

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

OCTOBER 2022  
VOLUME 46, ISSUE 10

## INSIDE this issue

- 3 Ask Mark**  
Crop Termination in Strawberries
- 4 Water Nanny**  
A Late Summer's Nightmare
- 5 Recipe**  
"Best of Show" Apple Pie
- 12 Calendar**

 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. 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



## Janice Weaver of Santa Cruz Wins "Best of Show" for Third Year in a Row!!!

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau's 45th Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest was held at the Santa Cruz County Fair on Wednesday, September 14th. There were over 40 apple pie entries and winners were selected for each of the three divisions; Youth, Adult and Masters. **Janice Weaver**, of Santa Cruz took the top overall prize by winning "Best of Show" for the third year in a row. The Apple Pie

Contest Judges are different every year. The judges for this year's contest were **Dennis Webb**, President-Elect, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau; **Caroline Eiskamp**, Vice Chair, Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley; **CJ Miller**, Chair, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee; and **Jennifer Gavin**, Director of Pharmacy, Watsonville Community Hospital. The "Best of Show" recipe and winners from each division are listed on page 5.

**Community Foundation funds have been established for Susan Kim Am Rhein and Frank Prevedelli. Visit [agri-culture.us](http://agri-culture.us) for more details.**

# President's Message



Arnett Young

## Agricultural Celebration

The Santa Cruz County Fair has come and gone once again. This annual event to celebrate agriculture has always been my favorite to participate in as a member of the Farm Bureau. Every year, on the Saturday morning of the fair, I occupy our booth, selling apples and honey sticks, and talking with anyone who comes by.

The fair in Santa Cruz County, was first organized in 1887 (or 1885, depending on who you talk to). In 1941, the Santa Cruz County Fair moved to its current location where we still celebrate agriculture today. Over the past 135 years or so, thousands of children have showcased livestock, horse riding, and horticulture skills. Local children/artisans have shared their skills in quilting, painting, bonsai, and baking. What I really love about this event is that it demonstrates how important our

community connection to agriculture is.

As I sat at the Farm Bureau booth this year, I had wonderful conversations about agriculture with multiple people. Sometimes it was a simple question about the apples we were selling - the variety, who grew them, or where they were from. Other common questions included weather and crop conditions. And occasionally I was asked about farmland protection.

Of all the questions asked, farmland protection is always the simplest. Should it be protected? Yes. Is it a natural resource? Yes. Is it of economic importance to our community? Yes. If it is not protected, is it lost forever? Yes.

Continued on Page 9



- Gas & Diesel
- Red Dye Diesel
- Cardlock Fueling
- Packaged Lubes/Bulk Oil
- Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF)
- Tank & Equipment Installations



1511 Abbott St.  
Salinas, CA 93901

831-422-8801  
www.sturdyoil.com

*Thank you to the Young Farmers  
and Ranchers Committee for  
another successful Festicle Festival!*

*Thank You*

## Scurich Insurance Services

License #0436405

*Servicing the Agricultural Community Since 1924*



783 Rio Del Mar Blvd., Suite 7  
Aptos, CA 95003  
(831) 661-5697  
www.scurichinsurance.com



**2021/2022  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

**ARNETT YOUNG**  
PRESIDENT  
STATE DELEGATE, ORGANIC VEGETABLES

**DENNIS WEBB**  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
STATE DELEGATE, TIMBER

**PETER NAVARRO**  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT  
ALTERNATE STATE DELEGATE  
BERRIES

**BRENDAN MIELE**  
PAST PRESIDENT  
ALTERNATE STATE DELEGATE  
HERBS

**DIRECTORS**  
**THOMAS BROZ** Organic Vegetables  
**GREG ESTRADA** Cattle & Timber  
**LUCAS FLOWERS** Berries  
**NITA GIZDICH** Apples  
**MIKE JANI** Timber  
**CYNTHIA MATHIESEN** Berries  
**AMANDA PEIXOTO-CASTRO**  
Organic Vegetables  
**JOHN PISTURINO** Cattle  
**GERI PREVEDELLI-LATHROP** Apples  
**ANSELMO RIVAS**, Honey  
**DAVID VAN LENNEP** Timber

