

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

APRIL 2015
VOLUME 39, ISSUE 4

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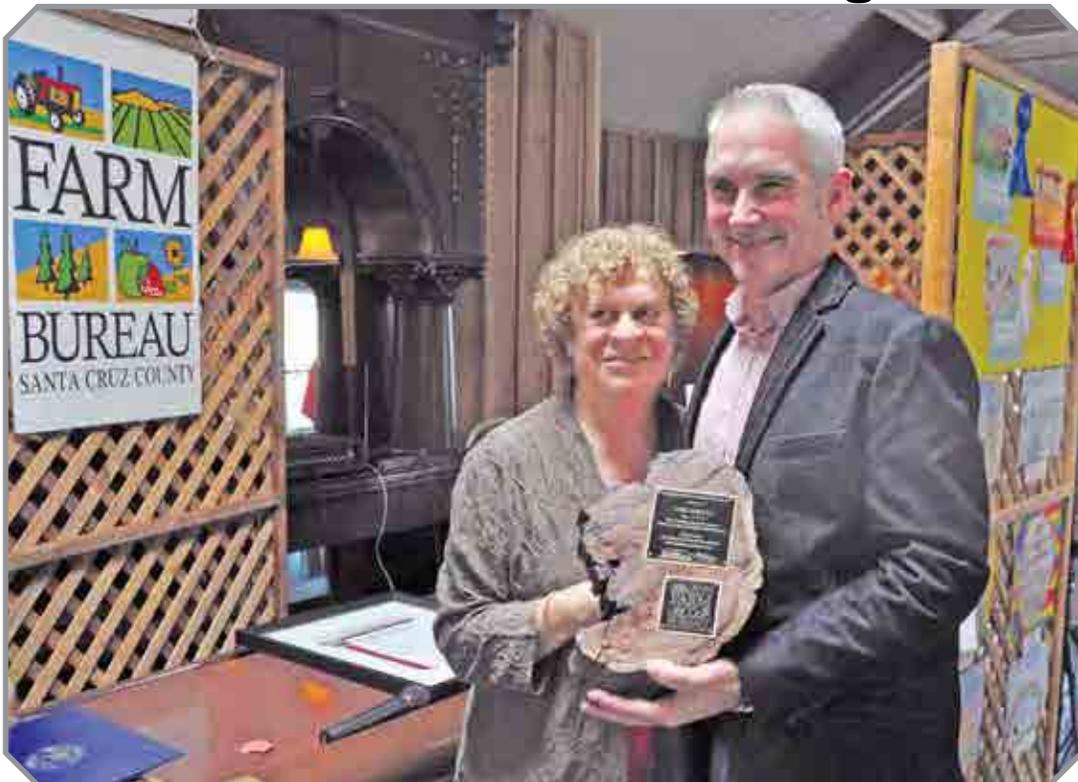


Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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Ceil Cirillo Named Al Smith Friend of Agriculture



(L-R) Ceil Cirillo with Farm Bureau President David Van Lennep Photo Credit - Pamela Mathiesen

Ceil Cirillo was named the Al Smith Friend of Agriculture during the **National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon** held on Wednesday, March 18th at Heritage Hall on the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. This annual event is sponsored by the **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau** and **Agri-Culture**. **Patrice Edwards**, 2014 award recipient, presented the award.

A resident of Santa Cruz since 1990, Ms. Cirillo is the retired Redevelopment Agency Executive Director/Economic Development Director for the City of Santa Cruz. She was hired to assist in the rebuilding of the City's downtown following the Loma Prieta earthquake.

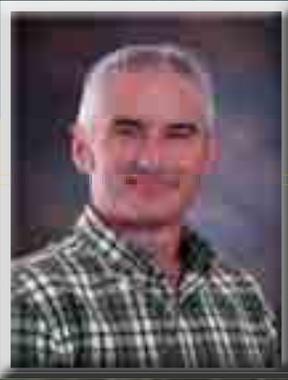
Here are a few of the reasons Ms. Cirillo was selected for this prestigious award:

- She is a graduate of Focus Agriculture Class XX

- She has recruited more community leaders to the national award-winning Focus Agriculture program than any other person.
- She understands the significant economic and cultural contribution Santa Cruz County agriculture plays both locally and worldwide.
- As the City of Santa Cruz Development Director, her vision to preserve the Salz Tannery by creating a Tannery Arts Center also preserved the agriculture history of that business. Onsite is a display showing the significant contribution the Tannery played in cattle and timber production in Santa Cruz County.
- She actively supported the preservation of agricultural land in Santa Cruz County.

