

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.

Mary Walter, Editor
Jess Brown, Managing Editor

141 Monte Vista Avenue
Watsonville, California 95076.
(831) 724-1356
sccfb@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.sccfb.com

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Janet Webb Named 2024 Farmer of the Year



Janet Webb, (L) receives 2024 Farmer of the Year award from the 2023 recipient, Tom Broz (R)

Janet Webb was selected as the 2024 "Farmer of the Year". Janet has been involved in the Santa Cruz County forestry community since her graduation from Humboldt State in 1983. Janet is now the President of Big Creek Lumber, a role she has held since 2009. The award is presented annually to the farmer(s) who have contributed beyond their

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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

Frank Estrada Missed But Never Forgotten

This month, I am writing this newsletter to share sad news with our readers. Frank Estrada, longtime Farm Bureau member, has passed away. Frank served our Farm Bureau for many decades as a director representing cattle ranchers and timberland owners in Santa Cruz County, and he won Farmer of the Year for his many contributions.

Frank will be remembered by each of us for so much more than that. I have many good memories of Frank from my work in the forests of his family's ranch on Mount Madonna in Watsonville. Those who share my experience of having enjoyed Frank's presence on the ranch will remember Frank's kindness and good-natured enthusiasm for his work. It was always apparent to all of us how much Frank cared about his ranch and all the many people who worked and lived in and around it.

Many will remember Frank from his time volunteering as weighmaster at the Santa Cruz County Fair, which he enjoyed doing for many years. Some of us will remember looking forward to seeing Frank each year at the Testicle Festival, which he and his wife Loretta proudly hosted at their ranch. Those of us lucky enough to know Loretta and Frank's children and grandchildren also can see how Frank and Loretta's kindness, good nature, hardworking spirit and care for the people and places around them have shaped the place and the community they called home together. Loretta continues to inspire us all with these values.

We are all lucky to have had Frank's presence in our Farm Bureau, our community and our lives. He will be missed but never forgotten. ■



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Congratulations!

Janet Webb

2024 Farmer of the Year

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ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, UCCE,
Santa Cruz County

UC Cooperative Extension Has Moved

Q. Could you tell us where the UC Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz County has moved? How can we get a hold of you, other Advisors and support staff?

A. Yes, UC Cooperative Extension for Santa Cruz County has moved from its previous location at Suite E, 1470 Freedom Boulevard in Watsonville to 500 Westridge Drive, which is on the other side of Watsonville.

This move was a massive team effort by our office and a huge step for us several years in the making. Over the 56 years that UC Cooperative Extension was at the Freedom Boulevard location, we had

accumulated a great amount of extension materials, from handouts, to publications on everything under the sun to all the equipment that has made our research and extension run. Some of it was quite dated and finally needed to be thrown out, other items needed to be saved because of their historical value and other documents reduced down to one copy for later uploading to the internet or printing out a copy on demand.

You can still easily get a hold of our office by calling 831 763-8001, visiting our website at cesantacruz.ucanr.edu or contacting me directly at mpbolda@ucanr.edu. ■

Janet Webb - 2024 Farmer of the Year - Continued from page 1

normal farming duties to help the community. The presentation was made during the Farm Bureau's 107th Annual Meeting/Dinner held in a forest meadow on Swanton Road in Davenport on Saturday, June 15th. The award was presented by the 2023 Farmer of the Year, **Tom Broz**. The board of directors felt it was appropriate to honor Janet because of her leadership and her role in the community. Through Janet's diligent work and gift for building rapport with different stakeholders, she has successfully demonstrated that responsible timber harvest practices and preserving forests as working lands play an important and beneficial role in ensuring the health, longevity and beauty of our redwood forests. Outside of work Janet and her husband Steve manage a cow-calf operation and manage ranchlands. They have been married since 1985 and share two children, Katie and Dennis, daughter-in-law, Michelle, as well as two grandchildren, Andy and June.

Dennis Webb, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau President, served as the Master of Ceremonies.



