

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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Announcing ... Agri-Culture's 2025 Scholarships

Agri-Culture is now accepting applications for its 2025 scholarships. The seven scholarships offered through the organization are for students entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture, animal science, political science, history, culinary arts, etc. The six scholarships are:

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship

A \$8,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture. This award includes \$2,000 from American AgCredit.

Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship

A \$1,500 award for a student active (past or present) in California High School Rodeo Association District 4 or California 4-H Horse Program, entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture and/or animal sciences.

J.J. Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

A \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture.

Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship

A \$4,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture or a related field or majoring in culinary arts.

Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship

A \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture or a related field.

Lou & Carol Calcagno Memorial Scholarship

A \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture, or a related field, Political Science, History, Marine Biology, Wildlife Management or Culinary Arts.

Introducing the new Matt Ryan Community Service Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship for a Watsonville High School senior. A majority of the criteria for this scholarship will be based on community service activities.

See Page 3 for more information on how to apply for any of the scholarships!

President's Message

Take Time To Enjoy And Share The Joy Of Local Agriculture

Though it's January, there's no shortage of fresh, delicious food to enjoy here in Santa Cruz County. One of the highlights of the season is citrus, and while citrus isn't a major industry in our county, local lemon trees are brimming with fruit. These bright, fresh lemons remind us of the richness that California agriculture offers year-round.

Recently, our family took advantage of the season by making lemonade with our kids. It was more than just a fun family activity; it was a chance to teach them about the journey of food from plant to plate. Watching their excitement as they picked lemons, squeezed the juice, and sweetened their creation was a reminder of the joys of connecting with nature and the satisfaction of growing your own food.

Lemons, like other citrus fruits, thrive in California's Mediterranean



Dennis Webb, President

climate. January is an ideal time to harvest not only lemons but also oranges, grapefruits, and tangerines. These fruits are packed with vitamin C, offering a natural immunity boost during the colder months.

Continued on Page 5

Photo at right: President Dennis Webb attending the delegate session of the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held in Monterey in December.



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Scholarship Applications - Continued from Page 1

The eligibility for the scholarships is listed on the application. The **DEADLINE** for submitting applications is: **Friday, February 14, 2025**. Scholarship applications are available at: <http://www.agri-culture.us/scholarships/>

To request an application, please contact the Financial Aid office at your school or the Agri-Culture office, 141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA 95076

(831) 722-6622 or (831) 818-1193

Email: agri-culture@sbcglobal.net

Applications are also available on our Website: [www.agri-culture](http://www.agri-culture.us) under Events and News. ■

Strange But Impossibly True!

The longest word in the English language has 189,819 letters.

It's the technical name of a protein, which lists its
entire amino acid sequence and would take
about three and a half hours to say out loud.

Excerpts from the Readers Digest

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.



THE WATER NANNY

Free Money, a Theory of Change

So much for certainty in our modern lives, whether it is chaos or incremental, we are confronted with change. I know a few old hippies, who in their impetuous years in the 70's believed that *Life is Change*. Our Congress is a hotbed of chaos. The financial markets are in like a small boat in a stormy sea. As always, the most disturbing change is financial. Even the PVWMA, now 40 years old, the recipient of a major financial grant, is an advocate of the Theory of Change, in bureaucratese the *Pajaro Valley Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Program* (MLRP).

Land Repurposing, in a sentence preceded by Agriculture, may get every farmer interested in the theory of change, right away. Not only is this program advocating for some nebulous change, it is armed with over \$8.890,000 in grant funding from the California Department of Conservation. Of this \$400,000 is for developing the MLRP, and another \$90,000 for education, capacity and outreach. Like many grants from the state and the federal government, the MLRP has a goal, although very nebulous, to direct local government spending, research and land purchasing, which may not have been within the broader mandate of the local government. The goal is to become grant recipient. Here the PVWMA successfully received \$8.8 million, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency received a \$10 million grant MLRP.