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President's Message

DAVID VAN LENEP, PRESIDENT

“When applied, conservation usually entails some component of thoughtful utilization, where preservation is most often associated with keeping something unaltered or is unchanged.”

Conservation Or Preservation Or Is There A Difference

The terms Conservation and Preservation are closely related and, not surprisingly, share similar words and basic premise.

From Webster's:

Conserve: to keep (something) safe from being damaged or destroyed; to use (something) carefully in order to prevent loss or waste.

Preserve: to keep safe from injury, harm, or destruction; protect; to keep alive, intact, or free from decay; maintain.

When you see how similar the definitions really are, it is curious that the social movements associated with each are so different and often at odds. When applied, conservation usually entails some component of thoughtful utilization, where preservation is most often associated with keeping something unaltered or is unchanged.

When these terms are applied to lands, especially those that have supported some economic endeavor such as a farm or ranch, it becomes more complicated. The classic model of preservation is to lock up a resource in an attempt to preserve the exact condition at that exact time. This approach works well with a building or historically significant location, but falls short on a landscape level, as nature does not stand still. This same classic model often forsakes the value of that land to the community for

economic stability, or produced resources, leaving an economic void and new financial burden to maintain the area. This approach leaves much to be desired.

One of the core values of The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is the preservation of agricultural land. For us, this means the preservation of agricultural lands, and all of it's associated jobs, commodities and values to the community. This style of preservation is becoming more popular and recognizes the benefits of allowing land to be financially self-supporting, while obtaining the desired conservation benefits. Allowing the land to continue to produce makes good economic

President's Message-Continued on Page 9

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ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Environmental Horticulture Farm Advisor, UCCE

Ways to Quickly Identify Plant Diseases

Q: Is there a way of quickly identifying plant diseases in the field? I sometimes feel that it takes so long to get information back from a plant pathology lab when I send in a diseased plant sample.

A: Often the best way to identify a plant disease is to have representative plant samples sent to a plant pathology laboratory. The plant pathologist can identify the cause of the disease by finding existing spores or other tell-tale signs, or by isolating the causal organism on media. Yes, this takes time. However there are several field test kits that can help the field scout or farm manager to identify many common diseases, and the testing can be done in the field or farm office-- within minutes.

Q: How do these field test kits work?

A: Test kits from each manufacturer work a little differently, however the same principal applies. These tests are based on antibodies that are designed to recognize antigens specific to each pathogen (e.g. Phytophthora, Erwinia amylovora, tomato spotted wilt virus). Any antigen present in

the plant sample is extracted by grinding in the extraction solution. The extracted antigen is then allowed to react with antibodies that capture these specific antigens. A color change occurs on the test unit if the antigen is present. As with any diagnostic procedure, the accuracy of the test kits is only as good as the sample taken.

Q: What test kits are available?

A: Not all plant diseases are covered by these quick field tests, and some companies carry unique tests that are available only for processing large numbers of samples.

ImmunoStrips from Agdia, Inc. They carry field test strips for *Phytophthora*, and many bacteria and viruses. Contact: 1-800-622-4342 <http://www.agdia.com>.

Alert Kits from Neogen Company. They carry field test kits for the common root pathogens: *Phytophthora*, *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia*. Also they carry several other bacteria and virus test kits. Contact: 800/477-8201 <http://www.neogen.com/PlantDiagnostics/index.html>

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Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 14, 2015

**Rancho Corralitos, 242 Corralitos Road
\$100 per person - Limited seating available
For more information contact Agri-Culture
(831) 722-6622**

THE WATER NANNY

1.78

1.78 is the average number of children born per woman for non-Hispanic whites. It is different for various racial categories and by year. So what does it mean? No woman, no family, can have 1.78 children. If this was a regulatory standard for families, everyone would fail to comply. At least this number was arrived at by government statisticians. What if there was no data; for example, what is the minimum amount of nitrogen (N) fertilizer required for romaine lettuce grown in Aromas? Think of all your vegetable crops out in the field, what is their preordained consumptive role in life? How does your crop score in the nitrate input/harvested reporting regime?

The Nitrate Expert Panel last year released a final report that was roundly panned by the Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board (Region 5). The experts concluded the key for crop production with minimum nitrate impacts to groundwater was reduced inputs. They postulated that this would eventually be determined by the A/R ratio where A is applied and R is removed. Good math and average chemical skills can get to the applied N per field, but N removed is largely unknown. Your customers do not pay per N harvested, so you most likely have no records or idea about this, or the A/R ratio.

