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### Humboldt County Farm Bureau Board Officers

John LaBoyteaux *President*  
 Jim Regli *First Vice President*  
 Jay Russ *Second Vice President*  
 Larry Ford *Treasurer*  
 Butch Parton *State Director*  
 Katherine Ziemer *Executive Director*

### 2006 Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Cliff Clendenen	Apple Producer	Fortuna
Judy Ferriera	Dairy Cattle	Arcata
Larry Ford	Beef Cattle/Fair Manager	Arcata
Jane Fraser	Beef Cattle	Arcata
Audrey Hanks	Beef Cattle	Arcata
Kathy Harnden	Dairy Cattle/Appraiser	Arcata
Peter Kenyon	Ag Tourism	Fortuna
Everett King	Farmers Market Manager	Whitethorn
Bill Kleiner	Forestry Consultant	Arcata
Holly Krieb	Row Crops	Pepperwood
John LaBoyteaux	Row Crops	Redcrest
Sanford Lowry	Cattle/Sheep	Ferndale
Len Mayer	North Coast Coop Manager	Arcata
Dona Moxon	Dairy Cattle	Arcata
Ike Moxon	Retired Dairyman	Arcata
Jeff Moxon	Sun Valley/Floriculture	Arcata
Butch Parton	Beef Cattle	Eureka
Jim Regli	Dairy Cattle	Ferndale
Mary Ann Renner	Diary Cattle	Ferndale
Bill Rice	Hay & Beef Cattle	Shively
Jay Russ	Beef Cattle	Ferndale
Gary Rynearson	Timber/Forestry	McKinleyville
Gene Senestraro	Retired Dairyman	Eureka
John Vevoda	Dairy Cattle	Ferndale
Gene Whitney	Retired Forestry	Fortuna



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## Agricultural Marketing

The Humboldt County Farm Bureau continues to work on marketing opportunities for members. In August, several "Larger than Life" agricultural workers will appear in the fields along the freeway into Ferndale. These 16' icons will be the first in a series of outdoor Public Relation projects developed by the Farm Bureau Marketing Committee. The goal is to draw attention to the abundant supply of local agricultural products which can be purchased fresh right here in Humboldt County. The Farm Bureau is working to develop a detailed Web Site that will provide an opportunity for members who wish to promote their products or activity. We want to encourage people to learn more about local agriculture by looking at our Web Site and finding out where to "BUY LOCAL".



## Farm Bureau Annual Dinner

The Farm Bureau Annual Dinner on October 28, 2006 at the Ingomar Club will feature Marketing as the theme for the evening. Local guest speakers will share "Success Stories" on their various agricultural commodities. Member invitations will be mailed in September so mark your calendar for this exciting evening.



# Humboldt County Farm Bureau Newsletter

Serving Agriculture Since 1913

## Inside:

- 2006 Farm Bureau Scholarship Winners
- Farm Bureau President's Report
- Young Farmers and Ranchers Meeting
- Organic Seed Production Workshop

AUGUST 2006

## Living with Aleutian Geese in Humboldt County

After 30 years of remedial actions by Federal and State wildlife agencies, the once endangered Aleutian Goose population is thriving on the Pacific North Coast. From a low of about 800 geese in 1975, today 100,000 of the geese stop in Humboldt and Del Norte counties to prepare for their incredible transoceanic migration on to nesting grounds in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska.



However, since these vegetarian geese are incredible grazers that seek out the greenest of pastures, a major conflict has emerged on the North Coast.

During their northward migration, the geese pause between January and April and eat tender spring plant growth that the dairy and beef cattle producers rely on to feed their stock. Some landowners have lost up to fifty percent of their annual grass production to Aleutian geese during this period.

As a result, ranchers that accommodate the geese have to reduce herd size or provide supplemental feed. Families who operate one of our regions prized economic industries are losing substantial income.

The Aleutian Goose Working Group has been formed to help reduce the impact from the Geese on landowners. This group is comprised of concerned citizens' from Northern California and Southern Oregon. Some of the members include local Farm Bureau members: Blake Alexander from Crescent City, Jay Russ and Hugo Klopper from Ferndale, Dean Hunt and Peter Bussman from Arcata as well as State and Federal Agency personnel. The group has identified goals to encourage the enhancement of Aleutian Goose habitat on Public Lands, implement well placed hazing and hunting programs that will shift geese into goose-safe areas, continue outreach to inform the community about the scope of goose-agricultural issues and initiatives. A key goal is to assist the Pacific Flyway Council in its objective to maintain the population of Aleutian Geese at 60,000 birds measured by a 3 year average of indirect estimates obtained in the spring.

