

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

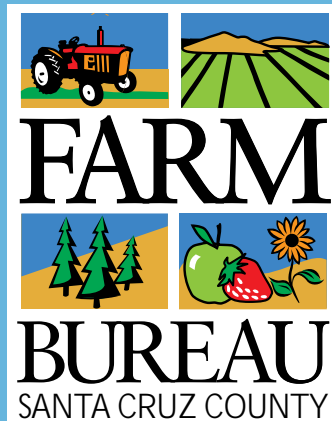
OCTOBER 2014  
VOLUME 38, ISSUE 10

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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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## Testicle Festival

Young Farmers & Ranchers Host 6th Annual Event at Estrada Deer Camp



Young Farmers & Ranchers (L-R) Steven Youmans, Chase Renois and JJ Scurich

The Young Farmers and Ranchers of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau held its 6th Annual "Testicle Festival" at Estrada Deer Camp in Watsonville. The rocky mountain oysters were served as hors d'oeuvres while the sauces were enjoyed and judged by the record crowd attending. A full chicken barbeque was served for dinner, with s'mores, made around the campfire, for dessert. The event also included a raffle, live and silent auction. There was also a competitive horseshoe contest at the Testicle Festival. The winning team was comprised of **Arnett Young** and teammate **Dan Legard**.

All contest winners were presented with plaques memorializing their triumphant performances. See coverage of the "It's All in the Sauce" contest on **page 9**.

If you haven't tried a rocky mountain oyster, make sure to attend the 2015 event!

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau endorses the following candidates:

**Greg Caput, 4th District, County Supervisor**

**Jimmie Dutra, 4th District, Watsonville City Council**

**Rebecca Garcia, 5th District, Watsonville City Council**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SCCFB.COM](http://WWW.SCCFB.COM)



# President's Message

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN, PRESIDENT

**“It seems like just yesterday I accepted the notable title of Madam President. Like summer, the time has flown by and, suddenly, poof! I can grin like a Cheshire cat knowing that I’ve successfully placed the next two years into David’s very capable hands.”**

## Grinning Like a Cheshire Cat

**A**t the beginning of every summer I think “this year, I’m going to enjoy the summer.” And then, poof! It’s Labor Day and I wonder “where did the summer go?!” So it is with my Farm Bureau presidency. It’s hard to believe it’s been two years since I took this office. My, how much I’ve learned, how many people I’ve met, and how extensive is the list of issues we’ve tackled!

The last two years have been filled with such serious and controversial issues as water, land, labor, political elections, GMOs and labeling, and cannabis.

- Groundwater – federal, state, and local regulations, augmentation and recycling fees, and severe lack of rainwater.
- Land – the landslide defeat of Measure T securing the preservation of prime farmland, the Atkinson Lane project, and the Manabe-Ow development and possible rezoning.
- Labor – federal and state immigration reform (or not) and the decline of our field labor force.
- Political elections – City council races, supervisorial seats, sheriff’s office, and state legislature.
- GMO and labeling – the ongoing struggle to give the public access to what’s in their food

through a clear and cost-effective process for the growers.

- Cannabis – federally illegal but delicately managing the public’s growing acceptability.

We’ve both celebrated and educated people about agriculture.

- Poster and poetry contests in our local schools.
- Farmer of the Year and Friend of Agriculture awards.
- Completion of successful *Focus Ag* classes for teachers, politicians and local business people.

Grinning Like a Cheshire Cat..Continued on Page 6

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# ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Management Advisor, UCCE

## Significant New Plant Disease Found In California Nurseries

**Q:** What significant new plant disease has been found in California nurseries?

**A:** First identified in North America at a Monterey County nursery in 2012, *Phytophthora tentaculata* has since been found on nursery stock in Alameda, Butte, Placer and Santa Cruz Counties and on outplanted stock in restoration sites in Alameda County. Affected plants in California include *Mimulus aurantiacus* (sticky monkey flower), *Frangula californica* (California coffeeberry), *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon), and *Salvia sp.* In 1993, the pathogen was first detected in Germany on *Chrysanthemum sp.*, *Delphinium sp.* and *Verbena sp.* Since the first detection, the host list has increased to include *Gerbera jamesonii*, *Origanum vulgare*, *Santolina chamaecyparissus*, *Lavendula angustifolia*, *Chichorium intybus*, *Aucklandia lappa*, and *Calendula arvensis*.