Even so, the Central Valley Water Board (same EO) recently adopted a nitrate reporting form, requiring N removed to be calculated. It also created an obligation on the Ag coalitions to research gaps in crop knowledge as to N removed.

Reporting requirements: The Central Valley ILRP Coalitions must distribute to their members (most if not all of the farmers in their geographic area) the Nitrogen Management Plan template developed by Region 5. Say you farm 200 acres of almonds, this template is not too difficult, since you have one perennial crop. It requires both planning (projected) crop, yield, acres and recommended N; along with "post production actuals" of yield, N applied and N removed (lbs.

N/ac). For N applied the farmer needs to track planned N and actual N for dry, liquid and foliar fertilizers, organic N, carryover in the soil, and N in irrigation water. This may all need to be certified. Region 5 helpfully states, as to N removed, "your Coalition

will provide the method to be used to estimate N removed." Now, say you have 200 acres in the Pajaro with average block size of 10 acres, growing an average of 2½ crops per block per year, or 50 different crops' fertilizer A/R to track.

Gap discovery: You may have noticed that all this is premised on N removal when the crop is harvested. Check out the latest UC crop projection guides, everything is analyzed from tractor hours, to water, fertilizer and market conditions, with no mention of N removal. Seems this is well known for almonds and maybe pistachios, not lettuce or strawberries. So Region 5 saw a need, and knew how to fill it; require the Coalitions to submit a Crop Nitrogen Knowledge Gap Study Plan. All that is required is to "describe the current understanding of crop nitrogen uptake and removal, recommended methods for calculating nitrogen removal that will be provided to (your) growers, and identify any gaps" by December 18, 2015. Talk about an unfunded mandate.

Central Coast is concerned, why? It was clear from the Expert Panel there is no standard, or even aspirational goal, for an A/R ratio for most vegetable crops. But lack of knowledge should never stand in the way of oppressive regulation. It is easy for one Water Board to crib from a sibling. The Central Coast RWQCB delayed the start of discussions on a new Ag Order from March to October. Certainly the A/R for coastal crops will be a hot topic this fall, kind of gives a new meaning October Fest.



For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream.
Vincent Van Gogh



FAVORITE RECIPES

Tomato Basil Bisque

This recipe comes from **Cynthia Mathiesen**, Past Farm Bureau President. I am sure it would make a delicious addition to any cool spring evening meal. Thank you for sharing Cynthia!

1 cup celery, chopped
¾ cup carrots, chopped
¼ cup yellow onion, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh garlic, minced
1 tablespoon butter
3 cups tomato juice
1 cup chicken broth
1 (7½ ounce) can diced tomatoes

1 (3 ounce) can tomato paste
1 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
½ teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
½ teaspoon ground pepper
1 cup whipping cream
4 teaspoons cane sugar
¼ cup fresh basil
Optional topping: basil pesto, basil leaves



In a large saucepan cook celery, carrots, onion, and garlic in butter until vegetables are tender, but not brown.

Add tomato juice, chicken broth, undrained tomatoes, tomato paste, basil, oregano, and pepper. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, about 30 minutes or until slightly thickened.

Place half of the soup in a blender container or food processor bowl. Cover; blend or process until smooth. Repeat with remaining mixture.

Return all of the mixture to the saucepan. Stir in whipping cream and sugar; heat through. Stir in fresh basil. Ladle into warm soup bowls. Top each serving with some of the pesto and garnish with fresh basil leaves, if you like. Makes 8 side-dish servings.

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

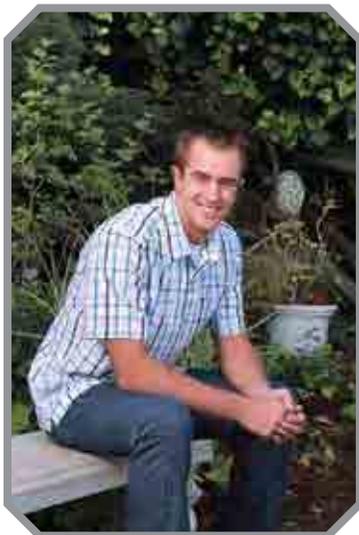
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This award is named after **Al Smith** who was the founder of Orchard Supply Hardware and donated 3,000 acres (Swanton Pacific Ranch) on our north coast to Cal Poly. The ranch has row crops, timber and even a one-third-scale railroad, which was Al's hobby. The award is on a piece of redwood with a train depicted on it. It is presented annually to an individual, business or organization not involved in production agriculture, who has done much for the industry.