**EX-OFFICIO**  
**JUAN HIDALGO**  
Ag Commissioner  
**ANDREW GENASCI**  
CFBF Field Representative  
**MARK BOLDA**  
UCCE Farm Advisor  
**JAN GARROD**  
CFBF, District 10 Director

**STAFF**  
**JESS BROWN**  
Executive Director

**MATTHEW GIANELLI**  
Assistant to the Executive Director

**DEBBIE SOARES**  
Bookkeeper

**ROGER MARIN**  
Program Coordinator

**MARY WALTER**  
Newsletter Editor

# ASK MARK

**Michael Cahn, UCCE Irrigation and Water Resources Advisor**

## Crop Termination In Strawberry

**Q.** Could you tell me a little bit more about crop termination in strawberry for disease control?

**A.** Yes, I can explain more about crop termination in strawberry for control of Fusarium wilt.

This disease is caused by the important strawberry pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum* form species *fragariae*. This pathogen grows extensively inside of the plant rather than in the surrounding soil, meaning that being able to attack this disease within the plant can give the grower a big advantage in reducing the load of Fusarium wilt in the field.

Terminating the crop at the end of the season presents the opportunity to control *Fusarium oxysporum* form species *fragariae* inside of the plant where the bulk of the disease inoculum is. Crop termination is done with the fumigant metam potassium, known more familiarly by its acronym KPAM. After the last harvest is completed, the plants are still actively growing and once the drip irrigation system is ensured to be functioning well and without leaks, the KPAM is injected through this irrigation system, where along with all the water it is taken up by the still living plant and moved right up to the Fusarium wilt pathogen within it. Depending on the weather, the plant and disease wither and die in a few a days, after which it can all be tilled into the soil for decomposition.

Knowing the principle and efficacy of crop termination, the question has been asked how well KPAM works when applied to plants already dead or to fields which have already been treated with another fumigant. Looking beyond the efficacy of

KPAM as an herbicide, it was found able to significantly reduce Fusarium wilt disease inoculum in dead plants, and also, while this material has not been tested as a stand-alone drip applied treatment without crop termination, it has worked well in combination as such with other fumigants.

The above article has been about the use of metam potassium (KPAM) for crop termination to control *Fusarium oxysporum* form species *fragariae* in strawberry. This is a fumigation treatment, and one should read and understand the fumigant label and follow county permit conditions before starting this or any other fumigation. Know the symptoms and emergency treatments for exposure to the fumigations and monitor the application system and the field during application. For questions on this subject and any others relating to berry culture on the Central Coast, contact Mark Bolda at 831 763 8025 or [mpbolda@ucanr.edu](mailto:mpbolda@ucanr.edu). ■

---

## Interesting California Trivia

Almost 5 million tourists were visiting California every year by the late 1990s and the travel and tourism industry generated approximately \$75 billion annually. [2] California is the number one travel destination in the U.S.

# THE WATER NANNY

## A Late Summer's Nightmare

I was sitting in the sun at the fair watching the Twinkle Time girls, when I drifted off to sleep. Now this was not good as I started to dream, not the jovial and witty dream penned by Shakespeare, but a convoluted evil tale populated by a collection of bright yellow and orange colored spirits. As I slept, I spiraled downward and I saw fields rot and apples unpicked, rivers rising, storms increasing and profits evaporating, only in the nightmare of a farmer. Why do the spirits taunt me so?

We are spending too much time worrying about how to describe the past and avoiding confronting the future, that we forget the key element of California and America's history; a populous unanimously focused on prosperity and individual success. While this may not have played out as we dreamed, at least everyone was committed to the dream, and had a better life for their family.

We are forgetting that the underpinnings of past success; education, mutual respect, civic projects and employment opportunity, need to be nurtured and encouraged. A booming job market, caused by too few prospective workers, is disguising the poor math, writing and mechanical skills among those we hire. A lack of skilled employees, even in the fields during harvest, is forcing every industry to mechanize. When the economy turns down again, as is the historical trend, those without skills will be unemployable. High schools no longer have vocational training, which is unfortunate, but Cabrillo and Hartnell have extensive programs in construction, agriculture, ag-tech, and nursing. Our local high schools are way below their peers in the state. The California Department of Education classifies 23% of the teachers at Pajaro Valley and 18% at Watsonville High as "ineffective". Math scores are grim. This needs to be

addressed by the school board as it has nothing to do with the family income or background of the students, the board has no excuse due to the number of "fragile students". We need better teachers for successful graduates.