(L-R) Janet Webb receiving congratulations from son, Dennis, and granddaughter, June



A great crowd attended this event on a beautiful evening in a beautiful setting

THE WATER NANNY

Virtual Reality

As an old Nanny, I am constantly amazed by modern technology. Dial phones were on the forefront of technological change. Indeed, so were electric starters for my car. Computers are wonderful, but baffling; even so, we all have adopted them, along with cell phones. Such is progress. Now we are in the brave new world where virtual reality solves everything, Housing Santa Cruz County (HSCC) jumped on the bandwagon when it dedicated all of May as Virtual Affordable Housing Month. Our housing problems were finally solved.

We have to acknowledge that more local housing, of all types, is necessary. The State has mandated many thousands of new homes shall be built in our county during the next eight years. To solve this real dilemma, the HSCC virtually talked it to death. It held multiple virtual and in-person workshops, events and seminars in May that ranged from the grand opening of Tabasa Gardens on Freedom Blvd. in Watsonville, a virtual event imagining construction of 1220 homes in Scotts Valley with the real challenge of limited water supply, *Housers Happy Hour*, and finally the 10:00 a.m. *South County Networking Event* at the Resetar Hotel. This is all serious stuff attended by people who support the need for more housing; however, as this is Santa Cruz County, some of the presentations were virtual illusions. Like the claim that living in your car is *extremely low income housing*, to a zoom reality presentation of *Less Parking, Less Rent* where we fanaticize that low income residents walk or take public transit, so no parking is necessary.



The problem with this month long extravaganza is that it describes individual challenges all housing must overcome before new residents can move in. One panel considered faster approvals through robust community engagement, another cost benefits of affordable housing design,

or affordable housing finance 101. None of this matters if building permits are not issued, interest rates don't increase or public financing for low income units is not forthcoming. Maybe 49 housing developments are in the pipeline, but

only 6 have been built.

Entitlements: One panel was optimistically titled *The Housing Squeeze: Santa Cruz County's elected leaders tell us how they are responding*, with each of the cities' mayors allowed three minutes to describe their accomplishments. The reality is that most of the envisioned projects are not ready for construction, nor even approved. Experts say it takes about 500 days after entitlements, all permits, before construction starts. Finance experts talk about apartment financing, based on cost per door (residential units) which can range from \$150,000 to \$800,000 cost per door, after entitlement. Maybe the focus of virtual housing month needs to drill down on entitlements, with not just the mayors, but the multitude of planning, building and enforcement bureaucrats who review and possibly approve any project. There is no unified review process, which in a NIMBY regime regulatory process worked as designed, but now in the YIMBY world fails. After the CZU fire, where 911 homes were lost, after the County established streamlined permitting, only 154 permits (entitlements) were issued and 104 homes were built, four years later.



Too many people are focused on ideology than actual results, while we need to focus our intentions on outcomes. Of course, some projects cannot be built. The review process should have a timeline with clearly stated guidelines. If the project fits it should be approved promptly. I really wanted to see how homeless people can be virtually transported into affordable housing, (beam me up Scotty), but I await. ■



FAVORITE RECIPES

A Lighter Summer Fare

As I work on this newsletter, the temperatures outside are soaring. No one wants to heat up an oven or prepare a heavy meal. Living on the Central Coast you have so many fresh fruits and vegetables to choose from, so I have chosen a couple of light recipes featuring some of the area's star attractions. Hope you enjoy!

Strawberry Spinach Salad with Avocado & Walnuts

3 cups baby spinach

1 tablespoon finely chopped red onion

1/2 cup sliced strawberries

2 tablespoons vinaigrette (such as a light raspberry vinaigrette or poppy seed dressing of your choice)

1/4 medium avocado, diced

2 tablespoons roasted walnut pieces

Combine the spinach, onion and strawberries in a medium bowl. Drizzle with vinaigrette; toss to coat. Top with avocado and walnuts. ■

Strawberry Goat Cheese Bruschetta

1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves, plus more for serving

12 slices Italian bread

1 cup goat cheese, room temperature

1 tablespoon olive oil

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1 pound strawberries, washed and diced

Heat vinegar in a small skillet over medium-low heat. Simmer until reduced by about half, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool to room temperature. Prepare a grill for high heat. Place bread slices on a foil lined baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil. Combine strawberries and thyme in a small bowl and set aside. Grill bread on the preheated grill until browned, about 3 minutes per side. Spread goat cheese on toasted bread. Add black pepper, salt and reduced vinegar to the strawberry mixture. Spoon over the goat cheese topped bruschetta. Garnish with additional thyme.

