

CAPAY VALLEY HARVEST

Vol 2
Issue 1

A newsletter from farms & ranches around the Capay Valley Region

Mar.
2006

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE CALENDAR

March 2: CVV Ag. Task Force, 7-9 p.m., Esparto Library.

March 15: Tailwater Management with Sediment Traps and Vegetated Ditches, Resource Conservation District Field Mtg. Series, (530) 662-2037.

March 25: Yolo County Young Farmers & Ranchers' - Spring Fling, Heidrick Ag History Center, (530) 662-6312.

April 1: Capay Valley Regional Farmers' Market, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Esparto Park.

April 2: Capay Valley Grown Field Day, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Taber Ranch Event Center, (530) 787-3353.

April 6: CVV Ag. Task Force, 7-9 p.m., Esparto Library.

April 12: Ongoing Conservation Project Maintenance, Resource Conservation District Field Mtg. Series, (530) 662-2037.

April 18-20: Streambank Bioengineering, Resource Conservation District Field Mtg. Series, (530) 662-2037.

May 4: CVV Ag. Task Force, 7-9 p.m., Esparto Library.

May 6: Capay Valley Regional Farmers' Market, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Esparto Park.

May 6 & 7: 4-H Spring Show, Yolo County Fairgrounds, (530) 666-8703.

May 7: 2006 Olive Oil Competition Presentation of Awards, Yolo County Fairgrounds, (530) 662-5393.

Preserving Farming in the Capay Valley by Paul Muller

The efforts to brand the products of the Capay Valley Region with our 'Grown in the Capay Valley' logo and promotional materials have many parallel programs in other regions of the state. Placer County, for example, funds a full time economic development position focused on Agriculture. Not only does the county actively seek to create new markets and expand existing ones for local farmers, but also they work to tell the story of regional agriculture and create a sympathetic public that understands the tradition and history of the farms in the area. Farm trails maps have been created to make the public aware of the mix of products locally while linking local consumers with local farms. Marin County has a proactive marketing effort to preserve the viability of local farms and keep intact rolling hills and pasturelands that make their landscapes unique.

Programs in Sonoma, Ventura and Santa Cruz counties have much the same focus—Creating greater public awareness of what is being produced locally, linking fresh local products to healthy eating choices, stimulating the local economy by supporting local producers, and preserving the resources for production for future generations. Nothing works better to keep farmers on the land than economic success- and nothing works better to develop new farmers than opportunities for a decent livelihood.

We have reached a point where the lack of farm prosperity has shrunk the farm population to the critical numbers where we may not have enough farmers and farm families to regenerate the skill and aptitudes needed to be good stewards and full time farmers. If we were Elderberry Bark Beetles or Swainsons Hawks, we might warrant attention as an endangered species. There could be a little preserve set up, or an effort to keep the habitat or critical infrastructure intact, or a program to support and nurture new farmers through market support.

Unless we are proactive in our efforts to preserve farms, farmland, and support the skills that are needed to make that land productive, we will continue on the path that has characterized agriculture for the last 100 years: disappearing farms, farm families and a loss of all of the productive supports—from irrigation canals to repair shops to support businesses—that have been carefully laid in place by the past generations of farmers and rural dwellers. Maybe the era has passed us by when food production is local. Large corporations can now address all of our local needs and there is no room for a main street of independent businessmen and women or a countryside of viable farms selling locally.

The branding efforts being undertaken across the state, showcase pride in what is local and derived through hard work, good stewardship, and community values. How about a value chain that is based on personal experience rather than slick advertising? How about local farm products in the local schools, and a fair return to the producers who take good care to grow healthful foods? There is a movement afoot and the walk starts right out your back door. Get to know what's available locally, make local farmers markets happen and fight to assure future generations that the abundance that we have grown to enjoy and expect will be available to them also.



Capay Valley Grown is a project of Capay Valley Vision, a local, nonprofit organization. For more information, visit www.CapayValleyVision.org or call (530) 787-3353.



Harmon and Greta Taber.

Also Partners in Taber Ranch are Harmon's father Ray Taber, and cousin Martin Armstrong and his wife Dawn.

Photo by Temra Costa

Taber Ranch

20943 Taber's Corner
Capay, CA 95607
(530) 796-4983
(530) 908-2083
www.TaberRanch.com

Our Farm

Since 1867 Taber Ranch has been cultivating a variety of products on about 500 acres. Using conventional IPM practices we grow nine varieties of almonds, Arbequina olives for extra virgin olive oil, and three wine grape varieties.

Distribution of Product

Taber Ranch sells its almonds to wholesale distributor Mariani Nut Company of Winters. Our award-winning extra virgin olive oil is marketed by direct sales.

