can play in keeping rainwater from running off to the sea. And if you think about it, the easiest, best place for storing all that rainwater is in the soil! Storing rainwater in the soil will allow us to go longer into the Spring before having to start irrigating – that equals less groundwater pumping and conservation of water. In heavy clay soils cover crops, and their fine roots, can increase the water infiltration rate and allow more rainwater to soak into the ground. This is important because clay soil holds significantly more water than sandy soil. Of course, they are not a panacea, and they have their drawbacks, but along with compost, winter cover crops can help to increase soil organic matter, water infiltration and water holding capacity, which combined offer a clear win for keeping more water in our farming soils.

Through collaboration and leveraging funding from multiple partners and private landowners 3 MAR basins have

been installed in the Pajaro valley. During the rainy season these basins capture stormwater flowing off farm fields and allow it to be infiltrated into the ground. These systems work great in areas where high stormwater flows result from the use of plastic mulch and/or hoop houses. Since water cannot enter the ground in those systems it needs to be redirected to a location where it can settle out the suspended sediments and then infiltrate into the groundwater. Last year these 3 basins infiltrated over 250 acre-feet to the underlying aquifer. Again, that is water that did not run off into the sea! It's also helping to replenish our aquifer and improve the quality of that water. Through previous efforts of the Community Water Dialogue, local landowners helped form a vision for expanding the use of managed aquifer recharge in the Pajaro Valley. Our team is working with landowners to achieve this vision, aiming to build out a total of 10 of these basins in the coming years to achieve 1,000 acre -feet of recharge annually. The RCD secures funding to support project planning and construction, and the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency sponsors an innovative incentive program for qualifying recharge projects. We are currently looking for landowners interested in offering land to a recharge basin.

The RCD of Santa Cruz County has several programs that can help you to implement cover crops, compost and other soil health practices that will allow the rains to get deep down into the soil. We are also looking for more willing landowners to install more MAR basins. If you are a farmer or landowner in the valley and would like to see all those winter rains be put to use for us here on land then reach out. We'd be happy to help make that happen! ■

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward."

Amelia Earhart

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Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 7
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 13-
SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 17
Santa Cruz County Fair

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 13
Apple Pie Baking Contest

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 13
Opening Day BBQ

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 20
Focus Agriculture, Session 8

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 4
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 13
Focus Agriculture, Session 9

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21
27th Annual Farm Dinner

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FUTURE
GROWS
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