

# 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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## First-Ever Pitch In Cleanup Event Removes 1,500 Lbs. Of Litter



Article and Photo courtesy of  
Sally-Christine Rodgers, Pitch In Santa Cruz County

**M**ore than thirty organizations and 431 individuals held cleanups from Davenport to the Pajaro Valley, on May 11<sup>th</sup> for the first annual Pitch In all Santa Cruz County Clean Up Day.

“Litter and illegal dumping are a scourge on our farmland, neighborhoods, natural landscapes and wildlife” said Sally-Christine Rodgers, who spearheaded organization of the first annual Pitch In event. “These community cleanups helped raise awareness about a problem we can actually solve.”

In total, 1,548.5 pounds of litter were picked up during the one-day event, which was held at more than two dozen sites across Santa Cruz County. The cities of Scotts Valley, Capitola, Santa Cruz and Watsonville were involved along with nonprofits including Watsonville Wetlands Watch, Ecology Action, Monterey Waterkeeper, Save Our Shores, O’Neil Sea Odyssey, Downtown Street Teams, Watsonville Works and The Volunteer Center.

Business groups including the Santa Cruz Association of Realtors, Rugged Coast, the Adventure Gift Store, and members of the Aptos and Capitola Chambers joined in. Volunteers from Driscoll’s partnered with the Freedom Rotary and the Pajaro Valley Chamber to helped make the Pitch In all Santa Cruz Cleanup event a smashing success.

**Continued on Page 5**

## Last Call For Tickets!

### 107th Annual Dinner/Meeting

Saturday, June 15, 2024 • 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

See Page 11 for details

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*See the President's Message  
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**Head's Up!**

**107th Annual Meeting  
 Saturday, June 15, 2024**

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# ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, UCCE,  
Santa Cruz County

## Meet the New Agricultural Technology Area Advisor

**C**ould you tell us a little bit about yourself Paramveer (Param)?

I am thrilled to join this vibrant community and am looking forward to both learning from and contributing to your endeavors. My goal is to assist you in integrating the latest technological solutions to overcome your challenges and to celebrate your accomplishments together.

### Discovering the Region

Before I assumed this position, I had never visited the Central Coast. The region's landscape has captivated me with its mild Mediterranean climate and its intensive, diverse specialty crops production system. As I acquaint myself with the area through field days, workshops, and meetings, my admiration only grows. I've visited Watsonville and Santa Cruz several times, and the picturesque small coastal farms along Highway 1, the verdant fields of leafy greens and cane berries near Mount Madonna, and the sweeping strawberry ranches west of Watsonville have all left a profound impression on me. The more I learn about your production systems, the more I am impressed by the productivity and diversity of the specialty crops grown here.

### Current Focus

I joined the team last October, concentrating on assessing needs and establishing connections with growers, farm advisors, tech companies, and industry leaders. With the invaluable support of our existing team of farm advisors, USDA-ARS researchers, and faculty at UC Davis, I have been able to dive deep into understanding the critical issues you face and exploring

existing technological solutions.

### Seeking Your Input

What technologies are currently lacking that your operation could greatly benefit from? Are there any pressing issues that are not adequately addressed by existing technologies? These could relate to labor, disease and pest management, land preparation, irrigation, nitrogen management, and more. I am here to help identify, develop, and evaluate technologies that can solve your production challenges. Your feedback is crucial, so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or information. You can reach me at [psbsingh@ucanr.edu](mailto:psbsingh@ucanr.edu) or on my cell at (831) 214-8462, or at the office at (831) 759-7365.

