



Small Farm News

VOLUME I
2002

SMALL FARM CENTER • COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Public Supports Farmers and Conservation

by Richard Rominger, Yolo County farmer and former U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary



A recent nationwide poll of registered voters showed that Americans value farmland and support the farmers and ranchers who operate those farms and ranches. Three fourths of the lower 48 states are in private ownership, so it is important to all of us how those lands are being managed.

Farmers and ranchers understand better than anyone how fragile and irreplaceable the land is, and they want to do all they can to protect it. They will do their share to protect it, but it can be expensive, and they could use some support. The poll respondents want to help them protect our natural resources. We were able to increase the support while I was at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), but not enough. Roughly three out of four farmers and ranchers who ask for help from most conservation programs are out of luck because of lack of funds.

The voters who responded to the poll evidently understand this. The Public Opinion Laboratory of Northern Illinois University conducted the poll for the American Farmland Trust. Nearly eight in 10 Americans know of the federal farm payments that some farmers receive. And they support those payments. More than three-quarters (78 percent) said they approve of payments made to farmers to offset low market prices for farm products. Even more, 88 percent, support payments to farmers to help them stay in business through times of flood or drought. However, they would like to get something in return. Nearly 85 percent think farmers receiving federal aid should be required to apply conservation practices, or that those who did so should get more of the money.

This support is not just theoretical. Sixty-three percent said they would be willing to forgo part of a federal income tax rebate if the money were put toward protection of waterways, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Nearly 60 percent said they are willing to pay higher property or sales taxes to help farmers ensure safer drinking water, 49 percent would pay more in taxes to protect from development farms that grow produce in their area; and 40 percent would pay more taxes simply to protect particularly scenic farmlands.

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America's Diverse Family Farms

Farms vary widely in size and other characteristics, ranging from very small retirement and residential farms to establishments with sales in the millions. A farm typology developed by the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) categorizes farms into fairly homogenous groups for policy development and evaluation purposes. The following typology is based on the occupation of operators and the sales class of farms.

DEFINING THE FARM TYPOLOGY GROUPS

TYPES OF SMALL FAMILY FARMS (sales less than \$250,000)*

Limited-resource. Any small farm with gross sales less than \$100,000, total farm assets less than \$150,000, and total operator household income less than \$20,000. Limited-resource farmers may report farming, a nonfarm occupation, or retirement as their major occupation.

Retirement. Small farms whose operators report that they are retired (excludes limited-resource farms operated by retired farmers).

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Director's Message

Farm Policy for the 21st Century

The last time our Congress met to craft a "Farm Bill," they came up with an instrument that was designed to free the American farmer to "feed the world." Ostensibly, the farm bill would



Desmond Jolly

deregulate production decisions — enabling production decisions to be more influenced by market prices. Government support prices would gradually be decreased, and farmers would take more responsibility for their supply decisions by making greater use of risk management tools.

The robust world agricultural market that yielded record high prices in the mid 1990s abruptly turned south by 1998. As a result, a new farm crisis erupted in the middle of a general economic boom, causing Congress to deliver large, unscheduled emergency payments to farmers — some \$80 billion during a four year period from 1997 to 2000.

Some argue that restraints of trade keep us out of some markets — using "the level playing field" argument. And, no doubt, there is some truth to this

argument. Yet, it is not altogether clear that in all product lines we are the most efficient producers.

Even in the absence of import restraints or export subsidies, it appears that in some lines of production, we are losing market share for purely economic reasons. Some critics argue that our farm policy, particularly price subsidies, have helped to erode our competitiveness.

Other concerns about our agricultural future include: growing concentration of production among a small percentage of farm operations, skewed distribution of subsidies towards this same small percentage of farmers (8 percent of farms receive 50 percent of subsidies), weakening of rural communities, environmental and social impacts of "efficient" farming practices, and increased concentration of market power in the food chain, from first handler through retail.

Towards 21st Century Policy

The next farm bill will, in all likelihood, lock in place for at least a decade the general contours of public policy towards agriculture and rural communities. Those who have challenged the existing pattern of farm policy include former U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan

Glickman and his successor, Ann Veneman.

