

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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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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And the Winners Are...



The winner of the 31st Annual Golf Tournament was the team from **Wilbur-Ellis Company**. Team members were **Brad Caraccioli, KC Silacci, Aaron Tilley and Chad Caraccioli**.

Closest to the Pin was Steve Bontadelli; Men's Longest Drive contest was won by Bennett Bilgere and Women's Longest Drive contest was won by Cyndi Skelton.

Congratulations to all of our winners! See more pictures on page 9

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau **CULTURE**

- The SCCFB is firm in its **COMMITMENT** to provide responsive and effective services to its members, and to be a positive and integral part of the broader community through collaboration, education and social interaction.
- The SCCFB grows on a foundation of **TRUST**, bringing expertise, experience and good faith action to bear on topics related to agriculture, which can be relied upon by farmers, the agricultural community, and the community at large.
- The SCCFB honors and keeps its **TRADITION** of service to the diverse people, commodities and production systems that comprise the unique and complex agriculture community in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.



President's Message



Dennis Webb, President

Strawberry Production Is In Full Swing

Strawberry production is in full swing in the Pajaro Valley! Strawberries are the foundation of our local agricultural economy and while I am not a berry grower, I do my part to support the strawberry industry both in my work at Farm Bureau and at home. My kids Andy and June (ages 4 and 1) are quite possibly the biggest consumers of strawberries in Santa Cruz County, and it seems like our family has to buy greater and greater quantities of strawberries every week! I'm just glad that they're into eating such healthy food. Here a few health benefits we can appreciate about strawberries:

- **Rich in Nutrients:** Strawberries are a great source of essential vitamins and minerals. They are particularly high in vitamin C, which is crucial for immune function, skin health, and wound

healing. They also contain manganese, important for bone health and metabolism, and folate, necessary for DNA synthesis and repair.

- **Antioxidant Powerhouse:** Strawberries are loaded with antioxidants like ellagic acid, anthocyanins, quercetin, and kaempferol. These compounds help neutralize harmful free radicals in the body, reducing oxidative stress and inflammation. This antioxidant activity can help lower the risk of chronic diseases such as cancer and heart disease.
- **Heart Health:** Consuming strawberries regularly can improve [Continued on Page 5](#)



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Hope to see you all there!
16th Annual Testicle Festival
Santa Cruz County Fair
Apple Pie Baking Contest - Yum!
Opening Day BBQ - Delicious!

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ASK MARK

**Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, UCCE,
Santa Cruz County**

UC Cooperative Extension Good News

Q. Could you fill us in on the new UC Cooperative Extension positions planned to be brought into Santa Cruz County and the Monterey Bay area?

A. I am glad to share that many new UC Cooperative Extension positions have been recently announced for Santa Cruz County and the surrounding counties of Monterey and San Benito. Our area has done very well in this last position release with seven new positions being selected out of the 49 total recently approved statewide by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources leadership.

To replace the position so ably maintained by now Farm Advisor Emeritus Richard Smith, the Vegetable Crop and Weed Science Farm Advisor will be housed in Monterey County but serve all three counties around Monterey Bay. Those of you who recall our fabulous Steve Tjosvold who worked for many years out of our office here in Santa Cruz County will be pleased to know that his position will be replaced with a Farm Advisor of Environmental Horticulture & Controlled Environment Agriculture, and very likely housed with us here in Santa Cruz County.

Our area will also enjoy the assignment of several straight-line scientists called Specialists – meaning that while they are expected to serve growers and the surrounding community, they don't do formal extension like Farm Advisors. One position is a Specialist in Coastal Produce Safety Systems (to be housed at the new USDA ARS facility in Salinas), who will be joined by another Specialist (to be housed at the new Monterey Bay Education, Science and Technology center in Marina), with responsibility not only with food

safety systems, but also in the use of drones and remote sensing in agriculture.

UC Santa Cruz itself has been chosen to host two Specialists at its well-regarded Center for Agroecology, one being a Specialist position in Agricultural Economics with a focus on small farms and rural economic development and another Specialist there is to work on Coastal Hydrology and its importance for our agriculture and water resilience.

We also have the strong likelihood of bringing in a Farm Advisor of Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resiliency, which would be a real asset for our area, given our recent experiences with floods, fires and constant possibility of earthquakes.