Looking forward to our collaboration

Best,

Paramveer Singh (Param, Agricultural  
Technology Area Advisor  
*Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and San  
Luis Obispo*



# THE WATER NANNY

## Tulare Diet

**A** diet is "a regimen of eating and drinking sparingly so as to reduce one's weight" Last month we discussed the Pajaro Diet restricting roadways until you starve due to failure to return home by dinner. Last year we featured the Watsonville Specific Plan which puts Main St. on a strangulation diet of gridlock. Switching to a water diet, you know like in old prison movies where the inmates only receive bread and water, introducing the Tulare Well Diet. This is the main plot in the fatalistic serial novella by the State Water Board; *Do You Know What's Happening With Groundwater in California?*

So far two water basins have been featured, the Tulare Lake basin and the Tule basin. Each suspense filled story starts with; "the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) determined that the plans that local agencies in the basin wrote to manage groundwater are inadequate, meaning the plans do not do enough to protect groundwater resources for the future. After making that determination, as required by law, DWR referred the basin to the State Water Resources Control Board for further review." We know this is a thriller as each basin is eventually placed on probation for unmitigated unsustainable well water extractions.



The first treatise in the series deals with Tulare Lake, the home of the great Corcoran subsidence basin. Going back into the 1940's the USGS has been monitoring land subsidence in the old Tulare Lake area, with some areas sinking over 40', and the current rate of decline

is up to 2' in some areas of the old lake bed. The primary cause is over pumping, and was a key reason the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was adopted. While the aquifer below the southern San Joaquin Valley is very large and deep, SGMA prevents an unsustainable reduction in groundwater levels. So besides avoiding subsidence, the local regulators also need to plan for no average future reductions in water levels after 20 years to implement the programs. Tulare Lake seems to have failed, based on the Water Boards account, in each area subject to regulation.

*(Ominous music)* Probation is now warranted. The Water Board staff outlined pages of deficiencies, including: 1)

groundwater levels, 2) land subsidence, 3) groundwater quality, 4) no minimum thresholds, 5) current contaminant levels will be exceeded, and 5) just plain fails SGMA regulations. The whole thing needs to be sent back for a revision by the GSA, and irrigators need to meet several implementation and reporting requirements by the end of this year.



The lead up to the probation was high media drama for a sleepy area of the Valley. Outlets from *FresnoLand* (a real website), the USGS, *Bakersfield.com*, TV stations (hard to watch subsidence real time on TV) and the *LA Times* all featured over pumping and subsidence. The *LA Times* pinned the fault on the Tulare farm barons. Everyone in the area, from JG Boswell, to County Supervisors, to Corcoran (that almost flooded last year due to subsidence) objected to this "economic train wreck" impairing agriculture's continued existence. The proposed initial cost imposed by the Water Board is a \$300 pumping fee per well, and \$20/ac.ft. of water extracted (far less than the PVWMA rate of \$323/ac.ft. or the San Diego delivered water charge of \$1,085/ac.ft.)

Our story ends with an exciting conclusion, the Tulare GSA's need to revise their previously amended plans, at considerable cost. Water extractors (farmers) who pump more than two acre feet per year need to report the location and depth of each well, install water meters, report extraction by December 2024, and pay fees to the Water Board. Loss of local control is the main casualty of the failure of the local GSA's deficient plans. This is really a prelude (future episodes coming soon) to significant restrictions on pumping, particularly painful in areas outside the irrigation districts. Land prices will go down, production will go down, and the farm barons need to revise their business plans. Fortunately, our local GSA's groundwater plans were approved by the State, avoiding this Water Board probation. "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." Ben Franklin.



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Janet Webb's Favorite Apple Pie

This recipe was given to all of the attendees of the 2024 Down to Earth Women Luncheon held on May 9th. Janet Webb was the featured speaker at the event and shared her favorite apple pie recipe. Here it is...!

### Apple Pie Filling Ingredients:

8 cups apples

1 1/4 cup sugar

5 Tablespoons corn starch

1/2+ teaspoon cinnamon

1/8+ teaspoon nutmeg

Pinch of salt

2-3 Tablespoons Lemon Juice

2+ Tablespoons butter

Pare apples and stir together with sugar, cornstarch, spices and lemon juice. Put filling in crust and dot with butter, cover with top crust and bake at 400°F for approximately 45 minutes.