At the present time, the Humboldt County Farm Bureau along with the State Farm Bureau and local elected officials, are lobbying the California Fish and Game Commission. It is our request that the Fish & Game Commission petition the Pacific Flyway Council to allow for an extend spring hunting season for the Aleutian Geese in 2007 on the north coast.

This extended season would benefit landowners by allowing sportsmen to haze the geese off their property and fly to Public Lands. Many local ranchers who are affected by the Aleutian Geese have signed-up to participate in the SHARE program with California Department of Fish & Game. This program will provide the necessary land base from private landowners for the hunt due to the fact that the Public Lands will not allow hunting to give the geese a "Safe" place to land.

The Aleutian Goose Working Group will continue to meet monthly to address the issues and is working to find relief for landowners who are experiencing the loss of grazing land due to the overpopulation of geese.

## Thank You Gary Markegard!

### *Retires After 30 Years of Service*

After working for thirty years as Livestock and Natural Resource Advisor for the University of California Agricultural Extension, Gary Markegard retired as of July 1, 2006. Gary has provided incredible technical assistance to so many individuals, groups and government agencies over his career.

Responding to all types of questions from livestock issues to entomology, varmints, pests, and providing support to both FFA and 4-H, Gary has been instrumental with his unending contribution to the agricultural community. Gary worked to facilitate local organizations like the Cattlemen's Association, Woolgrowers and he attended most of the monthly Farm Bureau Board Meetings. Gary has provided leadership as well as individual assistance to so many of our producers. We can not say THANK YOU enough!



UC Davis Regional Director Kim Rodrigues presents Gary Markegard with an Outstanding Service Award.

## New Forestry Management Scholarships Awarded

In the last newsletter, we announced the exciting new Scholarship for Forestry Management. It was anticipated we would award one \$500 Scholarship from the interest on a generous donation. This year, we are proud to award TWO Forestry Management Scholarships due to an additional donation to this fund. The selected students are Rachael Weigle for \$1,000 and Tiffany Sutter for \$500. The Farm Bureau congratulates these two young women on their accomplishments.



## Producing Organic Vegetable Seed Workshop

AUGUST 22, 2006 9:00AM – 4 PM  
Eel River Farm – Scotia CA

Learn about organic seed production and crop improvement while touring a diversity of seed crops. Topics will include:

- Seed Production Techniques
- On – farm breeding for new varieties
- Crop improvement /adaptation
- Harvesting
- Weather-related risk reduction

Seasoned seed grower Bill Reynolds will share his seed growing techniques and breeding projects along with insights into the economics and rewards of growing seed. Registration is \$15.00 and lunch will be included.

Please contact Organic Seed Alliance to register. ADVANCE REGISTRATION and payment is required. Registration is limited – please send a check and your contact information to:

**Organic Seed Alliance**  
P.O. Box 772  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Seed growing mentorship opportunities are available. Seed growers interested in advice and guidance in specific seed production issues may contact the Organic Seed Alliance for more information about their Seed Producer-Mentorship Program – [info@seedalliance.org](mailto:info@seedalliance.org) or [www.seedalliance.org](http://www.seedalliance.org).



## Summer Message from Our President

***Fresh local produce, plants and flowers are now plentiful at farmers' markets and independent grocery stores throughout the county.***

August is a most active month for Humboldt County agriculture. Long lines of sprinklers can be seen all over the Ferndale, Loleta and Arcata bottoms as dairymen irrigate their pastures and put up more hay or silage to feed their herds through the winter. Increased milk production through Spring freshening has leveled off. Conversion of Humboldt dairies to organic production is continuing rapidly as conventional milk prices continue to fall.

Local livestock producers are experiencing a busy time of the year. The recent hot weather has dried the grass in the hills so many producers are shipping cattle to market. Prices seem to be holding strong which is good news for cattlemen.

Fresh local produce, plants and flowers are now plentiful at farmers markets and independent grocery stores throughout the County. Humboldt's fifteen Certified Farmers Markets serve communities from Trinidad to Shelter Cove and Ferndale to Dinsmore. The Markets generally operate from early May through the end of October. The first fresh taste of summer has been arriving weekly at all the markets with blueberries, raspberries, peaches, melons, sweet corn and now tomatoes.

On my own farm we have been harvesting greens, carrots, peas and green beans for three markets since June. I made the wrong call on the weather in February. We completed a thorough pruning of the apple orchard but the heavy rains in March and April kept us out of the fields for early planting. Consequently everything seems 2-3 weeks late this year. We started picking our four sequential plantings of sweet corn around the first of August which increased our market sales. Also just delivered our second cutting of alfalfa to an organic dairy. I hope to do a lot more of that. This week I checked invoices from previous years to confirm that we are usually shipping cantaloupe to San Francisco by now. It will be awhile yet which may be OK as we do well with the late market niche. Our famous "Eel Canyon" and "Blue Eel" melons will knock your socks off in a couple more weeks. I'm blessed with a small crew of local folks and their extended families, led by foreperson Lena Thomas, who have stuck with me and show up for harvest season each year.