This issue also includes an article written by former U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Director Richard Rominger that points to a needed evolution in our farm policy orientation. An article we have reprinted with permission from the San Francisco Chronicle should also help shed light on the effects of farm policy measures on various agricultural regions and on environmental management.

Senator Tom Harkin has proposed a \$100,000 limit on subsidies. This limit would move the distribution of subsidies in a more equitable direction and provide a safety net without radically distorting the operation of the market. While we cannot provide in one newsletter sufficient information to enable a full understanding of Farm Bill 2002, we encourage you to plug into the deliberations, and if you feel the need, add your voice to the discussion. Contact information for Senate and House Agricultural Committee policymakers is provided on page 7.

MOST FARM HOUSEHOLD INCOME IS FROM OFF-FARM SOURCES

	PRIMARY OCCUPATION				ALL FARM HOUSEHOLDS	
	FARMING		OTHER		1996	1999
	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999
	PER \$1,000					
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME	48	55	52	70	50	64
Farming	19	21	-2	-3	8	6
Other sources	30	34	55	73	42	58
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES	23	23	24	25	24	24
	PERCENT OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS					
OPERATOR'S PRIMARY OCCUPATION	49	38	51	62	100	100
SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH EXPENDITURES GREATER THAN TOTAL INCOME	32	27	25	14	29	19

Some totals do not add due to rounding. Source: Agricultural Resource Management Study, USDA Economic Research Service.

Program News

Welcome

Gillian Brady, a public relations, marketing and legal professional, joins the Small Farm Center staff to work with farmers interested in agri-tourism. Brady, an attorney who specialized in human rights and immigration law, will help the Center with its agri-tourism efforts that include two web sites, one with information for farmers interested in agri-tourism (www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/agritourism.agritour.htm) and another that guides the general public to agri-tourism operations in California (www.calagtour.org). Farmers and ranchers interested in agri-tourism should contact Brady at (530) 752-7779, gabrady@ucdavis.edu.



Gillian Brady

Aziz Baameur joins the Small Farm Program as a specialty crops and small farm advisor housed in the UC Cooperative Extension, Santa Clara County office and serving San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. He brings 17 years of experience as a vegetable and field crops advisor for UC Cooperative Extension in Riverside County. In his new position, Baameur will help small farmers, particularly growers new to U.S. agriculture, to understand new systems, improve production, and grow and market healthy crops in this urban-rural environment.



Aziz Baameur

Michael Cahn, farm advisor, joins UC Cooperative Extension, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties, as the new water resources and irrigation advisor. Cahn served most recently as a farm advisor in vegetable crops and irrigation in Sutter and Yuba counties.

Visitors

Five leaders of agricultural cooperatives, farming operations and allied industries recently visited the Small Farm Center from **Gnjilane, Kosovo**, to gather information about the Small Farm Program and its processes. The Center also welcomed a **Korean** sustainable agriculture delegation composed of 19 farmers, six agricultural officers, and two scientists; and 17 leaders of agricultural schools, farming operations, provincial and district administrations from **China's Xinjiang Province, Qinghai District, and Inner Mongolia**.

Traveling

Richard Molinar, farm advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno County, was invited to attend a banquet in New York City sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation entitled "Taste of the New American Farm." Molinar brought samples of specialty Asian vegetables for a table display at the banquet, held December 2001.

Publication Makes Top Ten List

The Small Farm Program's **Specialty and Minor Crops Handbook** made the top ten best seller list in December 2001 for publications sold by the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Catalog. Free sample crop sheets are available at www.sfc.ucdavis.edu (click on Specialty Crops). To order the publication, call the UC Small Farm Center at (530) 752-8136.



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The Small Farm Center links those who need information on small-scale farming with those who have the information. The Center produces publications and a newsletter; sponsors conferences and seminars; holds a library of periodicals, reports and books; gives referrals; and answers numerous requests for information.

Readers are encouraged to send us information, express views, and contact us for assistance. Mention of a specific product is intended for the reader's information or as an example of a similar product — not as a recommendation for that specific product.

Guest Column

Fate of Huge Farm Bill Crucial to California/Environmental Funding Pitted Against Billions More in Subsidies

Carolyn Lochhead, Chronicle Washington Bureau, San Francisco Chronicle.