The outcomes supported by the MLRP grant, as colorfully set forth in a chart, is the Draft Theory of Change; sustainable groundwater supply, health resilient communities, healthy functioning ecosystems, and equitable and productive economy. In order to reach these laudatory goals; after grantee coordination, and project prioritization; it should facilitate payments for land acquisitions and easements, following best practices. I trust that this is all clear. With the grant PVWMA achieved victory by expanding its annual funding.

Unstated in this verbiage is a meritorious objective to provide funds to purchase farmland which may be subject to flooding, change in river levy locations, groundwater recharge, or lands coming out of production due to the SGMA, so that these properties do "not become a

burden on the community or cause harm". Much of this planned grant funding is devoted to the Repurposing Plan Development Process. One idea is to have 7 or 8 community committee instructional meetings. Let's start with the Theory of Change, this includes long term goals and associated outcomes and interventions that will lead to these goals and outcomes. Followed by decision making processes, outreach strategy, project prioritization, incentives and payments, monitoring outcomes and finally relevant data and plans. Lastly, it identifies projects that will be viable for funding under the grant.



Typically, when an agency or city buys land they start by hiring an appraiser, topographic and zoning analysis, and potential cost. Determination of land subject to *repurpose* should be made on a cost benefit analysis about the project. Again, typically a staff or citizen committee is established and is presented with the issue and reviews previously prepared reports. However, the MLRP process can rely on local plans for *some* content in their Repurposing Plans. Repurposing is spontaneously created out of whole cloth.

The Department of Conservation MLRPs have so far created regional forest and fire capacity programs in Santa Barbara, Inland Empire, Greater San Diego and North Coast, with no completed SGMA related plans. Not particularly on point here, but proof that the process will reach an end goal, adopting a plan. This financial largess could clearly benefit the PVWMA and Pajaro River Levey project as significant money is available. Farmers may want to become part of the process to make sure the Theory of Change reaches a functional objective, buying impaired farmland. Funds are available and have been awarded, *never look a gift horse in the mouth.* ■





FAVORITE RECIPES

Fire-Roasted Tomato Bisque

This recipe creates a creamy tomato bisque. Best part is you'll only need a short list of pantry staples and a short amount of time to put a nice warm soup on the table during the cold winter months. Serve with garlicky croutons or a hearty french bread to satisfy those hungry tummies.

4 Tablespoons unsalted butter, divided	2 (14 1/2 ounce) cans diced fire-roasted tomatoes, drained
1 medium onion, finely chopped	3 Tablespoons tomato paste
1 medium carrot, finely chopped	2 teaspoons sugar
1 celery rib, finely chopped	1/4 cup heavy cream
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped	Kosher salt
3 Tablespoons all-purpose flour	Freshly ground white pepper
4 cups chicken stock or canned low-sodium broth	1/2 cup garlic or cheese croutons, for garnish (optional)

Gather all of your ingredients. In a medium saucepan, melt 2 tablespoons of the butter. Add the chopped onion, carrot, celery and garlic; cover and cook over moderately high heat, stirring occasionally until the vegetables are just beginning to brown, about 5 minutes.

Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables and stir over low heat for 1 minute, or until the flour is fully incorporated.

Add the chicken stock, tomatoes, tomato paste and sugar and bring to a boil. Cover partially and cook the soup over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, 15 minutes.

Transfer half of the soup to a blender and puree until smooth

Return the puree to the saucepan, add the heavy cream and cook until the soup is just heated through. Season the soup with salt and white pepper and swirl in the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter. Ladle the soup into bowls, garnish with croutons and serve.

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

Whether you have one citrus tree in your backyard or a whole citrus orchard on your farm, now's the perfect time to pick and share its harvest. If you don't, consider visiting one of our local farmers' markets or farm stands, where you'll find an array of fresh, locally grown food.

Engaging with the season's harvest is a reminder of the incredible agricultural community we have here in Santa Cruz County. Whether it's savoring the hearty flavors of locally

grown winter squash or sipping homemade lemonade, these simple pleasures connect us to the land and the people who cultivate it.

So, as we embrace the new year, let's celebrate the abundance of fresh food available in our region. Take a moment to appreciate the fruits of the season and share the joy of local agriculture with your family and friends. ■

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER

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

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
scfb@sbcglobal.net
(831) 724-1356
(831) 818-1193 - Text



Being a Member Pays Off!