### Oil Crust:\*

3 cups flour

1 1/8 teaspoons salt

3/4 cup oil\*\*

6 Tablespoons Ice Water\*\*

\*Roll between wax paper

\*\*Whisk together then stir into flour and salt

### Shortening Crust:\*

3 cups flour

1 1/2 teaspoons salt

3/4 cup Crisco\*\*

1/2 + cup water\*\*\*

\*Roll on floured board

\*\*Cut into flour and salt

\*\*\*Stir in

---

## Pitch In Santa Cruz - Continued from Page 1

Watsonville and Sunrise Rotaries also participated as well as church groups from the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Twin Lakes Christian, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

School groups including students from UCSC, Watsonville High School, Pajaro Valley High School, Pajaro Valley and Lakeview Middle School picked up litter on campuses and in surrounding areas. Neighborhood groups like Friends of County Parks, Davenport North Coast Neighbors, and San Lorenzo Park Neighbors, and others joined in.

"This is what happens when a community comes together. Our goal is to make Santa Cruz the cleanest county in California!" said Ramon Gomez, Chief of Staff to

Supervisor Felipe Hernandez who organized a cleanup along Salsipuedes Creek. They were joined by The County Administrative Officer Carlos Palacios, representatives from Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas' office, Claudia Mejia from Environmental Innovations, Watsonville Works volunteers and other community members.

Supervisor Hernandez along with Supervisor Justin Cummings put forth the resolution designating the second Saturday in May as a countywide cleanup day as part of the Pitch In Initiative to eliminate litter and illegal dumping. Next year's Pitch In All Santa Cruz Cleanup Event will be held May 10th, 2025. Mark your calendars! Go to [pitchinsantacruz.org](http://pitchinsantacruz.org) for more information.

# "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](http://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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## Save the Date

### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

#### **SCCFB 107th Annual Meeting**

Saturday, June 15, 2024  
Big Creek Lumber Property, Swanton

#### **31st Annual Golf Tournament**

Friday, July 12, 2024  
Pajaro Valley Golf Club

#### **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

#### **16th Annual Testicle Festival**

Saturday, August 24, 2024  
Estrada Deer Camp

#### **28th Annual Farm Dinner**

Saturday, October 18, 2024  
Land Trust Little Bee Barn

## I am a Member/Supporter of the Farm Bureau because...

I am a Farm Bureau member/supporter because "ultimately the Farm Bureau is the representative voice of agriculture in the local community and in the state. It is the voice of growers that must be heard given their critical contributions to our society."

Eric Peterson, Driscoll's  
SCCFB Board of Directors member





## Fight the Bite in Santa Cruz County!



David Sanford

As the summer months arrive, it's another good opportunity to put out a reminder about a problematic pest that in this case is non-agricultural – mosquitos! As many of you may know, the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner here in Santa Cruz County also manages the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Division (MVCD), and the staff in that unit works extremely hard to ensure county residents are able to work and play outdoors without being plagued by mosquitos.

With authority under the California Health and Safety Code and Santa Cruz County ordinances, the MVCD helps keep our communities safe through responsible management of mosquitoes and other vectors. A vector is any pest that can spread disease to humans or cause discomfort or injury.

With changes in climate and weather patterns, just as agriculture has seen the incidence of harmful pests increasing (e.g., 2023 was the worst year for quarantine-level fruit fly detections throughout the state in recorded history), the same can be said for human disease vectors such as mosquitos. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can influence the behavior and ecology of disease vectors. For example, warmer temperatures may accelerate the development and reproduction of mosquitoes, leading to faster population growth. Changes in rainfall patterns can create breeding habitats for mosquitoes or other vectors, increasing the risk of disease transmission. Tropical mosquitoes are now capable of persisting in California with longer summers and shorter/warmer winters.

In October of 2022, MVCD detected an the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Watsonville. And although subsequent intensive monitoring since then has not thus far detected a recurrence, there is little doubt that this mosquito species – which can vector human diseases such as Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, and Zika virus – is expanding its range due to changing climatic patterns. Just this past April, neighboring Santa Clara County has again detected invasive *Aedes aegypti* and is now putting heavy resources into public

communication, monitoring, and eradication operations.

Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector Control has adapted to help fight the dangerous *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and altered our surveillance and control tactics to combat this new vector. However, our agency's efforts alone are not enough—we need the public's help.

