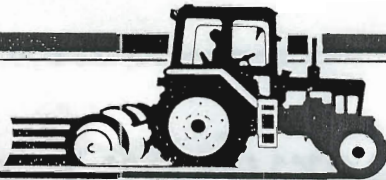


Between the FURROWS



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Election Focuses on Farming

By Jamie Marks, Editor

THIS month's primary election for state, national and local offices has drawn a large number of candidates. At the county level, three supervisors' seats are being contended, with incumbents in the First (Live Oak) and Second (Aptos) Districts facing several challengers. The Fifth District seat (San Lorenzo Valley) will go to a newcomer.

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau posed the following two questions to all of the supervisorial candidate; their response follows:

1. *What do you feel is agriculture's biggest contribution to the county, and how would you work to maintain and enhance agriculture in Santa Cruz County?*

2. *How should the county solve conflicts, which arise at times, between agriculture and the urban population?*

Second District (Aptos-La Selva)

Walt Symons, incumbent:

1. "Agriculture's biggest contribution is that it is the number one industry in the county.

It employs some 7,000 people directly and indirectly. The county produces more strawberries, fresh fruits and vegetables than any place in the United States. What I would do and intend to do and what needs to be done is that cities and the county must create ways to encourage the economic growth of agriculture and stop the flight of processing and frozen-food plants by positively dealing with their economic interests."

2. "The major conflict is not necessarily methyl bromide, because that will filter out to its own level of acceptance. The major conflict is the attempt by cities and individuals to develop prime ag land. In this county, only 7.5 percent of prime ag land is in farming. To continually deplete that land will adversely impact the ability of farmers to continue to farm."

Paul Elerick, retired IBM manager:

1. "Agriculture provides the jobs in the field and frozen-food industry for thousands of people in South County. In order to keep it going, the county ought to get behind the various water

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Walt Symons



Paul Elerick



Lowell Hurst



Doug Deitch

Supervisor Contenders Discuss Ag

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agencies and continue to see that the water is fresh. The issue of saltwater intrusion I continue to be concerned about. The county ought to see that the proposed projects to control it, like a diversionary dam, pipeline for imported water and recharge, can happen. They're in a position to remove roadblocks."

2. "The conflicts between what the ag people need to be competitive are incompatible with neighborhoods. Methyl bromide, I believe, is a problem, and it should have been faced long before now. On the other hand, I can't see wiping out the strawberry industry without some kind of reasonable plan to help people survive. There's got to be another way. Supervisors are going to be accused of holding firm on rezoning ag land, but there is a conflict in the use of ag land for non-ag use, such as industrial uses. I believe the county needs to hold firm (on rezoning ag land) as long as they can, but not rigidly. There are some things that people have to be willing to compromise on."

Lowell Hurst, City Councilman, Teacher:

1. "The major contribution to the

county is in its economic, dynamic growth and job creation, and revenue generation. It's the jobs that are created by the agricultural industry that help create the economy throughout the county. In addition to the production factors of hundreds of crops, it's the packaging and transportation and sales jobs and law jobs, banking and financing jobs that are created because of ag's production."

2. "We have to make sure that farmers have a right to farm. That means limiting the bureaucracy and some of the governmental controls on agriculture. It doesn't mean we scrap the environmental laws or we allow farmers to be bad neighbors, but we need to review how we treat agriculture as a business. Agriculture needs adequate housing for its workers, it needs the infrastructure in terms of roads, and it needs the land to do processing and shipping from. It also needs an adequate water supply, but we have to make sure farmers are using water effectively and that the aquifer is maintained for the future."

Doug Deitch, Property Manager:

1. "The biggest contribution of agriculture is it's the second biggest revenue production activity after tourism. Its contribution is through its revenue

production through self-sustainable and water-responsible activities. It's very important to me that all agricultural activity in Santa Cruz be self-sustaining and water responsible. By providing a supervisory function that will work with farm activity, we can work toward that objective. I want people to call me and feel that I'm accessible."

2. "(Conflicts) have to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. There are problems with the use of methyl bromide, versus problems of the location of substandard housing in inappropriate areas. I know that the Farm Bureau wants to change the location of farmworker housing. There should be appropriate land zoned for ag housing, and I would assume that would be located in an urban area."

First District (Live Oak-Summit)

Jan Beutz, Incumbent, attorney:

1. "Agriculture's biggest contribution is it's one of the top two industries in the county, the other being tourism. Obviously it's a really important financial base for the community. It think it's important for our country, too, not just for our little area, to produce food. We can take pride in how much food is grown in this county. As to what the supervisors can do, I think it's

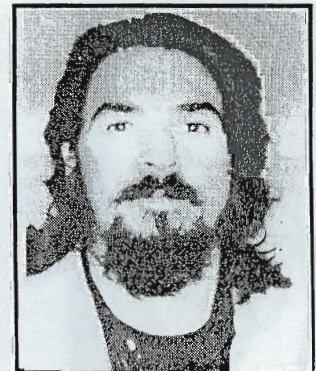
First District Candidates



Jan Beutz



Carolyn Busenhardt



Michael Duffy