You can toast the bread under the broiler or in a toaster instead of on a grill if needed. ■

Strange But Impossibly True!

The founders of Adidas and Puma were brothers. Adi and Rudi Dassler went into the shoe business in 1924 as Dassler Brothers Shoe Factory. They made running shoes for Jesse Owens, among others. But their sibling rivalry boiled over in 1948, when they split the company: Adi launched Adidas; Rudi created Puma.

Excerpts from the Readers Digest

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

I was honored to be named the 2024 Farmer of the Year because...

"It was an unexpected honor to be included with such a formidable group of farmers who have been named the Farmer of the Year in previous years. I would like to thank the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau for all of the work they do on behalf of agriculture and all farmers in Santa Cruz County."

Janet Webb, President, Big Creek Lumber
2024 Farmer of the Year

Save the Date

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

California State Fair

Friday, July 12, 2024 to Sunday, July 28, 2024
Cal Expo, Sacramento

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

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



WILDFIRE SMOKE – A REMINDER ON PLANNING FOR PROTECTION



David Sanford

Note: This is an update to previous summer articles on this topic.

With widespread high temperatures covering much of the nation over the past week and it being only late June (as I write this), I felt it was a good time to again address the issue of preparation and planning for the potential of a severe fire season in the state and impacts it could have on our agricultural workforce. There has already been serious wildfire activity in California this year, with nearly 90,000 acres burned, and experts are worried about a hard fire season ahead.

The significant rain we experienced over the past two winters (indeed, with storms that caused flooding and saturated dormant fields) can make us briefly forget the pervasive issue of wildfire in California. The large fires currently burning in Colusa, Fresno, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties are a reminder that we need to be ready to protect farmworkers when the air quality deteriorates due to wildfire smoke. Preparation starts with reviewing CalOSHA's regulations for protection of employees that work outdoors and may be exposed to such conditions. These requirements fall under Title 8, Section 5141.1 and can be found here: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke/Wildfire-smoke-emergency-standard.html>

It is important that employees are trained and understand the protections in place for them in the event of poor air quality created by wildfire smoke. This includes understanding health effects of exposure to wildfire smoke, the Air Quality Index (AQI), and how to properly use an N-95 respirator. Employee training resources can be found in English and Spanish from the UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety here:

<https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/wildfires>

When air quality declines due to wildfire smoke, employers should be monitoring AQI in determining when to initiate additional protective measures to protect employees working outdoors. Measures can include moving work to

enclosed structures where air is cleaner or filtered, moving employees to areas with a lower AQI, and providing N-95 respirators to employees. The following websites to receive AQI information in our area: www.airnow.gov and www.mbard.org. Additionally, weather apps on smart cell phones typically contain AQI information.

Because most agricultural activities in our region take place outside with very limited options to move employees to indoor work, employers may need to provide their workers with NIOSH approved N-95 respirators, so a critical element of being prepared is having a supply of N-95 respirators available. There is never any guarantee of state-sponsored distribution of respiratory protection or other PPE in the event of severe wildfires, so it is important to independently secure adequate N-95 supplies for your operation as soon as possible.

As we prepare for the summer (and fall) months ahead and knowing what we do about the intensity and unpredictability of fire in the state, let's plan ahead for protecting the respiratory health of our farmworkers should we find ourselves dealing with conditions of prolonged wildfire smoke this harvest season. ■



**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

**"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot
in it and hang on."**

Franklin D. Roosevelt

CAN THE RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL BE WAIVED?



After the primary contract deal points in a contract are agreed, many people assume the rest is unimportant “legalese” or “boiler-plate” and leave it to the lawyers or ignore it, or no lawyers may be involved. But the words in such “legalese” or boilerplate provisions is important and worthy of negotiation, depending on a parties bargaining strength..