All residents are encouraged to be on the look-out and report unusual or elevated mosquito activity around their home to their local Mosquito & Vector Control, especially if the mosquitoes are active at all times of day or are found inside the home. Other good mosquito prevention habits that work to exclude both native and invasive mosquitoes include:

- Eliminating standing water around the household and yard.
- Refreshing birdbaths or pet water bowls at least once a week to disrupt mosquito breeding.
- Using pumps/aerators/free mosquito-eating fish for ponds or unused pools or spas.
- Be aware of belongings that can carry water when travelling throughout the state.

Community participation is key in preventing the spread of invasive mosquitoes and reducing the potential transmission of serious disease viruses.

For more information on these exotic mosquitoes and where they can be found in California, visit the California Department of Public Health website at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Aedes-aegypti-and-Aedes-albopictus-mosquitoes.aspx>

For more information about mosquitoes and other vectors in our County, or to order free mosquito-eating fish, visit the Mosquito and Vector Control Division website at: <http://www.agdept.com/AgriculturalCommissioner/MosquitoAbatementVectorControl.aspx>

**Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
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# 31st Annual Golf Tournament

**Friday, July 12, 2024  
8:30am – Registration Begins  
10:00am – Shotgun Start**

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**Pajaro Valley Golf Course**

Price Per Player  
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Eventbrite (search for "31st Annual Golf  
Tournament" in Royal Oaks)





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Why Do We Do What We Do?



Dennis Webb, President

It's June already – that means that most agricultural operations are in full swing across Santa Cruz County. This is a busy time of year for me, with much of my company's forest management work in full swing, and still plenty of planning work left to finish to prepare for the rest of

the operating season. For many farmers and ranchers across our county, this time of year means long days and little down time to enjoy the fun parts of our profession.

Now more than ever, it's important to slow down. Hopefully, each of us is in the profession we are in because it satisfies us. Take the time to step back from the grind of your

everyday work to think for a few moments about why you do it. Do you enjoy producing products that people need? Do you farm because you can see what you accomplished at the end of the day? Do you do this because you care about the stewardship of the land you work? Do you get up early every morning because you care so much about helping the people you work with? If you're like me, all of these are true.

With so much work to do this time of year, don't forget to spend time thinking about why you do what you do. Remember that we don't just serve our profession, our profession serves us. Make time for the process of reflecting on all the positive things your work does for you.



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## Strange But Impossibly True!

The dunce cap used to be a sign of intelligence. Thirteenth century philosopher John Duns Scotus thought a pointed cap would funnel knowledge from its tip to his brain, and his "Dunsmen" followers wore the hats as badges of honor. In the 1500s, his ideas became less popular and the meaning of the Duns cap was turned on its head, becoming something of a joke.

Excerpts from the Readers Digest



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**"Don't start your day with broken pieces of yesterday. Every day is a fresh start. Each day is a new beginning. Every morning we wake up is the first day of our new life."**

@allanborisug

## Quotes From Charlie Brown



Sometimes I lie awake at night and ask, "Where have I gone wrong?" Then a voice says to me, "This is going to take more than one night."

# "Agriculture, the Original Green"



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The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau presents

# 107th Annual Dinner/Meeting

## Big Creek Property

Swanton Road, Davenport, CA

Saturday, June 15, 2024 • 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by June 5, 2024



Tickets: \$100 per person

Reception: 4:00 p.m. • Dinner: 5:15 p.m.

Program also includes:

- ◆ 2024 Farmer of the Year
- ◆ Election of Officers & Directors



SCAN ME

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Watsonville, CA 95076

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**VOLUME 48, ISSUE 6**

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# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

## CALENDAR

**THURSDAY - JUNE 6**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**FRIDAY - JUNE 7**  
Focus Agriculture, Class 33  
Session 4

**SATURDAY - JUNE 15**  
107th Annual Dinner/Meeting  
Big Creek Lumber, Davenport  
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY - JUNE 28**  
Focus Agriculture, Class 33  
Session 5

**THURSDAY - JULY 4**  
Independence Day Observed  
Office Closed

**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 28**  
Focus Agriculture, Class 33  
Session 6, A Day on the Farm

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