**Q:** What are the disease symptoms caused by *Phytophthora tentaculata*?

**A:** *Phytophthora tentaculata* is causing similar symptoms as many other *Phytophthora* species that are soil or water inhabiting. *Mimulus aurantiacus* symptoms include root and stem rot, with the roots and stem collars developing necrotic and sunken lesions with few feeder roots. In Europe and China, the pathogen is reported to cause crown, root, and stalk rot of nursery plants. Subsequently, above-ground symptoms include stunting, leaf russeting and yellowing to browning (chlorosis), defoliation and dieback of twigs, brown to black lesions girdling the basal stem, and eventually plant death.

**Q:** Why is *Phytophthora tentaculata* of particular concern?

**A:** These detections raise concern for our forest and wildland health. The infested California nurseries specialize in producing native plants for restoration purposes. This is where a landowner or public agency would use native plants to re-vegetate or enhance a site for erosion control, visual buffers, or other ecological reasons. Unfortunately plants move directly from these infested nurseries to wildlands, so risk of pathogen introduction to forests is very high.

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, and Forest Health Protection, Washington Office; California Department of Food and Agriculture; and Phytosphere Research are cooperating on a survey to check restoration sites to determine the extent of introduced infestations. A few conservation nurseries will also be surveyed.



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If you rest, you rust.

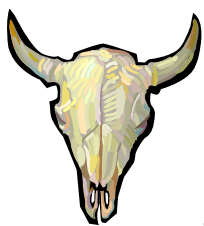
Helen Hayes

# THE WATER NANNY

## The Great Range Wars

Water laws in California have been, well, fluid since 1859 (statehood). Before the gold rush, with few people and lots of land, Mexican riparian laws were fine. As the State grew and commerce expanded the water laws were changed to fit the power of the times. Much of the riparian law in California was set by a series of lawsuits involving Miller and Lux, a great cattle company and the largest shipper on the Central (Southern) Pacific Railroad. Most every judge on the California Supreme Court was a former railroad attorney, so their clients fared well, first in line gets the water. So we have various stages of surface water rights from the preeminent pre 1914, to junior to none on each river and stream.

Water resurfaces as the main political issue in California whenever there is a shortage due to drought or population expansion. Mostly we have water, just in the wrong places. LA got into the water moving act first with the LA Aqueduct from the Owens Valley, a power makes right water project. San Francisco convinced Congress to allow Hetch Hetchy Dam in Yosemite Park. But truly great projects did not start until LA's growth and over pumping in the San Joaquin Valley required yet more water. The twin projects, the Central Valley Project and the California Aqueduct, were built ending forever the need for more water.



Alas, that was so 1960s. Drought, population and ag demand have once again exceeded surface water supplies. In a big way valley towns and ranches have switched from delivered water to groundwater. No well driller is unemployed.

The result: land subsidence, Sierra Nevada uplift and legislative action. Our legislature enacted, and the Governor signed legislation first proposed by Brown in the 70s, to rewrite groundwater law.

The wealth of a Spanish land grant was measured by its cattle, which were branded and free to roam at will. Now only a few California counties are free range counties. In a free range county if you don't want cows on your property you must build good and substantial fences. Most counties require the livestock to be fenced in by their owner without the right to roam.

Groundwater law, until now, seemed similar. In most of the state, except 21 adjudicated basins, groundwater is more or less owned by the land above. You can pump as much as wanted, without waste. However waste was like gold rush placer mining, as long as you could justify the use on your land, including runoff, it was not waste, kind of like free range. In adjudicated basins a Water Master sets rules, including pumping restrictions, no more roaming.