One provision found in almost every contract these days is indemnity. It doesn't matter, for instance, whether the contract is a building lease, equipment rental or professional services, Its almost always has an indemnity provision buried somewhere. Indemnity is defined in California by statute as a contract by which one agrees to save another from a legal consequence of the conduct of another. In other words, by indemnity, one party agrees to be responsible for certain future liabilities of the other.

But there is much to be considered when reviewing indemnity provisions. The language usually starts the same: Party A agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless... After that, the parties must decide who, how, and when that indemnity will apply:

- Who is indemnified? Does the indemnity protect only the contracting parties, or also owners, partners, employees, agents or affiliates? The more parties indemnified, the greater the risk that a claim will arise.
- What claims give rise to the indemnity obligation? These might include situations a party's breach of the contract and/or a party's negligence or intentional misconduct. This scope can be expanded in the words of the contract depending on the transaction, such as a broad “all acts or omissions occurring on the premises” during the term of a lease, or arising out of as compared with caused by the breach.
- What triggers the indemnity? For example, the indemnitor may not be liable under its indemnity unless the indemnitee gives notice of the claim within a specific time, perhaps 30 days, perhaps a year? Also,

the indemnity obligation may not apply until the total damages incurred exceed a certain amount. And the indemnity obligation may not be enforceable over a certain amount.

One misunderstanding is whether the indemnity is limited to third party claims. An indemnity's importance applies to third-party claims, since these claims will be asserted by a non-contracting party and the scope of liability under California law may not be clear. For example, if a seller defaults under a contract, an escrow company may claim cancellation costs from the parties, including the non-defaulting buyer. With an indemnity, a buyer can seek indemnification against the seller for those costs.

And in California, the obligation to hire a lawyer to defend the indemnified party is part of the statutory indemnity obligation. So even frivolous third-party claims can be expensive because of the defense obligation, i.e. the obligation to hire a lawyer to defend the other party.

Finally, some commercial liability insurance policies include a contractual indemnification clause that may provide insurance coverage to pay to defend such claims but not to pursue claims against other responsible parties.

So its wise to take the time to consider the risk you are undertaking and understand as much as you can and make the best language you can. ■



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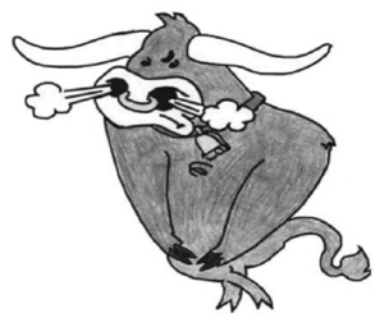
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Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
 Young Farmers & Ranchers
 16th Annual

Testicle Festival

Fundraiser Barbeque



“Do they really taste like chicken?”
Saturday, August 24, 2024
Estrada Deer Camp
 196 Hazel Dell Rd., Watsonville
 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Hors d’oeuvres: Rocky Mountain Oysters
 All you can eat! (3:00-4:45pm)
Dinner: Chicken, Sides, Salads, Bread & Dessert

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Beer & Wine, Hors d’oeuvres, Silent Auction Open.....3:00 PM
 Dinner, Raffle, Live Auction.....4:45 PM

We’re serving up USDA inspected bull testicles. (aka - Rocky Mountain Oysters, Cowboy Caviar, Prairie Oysters, Swinging Sirloin, Calf Fries, Huevos del Toro and Criadillas). These are truly a delicacy of the American West

Tickets are also available at the Agri-Culture Office (722-6622);
 from YF&R members; or online at www.eventbrite.com
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No bull...join us for balls of fun!

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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
196 Hazel Dell Road
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
who attend will be able to
vote for their favorite sauce.

Contest Schedule

3:30 - 4:45 PM

SHOW OFF YOUR AWARD TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY

AWARDS: "It's All in the Sauce 1st Place Trophy AND Best Name



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY - JULY 11
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

FRIDAY - JULY 12
31st Annual Golf Tournament

WEDNESDAY - JULY 17
Agri-Culture Board of
Directors' meeting

FRIDAY - JULY 26
Focus Agriculture, Class 33
Session 6, A Day on the Farm

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

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 25
Focus Agriculture, Class 33
Session 8

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