Let us also not forget to share that we have recently hired Dr. Dylan Beal as Areawide IPM Entomologist. He is to start September 3, and will be headquartered in our Salinas office, but of course will have responsibilities to Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

It is really nice to be able to share this good news about new positions after so many years of scarcity and difficulty in our organization. This is has turned into something very much the opposite, and UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Cruz County and the Central Coast is building up quickly and bigly. ■

THE WATER NANNY

Egghead

Too often my attention is diverted from TikTok, or X (formerly known as Y) out of ennui, so I read the UC Ag Extension blog, which really spices up my day. Earlier they had an article about *"Understanding cattle grazing personalities may foster sustainable rangelands"* which I surmised involved testing whether grumpy ranchers were an impediment to sustainability. (Turns out it was about the personalities of cattle, which is another lesser known topic altogether.) In a similar vein, I stumbled across recent UCCE research on how climate change may impact Central Coast farming. While possibly boring, it does merit some consideration, if you farm here.



Featured presentations included one about a warmer climates impact on strawberries. The best growing temperatures are between 55° and 75°. The key fact is the presence of fog. Over 30 years fog has declined, possibly due to less particulates in the air, but does this mean a real decline in overall fog. There is a Fog Lab at CSUMB, but they haven't been collecting data long enough to be certain. Another idea is use of Decision Support Tools (DST), really a tricked out on farm weather monitoring as the basis for farm based weather projections. This approach is helpful in projecting tomato harvest to maturity, crop phenology, which shortens the season by 2-3 weeks, most likely forcing changes in tomato varieties. Check out CalAgroClimate.org at the UC Merced in the department of Environmental Engineering for more studies.

Climate change is spurring NRCS to fund several projects to reduce methane and pitching regenerative agriculture to solve something too. Some time ago I wrote about feeding cattle seaweed to reduce methane, which is produced while cows burp up their cud. Now the FDA has approved Bovaer for the dairy industry. It suppresses an enzyme that forms methane. Press releases boldly claim if 1 million cows eat a teaspoon of Bovaer per day it is the same as removing 285,000 cars from the road for a year. They more boldly claim that Elanco, the distributor, will set up a carbon offset funding scheme to bring cash to dairy farmers that will reduce the expense of Bovaer by up to half, assuming someone needs to

buy methane offsets. All good for the environment.

The USDA NRCS sponsors projects to improve soil quality with over \$1 billion pledged last year. NRCS is supporting the Dairy Farmers of America with a \$22+ million grant to "reduce greenhouse gas while improving recordkeeping and expanding the dairy profit chain by implementing a ... customer focused carbon marketplace" Apparently, once there is a successful feed product, mandatory record keeping will become profitable with more carbon offset funds, which one hopes will make dairy farmers rich. NRCS is also funding California Dairies with \$21 million through "feed-based interventions" to reduce methane with a goal of net zero methane by 2050.



Elevated Foods received a \$20 million grant to install high efficiency irrigation systems, which they claim will save over 154,000 acre feet of water and also reduce CO² by 12,000 metric tons. This is an interesting endeavor as a review of press releases in the NRCS and *Packer* leads one to conclude that Elevate is either a slick food marketer of "highly differentiated, traceable" produce, a soil advisor for regenerative farming, or ag supplier assisting growers to implement "climate-smart" production practices. Who knows, as its mission objective is to "increase the health of our planet and its people."

Egghead: A person of spurious intellectual pretensions ... a self-conscious prig, so given to examining all sides of a question that he becomes thoroughly addled while remaining always in the same spot..." (Louis Bromfield, 1952) ■



FAVORITE RECIPES

Noodleburger

Note from the editor: This recipe was a life saver when my four kids were growing up and busy with all of their activities. I'd prepare the casserole, set the timer on the oven and we'd be out the door for whatever game or practice. All I had to do was add a salad, or fruit, and dinner was served when we got home. When I saw the recipe recently in "A Taste of the Pajaro Valley", a cookbook published by the Soroptimist International of Watsonville and submitted by Helen Hoffman, it brought back a lot of busy day, fun memories. With the kids going back to school soon and the end of a busy summer, I thought you might want to try this one out. It's pretty simple and tastes good too. Enjoy!

1 pound ground beef

3 cups noodles, uncooked

1 onion chopped

Salt and pepper, to taste

1 clove garlic, chopped

1 (10 1/4 ounce) can cream style corn

1 (10 1/4 ounce) can tomato soup

1 cup grated cheese

1 cup water

Brown the ground beef, onion and garlic. Stir in tomato soup and water. When hot, stir in the uncooked noodles. Cook until noodles are slightly cooked. Add more water if needed. Season with salt and pepper. Add cream style corn. Turn into a baking dish and cover top with grated cheese. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes. Yields 6 servings.