Other bright spots for Humboldt Agriculture are the continued success of the Lilly Bulb industry in Arcata and the increasing popularity of goat cheese and the number of goat dairies. I think we are also seeing a small increase in fruit production with berries, peaches and apples. Fresh Cider should be available at Clendenen's by the middle of the month. I understand that the over fifty year old irrigation district in Hoopa is operating again.

Lastly, we are seeing a substantial increase in new Williamson Contract applications. These include some new class D and Farmland Security Zone contracts. Martha Spencer reports there were nine new contacts during the last window, with five applicants awaiting approval when the window reopens this Fall. Agriculture is a rewarding profession and I hope you enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,  
John LaBoyteaux  
*President Humboldt County Farm Bureau*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**August 22** Organic Seed Workshop – Scotia  
**August 24** Y F & R Social and BarBQ – Eureka  
**September 13** HCFB Board of Directors Meeting – Eureka  
**October 1** Friends of the Farmers Market Farm Tour  
**October 28** Humboldt Auction Yard Annual Bull Sale – Fortuna  
**October 28** Humboldt County Farm Bureau Annual Dinner – Eureka



## Farm Bureau Scholarship Winners Announced



The 10th anniversary celebration of the Henri and Lanette Rousseau Memorial Scholarship was held on June 4, 2006 at the Humboldt Area Foundation.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR 2006:

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR \$1,200.00

Saran Benzinger	Kneeland
Brittany Chrisler	Eureka
Dakota Darst	Ferndale
Emy Eastman	Ferndale
Heather Flores	Lolita
Angie Flosi	Redcrest
Jalisa Fry	Arcata
Monica Galli	Fortuna
Derek Hanson	Ferndale
Elizabeth Leonardi	Ferndale
Evan Markegard	Fortuna
Caroline Moore	Eureka
Ambria Renner-Cox	Ferndale
Preston Sutter	McKinleyville
Jana Van Duzer	McKinleyville
Rachel Wiltrout	Eureka
Amy Brewer	Eureka

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR \$1,000.00

Laci Cook	Ferndale
Andrew Houtby	Fortuna
Jennifer Laidlaw	Fieldbrook
Krista Lane	Eureka
Margaret Leonardi	Ferndale
Joseph Marchi	Eureka
Jolene Moxon	Arcata
Laurel Nelson	Hydesville
Tyan Pedrotti	Ferndale
Matthew Renner	Ferndale
Alisa Sarvinski	Ferndale
Christopher Scheffler	Eureka

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR \$850.00

Kyle Avelar	McKinleyville
Jenna Ayers	Eureka
Meghan Becker	Ferndale
Adam Bugenig	Ferndale
Desiree Daily	Fortuna
Carl French	Hydesville
Laura Jorgensen	Ferndale
Christina Liu	Eureka
Natalie McCartney	McKinleyville
Karling Skoglund	McKinleyville

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR \$600.00

Erin Adams	Ferndale
Rachael Weigle	Arcata
Carolyn Wilcox	Arcata
Alex Renner	Ferndale
Drew Clendenen	Fortuna
Christina Cornwell	Bayside
Darin Ferreira	Arcata
Jimi Hensley	Myers Flat
Owen Lutje	Eureka
Brock McCulloch	Ferndale
Kaitlin Powell	Eureka
Timothy Pratt	Eureka
Hanna Peterson	So. Fork
Chase Rocha	Eureka
Samantha Surratt	Eureka
Tiffany Sutter	McKinleyville
Christena Tozel	Eureka

## Young Farmers and Ranchers

The Humboldt County Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers are planning to hold a BarBQ on Thursday evening, August 24th from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Farm Bureau office in Eureka.

Young Farmers and Ranchers are active agriculturists between the ages of 18 and 35 involved in production, banking, business and many other areas of the industry. Young Farmers and Ranchers develop leadership skills while volunteering time as active, vital members of the County Farm Bureau.

One aspect common to all Young Farmers and Ranchers activities is the opportunity to meet people. Social activities are where Young Ranchers and Farmers have fun and network at the same time!

The activity on August 24 is organized by key young people in the community who are interested in meeting other individuals in Humboldt County who have an interest in Agriculture. Flyers have been mailed to all the Scholarship winners to notify them of the activity. If you know anyone who is between the ages of 18 and 35 who would benefit from a social activity with other farmers and ranchers, please encourage them to attend the BarBQ. Please RSVP to 443-4844 by August 18th.