Enjoy discounts and special pricing from major businesses and agricultural partners available exclusively to Farm Bureau members. Here are only a few of the discounts available. For more information and a full listing, go to cfbf.com/membership.

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Visit FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details.



Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

SCCFB 108th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2025

TBD

32nd Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 11, 2025

Pajaro Valley Golf Club

California State Fair

Friday, July 11, 2025 to Sunday, July 27, 2025

Cal Expo, Sacramento

Santa Cruz County Fair

Wednesday, September 10 to Sunday, September 14, 2025

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Location to be determined

CFBF Annual Meeting

TBD

Agri-Culture

17th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

17th Annual Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 23, 2025

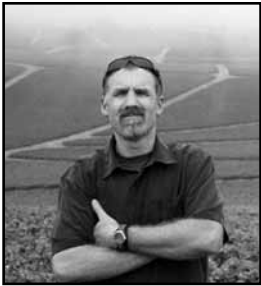
Estrada Deer Camp

29th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 10, 2025

Land Trust Little Bee Barn

Invasive Shothole Borer Beetle Identified in Felton



David Sanford

(This article cites County of Santa Cruz December 11, 2024 Press Release, "Invasive Beetle Identified as Novel to West Coast")

Agricultural Commissioner Offices work diligently with their partners at CDFA and USDA to implement invasive pest detection and pest exclusion programs at the local and regional level. These programs are critical to protecting the state's ag production and environment from potentially damaging plant pests entering, and becoming established in, the state and counties.

As effective as our statewide and regional pest detection/exclusion efforts are, in a world where agricultural goods and commodities are shipped globally every day through many different channels, the threat remains constant that non-native invasive pests make an entry into our environment. This is the case with a non-native invasive shothole borer (ISHB) beetle that has been identified in the Felton area of Santa Cruz County, and although it has not been fully determined how the beetle arrived in our county, efforts are currently underway to determine the full extent of the infestation and its impact.

The shothole borer beetle was found in October 2024 following a call from a Felton resident who noticed damage to some boxelder trees not far from Zayante Creek. Sample were taken by UC Cooperative Extension and our office which were submitted to the state entomology lab and subsequently identified as *Euwallacea interjectus*, a beetle originating from Southeast Asia.

Prior U.S.-based identifications of *Euwallacea interjectus* have been restricted to states in the Southeastern part of the country. The species has not previously been identified in the Western United States and is significantly larger than two invasive shothole borers known to already exist in California. They leave behind larger entry holes but pose similar risks of tree dieback in urban, wildland and agricultural landscapes. So far, the Felton-area infestation has primarily impacted box elders, but California sycamore, coast live oak, arroyo willow, red willow, and black cottonwood have also been attacked. Shot hole borer beetles in general 'bore' into a tree's cambial tissue, restricting and damaging the flow of water and nutrients. Additionally, the beetles introduce a pathogenic fungus that further harms the tree.

Our office in conjunction with and University of California Cooperative Extension are coordinating with CDFA to monitor and respond to the infestation. Research is being conducted by the University of California to evaluate the full range of potential tree species that may be affected by the beetle. The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) is working to make some funding available for surveillance and mitigation efforts going forward. Resources on the monitoring, detection, and management of ISHB, including a new factsheet on the identification and damage caused by *Euwallacea interjectus*, are available at **ISHB.org**. Further guidance and relevant trainings for arborists and natural resource managers will be announced as they become available.

To report suspected ISHB damage, call the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (831) 763-8080.



**FOOD FOR
THUGHT**

**"No matter how you feel - Get up, Dress up,
Show up and Never give up!"**

Unknown



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Trusts in California



A trust is a legally enforceable written arrangement where property I transferred so that one person (the trustee) holds and manages property, usually real estate, for the benefit of another (the beneficiary). Trusts are commonly used in estate planning in California where they offer many advantages such as avoiding expensive and time-consuming probate, reducing taxes, and still control how and when your assets are distributed after your death.