Note: An interesting name for a versatile recipe that can be adapted to be Italian or Mexican just by changing the seasonings.

I always used egg noodles and added a can of diced green chilies. Have fun experimenting!

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

heart health by increasing levels of good HDL cholesterol, reducing blood pressure, and decreasing inflammation. The high levels of antioxidants, fiber, and potassium in strawberries help protect against cardiovascular diseases by improving blood vessel function and reducing arterial plaque buildup.

- **Blood Sugar Regulation:** Strawberries have a low glycemic index and high fiber content, which can help regulate blood sugar levels. They slow down the digestion of glucose and reduce the spike in blood sugar levels after meals. This makes them a good choice for people with diabetes or those looking to prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes.
- **Digestive Health:** The high fiber content in strawberries supports healthy digestion by adding bulk to the

stool and promoting regular bowel movements. This can help prevent constipation and improve overall digestive health. Additionally, the natural antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds in strawberries can benefit the gut microbiome, contributing to a healthy digestive system.

- **Skin Health:** Strawberries are beneficial for skin health due to their high vitamin C and antioxidant content. Vitamin C is essential for collagen production, which helps maintain skin elasticity and firmness. Antioxidants protect the skin from damage caused by UV rays and environmental pollutants, reducing signs of aging and promoting a healthy, glowing complexion. ■

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Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to be a member 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

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Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
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Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

Santa Cruz County Fair

Wednesday, September 11 to Sunday, September 15, 2024
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 7, 2024
Location to be determined

CFBF Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 1 to Wednesday, December 4, 2024
Monterey



**Come Celebrate
Agriculture With Us!**

Agri-Culture

16th Annual Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 24, 2024
Estrada Deer Camp

28th Annual Farm Dinner

Friday, October 18, 2024
Land Trust Little Bee Barn

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Field Fumigations – Prioritizing Safety & Effectiveness

(Note: This is an updated version of an article that originally ran in October 2022)



David Sanford

For some Santa Cruz County berry growers, late summer and early fall is a period when pre-plant soil fumigation may be considered as part of their field preparation activities for next year's planting. Growers planning to fumigate must obtain a Restricted Materials Permit from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and are required to submit a site-specific work plan for the proposed field fumigation. Accurate maps of the application site and the surrounding areas must be included with both the plan and the final Notice of Intent (NOI) for the fumigation. The information required on the plan and NOI is highly detailed, taking into account all fumigant label requirements as well as state regulations and permit-specific conditions put in place by our department. Submitting a fumigation work plan and NOI requires taking the time to ensure the documents meet the conditions for the site and the fumigant. In our county, these tasks are typically undertaken by the fumigating company's Pest Control Adviser (PCA) on behalf of the grower. By using this approach, growers can continue to focus on their many other production responsibilities while the PCA drafts and submits the necessary documents for the proposed fumigation. It remains extremely important, however, that growers work closely with their PCAs and communicate regularly as the fumigation work plan is completed and prior to submitting the NOI. Clear communication between the grower and their PCA ensures accuracy with respect to factors such as site characteristics, application rate, buffer zones, acreage, and date/time of the area to be fumigated. The following are some important elements you should know and follow to safeguard your workers and any neighboring growers:

- Provide a minimum of 48 hours notification to adjacent growers, businesses or residents that have given you fumigation buffer zone encroachment or property vacating agreements.
- Ensure that buffer zone postings on neighboring fields and properties are in place before the fumigation starts and that they remain in place for 48 hours following completion.

- Ensure your employees are aware of areas under your control that will be fumigated and areas that are off limits due to the fumigation. Work with your PCA to post buffer zone signs in areas under your control to ensure your employees do not enter or park vehicles in buffer zone areas.
- Monitor the weather conditions at least 48 hours before the fumigation and on the day of the fumigation. Pay close attention to any forecasted temperature inversions or wind advisories and plan accordingly. If you suspect the weather may impact the safety and effectiveness of the fumigation, work with your PCA to reschedule the job for another day.
- Be proactive. If you suspect there is a problem at your fumigated field that could lead to the exposure of nearby fieldworkers, contact the grower to get those workers away from the area, and contact your PCA and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
- If a fumigation tarp is compromised (e.g., hole in the tarp, tarp pulling out of the soil, large bubbles, torn tarp) contact your PCA and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office immediately.
- Remember that when an employee complains of pesticide related symptoms or exposure that might reasonably be expected to lead to an employee's illness, the grower (employer) is responsible for ensuring that the employee is taken to a physician immediately.
- Work with your PCA to comply with all Mandatory Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) required on the fumigant product label, including proper soil preparation and soil moisture to ensure a safe and effective fumigation.
- If a field fumigation falls within 1/4 mile of a schoolsite, 36 hours must elapse between the completion of the fumigation and the next scheduled school day.
- Growers and their licensed applicators are required to always evaluate surrounding properties prior to applying pesticides and must conduct agricultural pest control in a careful and effective manner. It is critical to keep in mind that agricultural pesticide applications – field fumigants or otherwise – must be made with safety as the highest priority. ■