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<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2001/12/06/MN153681.DTL>



Small family farmers receive few subsidy dollars, but may be eligible for funding to preserve land, air and water quality, and aid wildlife.

“While the money is spent in the name of family farms, small farms are not its main recipients.”



Vegetable crops like these growing in California's Carmel Valley are excluded from farm subsidies.



Historically, farm subsidies have been distributed primarily to the country's grain growers.



Public Supports — FROM PAGE 1

What are the reasons for this strong support? One of the most obvious and most basic reasons, perhaps, is that 81 percent said they want their food to come from American farms. But food and fiber is just one reason why American voters say they value farmland, ranchland and forests. More than 80 percent said they value that land for the habitat it provides to wildlife such as pheasants, ducks and other animals. Three-quarters said it is important for the scenic vistas it provides, and nearly 60 percent consider it an important recreational resource. Most Americans still feel a strong bond to the land.

Congress and the Administration have a chance to respond. They are now considering legislation to determine farm policy for the next 10 years. The House of Representatives has passed a Farm Bill under the leadership of Larry Combest, a Republican from Texas, who is chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Charlie Stenholm, a Democrat from Texas. The bill had bipartisan support in the House. However, the Administration, with the support of Ann Veneman, who grew up on a peach farm near Modesto, California, did not support the bill, and wants a broader farm program, including more money for conservation programs, that would help more farmers, and more areas of the country, not just those who produce the major commodities like corn, wheat, cotton, rice and soybeans.

The Administration also wants more money for infrastructure, including better protection of our borders from foreign pests and diseases, a beefed up surveillance system to quickly detect any pest or disease in the U.S., whether it got here by natural means or terrorist activity, and more money for agricultural research. The

House bill did some of this, but mainly increased money for the traditional major commodities. A bipartisan amendment



Scenic farm vistas such as this one are valued by three quarters of the Americans who responded to the American Farmland Trust poll.

on the House floor to shift money from commodity programs to conservation programs was defeated 226 to 200.

The Senate is now beginning consideration of a bill under the leadership of



Americans value farmland not only for the food it produces, but also for the habitat it provides for wildlife such as pheasants, ducks and other animals.

Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, the chairman of the Senate Agriculture committee, and Richard Lugar, a Republican from Indiana. Senator Harkin would like more funds for conservation, including stewardship payments to farmers and ranchers doing a better job of preventing soil erosion, protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat.

A lot of money is at stake. The House bill proposes 170 billion dollars for farm payments over the next 10 years. After the Senate passes a Farm Bill, they will meet with the House to resolve differences between the bills. And then President Bush will either sign the bill or veto it and send it back to Congress to try to get more changes. I believe it will be difficult for the President to veto the Farm Bill if the House and Senate agree on one and send it to him for his signature.

I believe those in Washington, D.C. involved in the debate should listen to voters like those who responded to the poll, and include more conservation money in the final bill. ■

Reprinted with permission: Woodland Daily Democrat, October 22, 2001.

America's Diverse Family Farms – FROM PAGE 1

Residential/lifestyle. Small farms whose operators report a major occupation other than farming (excludes limited-resource farms with operators reporting a nonfarm major occupation).

Farming-occupation/low-sales. Small farms with less than \$100,000 whose operators report farming as their major occupation (excludes limited-resource farms with operators reporting farming as their major occupation).

Farming-occupation/high-sales. Small farms with sales between \$100,000 and \$249,000 whose operators report farming as their major occupation.

OTHER FAMILY FARMS

Large family farms. Farms with sales between \$250,000-\$499,000.

Very large family farms. Farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

NONFAMILY FARMS

Nonfamily farms. Farms organized as nonfamily corporations or cooperatives, as well as farms operated by hired managers.

*The \$250,000 cutoff for small farms was suggested by the National Commission on Small Farms.

FARMS, LAND, AND PRODUCTION

Most farms are small, and most farmland is on small farms, but small farms account for less than a third of the value of agricultural production.

- In 1998, 91 percent of farms were small, and small farms accounted for 68 percent of the land owned by farmers.

- Large family farms, very large family farms, and nonfamily farms accounted for 66 percent of production in 1998. ■

Source: Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms: 2001 Family Farm Report. Economic Research Service/USDA. Available online at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib768>.



