

Between the Furrows

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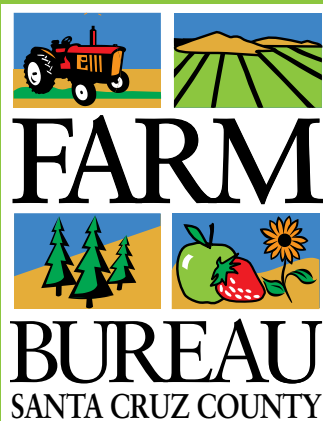
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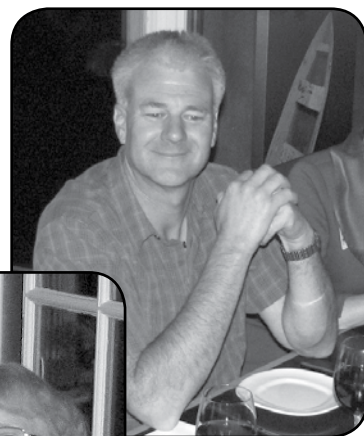
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A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

Annual Directors' Dinner

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Recognizes Its Own

The Annual Directors' Dinner and Meeting was held in November at the Stockton Bridge Grille in Capitola By the Sea. President John Eiskamp reviewed the very busy year. Appreciation was given individually to each board member for their time and dedication. Two new directors were welcomed; Thomas Broz and J.J. Scurich whose terms commenced on November 1st. President Eiskamp thanked outgoing directors George Marciel and Dick Peixoto for their service and presented them with an engraved desk clock. Recognition for perfect attendance was given to



John Eiskamp,
Dick Peixoto
and Chris
Enright. Special
recognition
was given to
President John
Eiskamp for his

many hours for service. The evening was
completed with a wonderful meal and a
chance for the board members, spouses
and staff to enjoy each other's company.

Pictured Above: (Top Right) Santa Cruz County Farm
Bureau President John Eiskamp
(Center L-R) Directors Carmelo Sicairos and Nita
Gizdich
(Bottom Left L-R) 1st Vice-President Chris Enright,
Directors James Nagamine and Chris Thomsen



Pictured Above: (L,R) Denise Bissell and CFBF
District 10 Director Matthew Bissell



At Left (L-R) Frank Prevedelli and Director Silvia
Prevedelli



President's Message

John E. Eiskamp, President

**2009/2010
Board of Directors**

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JOHN E. EISKAMP

PRESIDENT, STATE DELEGATE, BERRIES

CHRIS ENRIGHT

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT,

STATE DELEGATE, ORCHIDS

DAVE CAVANAUGH

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT,

ALTERNATE STATE DELEGATE, NURSERY

STEVE BONTADELLI

PAST PRESIDENT, ALTERNATE STATE DELEGATE,

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

DIRECTORS

STEVE AUTEN

Swanton Pacific Ranch

TOM BROZ Organic Vegetables

MARC CERVANTES Strawberries

FRANK ESTRADA Cattle

NITA GIZDICH Apples

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN Berries

JAMES NAGAMINE Cut Flowers

JOHN PISTURINO Cattle

SILVIA PREVEDELLI Apples

ROBERT RODONI Vegetables

J. J. SCURICH Berries

CARMELO SICAIROS Berries

CHRIS THOMSEN Mushrooms

DAVID VAN LENNEP Timber

JANET WEBB Timber

EX-OFFICIO

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CFBF District 10 Director

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ELIZABETH GIANNINI

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ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Office Assistant

MARY WALTER

Newsletter Editor

Year End

It's December and the year is coming to a close. For those of us in the berry business, production has been average to slightly better but the markets have been challenging at times. We have also faced difficulties in battling pest problems. Like my grandfather used to say when talking of the challenges of farming berries: "The rain gets some, the bugs get some and the birds get some and we get what's left." At least in dealing with issues that affect production, we have some measure of control. When it comes to markets and pricing, we often have little, if any, influence. That is one of the aspects that make farming unique and often challenging.

We have had a busy year at Farm Bureau also. We have dealt with water and funding of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, issues with the proposed Atkinson Lane annexation and the environmental impact report associated with it, and proposed open space preservation legislation. In these cases, we have not always been supportive of the direction the associated agencies have proposed to

pursue. We will continue to work with these various organizations to ensure that the directions they ultimately pursue include provisions to ensure the viability of agriculture in our valley. Our role is not only to say "no" but provide direction so progress can be made without serious negative impacts on our industry.

As I write this, we are preparing to attend California Farm Bureau's annual meeting. This year, there is a great possibility of major changes in the leadership of our state organization. Hopefully this doesn't interfere with the hard work Farm Bureau does at both the state and federal levels in assuring the interests of agriculture are protected in current and future legislation. I'll provide an update of this year's meeting in next month's newsletter.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members Happy Holidays and a sincere thank you for your support in the past and the future. We look forward to continuing the fight to protect our industry in the upcoming New Year.

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Opportunities And Challenges Of Cooperation In The Commons

Many natural resources, from fisheries to fresh water, are considered "common pool" resources (CPRs) because their management and use by an individual are impractical. The conventional wisdom is that such resources are destined for overuse because individuals will act in narrow self-interest without regard for the negative, cumulative impacts that may result. The favored – and often presumed only – solutions to this "tragedy of the commons" are privatization or government management.

In October, Indiana University political scientist Elinor Ostrom was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for her work showing that the tragedy of the commons is not inevitable, and that privatization and state management are neither the only nor the best solutions in many cases. Under the right conditions, people and communities can cooperate in the commons. They do this by designing, implementing and enforcing their own *institutions* – social norms, rules and strategies – to govern resource use and mitigate overexploitation.

Ostrom's first study focused on water management in southern California, where saltwater intrusion threatened an important groundwater basin. She documented local efforts to form a water association to solve the problem, with diverse individuals cooperating to protect a CPR. Later studies showed similarly positive results in different settings.

Cooperation in the commons is challenging to develop and sustain, but under the right circumstances, such efforts, resource users and the resources they depend on can thrive. Based on analyses of thousands of case studies from around the world, Ostrom has identified sev-

eral "design principles" that are key to successful CPR institutions. These include: clearly defined boundaries and rules, adequate conflict resolution mechanisms, monitoring and enforcement managed by the resource users themselves or someone accountable to them, sanctions that are mild for a first violation and stricter for repeated violations, and democratic processes that allow users to modify the rules.

CPR institutions are more likely to work in smaller communities and groups, where people know one another and can insure cooperation. But local institutions can be undercut by larger, external forces. For example, growers who work together to coordinate use of limited water supplies can be thwarted by the activities of upstream users. So it is also critical that outside authorities recognize the rights of users to self-organize, to reduce the chance that outside interests will over-run the local system. Moreover, cooperation on a smaller scale can lay the foundation for cooperation on a larger scale, with institutions built from the ground up.

In the current economic environment, it is easy to forget that people can work together for the common good, and that difficult circumstances can foster and strengthen local institutions. In honoring Elinor Ostrom, the Nobel Prize committee reminds us that it is part of human nature for people to cooperate, resolve conflicts and manage limited resources.

For more information about California fisheries and fishing communities – and institutions for common pool resource management – please contact Carrie Pomeroy at cmpomeroy@ucdavis.edu.

Let Laura hear from you!

If you have a question for Laura Tourte or her staff regarding home gardens, yards, crops, pest control or other related subjects, please send it to us or contact the

U.C. Cooperative Extension at
(831) 763-8040.



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