What's The Difference Between A Statute And A Regulation? And does it matter?



Our daily activities are controlled by all kinds of government decisions. Two of them are: statutes, sometimes called laws and regulations, sometimes called rules. What's the difference and why does it matter?

Statutes are enacted by the legislative branch of government (such as state legislatures or Congress) and are the primary source of legal authority. Statutes result after a deliberative legislative processes and have higher authority than regulations. Generally speaking, statutes are more broadly worded and contain overarching principles and are less likely to address specific situations. Because they are created by the legislature in the first place, statutes require another complete legislative process to replace or amend them. Violations of statutes may lead to legal action and penalties are prescribed by a statute and imposed by a court of law or jury in the judicial system.

Regulations are promulgated directly by the executive branch of government and by administrative bodies of the executive branch of government to enforce and implement statutes. Regulations get their authority from statutes and are more likely to address specific situations. Regulations are usually more detailed, specific, and sometimes granular, providing practical guidance on legal requirements. Because they are promulgated by the executive branch, they do not have to go back to the legislature for changes. Regulations can be adjusted more flexibly to changing circumstances without lengthy legislative processes. Compliance with regulations is enforced by specific regulatory bodies, which

monitor, investigate, and impose penalties.

Administrative agency decisions and regulations could be challenged in a court of law.

In a 1984 case, (*Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*) the United States Supreme Court established a principle known as Chevron deference, which instructed courts to generally defer to federal agencies' interpretations of ambiguous regulations. In simple terms, courts were told to trust agency interpretations, even if the executive agency's authority was unclear. This gave agencies significant power in interpreting and enforcing laws.

However, in June 2024, the United States Supreme Court overturned its 1984 Chevron deference decision in the cases of *Loper Enterprises v. Raimondo* and *Relentless v. Department of Commerce*. This means courts will now rely more on judges' own interpretations of ambiguous laws, potentially reducing the power of federal agencies. These cases require federal courts to exercise independent judgment to interpret statutory language without deference to the agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the law. The Court's opinion continues a trend toward less deferential judicial review of agency decision making and is expected to encourage a spate of challenges to federal regulations and other agency actions, potentially providing some relief for regulated industries, including agriculture

So In summary, statutes provide the foundational legal framework, while regulations offer practical guidance for implementation. The 2024 Loper and Relentless cases will shift power away from federal agencies to the courts. ■

**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand."

Vince Lombardi



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ANNUAL IT'S ALL IN THE SAUCE

CONTEST

Bring your best sauce! 16th Annual Testicle Festival



Saturday, August 24, 2024
Estrada Deer Ranch
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Watsonville



How to Enter:

- Bring to the event by 2:30 p.m.:
- 1 1/2 Quart Dipping Sauce for the Rocky Mountain Oysters
- Entry Forms are provided at the event
- Please name your sauce - clever wording can be fun...and Best Names win

Cooking Rules:

Just have a ball with it!
Sauces can be hot, spicy,
mild, ethnic, traditional and/
or wild!!

Judging Rules:

Everyone is a judge. Those
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vote for their favorite sauce.

Contest Schedule

3:30 - 4:45 PM

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY - AUGUST 1
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

SATURDAY - AUGUST 24
16th Annual Testicle Festival

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 28
Focus Agriculture, Class 33
Session 7

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 5
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 11
Santa Cruz County Fair Opens
Opening Day Barbeque
Apple Pie Baking Contest

TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 17
Agri-Culture Board of
Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 25
Focus Agriculture, Class 33
Session 8

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 26
Board of Directors' meeting

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 3
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 18
Annual Farm Dinner

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 24
Board of Directors' meeting

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 25
Focus Agriculture, Class 33
Session 9 / Graduation

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