Thomas Hwang, a former international stock trader, farms Asian vegetables full-time in Riverside County, California.

POLICY MAKERS CONTACT INFORMATION

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
SR-328A Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510-6000
Phone: (202) 224-2035
<http://agriculture.senate.gov>

U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
California representatives include:

Joe Baca, 42nd District
1133 Longworth HOB
Washington DC 20515; (202) 225-6161
California phone: (909) 885-2222
<http://www.house.gov/baca>

Gary Condit, 18th District
2234 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515; (202) 225-6131
California phone: (209) 527-1914
<http://www.house.gov/gcondit>

Cal Dooley, 20th District
1201 Longworth Bldg.
Washington DC 20515; (202) 225-3341
California phone: (800) 464-4294
<http://www.house.gov/dooley/>

Richard Pombo, 11th District
2411 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515; (202) 225-1947
California phone: (209) 951-3091
<http://www.house.gov/pombo/>

Doug Ose, 3rd District
215 Cannon HOB
Washington DC 20515; (202) 225-5716
California phone: (530) 669-3540
<http://www.house.gov/ose>

Mike Thompson, 1st District
119 Cannon HOB
Washington DC 20515; (202) 225-3311
California phone: (707) 226-9898
<http://www.house.gov/mthompson>

Search for your representative by zip code at <http://www.house.gov/writerep>.

statewide events



Woodlake Pride Field Day

For the past decade, Manuel Jimenez, small farm advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Tulare County, has devoted tremendous effort to a youth development project called "Woodlake Pride," based in the community of Woodlake, California. Using gardening and agriculture as tools, Manuel and his wife Olga have focused the attention and energy of many Woodlake youths on constructive projects that include beautification of the city's streets and a carefully tended demonstration garden.



these photos were taken. Visitors viewed 12 types of squash, a 5-foot long luffa, 20 eggplant varieties, 50 pepper varieties and 10 tomato varieties, as well as muskmelons, watermelons, and Brussels sprouts. The garden also boasts Asian specialty vegetables, herbs, and edible and non-edible flowers.

Field day visitors also heard vegetable farm advisors, specialists and other experts speak on specialty vegetables, drip irrigation, agricultural plastics, and integrated pest management. Tulare County Master Gardeners were on hand to answer individual gardening questions.

Woodlake Pride represents a remarkable embodiment of community involvement and collaboration amongst diverse groups and organizations that contribute materials, time and money. The next stage of development involves expansion into a botanical preserve, with plans for an even greater diversity of plants. Congratulations to Manual and Olga Jimenez, the teenagers and young children of Woodlake Pride, and the community of Woodlake for their outstanding and ongoing achievement. ■



From its small initial start, the project and its garden have grown dramatically. During a field day held in October 2001, Manuel, Olga, and Woodlake



Pride members showed off more than 500 cultivars on a five-acre plot where

New Agritourism Publications Available

A Primer on Agritourism and Ecotourism Startups and Management offers farmers and ranchers an introductory view of the issues involved in starting an agritourism or ecotourism enterprise.

Produced by the UC Small Farm Center and members of the UC Agritourism and Nature Tourism Workgroup, the publication is in binder format and includes handouts and other information shared at agritourism workshops. Cost: \$20 plus tax and shipping.

Agritourism and Nature Tourism in California is a how-to manual for farmers, ranchers, and the professionals who work with them. Useful as a train-the-trainer tool, the publication walks readers through the process of starting and maintaining an agritourism or nature tourism enterprise. Details range from a current evaluation of California tourism trends to evaluating your farm or ranch as a potential agritourism or nature tourism enterprise. Cost: \$25 plus tax and shipping.

Both publications are available from the Small Farm Center. To order, call (530) 752-8136.



Also available:

The Small Farm Handbook, a practical guide that covers topics including livestock and crop production, buying property and equipment, dealing with taxes and regulations, and marketing farm and ranch products.