Joys of Farming

“One of the most wonderful aspects of farming is that we have a direct connection with the biological processes of life. A tiny seed is planted and grows into an amazing plant. We are able to watch that take place before our eyes.”

PROFILES *in agriculture*

Taber Ranch Event Center

County Road 81
P.O. Box 240
Esparto, CA 95627
(530) 908-2359
www.TaberRanch.com



Photo by Harmon Taber

Jean and Kim Chevalier. Jean is Operations Manager at Taber Ranch and his wife Kim is the Coordinator of the Taber Ranch Event Center.

Our Facility

Taber Ranch grows almonds and olives at the spot where Salt Creek flows from its canyon and Capay Valley turns from west to north. We want to share this unique and lovely place. So we have renovated an 80-year old sheep barn tucked into a draw in the hills, and surrounded it with a pond, a babbling brook, terraced lawns, a garden walk, and our grape vines.

Activities

After practicing on a few family events, last October Taber Ranch Event Center hosted the Taste of Capay benefit dinner. More than 200 people had a great time, and Capay Valley Vision raised some money. Several dates are already booked for weddings this year, and we hope that family reunions, business retreats, and other gatherings will also come to our place.



Trini Campbell and Tim Mueller have operated Riverdog Farm for fourteen years.

Photo by Temra Costa

Riverdog Farm
7587 County Road 49
Guinda, CA
Esparto, CA 95637
(530) 796-4100

Community Involvement

Yolo County Farm Bureau, Capay Valley Fire Department, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Western Yolo Recreation, Capay Valley Advisory Committee, Capay Valley American Youth Soccer Organization

corn, tomatoes, and chiles. For a tasty summertime treat, Riverdog Farm also grows watermelons and summer squash.

Distribution of Products

Riverdog Farm's marketing outlets include wholesale distribution in San Francisco, farmers' marketing in the East Bay, restaurants and retail throughout the Sacramento and bay areas, and their Community Supported Agriculture program of weekly veggie deliveries. To enjoy an excellent meal with Riverdog Farm's produce, consumers can dine at Lalimes, Chez Panisse, Tuco's in Davis, or Tazzina Bistro in Woodland.

Joys of Farming

The most wonderful part of farming is that we have access to both abundant, fresh, delicious, pesticide-free produce and open space.

Challenges of Farming

Because we farm so many acres, it has become a challenge with juggling the multitude of crops that we grow. Other challenges we face are the rising cost of fuel and the encroachment of non-agricultural land uses on prime farming ground.

Our Farm

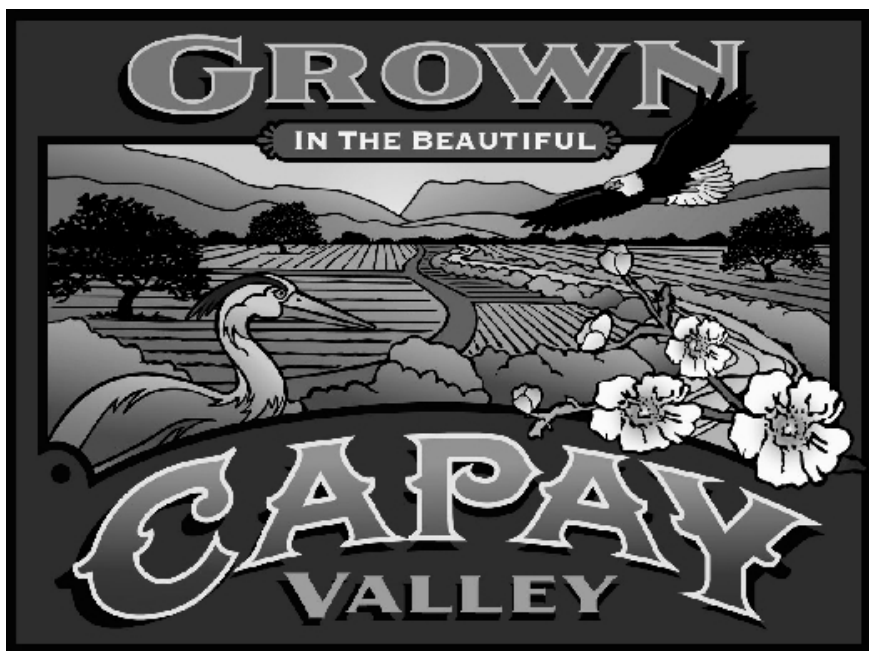
Using certified organic production practices, Riverdog Farm cultivates a variety of savory vegetables and fruits on just over 200 acres. Some of the delectable vegetables grown at Riverdog Farm include broccoli, green beans, spinach, sweet

Yolo Land Trust—Protecting Agriculture and Habitat

The rural landscape that surrounds us, with its rich agricultural traditions and bountiful natural resources, is what makes Yolo County such a wonderful place to live and work. In 1988 a unique partnership of farmers, community leaders and conservationists recognized the pressure on local land resources to rapid growth and development pressure from the bay area and Sacramento. This partnership became the Yolo Land Trust (YLT), a private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the County's land resources. To this day, most of the organization's Directors are local farmers who have helped protect over 6,000 acres in Yolo County.