The future is cloudy for climate change but we can plan for sea level rise and the consequences to our farms. Higher oceans may mean loss of farm land out on Beach Road and near Moss Landing. It also means the possibility of more salt water intrusion. The Pajaro Valley has led the way here, Salinas will be impacted to the extent that salt will show up in municipal wells without more new projects. But all this is still possible in time to avoid real problems.



After decades of finger pointing about the next, or last flood, Monterey, Santa Cruz Counties and the Army Corp. of Engineers have finally thrashed out a viable, and funded, solution to prevent future 100 year floods along the lower Pajaro River. Too much time was wasted pursuing perfection. Now, in the near future, work will start to build new levies, protect the residential areas of Watsonville and Pajaro and reduce the exorbitant cost of flood insurance.

The night had descended on the grandstand and a stiff foggy wind woke me (making this a woke tale?) to the joviality, bright lights and happy sounds of the adjacent carnival. The 4-H auction was underway in the cattle barn, every child was looking forward with optimism as their pig or rabbit was sold for a record sum, at least in their eyes. The Art Pavilion was full of budding, soon to be successful artists. The County Fair works hard to support our skilled residents so they can show off, because after all everyone has something to show off. When is a more perfect time to show it all off than Halloween, the national holiday of Santa Cruz. ■





# FAVORITE RECIPES

“Best of Show”

## 2022 Apple Pie Baking Contest

**Congratulations! Janice Weaver, Santa Cruz**

**CRUST:**

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup water

Combine dry ingredients. Cut butter into flour in little pieces. Add cold water and combine until holding together. Divide in half, wrap in plastic and refrigerate.

**FILLING:**

- 8-9 apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 Tablespoon cornstarch



Over 40 pies were entered in the 2022 Apple Pie Baking Contest.

- Roll out one half of dough and fit into a 9” pie pan.
- Roll out second half of dough for top of pie.
- Toss filling ingredients together and pour into shell.
- Crimp it together and bake at 375°F for 45-50 minutes.

## All 2022 Apple Pie Baking Contest Winners

Place	Youth Division	Adult Division	Masters Division
 1st Place	Rosa Taylor Santa Cruz	Stephanie Hedgpeth Watsonville	Janice Weaver Santa Cruz 
 2nd Place	Marisa Wood Watsonville	Andrew Kasunich Royal Oaks	Rita Hewitt Watsonville
 3rd Place	Keara McNutt Watsonville	Leslie Achord Boulder Creek	Tim Vetterli Soquel

## Save the Date

### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

**Annual Directors' Dinner**  
November 3, 2022  
5:45 p.m.

**CFBF 104th Annual Meeting**  
Monterey, CA  
December 4-7, 2022

### Agri-Culture

**26th Annual Farm Dinner**  
Location to be determined  
October 22, 2022  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### **BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER**

#### Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership 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.cbf.com](http://www.cbf.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  
141 Monte Vista Avenue  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
[sccfb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sccfb@sbcglobal.net)  
(831) 724-1356

## I'm a Farm Bureau Member/Supporter because...



"We are Farm Bureau members because..." Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau represents, supports, and fosters local agriculture for today and for the future."

Steve Auten,  
Auten Resource Consulting



## Benefits And Risks Of Adding Agritourism To Your Farm Or Ranch

The following information is provided by Nationwide®, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.\*

**A**gritourism is a great way to capitalize on the natural draw of your landscape, connect non-farm families to agriculture and create new revenue streams for your operation. But these benefits are not without risk.

### Finding the right agritourism for operation

Adding a new agritourism venture to your operation starts by answering a simple question: What will work best? Consider the following:

- Your land, what you raise and any other resources that could contribute to a new attraction
- The time and money you can invest in an agritourism venture
- Potential hazards to visitors, the liability they create for you and how you'll mitigate the risks and keep people safe

"It doesn't always have to be a large venture that requires a lot of resources," said Barb Neal, Cornell Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent and Horticulture Educator in Tioga County, New York. "Everybody has a specialty, so it's just a matter of finding what will require the right amount of time and investment."