In September the Governor signed three bills which end unregulated groundwater. These bills, for many good reasons, were vehemently opposed by the Farm Bureau. Now this is where it gets tricky. The existing groundwater law remains in place and a new set of laws mandate management of all groundwater basins, preferably by local *Sustainability Agencies*. (The PVWMA clearly fits the bill as a Sustainability Agency, not so much the MCWRA) If there is no local agency it defaults to the county, and if the county withdraws all water pumping, it must be reported to the State Water Board. The main problem is in the use of English, like *sustainable yield*, *water budget*, *significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion* and, my personal favorite, *undesirable result*.

Rural life has unsuccessfully resisted change since the Spanish. Like it or not, groundwater regulation is upon us. So don't just strap on your 6 shooter, round up a herd of lawyers.

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# FAVORITE RECIPES

## 2014 "Best of Show" Apple Pie Baking Contest

And the winner is...Ronald Downing, Scotts Valley

### **Filling:**

- 6 Granny Smith apples
- Lemon juice
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger
- Freshly ground nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp. ground clove
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tbsp. cornstarch

Core, peel and slice apples thinly. Toss with lemon juice, to taste. Add all other ingredients (nutmeg, to taste) and mix. Let rest.

### **Crust:**

- 3 cups flour
- Dash of salt
- 1/2 cube butter, salted
- 1 cup butter flavored shortening
- 1 egg
- Vodka and orange juice

In a large bowl, mix flour and salt together. Cut in cold butter and shortening to the size of peas. In a liquid measuring cup, whisk egg. Then add in vodka and orange juice in desired ratio till liquid reaches 3/4 cup line. Pour into flour mixture and combine. Roll out and fill with apples. Sprinkle with sugar. Cover with other crust. Brush with egg wash. Bake at 350°F for 65 minutes.

## *Contest Winners!*

### **Best of Show - Ronald Downing**

Place	Junior	Adult	Masters
1st	<b>Emilie Stevens</b> Santa Cruz	<b>Ronald Downing</b> Scotts Valley	<b>Tim Vertterli</b> Soquel
2nd	<b>Bridgett Titus</b> Aptos	<b>Sarah Greathouse</b> Felton	<b>Kelly Kersten</b> Watsonville
3rd	<b>Jordan Biddle</b> Felton	<b>Sabrina Carstensen</b> Aptos	<b>Cheryl Pettigrew</b> Watsonville

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## Safety Reminders



**A**s I drive through the Pajaro Valley, I see people hard at work growing and harvesting food. It's an especially busy time for growers, who must keep track of countless details. I know that the safety of their workers is one of the most important

of those details for growers. I know that at the start of the season growers provide training, have safety meetings, check equipment, emphasize safety first, etc. But it is a good idea to take a moment now, amid the hectic flurry of scheduling and efforts to cultivate and harvest crops, to review safety procedures, both with managers and with field workers.

I won't pretend to know all the details that comprise a safety program. Those details are best left to those that understand their own individual businesses. But a few

things that come to my mind include: Does everyone have functional personal protective equipment such as gloves, coveralls, protective eyewear, and training in use of proper respirators when required? Do workers know what to do in the event of an accident or emergency? What about pesticide applications? Workers should be reminded never to enter a posted field, or an area marked as a buffer zone. What about communication with neighboring growers? Everyone knows the importance of communication, but it is easy to forget in the struggle to meet deadlines. A simple phone call to your neighboring grower in advance of a pesticide application will alert him or her to keep workers as far as possible from the application. Pesticide applicators should be reminded to watch for workers in neighboring areas. And, harvesting crew leaders and foremen should also be mindful of pesticide applications in nearby fields. It is really a very busy time for everyone, and it can be stressful. Working together is the best way to avoid problems and keep everyone happy and healthy.

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### President's Message - Grinning Like A Cheshire Cat (Continued from Page 2)

- Gold and Silver awards for our state and county fair booths.
- Prosperous Down to Earth Women luncheon, Golf Tournament, Progressive Dinner, and Testicle Festival.