The **National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon** was a successful event with over 200 guests attending. The Master of Ceremonies was Farm Bureau President **David Van Lennep**. Other highlights of the day included the presentation of the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship to **Matt Clifton**. The presentation was made by **John Pisturino**, Vice-President of **Agri-Culture**. Also, featured was the announcement of the 2015 Poster Contest winner Owen Frederick Witmer of Bradley Elementary School in Watsonville and 2015 Poetry Contest winner Autumn Burchell of Creekside School in Santa Cruz. Both awards were presented by **Wendy O'Donovan** and **Cynthia Mathiesen**, co-chairs of the Public Relations & Information Committee. The featured speaker of the day was **Laurel Jones**, President of Cabrillo College who spoke about "Something is Always Cooking at Cabrillo College - An Update on Culinary Arts At Your Community College". **Jim Warren**, 101 Livestock Auction, served as the Auctioneer for the State Fair Booth Auction.

For more coverage and pictures of the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon and it's festivities, please flip to page 6.

JIMMIE COX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED TO...



Matt Clifton

The winner of the 2015 **Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship** is **Matt Clifton**. The announcement was made at the National Ag Day Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, March 18th at Heritage Hall on the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. This annual event is sponsored by the **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau** and **Agri-Culture**.

This scholarship is awarded to a student majoring in agriculture. Matt is currently in his first year at California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo. He was accepted to Cal Poly after graduating from St. Francis High School in May 2014. Matt received scholastic honors every year during high school. He also played football in high school and was one of the team's co-captains. As a quarterback, Matt broke several school records. At Cal Poly, Matt is majoring in Agricultural Business.

Agri-Culture President **Steve Bontadelli** stated, "There were many outstanding applicants this year, we wish we could have given them all a scholarship." Bontadelli further stated, "Matt is an outstanding individual. He is a well-rounded student. He will be a great addition to the agriculture community when he finishes college."

Starting in 2012, Agri-Culture announced a partnership with **American AgCredit**. The recipient of the **Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship** also receives an additional \$2,000 award from the **American AgCredit Scholarship Program**. This brings the total scholarship amount that Matt will receive to \$4,000.

For more information about the **Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship**, please contact **Agri-Culture** at 722-6622 or see the website at www.agri-culture.us



Autumn Burchell, a ninth grade student at Creekside School in Santa Cruz won the 2015 Poetry Contest for a second year in a row. She read her poem, *The Best of the Best*, during the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon on March 18th. She will receive a \$200 award and her poem will again grace the National Ag Day Placemat in 2016.

Owen Frederick Witmer, a 6th grade student at Bradley Elementary School in Watsonville won the 2015 Poster Contest. Owen attended the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon and was presented with a certificate. He will receive a \$200 award. His winning poster will be the centerpiece of the National Agriculture Day Placemat in 2016. More than 20,000 placemats will be distributed to many restaurants throughout the county which will be used during National Agriculture Week in March of 2016.



Photo Credits - Pamela Mathiesen

See a complete list of contest winners on Page 8

RCPP Funds Available to Forward Water Conservation Efforts

The Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County recently entered into a cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to jointly carry out a program that addresses water issues in the Pajaro Valley. Federal funding in the amount of \$636,740 is being made available over the next three to four years for both technical and financial assistance through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. The program will also leverage significant partner contributions.

The program will be in line with the water issues identified by the grower initiated Pajaro Valley Community Water Dialogue. The primary resource concern to be addressed is water supply affected by inefficient use of irrigation water

and declining groundwater quantity and quality. The Pajaro Valley currently has an aquifer overdraft estimated at 12,000 acre feet per year with resulting seawater intrusion (*Note: one acre foot equals approximately 327,000 gallons*).

The RCPP will implement an innovative management approach to reduce groundwater pumping and increase aquifer recharge. Additionally, the program will address surface and groundwater quality by reducing nitrate runoff or leaching as well as reducing erosion and sedimentation.

For more information about RCPP and how to receive assistance for agricultural water conservation projects contact Rich Casale with NRCS at 475-1967 or Lisa Lurie with the RCD at 464-2950 x 27.