YLT offers willing landowners a conservation alternative to the sale, subdivision or development of agricultural lands utilizing a variety of tools, including permanent conservation easements, donations for tax benefits and land purchases. YLT works cooperatively with local and state agencies, encouraging public policies that enhance public awareness of agriculture and its long-term viability in the County.

YLT is the proud recipient of an ACTM grant from the County to focus on farm and rangeland preservation in the Capay Valley. We look forward to working with landowners to protect the valley's agricultural resources and the local economy. For more information on what we do, visit www.yololandtrust.org or contact Kathryn Kelly, Executive Director, at (530) 795-3110.



CAPAY VALLEY GROWN FIELD DAY

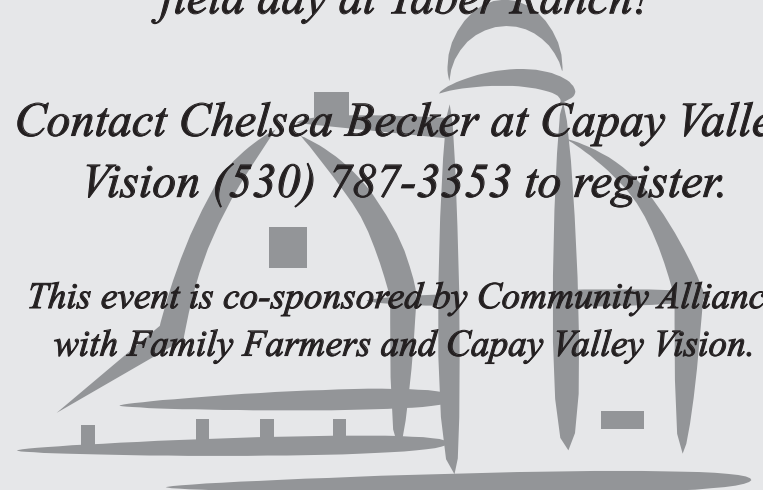
*Sunday, April 2, 2006
Taber Ranch Event Center
Capay, California*

Come join the Capay Valley Grown Partners for a half-day field day focusing on place based marketing models (i.e. Capay Valley Grown & Placer Grown). There will be a presentation of local marketing models in use and time for cross pollination of ideas and practices with other branding effort producers such as; PlacerGrown, Buy Fresh, Buy Local, Marin Organic etc.

Stay tuned for the agenda to this excellent field day at Taber Ranch!

Contact Chelsea Becker at Capay Valley Vision (530) 787-3353 to register.

This event is co-sponsored by Community Alliance with Family Farmers and Capay Valley Vision.



Buy Capay Valley Grown

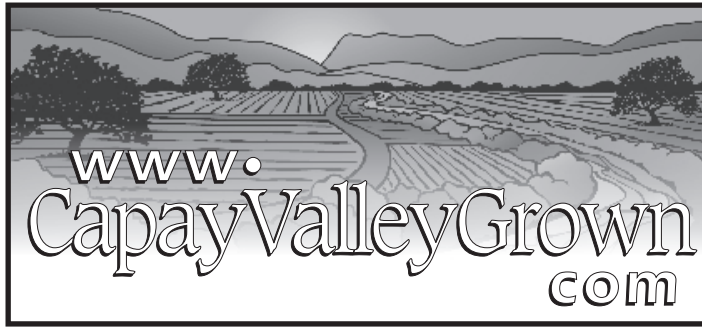
Capay Valley Grown, a producer partnership, is committed to preserving the land of the Capay Valley as a part of rural America and maintaining its

renewable resources into the future. They are also supported by the Capay Valley Grown Business Partners. You can support the

preservation of the rural Capay Valley region by purchasing Capay Valley Grown products. Listed below are the current partners, many of

which do direct sales through farm stands, internet sales, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA, weekly produce box

delivery), and home delivery. For more information about our partners or to become a partner go to:



www.capayvalleygrown.com or call 530-787-3353.

Where to Find Capay Valley Grown Products in Yolo County

Stores

- Cache Creek Mini-Mart, Brooks
- The Corner Store, Guinda
- Davis Food Co-op
- Hayes Feed, Woodland
- Nugget Market, Woodland and Davis
- Town & County Market, Winters

Farmers' Markets

- Capay Valley Regional Farmers' Market, Esparto
- Davis Farmers' Market
- Woodland Farmers' Market

Farm Stands

- Capay Valley Vineyards Tasting Room
- The Corn Patch, Capay
- Full Belly Farm Stand, Guinda
- Hatanaka Hay Barn
- Manas Ranch Store, Esparto
- West Valley Alpacas Store (by appt.)