As the days tick by and I will soon be a past president, I'd like to share some of my thoughts and discoveries with my successor, David van Lennep. These are some of the things I am truly thankful for during the last two years:

- The next two years will bring a whirlwind of activities from meeting new people, political campaigns, speaking engagements, media interviews, to internal Farm Bureau business. You will be the face of Farm Bureau and you will be busy.
- If Jess Brown makes a suggestion, act on it. There is a very good reason behind all of his "suggestions".
- Mary Walter is a very patient person when it comes to newsletter deadlines. You will find yourself striving to

make deadlines, and failing, but you will never want to disappoint Mary.

- The Farm Bureau staff and volunteers are worth gold. They make things happen quickly and efficiently.
- The Board of Directors, Past Presidents, and your Executive Committee are there for you. They will gladly give you help whenever you need it. Take them up on it.
- Most of all, enjoy your presidency. It will come with opportunities you only get because you are President of Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.

It seems like just yesterday I accepted the notable title of Madam President. Like summer, the time has flown by and, suddenly, poof! I can grin like a Cheshire cat knowing that I've successfully placed the next two years into David's very capable hands.

## Six Tips for Handling High-Risk Terminations

**D**ischarging employees is never a pleasant task, but the stakes become higher if the individual has a history of workplace violence, or could be aggressive or violent. No one likes to consider the possibility, but thinking ahead could help avoid a violent confrontation.

You should take specific steps to handle high-risk terminations and to avoid exposing anyone – yourself included – to undue danger. If prior threats of violence have been made by the employee who is being discharged, a thorough investigation should be conducted, and you should have a plan for handling the situation before the termination.

### Lowering Risk

If you suspect the employee might be dangerous, here are some general tips for the termination process:

- Conduct the termination meeting in a neutral location so the employee doesn't feel cornered and attacked. If you feel the employee might pose a risk to other employees, yourself or the company, have a third party present. Make sure security is nearby, or even have security present at the termination meeting.
- Schedule the termination early in the week. This prevents the terminated employee from plotting revenge over the weekend. Consider offering immediate outplacement service to focus the employee's attention on the future rather than the past.
- If you feel the employee might threaten you during the meeting, keep the desk between you. You should sit closer to the door than the employee does; never place a potentially volatile employee between you and the exit.
- Explain why the employee is being let go, and stress it is not personal. Have the final pay-check ready, have information on benefits available, and have a number to call if they have questions.
- Be prepared to get the employee off the premises as quickly as possible. This may mean not allowing the employee to clean out the employee's workspace. Have a supervisor do it, and ship the employee's personal

belongings to the employee. To avoid embarrassment, you could allow the employee to collect personal belongings after work hours, during lunchtime, or over a weekend with management present.

- Beef up security post-discharge. This includes changing locks, deactivating the employee's keycard or badge, changing passwords, and always notifying company security. If you don't have in-house security, notify local law enforcement before the termination.

---

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# SAFETY FIRST!

By Mike Burns, Farm Bureau Group Manager

## Use Caution When Working With a Ladder

**W**hen used properly, a well maintained ladder is an indispensable tool for a variety of "elevated" jobs on the farm or ranch—anything from harvesting or pruning trees to repairing the roof of the farm shop.

But ladders can pose a serious danger if they are not properly used and maintained. In the United States, falls are the third leading cause of worker deaths, and half of these deaths resulted from falls from ladders. Sometimes a faulty ladder was to blame, sometimes the ladder wasn't set up properly, and at other times the ladder was used improperly. All three of these causes were preventable.

Because of the potential danger that comes with using ladders, an occasional review of safety procedures is important. Like any other tool on the farm and ranch, a ladder fills a very important function and when used properly is relatively safe.

Before you use a ladder, you should check it first for structural integrity. This is particularly important if the ladder hasn't been used for awhile. Check first to be sure rails and rungs are strong, properly fastened and undamaged. Be sure to keep ladder rungs free of debris because dirt, mud and oil can easily build up. If a ladder fails a visual safety inspection, it should not be used until it is properly repaired.

When setting up a ladder, make sure it is straight and sitting firmly on the ground without rocking or teetering. Once the ladder is set up properly and you are ready to climb, check the bottoms of your shoes for slippery debris. Always face the ladder when climbing up or down and use both hands. It is very important to not climb too high—never go above the third rung from the top of the ladder.

