

Farm Bureau holds annual dinner

*Silvia Prevedelli
named farmer of the
year*

RP - "THE LAND"

By TODD GUILD
Of the Land

8/16

WATSONVILLE — With a sweeping view of verdant Pajaro Valley farmlands in the distance, and the sun slipping behind the horizon through cloudless skies, dozens of people gathered at Live Earth Farms on June 23 for the 99th annual dinner meeting of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.

The meeting has long been a way to bring the agriculture community together to celebrate the coming harvest.

It is also a time to name the farmer of the year, an honor that this year went to Prevedelli Farms matriarch Silvia Prevedelli.

Prevedelli came to the U.S. from her native Italy in 1966. She married Frank, whose parents started the farm in 1945.

With no farming experience, she began helping her husband on his farm, growing apples, plums and vegetables for which the farm is still known.

She is now involved in nearly every aspect of the farm's operation.

Wanting to switch to the "natural" farming methods of her homeland, Prevedelli helped the farm become organic just over 10 years ago.

Prevedelli is currently involved in a project that links the health care industry with the agriculture community.

Silvia Prevedelli

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Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau President David Van Lennep presents the farmer of the year award to Silvia Prevedelli.

She participates in the "Day on the Farm" program, and gives tours and presentations for the annual Eco Farm Tour, which draws farmers from around the world.

She sits on the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, and the Agri-Culture Down to Earth Women's Luncheon Committee.

She is active with the Sons of Italy and the California Small Farms Conference.

A fourth-generation family farm, the

Prevedelli family has been in Watsonville since 1945.

They grow nearly 40 types of apples and other produce including beans, squash and berries, and have been using organic farming methods for nearly a decade.

The farm was certified as organic more than 10 years ago.

Prevedelli said the award surprised her. "It's incredible," she said. "A lot of other people deserve it too. I love what I am doing. Farming is a part of my life."

WATSONVILLE
~~SENTINEL~~ 8/17/16
Sample 'oysters' at
Testicle Festival

The eighth annual Testicle Festival will be Saturday, Aug. 27, with amateur and professional chefs competing in a dipping sauce competition for the Rocky Mountain oysters. Chef Loretta Estrada will prepare all-you-can-eat Rocky Mountain oysters for the event and firefighter Derek Witmer will barbecue chicken. The festival is at Estrada's Deer Camp, at 194 Hazel Dell Road, from 3-7 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$20 for children ages 5-12. Children under years old can attend free charge. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. For information about the San Cruz County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers "It's All in the Sauce" contest, email scfb@sbcglobal.net. Call the Agri-Culture Office at 831-722-6622 or visit www.agri-culture.us for more



Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
 Young Farmers & Ranchers
 Committee

SENTINEL
 8/21/16

8th Annual

TESTICLE FESTIVAL

"Do they really taste like chicken?"

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Estrada Deer Camp

Watsonville

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM



No Respect Band

Rocky Mountain Oyster Appetizers

Prepared by Chef Loretta Estrada

BBQ Chicken Dinner with Corn, Salads & S'Mores

Prepared by Fire Chief Derek Witmer

Featured Beer



\$50 Adults

\$20 Ages 5 – 12

Under 5 Free

Horseshoe Contest



Beer & Wine, Hors d'oeuvres, ~~Silent~~ Auction Open....3:00 PM

Dinner, Raffle, Live Auction.....4:45 PM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

Send a check to: Agri-Culture (141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA 95076)

Or pay with a credit card online at www.eventbrite.com (search for

"8th Annual Testicle Festival" in Watsonville)



Proceeds benefit the following

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU



YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS



Fun for the whole Family!

Local Band 'No Respect!' to perform at SCCFB's 8th Annual Testicle Festival

The band "No Respect!" has been selected to play at the 8th Annual Testicle Festival. This very popular local band is sought out for many regional events. They are known for their wide range of songs — from Rock n' Roll to even Latin.

The Testicle Festival, put on by the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, will be held on Saturday, August 27, 3 -7 p.m. at Estrada Deer Camp in Watsonville.

The popular local chef, Loretta Estrada, will be preparing the Rocky

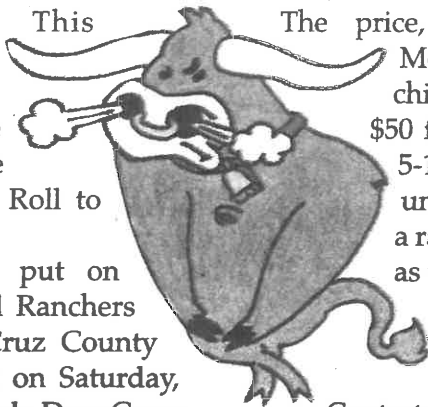
Mountain Oysters and firefighter, Derek Witmer, will be barbecuing the chicken.

The price, which includes Rocky Mountain Oysters and full chicken barbeque dinner, is \$50 for adults, \$20 for children 5-12 and free for children under 5. The event will have a raffle, live and silent auction as well as a horseshoe contest for adults and children.

The very popular "It's All in the Sauce"

Contest will again be held with two divisions — Amateur and Commercial.

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The sauces are prepared to be enjoyed with Rocky Mountain Oysters. And each attendee will have a chance to vote on their favorite choice. The two divisions allow for home cooks and restaurants to compete in different categories.

If you haven't tried a rocky mountain oyster, now is the time! ■



Please call the Agri-Culture Office for tickets, 831-722-6622 or find the Testicle Festival on www.eventbrite.com (search for "8th Annual Testicle Festival" in Watsonville).

OTOS Times 8/15/16

Bragging Rights: 'Best Apple Pie in the County'

Have your apple pie announced as the "Best in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley" on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 opening day of the Santa Cruz County Fair.

Entry deadline for the 40th Annual Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Apple Pie Baking Contest is: Entry Deadline -

Tuesday, September 6 (postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. September 6, 2016)

Contest held on the opening day of the Santa Cruz County Fair (Wednesday, September 14, 2016), this contest is sponsored by the Pajaro Valley apple growers, shippers and related industries as well as pie lovers throughout Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

This much anticipated event has been organized by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau since 1977. Entry forms can be found in the fair's premium book located at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Office, 2601 East Lake Ave., Watsonville or online at www.santacruzcountyfair.com and at the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, 141 Monte



2015 Apple Pie Judges (from left) Jimmy Dutra, Shaz Lint, Stacy Philpott and Jimmy Panetta.



Attendees await the judge's decisions at the 2015 Apple Pie Baking Contest.

Vista Ave., Watsonville. There is no entry fee for this popular opening day event.

There are three divisions:

- 1) Juniors — 17 years-of-age and under
- 2) Seniors — 18 years-of-age and over
- 3) Masters — anyone who has won 1st, 2nd place in the Senior Division

First Place \$50, Second Place \$40, Third Place \$30 each division and Best of Show \$50 Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each division as well as Best of Show.

Don't delay; get your entry form in today! ■