To put a finer point on the term “probate”, essentially, probate is the court-supervised legal procedure by which a deceased person’s assets, i.e. their real and personal property, are distributed to their heirs and beneficiaries. It involves obtaining court approval validating the deceased’s will (if there is a will), determining the status of and taking inventory of their assets, addressing any objections of heirs and beneficiaries, paying off debts and taxes, and eventually distributing what is left.

A trust does not, in most circumstances, involve the court. This means privacy, speed, and less expensive distribution of assets. California allows many types of trusts to address different needs and goals. For example, controlling a family farming operation or farmland. Here are the none most common types of trusts:

- 1. Revocable Living Trusts:** These are the most popular because they offer flexibility. The person who creates the trust can change or revoke the trust during their lifetime. After the death, the trust becomes irrevocable, ensuring the assets are distributed according to the wishes of the decedent without going through a time consuming and usually more expensive court supervised probate.
- 2. Irrevocable Trusts:** Unlike revocable trusts, irrevocable trusts cannot be changed or revoked once they are created. The assets placed in an irrevocable trust are no longer considered part of the estate. This can help reduce estate taxes and protect assets from creditors,

but it prevents changes in the trust terms due to changed circumstances over time.

- 3. Testamentary Trusts:** These trusts are created in a will and are not effective until death. They are useful for controlling how and when beneficiaries receive their inheritance, but they do go through the court-administered probate process with the associated delay and cost.
- 4. Special Needs Trusts:** These types of trusts help protect beneficiaries with disabilities. They ensure that the disabled beneficiary receives financial support without disqualifying them from government benefits like Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- 5. Charitable Trusts:** If you want to provide a legacy, charitable trusts are available. They allow you to donate assets to a charity while providing tax benefits to yourself. Two common types are “charitable remainder” trusts and “charitable lead” trusts, each with different benefits for the grantor and the charity.
- 6. Spendthrift Trusts:** This category of trust protects heirs or beneficiaries who might not be good at managing money. The trustee controls the distribution of assets by providing safeguards in the terms of the trust, so the beneficiary is less likely to waste their inheritance.
- 7. Asset Protection Trusts:** These trusts are designed to protect your assets from creditors. California’s version of this trust is often used for high-net-worth individuals who want to safeguard some of their wealth.
- 8. Irrevocable life insurance trust:** This type of trust may allow you to remove your life insurance proceeds from your estate so that beneficiaries may not be subject to taxes on the policy payout.
- 9. Qualified personal residence trust:** this is a form of irrevocable trust that allows you to transfer your primary residence to the trust while retaining use of it for a set period of time.

Choosing the right kind of trust depends on your age, net worth, types of assets, marital status, spousal

[Continued on Page 9](#)



Written by Cameron McDonald, Agriculture Program Specialist
Resource Conservation District, Santa Cruz County

Farm Winter Preparedness

With the first series of atmospheric river storms hitting the West Coast, we are reminded of the importance of being prepared for these potentially catastrophic events. Now is a great time to implement final preparations before winter sets in. Help workers be prepared by having an emergency action plan and conduct emergency drills before disaster strikes. Ensure everyone on the farm registered for emergency notifications (www.scr911.org) and download the Code Red app from iTunes or Google Play. Plan for and know alternate escape routes in case of road closures or flooding.

The first rainfall events are an opportunity to ensure on farm drainage systems are in working order. During peak rainfall and soil saturation events, how is the water moving on farm and how are things draining? Intense rainfall events, especially in short periods of time, expose potential weaknesses of farm system drainage capacity. Ensure that basins, ditches, underground pipe outlets and culverts are not clogged with sediment or debris. Manage the edges of your field to allow for proper water drainage and prevent impacts from water runoff onto roadways or neighboring properties.

Small practices can make a big difference. For example, having a large water storage tank that captures and stores rainfall and runoff can supplement our drainage systems. Another small practice with big impact mitigating erosion issues is driving the *whole* road! Continuously following the same wheel tracks will form ruts where water

can channel or pond, exacerbating erosion issues and impacts from storm events. Have backup and contingency plans, such as larger spillovers downstream, in the event upstream infrastructure fails, get clogged, or floods. Think BIG when installing culverts.