The most common cause of falls from ladders is overreaching. Sometimes when a person is high on a ladder and a needed object is just out of reach, the temptation is almost overwhelming to stretch and reach out as far as possible—it seems so much simpler than climbing back down the ladder and repositioning it. Wrong!

Remember, most accidents—including those involving ladders—are preventable. Take care of yourself and your employees and make sure there aren't any unwanted statistics on your farm or ranch.

Today, State Fund is the largest workers' compensation carrier in California. State Fund has regional offices throughout the state, which provide a full range of services to policyholders and injured workers. We provide coverage to employers of all sizes, from "mom and pop" operations to major organizations.

Since 1943, the California Farm Bureau and State Fund partnership has provided farmers with affordable worker compensation insurance coverage and accident prevention training for agricultural employers and their employees. In addition to providing farm and ranch employers with workers' compensation insurance protection, we also have taken on the mission of assisting employers in providing safe places to work.

For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the State Fund Web site at [www.statefundca.com](http://www.statefundca.com).





## Tony Colee Wins "It's All in the Sauce" Contest

**T**ony Colee of Redondo Beach won the "It's All in the Sauce" contest at the 6th Annual Testicle Festival held in Watsonville on Saturday, September 20th. The contest invites attendees to prepare and bring their favorite dipping sauces for everyone to try out with the rocky mountain oysters served as appetizers. Tony's sauce was the favorite of the 16 sauces entered in the competition. **Emily Youmans** of Watsonville won the coveted "Best Sauce Name" section of the contest. Emily's sauce was appropriately named "Ballapallooza".

## More Great Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Events at the Fair



SCCFB President Cynthia Mathiesen accepting award for 2014 Farm Bureau Fair Booth

2014 Apple Pie Baking Contest Winner Ronald Downing of Scotts Valley



Estrada Deer Camp is the perfect place for the Testicle Festival and "It's All in the Sauce" Contest. Pictured above is Loretta and Frank Estrada with grandson Zach.



2014 Opening Day Barbecue, sponsored by the Farm Bureau and prepared by the Watsonville Firefighters Association, was a popular event again this year.




A group of ladies enjoying the 6th Annual Testicle Festival and the "It's All in the Sauce" contest



Judges for the Apple Pie Baking Contest (L-R) Fred Keeley, Patrice Edwards, David Vasquez III and Liz Pollock

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# NRCS News

By Rich Casale, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**A**pplications are now being accepted under the 2015 Regular and Organic Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill and administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The application deadline date has not been established yet but is expected to be sometime in November.

Irrigation related practices eligible for an incentive payment include: drip and sprinkler irrigation systems; irrigation pipelines; pumps; flow meters; irrigation water storage systems; irrigation water management; as well as many other practices that address irrigation water conservation on local farms. Incentive payments can vary between 50% - 90% of the total cost of materials and installation. Program sign-up begins with

an application request from the local NRCS office and a visit to the USDA Farm Services Agency in Salinas to establish eligibility to participate in a 2014 Farm Bill program.

All practices approved for funding are required to be designed and installed according to NRCS specifications. NRCS is able to provide free planning and engineering design assistance on most practices to help reduce those related costs to the grower. All projects that are part of a NRCS conservation plan will be given a higher priority and chance of funding. Although the process is competitive the likelihood of application approval and funding has been quite high in years past.

For more information about the 2015 EQIP program and technical assistance available from NRCS, please contact NRCS at **(831) 475-1967**.

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## CALENDAR

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 16**  
Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Commission

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 23**  
Board of Directors meeting

**SATURDAY - OCTOBER 25**  
18th Annual Progressive  
Dinner. For more information,  
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**WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 5**

- Legislative Committee meeting
- Executive Committee meeting
- Membership Committee meeting

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 6**  
Directors' Dinner

**WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 7**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 9  
Class XXV Graduation

**MONDAY - NOVEMBER 10**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee mtg.

**WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 12**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

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