### Agritourism examples to consider

- **Pumpkin patches and corn mazes.** Fairly common around the country, they're popular but can require a lot of time and labor.
- **Farm tours and hayrack rides.** Also fairly common, opening your farm to the public for tours and offering services like hayrack rides provide up-close farm experience. They often vary widely on cost, supervision and risk exposure.
- **Bed & breakfasts.** An unoccupied farm house or even a repurposed barn or other farm building offer farm guests distinctive overnight stays. Time and labor required are normally fairly high.

- **Experiences.** Ranging from "U-Pick" farms and Christmas tree farms to barn rentals for events like weddings, these also can range widely in cost, supervision and risk exposure.
- **Classes.** Weekly or monthly classes on things like jam- or bread-making can be an easy, low-cost option.

### Minimizing the risks of agritourism

Before adding agritourism to your farm or ranch, think about the specific risks you and your visitors will face and how you'll mitigate them. This includes simple things like trip and fall hazards all the way to specific risks around livestock, farm equipment and food safety. Conduct a thorough audit of these types of risks and start by taking steps to minimize the hazards they represent.

"Check with your state for any agritourism protective measures and talk to your insurance agent for guidance on mitigation measures and how you can expand your insurance coverage," said Neal.

### Talk with your insurance agent

Farmers who offer agritourism activities need to discuss their specific types of businesses with their insurance agent. Usually, the policy that provides liability for the farm business does not extend to liability from other profit-making activities, such as agritourism.

Your local Nationwide Farm Certified agent can help you identify risks, implement safe practices and confirm you have the right agritourism insurance in place. Nationwide offers liability coverages that can be written as a package, in conjunction with a farm policy, to cover your agritourism ventures.

Visit [AgInsightCenter.com](https://www.aginsightcenter.com) to see the latest articles, videos and podcasts. While you're there, sign up to receive our bimonthly AIC email newsletter. ■

\*A.M. Best Market Share Report 2021.

# THE AG COMMISSIONER

David Sanford, Santa Cruz County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

## Field Fumigation Safety Reminders



**W**ith the arrival of the fall season, some Santa Cruz County berry growers will want to conduct pre-plant soil fumigations as part of their field preparation for next year's planting. Growers planning to fumigate must obtain a Restricted Materials Permit

from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and are required to submit a site-specific work plan for the proposed field fumigation. Accurate maps of the application site and the surrounding areas must be included with both the plan and the final Notice of Intent (NOI) for the fumigation. The information required on the plan and NOI is highly detailed and is described in specific conditions put out by our department. Submitting a fumigation work plan and NOI requires taking the time to ensure the documents meet the permit conditions for the site and the fumigant. In our county, these tasks are typically undertaken by the fumigating company's Pest Control Adviser (PCA) on behalf of the grower. By using this approach, growers can continue to focus on their many other production responsibilities while the PCA drafts and submits the necessary documents for the fumigation. It is still very important, however, that growers work closely with their PCAs and communicate regularly as the fumigation work plan is completed and prior to submitting the NOI. Clear communication between the grower and their PCA ensures accuracy with respect to factors such as site characteristics, application rate, buffer zones, acreage, and date/time of the area to be fumigated. The following are some important elements you should know and follow to safeguard your workers and any neighboring growers:

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

completion.

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

It is always critical to keep in mind that pesticide applications – field fumigants or otherwise – must be made with safety as

Continued on Page 9



# MORE FROM THE FAIR



The 45th Apple Pie Baking Contest Judges (L-R) CJ Miller, Caroline Eiskamp, Dennis Webb and Jennifer Gavin



The Opening Day Barbecue sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau was well attended. Guests were well fed with a delicious luncheon barbecue of tri-tip, beans, salad and french bread prepared by the Watsonville Firefighters Association

---

## President's Message

Continued from Page 2

If we don't protect it, can it be replaced? No. I would then ask them if they understood that they have an opportunity this November to protect farmland in our own community.

This November, the citizens of Watsonville will have the opportunity to protect the farmland which serves our community so well. Measure Q, which will extend the current Urban Line Limit (ULL), will be on the ballot. Voting for this measure will ensure that we will continue to protect local farmland until 2040. Failure to pass this measure will expose farmland to development to be lost forever.