Prepare for winter by having a team member attend the upcoming RCD workshop "Managing Drainage and Erosion on Rural Roads" on January 27thth in Boulder Creek. Register here (<https://www.rcdsantacruz.org/get-involved/attend-an-event>). The workshop will cover design, maintenance, and best management options for rural roads. Topics will include road grading and shaping, road surfacing, drainage, erosion controls, hillside/streamside roads, culvert sizing and placing.

Additionally, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can assist you with land management, risk mitigation, and erosion control issues. Reach out to Cameron McDonald (cmcdonald@rcdsantacruz.org), Dan Hermstad (dhermstad@rcdsantacruz.org), or Sacha Lozano (slozano@rcdsantacruz.org) to learn more and connect with NRCS or RCD services. All NRCS and RCD services and programs are voluntary and non-regulatory. ■



Legally Speaking - Continued from Page 9

input, and other specific needs and goals. This is a complex area of the law with income and possibly gift and estate tax consequences. You should always involve a competent estate planning attorney and your CPA or tax advisor, and, if appropriate, an estate tax specialist to decide whether you should consider a trust and if so what kind and what terms

should be included. Trusts are useful to manage your assets, so your assets are distributed according to your wishes, providing peace of mind for you and those you care about. ■

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2025 National Ag Day Poster and Poetry Contests

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau has announced the 2025 National Agriculture Day **Poetry Contest for grades 7-12**. The theme is **“Grown in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley”**. The deadline for entries is **Friday, February 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.** For more information, please call (831) 724-1356 or (831) 722-6622. The winning entry will receive \$250.

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau & Agri-Culture Presents

2025 NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY POETRY CONTEST

For Grades 7-12
(top poems will be judged for best poem)

The winning entry will receive \$250

Theme
“GROWN IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND THE PAJARO VALLEY”

Any style poetry may be used and should not exceed 12 lines.
The winning entry will also be used on 18,000 placemats and distributed to county restaurants next year!

All entries must be submitted to:
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
141 Monte Vista Avenue
Watsonville, CA 95076

****PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME, GRADE AND SCHOOL ON BACK OF ENTRY!****

Deadline: Friday, February 21, 2025, 4:00 pm
For more information about agriculture in Santa Cruz County, please call (831) 724-1356 or (831) 722-6622

POSTER CONTEST

2025 NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

CONTEST IS OPEN TO GRADES K-6

Theme:
“GROWN IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND THE PAJARO VALLEY”
THE ABOVE WRITING MUST BE INCLUDED LEGIBLY, ON THE FRONT OF THE POSTER AND MUST REFLECT THE ACTUAL CROPS GROWN IN THE REGION

First prize receives \$250
Second and Third place winners will be given special prizes and titles.

Winning entry will be featured on 18,000 placemats and distributed to county restaurants next year!!!

Contest Rules

- Contest theme to be included, legibly, on front of poster
- Crops shown on poster must be grown in the Pajaro Valley
- Entries should be drawn on white paper no larger than 18" x 20"
- Each poster must be produced by one student, no team entries allowed
- Any medium may be used (acrylics, pencil, ink, pastels, etc.)
- At the top three (3) entries from each grade level, the student's name and grade to be back of poster, please print full name, grade and school of the entry per student.

Contest Deadline
Friday, February 21, 2025, 4:00 pm

Agri-Culture and the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau has also announced the 2025 National Agriculture Day **Poster Contest for grades K - 6**. The theme is **“Grown in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley”**. The deadline for entries is **Friday, February 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.** More information is available by calling (831) 724-1356 or (831) 722-6622. The winning poster will receive \$250. Winners of both contests will be announced at the **National Agriculture Day Luncheon on March 19, 2025**. Tickets are available by calling the numbers listed above or online at Eventbrite. ■

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A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

MONDAY - JANUARY 20
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Office Closed

THURSDAY - JANUARY 30
Board Retreat and
Presidents' Luncheon

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 6
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 17
President's Day Observed
Office Closed

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 27
Board meeting

THURSDAY - MARCH 6
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

FRIDAY - MARCH 14
Focus Agriculture
Session 1

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 19
National Agriculture Day
Spring Luncheon

THURSDAY - MARCH 27
Board meeting



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