Cost: \$15 plus tax and shipping. To order, call the Small Farm Center at (530) 752-8136.

publications

resources



web sites

Food and Agricultural Policy: Taking Stock for the New Century, a USDA report published in September 2001, presents the Bush administration's blueprint for future farm legislation. The 112-page report envisions market oriented and environmentally friendly policies as high priorities for U.S. agriculture. Cost: download is free: <http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/farmpolicy01/fpindex.htm>. Contact: Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20401, toll free: (866) 512-1800.

Making Changes: Turning Local Visions into National Solutions details the recommendations generated by participants in the five-year Agriculture Policy Project of the Henry A. Wallace Center for Agricultural and Environmental Policy. The project engaged people at the local, regional, and national levels in the development of long-term, proactive policies for food and agriculture systems. Cost: download is free: <http://www.winrock.org/wallacecenter/makingchanges.pdf>. Contact: Agricultural Policy Project, 1621 N. Kent St. Suite 1200, Henry A. Wallace Center for Agricultural and Environmental Policy, Winrock International, Arlington VA 22209-2134; (703) 525-9430.

2002 Farm Bill: U.S. Producer Preferences for Agricultural, Food and Public Policy, produced by the National Public Policy Education Committee, presents results of a nationwide opinion poll indicating what farmers and ranchers want in the 2002 Farm Bill. The survey, conducted by land grant universities and agricultural statistics services in participating states, involved farmers and ranchers of all types and farm sizes in 27 states. Cost: download is free: http://www.farmfoundation.org/2002_farm_bill.htm. Contact: Farm Foundation, 1211 West 22nd St., Suite 216, Oakbrook, IL 60523-2197; (630) 571-9393.

The 2002 Farm Bill: Policy Options and Consequences, also available from the Farm Foundation, is a compilation of 39 farm bill related issue papers on topics ranging from farm safety policies to the conservation reserve and commodity promotion programs, written by 80 experts from universities and government agencies. Download is free: http://www.farmfoundation.org/2002_farm_bill.htm.

NFACT Report: Framework for the Future of Agriculture presents national agricultural policy recommendations from the departments of agriculture from New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, California, and Texas, (NFACT). The 44-page downloadable report contains the results of a two-year information gathering process undertaken by NFACT that included listening sessions to gather input from agricultural, environmental, and academic communities. Cost: download is free: <http://www.NFACT.org/>. Contact: California Department of Agriculture, 1220 N. Street, Suite 409, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 654-0433.

Using Farm-Sector Income as a Policy Benchmark, an article published in the Economic Research Service, USDA (ERS/USDA) Agricultural Outlook June/July 2001 publication, examines how well the current farm-sector income data reflect the actual financial needs of farmers and their families. Cost: download is free: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AgOutlook/June2001/ao282f.pdf>. Contact: Mary Reardon, managing editor, Agricultural Outlook, ERS/USDA, (202) 694-5136.

Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms, also available from ERS/USDA, provides details about the structural and financial characteristics of various types of family farms in the U.S. Cost: download is free: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib768/>. Contact: USDA Order Desk, (800) 999-6779.

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture

<http://agriculture.senate.gov/Agriculture/agriculture.html>

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

<http://agriculture.house.gov/>

Official California Legislative Information

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

Farm Bill Network: Farm Bill 2002

<http://fb-net.org/FB/>

Federal Legislative Information on the Internet

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

The White House

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Center for Rural Affairs: 2002 Farm Bill

http://www.cfra.org/resources/2002_FarmBill.htm

National Center for Agricultural Law: Farm Bill 2002

<http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/farmstat2002.htm>

California Department of Food and Agriculture: Specialty Crop Block Grant

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/cdfa/scbg>

USDA Farmer Direct Marketing

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/directmarketing>

Sacramento Regional Center for International Trade Development

<http://Sacramentocitd.org>

University of California Spanish Language Web Site

<http://ucanr.org/spanish/spindex.shtml>

Farmboy Trader

<http://www.farmboytrader.com>

news notes



■ What is a farm bill? The U.S. House Committee on Agriculture web site glossary (<http://agriculture.house.gov/secgloss/f.htm>) provides this definition: "a phrase that refers to a multi-year, multi-commodity federal support law." The farm bill usually amends some and suspends many provisions of permanent law, reauthorizes, amends or repeals provisions of preceding temporary agricultural acts, and puts forth new policy provisions for a limited time into the future. Farm bills in chronological order include: 1) Food and Agriculture Act of 1965. 2) Agricultural Act of 1970. 3) Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. 4) Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. 5) Agriculture and Food Act of 1981. 6) Food Security Act of 1985. 7) Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. 8) Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

■ Results from the **2002 Farm Bill: U.S. Producer Preferences for Agricultural, Food and Public Policy Survey**, noted in the Resources section on page 9, indicate that a majority of respondents favor targeting farm and rural credit programs to beginning farmers and low income farms and rural areas. A total of 81 percent of respondents also believe income support programs should be targeted to small farms.