Measure S, a competing measure brought forth by the Watsonville City Council, proclaims, on the face of it, to

protect the ULL. However, Measure S specifically allows the city council to promote development outside the ULL. The actual language states, "Shall the City of Watsonville maintain the restrictions on growth approved by the voters in 2002 until 2040, **with the exception of any property identified by the City Council during the General Plan update...**" I interpret this as the council supports the ULL unless they find it inconvenient.

So, I urge the citizens of Watsonville to protect local agriculture. Vote **Yes** on Measure Q, and **No** on Measure S. It really is that simple to support and protect local agriculture.

---

## Field Fumigation Safety Reminders

Continued from Page 8

the top priority. Applicators are required to always evaluate surrounding properties prior to applying pesticides and must perform pest control in a careful and effective manner.

This season, our office is collaborating with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) on a pilot pesticide notification project. The project here in our county is limited in scope to the pre-plant field fumigants and the pilot area

includes the retirement community area west of Lakeview Road and east of Lake Village Drive. We hope to gain some valuable feedback from the community and growers within the pilot area that we can share with the state as they work to develop a statewide pesticide notification system. More information on this project can be found at our website: [www.agdept.com](http://www.agdept.com) ■

# "Agriculture, the Original Green"


**Aptos area  
Warehouse/Flex Space**

**3,450 sq. ft. loading dock, parking  
\$1.50 per sq. ft. Additional 14K space available**



**Call (831) 295-8850  
Fred Antaki, Broker  
Main Street Realtors  
DRE #01035303**

**FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT**



**"If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing  
to do is stop digging."**

**Old Hillbilly Wisdom**

**WEBBS FARM SUPPLIES**

**Hi-Weed, Brush Mowers and...  
ROTOTILLERS • COMPOST SHREDDERS**

- CHAIN SAWS
- LOG SPLITTERS
- BLOWERS
- GENERATORS
- POST HOLE DIGGERS
- TREE CLIMBING EQUIP.

**Everything in Power Equipment  
(408) 395-2227 • (831) 475-1020  
5381 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA. 95073**



**SAMBRAILO®  
PACKAGING**

PACKAGING SOLUTIONS FROM OUR HANDS TO YOUR FARM

800 WALKER ST. WATSONVILLE, CA 95076 PH: 831.724.7581 WWW.SAMBRAILO.COM 



**(831) 475-4214  
Since 1938 FAX (831) 475-1756**

**CARDIFF PEST CONTROL**  
*Locally Owned - Community Involved*

2701 Soquel Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**Roberto Hernandez**  
FR 23875  
OPR 11533  
QAL105784




**TORO PETROLEUM CORP.**



**BRIAN HILL**

308 W. MARKET STREET  
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93901  
BHILL@TOROPETROLEUM.COM

(831) 424-1691  
(831) 424-0176 FAX  
(831) 970-8437 CELL








<b>PAPER</b>	<b>CHEMICALS</b>	<b>JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT</b>
Towels	Hand Soaps	Vacuums
Tissue	Deodorizers	Scrubbers
Plates	Disinfectants	Buffers
Cups	SPA & Pool Supply	Extractors
Bags		Gloves

**Specializing in Green Products**

*"We Deliver"*

220 Airport Blvd  
Freedom, CA  
(831) 724-6301 (800) 272-2221

**MONTEREY BAY  
CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET**

Celebrating 35 years on the Central Coast  
Your Local Certified Farmers Market

[www.montereybayfarmers.org](http://www.montereybayfarmers.org)  
[www.edibleparadise.com](http://www.edibleparadise.com)



**For more information (831) 728-5060**



# News & Information from RCD

Written by **Sacha Lozano**  
Resource Conservation District, Santa Cruz County

## Cover And Feed Your Soil With Living Plants During Winter To Benefit Future Crops And Protect Water Quality

As we enter the Fall season, there is a lot of activity and transition taking place at farm fields in the Pajaro Valley. Most strawberry growers have rotated to a new field and are listing beds, covering them with plastic, and getting ready for planting in early November. Many of the terminated strawberry fields are being planted with winter cover crops, which will be incorporated into the soil in March or April in preparation for the next crop rotation. Most vegetable fields are being harvested for their last crop of the year, and some of them will be left fallow (uncovered soil) during the winter months to be prepped for early spring planting when the rains end. Others will be planted with winter vegetable crops or with cover crops to protect and nourish the soil during the wet season. A smaller but equally important portion of the landscape, which has longer-term crops such as apple orchards or cane berries, will remain mostly unchanged, but also offers an opportunity to incorporate winter cover crops along crop alleys. Such a dynamic agricultural landscape seems to have found a well calibrated rotation system that supports multiple specialty crops and a high value ag industry. To ensure that the valley can continue to support such an intense level of agricultural activity it is very important to give back to the soil every year: keep it covered, well-nourished and alive.