Contact our partners to find out more about getting their products.

CAPAY VALLEY GROWN FARM & RANCH PARTNERS

B-Z Bee Pollination, Inc.

Pollinating Bees & Honey (530) 787-3044; www.BZ-Bee.com

Bloom Ranch

Almonds, Walnuts, Pistachios, Mandarins, & Peaches (530) 796-3357; www.bloomranch.com

Blue Heron Farm/Dream Gourds

Organic Oranges, Walnuts, Tomatoes, Figs, & Decorative Gourds (530) 796-3799

Cache Creek Lavender

Fresh Cut Lavender & Lavender Products (530) 796-2239; www.cachecreeklavender.com

Cache Creek Nursery

Organic Vegetable Starts, California Natives, Perennial Shrubs, & Herbs (530) 796-3521; www.cachecreeknursery.com

Capay Canyon Ranch

Organic Red Flame Grapes (530) 662-2372

Capay Valley Vineyards

Wine (530) 796-4110; www.capayvalleyvineyards.com

Circle K Ranch: Walnuts (530) 796-2216

Fiddler's Green Farm

Farm Mixed Organic Produce, CSA (530) 796-2184

CSA=Community Supported Agriculture

FreeHeart Farm

Almonds, Candied Almonds, & Eggs (530) 787-4444; www.freeheartfarm.com

Full Belly Farm

Mixed Organic Produce, Natural Wool, & CSA (530) 796-2214; www.fullbellyfarm.com

Gold Oak Ranch: Mandarins & Walnuts

Good Humus Produce

Mixed Organic Produce, Dried Fruit, Jams, Jellies, & CSA (530) 787-3187; www.goodhumus.com

Haag Farm

Walnuts (530) 787-3603; www.walnuts.us

Hatanaka Farming

Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Melons, Peppers, Squash, Onions, Pumpkins (530) 787-4970; For Hay call (530) 510-7548

III Docs Almond Ranch

Almonds (530) 796-4141

Lamb Valley Farm: Citrus

Live Oak Farm

Olive Oil, Mixed Organic Produce, CSA & Home Delivery in Esparto & the Capay Valley. (530) 796-4084

Manas Ranch/Double Bar O Angus Ranch

Peaches & Grain-fed Beef (530) 787-3228; www.manasranch.com & www.doublebaroangus.com

McDonald Orchards

Almonds, Walnuts, & Honey (530) 796-3821

Murphy Ranch

Natural Beef Cattle & Cowsters

The Old Green Go

Apricots, Plums, Asian Pears, Melons, Oranges (530) 796-3855

Oldani Family Farm

Oranges, Pistachios, Apricots, Plums, Figs, & Persimmons (530) 796-4143; coldani@yolo.com

Riverdog Farm

Mixed Organic Produce & CSA (530) 796-4100; www.riverdogfarm.com

Taber Ranch

Almonds & Olive Oil (530) 796-4983; www.taberranch.com

Taber Ranch Event Center

Event Center for Weddings, Reunions, or Gatherings (530) 908-2359; www.taberranch.com

TS Ranch: Beef Cattle (530) 796-3755

West Valley Alpacas

Alpacas & Alpacas Fibers (530) 662-8630; www.westvalleyalpacas.com

Winter Creek Ranch

Organic Walnuts (530) 796-3723; www.wintercreekranch.com

BUSINESS PARTNERS

AgriForm (A division of The Tremont Group, Inc.)

Chemical Products and Farm Equipment Rental (530) 662-5442

Chamberlain Farms

Hay, Straw, & Holstein Heifers for Dairies (530) 662-2620

Community Medical Centers, Inc.,

Esparto Family Practice
Health & Medical Services for Capay Valley (530) 787-3435

InterState Oil Company

Wholesale Petroleum Product Distributor (530) 662-5481

Marin County Farmers' Market Association

Farmers' Market Management (415) 472-6100; www.marincountyfarmersmarkets.org

NAPA Auto Parts Woodland

Auto Parts and Parts for Farm Equipment (530) 666-0951

NAU Country Insurance-California Crop Insurance Services

Crop Insurance Service Support for Yolo Country Insurance Agents(530) 662-7466

Valley Hydraulics & Machine, Inc.

Equipment Repairs (530) 666-3646

Viking Propane, Inc.

Propane Company (530) 666-6996; www.vikingpropane.com

Wilbur Ellis Co, Roy Riegels Chemicals

Agricultural Chemicals and Supplements (530) 662-4182

Wilkinson International, Inc.

Tractors & Farm Equipment (530) 662-7373