Additional findings include: 77 percent of respondents believe that anti trust laws and merger reviews should be enforced and strengthened; and respondents strongly favored government incentives for water quality protection, soil erosion prevention, farmland preservation, and biofuels development in agricultural conservation programs. For more details, download the free report from <http://www.farmfoundation.org/projects/01-34.htm>, or contact Farm Foundation, 1211 West 22nd St., Suite 216, Oakbrook, IL 60523-2197; (630) 571-9393.

■ A new online database at <http://www.ewg.org/farm> analyzing USDA farm subsidy payment records reports that the top 10 percent of farmers received 70 percent of the payments, or \$48 billion out of \$60 billion, spent on crop subsidies during 1996-2000.

Compiled by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a nonprofit environmental research group based in Washington, D.C., the database results also indicate that subsidy payments only go to support 20 percent of the nation's total agricultural production value. Less than one third of the total farm acreage in the U.S. is devoted to eight subsidized crops, including corn, wheat, cotton and rice, and only 33-40 percent of U.S. farmers receive subsidy payments.

The database is searchable by individual name, zip code, county or municipality, and includes 70 million records of farm subsidy checks from the last five years.

■ Farmers and UC Cooperative Extension farm advisors testified in October 2001 at specialty crop block-grant hearings held throughout California by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

The hearings were held to find the best uses of federal block grants designed to assist specialty crop growers. In August 2001, President Bush signed an agricultural economic assistance package that directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide \$159,400,000 to states to support activities that promote agriculture, with priority given to specialty crops. California's allocation is \$63,820,000. CDFA is now evaluating comments and will forward their recommendations to the state legislature for approval.

■ **Craig McNamara**, owner of Sierra Orchards, a walnut and grape rootstock farming operation in Winters, California, received the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Award of Distinction in fall 2001. McNamara helped structure a biologically integrated orchard system that became the model for the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program's Biologically Integrated Farming Systems (BIFS) program. McNamara also was involved in the creation of the FARMS Leadership Program, introducing rural and urban high school students to sustainable farming, science and technology.



Photo courtesy of
Craig McNamara

■ USDA has established a 20-member Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee to examine the issues facing the industry and offer the agency advice on how USDA can better serve the industry. USDA Secretary Ann Veneman will appoint industry representatives to serve two-year terms. Representatives will include growers and shippers, wholesalers, brokers, retailers, processors, and food service suppliers.

■ Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), used its general funds to write and promote an Organic Research Title for Farm Bill 2002. In a meeting with Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, OFRF asked for \$50,000,000 in organic research and education funding support.

■ California Future Farmers of America seeks alumni to help celebrate the organization's 75th anniversary in 2003. Contact: California Future Farmers of America, P.O. Box 1695, Shingle Springs, CA 95682; (805) 473-3320; www.ffa.calaged.org.

calendar

MARCH

18

Direct Marketing and Merchandising Seminar San Diego, CA

This workshop is designed for farmers' market vendors, farm and roadside stand operators, and other direct-to-consumer marketers or merchandisers.

Contact: Ramiro Lobo, farm advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, 5555 Overland Ave., Bldg. 4, San Diego, CA 92123; (858) 694-3666.

20

Certified Organic Tree Crops: Transition, Growing Practices and Markets Yuba City, CA

University of California specialists will present details regarding transitioning to organic tree crop production.

Contact: Janine Hasey, farm advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Sutter and Yuba counties, 142A Garden Highway, Yuba City, CA 95991; (530) 822-7515.

23

Understanding Agricultural Leases UC Davis

This one-day seminar covers the rights and liabilities of landlords and tenants under standard agricultural lease provisions and selected specialized lease clauses.