Incorporating cover crops into the valley's dynamic crop rotations helps to achieve multiple conservation and production objectives at the farm and watershed levels, including water savings, soil health, soil fertility, erosion control and carbon capture. Cover crops hold the soil in place, augment water infiltration, recycle leftover nitrogen from previous crops,

and introduce readily available carbon to the soil, stimulating microbial communities and increasing nutrient availability (cycling), which support subsequent crop yields. This is done through photosynthesis, removing carbon from the air and storing it in leaves, stems, and roots to produce food, fiber, and fuel. Cover crops transform "air carbon" (CO<sub>2</sub>) into sugars that are released through their roots to feed a vast microbial food web and enrich the soil. As these root exudates enter the soil, carbon becomes bacteria, fungi, protozoans, nematodes, insects, in other words: living soil. And as soil microbes multiply, thrive, and die, nutrients get recycled and stable carbon accumulates in the soil, feeding the next crop, helping to address climate change **and** augmenting farm productivity and resiliency.

So, as the winter begins to approach, remember to cover and feed your soil! Get your cover crop seeds established early on so you have a strong stand by the time the first rains arrive.

Contact your local RCD at [slozano@rcd-santacruz.org](mailto:slozano@rcd-santacruz.org) (831-224-0293) for more information, site-specific recommendations, and potential resources to help you implement this valuable practice on your farm. ■

Farm Bureau (SCCFB) does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers in *Between The Furrows*, nor for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or in articles showing authorship by an officer of the SCCFB.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BANK

*"We switched all our banking to Santa Cruz County Bank, which was smooth and easy. They listen and truly understand agriculture and the needs of our business."*

Dane Scurich, President  
Scurich Berry Farms Inc.

SCCOUNTYBANK.COM • 831.457.5000

FOR ADVERTISING INFO AND RATES CONTACT US AT: (831) 724-1356 or [sccfb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sccfb@sbcglobal.net)

141 Monte Vista Avenue  
Watsonville, CA 95076

**OCTOBER 2022**  
**VOLUME 46, ISSUE 10**

PSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Mailed from  
Zip Code 95076  
Permit No.237

*Change Service  
Requested*



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

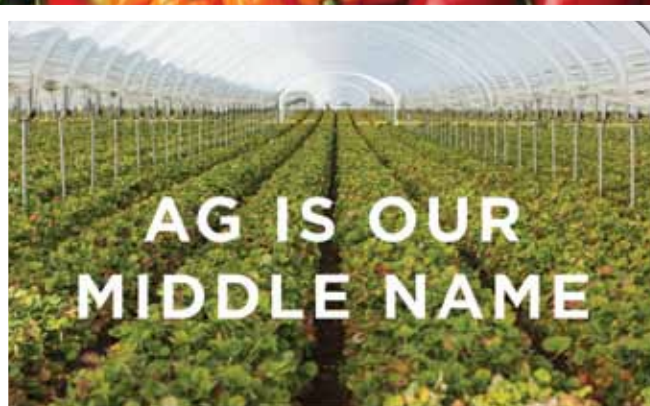
## CALENDAR

**FRIDAY - OCTOBER 14**  
Focus Agriculture, Session  
9 - Graduation

**SATURDAY - OCTOBER 22**  
26th Annual Farm Dinner

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 27**  
Farm Bureau Board of  
Directors' meeting

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 3**  
Annual Directors' Dinner



**AG IS OUR  
MIDDLE NAME**

We see things from the ground up, all of the small details that go into the big picture of farming. **Because agriculture is what we know, it's all we do.**



**AMERICAN AGCREDIT**

Call 831.424.1756 today  
or visit [AgLoan.com](http://AgLoan.com)

A part of the Farm Credit System. Equal Opportunity Lender.