

**BEEF IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION 2009
41st ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & ANNUAL MEETING**

**CALIFORNIA WEST TOUR
SUNDAY MAY 3, 2009**

“OCEAN, WINES, VIEWS, AND BOVINES”

Depart 7:00 a.m. Sheraton Grand Sacramento

DRAKES BAY FAMILY FARM – TOUR



Long before Sir Francis Drake sailed into California waters, the Miwok Indians inhabited these lands. The Miwoks were the original stewards of the land surrounding Drakes Bay. For thousands of years, they lived here, using the abundant food sources provided by the land and the water of the Drakes Bay area.

A century ago the Lunny Family took over stewardship of some of these fertile lands and waters. The Lunny's have the same philosophy as the Miwoks when it comes to caring about the sustainability and conservation of this precious area.

Recent History

The Lunny family produces certified organic and certified grass-fed beef on the first certified organic pastures in Marin County. The herd began in the 1970's with all Hereford cows. Since then, no more cows have ever been purchased and moved onto this ranch. By managing this herd as a "closed" herd, the Lunnys have eliminated the potential of importing diseases with purchased cattle from out of the area. The herd today consists mostly of Hereford-Angus crossbred cows.

How about Drake?



The bay is named for Sir Francis Drake. It has long been considered the Drake's most likely landing spot on the west coast of North America during his circumnavigation of the world by sea in 1579.

Drakes Estero has been in commercial oyster production for nearly 100 years. For most of its commercial history the Estero was farmed by Johnsons' Oyster Company. The Johnsons, over the past 60 years, developed much of the oyster growing techniques still used today. The Lunny family now owns and operates Drake's Bay Oyster Company in the pristine waters of Drake's Estero. The Lunnys have been farming and ranching adjacent to Drakes Estero for three generations. Drake's Bay Oyster Company is the site of the last operating oyster cannery in the state of California. This historic facility is presently undergoing repairs to assure the continuance of the supply of the only shucked product produced in California.



The Lunny Family has produced high quality farm products in Marin County for most of the twentieth century, and they continue to do so in the twenty-first. The Lunny cattle ranch, known also as the Historic G Ranch is situated in the heart of Point Reyes National Seashore, with Pacific Ocean bordering one side of the ranch and Drake's Estero bordering the other. Most of the time the Lunny Family has been on this ranch was spent producing milk in their grade A dairy. The Lunny's have now added gourmet oyster farming and conservation of Drakes Estero to their many new ventures.



As with all of their products, Drakes Bay Family Farms and the Lunny Family make this promise to you and your family. We will provide you with products of only the highest quality produced in most the humane and sustainable manner possible.

As stewards of the land, our practices are driven by a deep respect for the earth and the waters of the Estero ecosystem. The farms provide jobs, housing, and income to many locals, and are a significant part of the history and diversity of this thriving agricultural community.

We promise that we will provide you and your family with products of only the highest quality produced in the most humane, local and sustainable manner possible.



Our Drakes Bay Oysters and other seafood are raised in the most pristine body of water quality of any growing area in the state of California. A deep-water upwelling just off the coast of Drakes Bay provides cool, nutrient rich water year-round to Drakes Estero. This uniquely pristine water produces what are recognized as some of the finest oysters in the world.

BODEGA MARINE LABORATORY – TOUR & LUNCH



Through innovative research programs and teaching initiatives, the Bodega Marine Laboratory will lead the way to the multi-disciplinary scientific understanding required to solve complex environmental problems on the marine and terrestrial sides of the tide line in Northern California.



The Bodega Marine Laboratory (BML) supports research and teaching in marine sciences and coastal field biology. The BML is administered by the University of California, Davis and is available on a year-round basis to students from other University of California campuses.

It is located on the 362-acre Bodega Marine Reserve, roughly 60 miles north of Berkeley, California. In addition to housing, it has well-equipped facilities for research over a wide range of coastal habitats.



Bodega Ocean Observing Node (BOON) is a coastal ocean observing system centered at Bodega Marine Laboratory (38°19.110' N 123°04.294' W) and focused on the coasts of northern California. It is a node in larger regional, national and global systems that are under development. BOON's aim is to work toward the development of innovative products that benefit society and the economy through pursuit of a sustainable relationship between humans and the ocean. These products are data-based and derived from the deployment and operation of state-of-the-art ocean observing technology.



BODEGA HEAD – WINE TASTING & RELAXATION



Bodega Bay is probably the hottest birding spot in Sonoma County. More rare birds have been spotted here than in any other area in the County. Owl Canyon, "Hole-In-The-Head" and the bushes below Diekmann's Store have consistently yielded great finds. Madrone Audubon organizes many birding trips to Bodega Bay, including Walkabouts, Field Trips and Beginners Bird Walks. This is also a prime spot for the Christmas Bird Count.



APRIL is quiet on the mudflats, but willows, Bodega Dunes Campground and other stable vegetation host breeding land birds that are secretive and difficult to catch in the act of nest building. But we know the Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, the hummers and others are busy. The Pelagic Cormorants show white flank patches as they begin colonizing the cliffs south of the main Bodega Head parking lot overlooking the Pacific. The Black-crowned Night-herons are building nests at the "Hole-In-The-Head" pond. Can you find them?

MAY is like April with few shorebirds remaining, but the Owl Canyon can produce a surprise vagrant at any time of year. There is exciting nesting activity (Pigeon Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, Pigeon Guillemots) on Bodega Head near the parking lot facing the Pacific.



Return to Sheraton Grand Sacramento