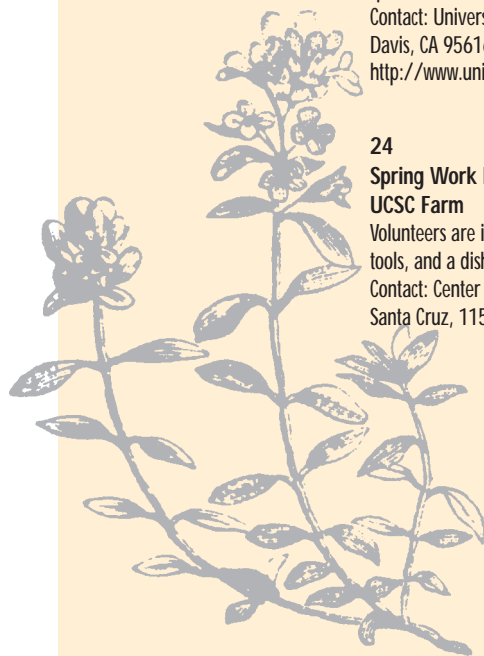
Contact: University Extension, UC Davis, 1333 Research Park Dr., Davis, CA 95616; (800) 752-0881.
<http://www.universityextension.ucdavis.edu/agriculture>

24

Spring Work Day UCSC Farm

Volunteers are invited to help tend the farm's garden. Bring gloves, tools, and a dish to share at lunch.

Contact: Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, UC Santa Cruz, 1156 High St., Santa Cruz, CA 95064; (831) 459-3376.



MAY

4-5

Fire Ecology of California Ecosystems UC Berkeley

Topics include fire's effects on plant communities and the urban/wildlife interface problems this natural ecosystem process presents.

Contact: Staci Markos, Friends of the Jepson Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2465; (510) 643-7008; <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu>

8-11

All Things Organic Conference and Trade Show Austin, TX

Sponsored by the Organic Trade Association, this conference includes plenary and breakout sessions focusing on governmental, research, marketing and production issues affecting the organic industry.

Contact: Organic Trade Association, 74 Fairview St., P.O. Box 547, Greenfield, MA 01302; (413) 774-7511; <http://www.ota.com>

AUGUST

21-27

IFOAM 2002 14th Organic World Congress Victoria, BC, Canada

Participants from the international organic community will meet to discuss and establish international standards for agricultural practices.

Contact: Organic World Congress, Bldg. 20, 8801 East Saanich Rd., Sidney, British Columbia, V8L 1H3, Canada; (250) 655-5652.

SEPTEMBER

17-20

Third National Small Farm Conference Albuquerque, NM

Participants, including farmers, extension educators, scientists, and agricultural agency members, will discuss and develop methods to preserve small farms.

Contact: Edmund Gomez, New Mexico State University, (505) 852-2668; <http://www.cahe.nmsu.edu/smallfarm>

NOVEMBER

California Farm Conference Date and location to come

Watch for details in our next newsletter issue.

ADD YOUR EVENT TO OUR ONLINE
CALENDAR AT [HTTP://
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New SFC Online Library Offers Easy Access

The UC Small Farm Center is pleased to announce our new Online Resource Library at <http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/library>. This continuously updated online resource contains more than 600 entries and provides users with access to useful information that impacts the performance of our small farms.

The database consists of summaries and abstracts of articles on a range of topics from production to marketing and farm management. Users can browse by information category or search for a specific topic simply by typing in a keyword in the search section.

After reading selected abstracts, users may request a complete copy of an article by filling out the online re-



Search our new online library for information about specific crops, or search by publication title or subject matter.

quest form. The Small Farm Center will then send requested articles by fax or mail. At this time there is no charge for copying, mailing, or faxing requests.

This online information database and the referenced articles are provided as a part of the educational work of the Small Farm Center.

We invite you to take a moment to visit our new library in these early stages and let us know what you think. We will use your feedback as part of the online library's continuous evolution.

Share your comments with the Small Farm Center by calling (530) 752-8136; e-mailing sfcenter@ucdavis.edu; or faxing (530) 752-7716. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Visit the new Small Farm Center online library
at www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/library**



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