Poster & Poetry Contest Winners

Poster Contest Winners:

1st Place - **Owen Frederick Witmer** - 6th Grade,
Bradley Elementary School, Watsonville

2nd Place - **Luis Angel Bedolla Silva** - 3rd Grade
Ann Soldo Elementary School, Watsonville

3rd Place - **Alyssa Burchell** - 5th Grade
Creekside School, Santa Cruz

Honorable Mention

Eddie Saldana, 1st Grade, Ann Soldo Elementary School
Carlos Bega, 2nd Grade, Calabasas Elementary School
Jose Rocha, 2nd Grade, Calabasas Elementary School
Daniela Rojas, 4th Grade, Salesian Sisters School
Giselle Grió, 4th Grade, Pacific Coast Charter School
Ethan Smith, 1st Grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School
Sofia Marie Martin, 5th Grade, Bradley Elementary School
Mariah Segura, 5th Grade, Bradley Elementary School
Zoe Foster, 5th Grade, Soquel Elementary School
Mia Klein, 5th Grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School

Poetry Contest Winners:

1st Place & Overall Winner - **Autumn Burchell** - 9th Grade
"The Best of the Best"
Creekside School, Santa Cruz

2nd Place - **Elise Cline** - 7th Grade
"Agriculture in Monterey Bay"
Monte Vista Christian School, Watsonville

3rd Place - **Joel Burchell** - 7th Grade
"Lettuce Grow"
Creekside School, Santa Cruz

Honorable Mention

Roberto Nunez, 7th Grade, Monte Vista Christian School
Delayna McCormack, 7th Grade, Monte Vista Christian School
Delaney Grune, 10th Grade, Monte Vista Christian School

The Best of the Best

By Autumn Burchell

Luscious berries, ripe and sweet
Loads of nature's jewels to eat
Crisp, crunchy apples in the fall
In summer, greens enjoyed by all
And many more treats! Do you know why?
Anyone here can testify.
In Santa Cruz and the Pajaro Valley
Growing great produce is right up our alley.
You'll be dying for a single bite
Of delicious, farm-grown, juicy delight!
So why are we sitting here? Time is wasting!
Come for a visit and we'll get to tasting!



Pictured left: The winning National Ag Day poem written by Autumn Burchell, 9th grade, Creekside School

Pictured above: The winning National Ag Day poster drawn by Owen Frederick Witmer, 6th grade, Bradley Elementary School

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

and environmental sense. This stewardship is practiced every day by landowners who can balance the values of economics and environment.

The bottom line is, regardless of what you call it, conservation or preservation, the model of maintaining thoughtful utilization of the land and resources is becoming more in vogue. This is largely due to the recognition of intrinsic societal and economic values of maintaining the productive nature of lands, which is often the best and highest use. The old-fashioned model of purchase and lock up may be giving way to a more flexible and palatable form of conservation that encourages the working nature of the landscape.

Correction:

In the March newsletter, the article announcing Class XXVI of Focus Agriculture had the incorrect job title for Jon Sisk. His correct title is: SVP - Director of Real Estate/Construction, Santa Cruz County Bank.

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Agriculture News

A Farm Team Alert: Without Immigration Solution, No E-Verify

Take Action to tell Congress to oppose the Legal Workforce Act, H.R. 1147, a bill mandating agricultural employers to use the E-Verify system to prove employment eligibility for agricultural workers. The bill DOES NOT include an effective and workable immigration solution and will therefore lead to disaster for California agriculture.

In California, the agriculture industry relies on about 400,000 employees during peak season. Some experts estimate that 70% or more of hired farm employees responsible for America's fruit, vegetable, dairy, livestock, nursery plant, and other production are, in fact, not authorized to work in the United States.

If Congress imposes mandatory E-Verify without a workable solution to provide the industry with a legal workforce, American agricultural production and the on-farm and off-farm jobs that go with it will be sent to other countries. This will devastate California's \$40 billion agriculture industry and leave fertile agricultural land to turn to waste.

A workable solution must include a plan for workers presently working in California agriculture, and create a visa program for the industry's future workforce needs. Mandatory E-Verify without providing a solution to our broken immigration system, is NO solution at all

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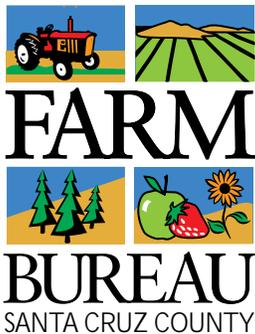
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VOLUME 39, ISSUE 4



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A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8
YF&R meeting

FRIDAY - APRIL 10
Focus Agriculture, Session 2

THURSDAY - APRIL 16
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission

THURSDAY - APRIL 30
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - MAY 6

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

FRIDAY - MAY 8
Focus Agriculture, Session 2

MONDAY - MAY 11
Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - MAY 13
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 14
Down to Earth Women
Luncheon, Rancho Corralitos,
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
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