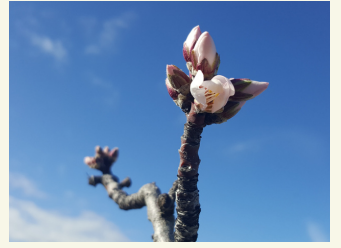


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# NOTES FROM THE NUT

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## CAPAY HILLS ORCHARD NEWSLETTER ISSUE 35



### IN THIS ISSUE: NOVEMBER-JANUARY 2023

- Raindrops Keep Falling ...
- A Two-Fold Tribute



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## Raindrops Keep Falling ...

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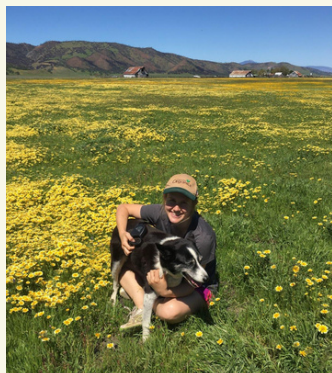
Rain came early again this season and so far has been extremely plentiful. From the end of September through December 2022 we received five inches (ten inches less than last year during this period, but hovering around average). Then in January we just got pounded! Many areas of California received rain in record amounts. For a month it seemed like the entire state was flooding! In less than three weeks our farm sustained an additional 15+ inches of rainfall! Also during this time we had many days of high winds. The combination of high rainfall and high winds gives many orchard farmers concern for their trees, but our trees put up quite the show and stood fast against all that the storms hurled at them! We are thankful we did not lose a single tree. What a root system! Our cover crop and soil enhancement projects also did the trick and kept us from flooding and erosion.

Needless to say, the rain has benefited the trees, and our suffering groundwater table is being replenished, but

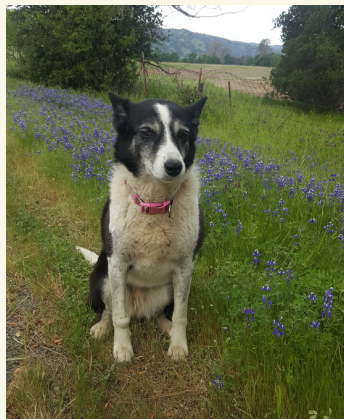
during bloom and spring we want the weather to stay dry to keep bacteria and fungus at bay from developing in our budding almonds. Additionally, while reservoirs across the state are indeed being replenished, our water source does not benefit directly from any reservoir water.



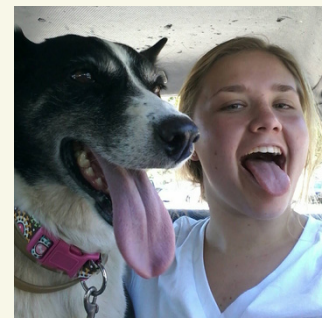
Caesar, Noel, and Roxy ... now our dogs from the past



Alicia and Roxy in Bear Valley



Roxy always looked so forlorn when we pointed a camera her way!



Roxy and Jessica, her owner

## A Two-Fold Tribute

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If you have been following us on Facebook and Instagram, you have likely heard of our recent unfortunate news for our farm family. Last fall, our six-year-old beagle-terrier Noel died unexpectedly. Her death, due to its sudden nature, was very hard for us all to deal with. We welcomed in Athena, a Belgian Malinois mix, shortly after losing Noel. She has been a very sweet addition to our farm, but of course the pain from losing Noel was and is still there.

We are very sad to say that our pain did not end there, as only a few weeks ago we lost another dog. Roxy, the alpha queen of the pack since Travis died in 2020, passed away after a short battle with kidney failure. She died at home in the arms of her owner Jessica. She was almost 13 years old and had lived a long and good life.

Noel and Roxy's deaths mark the passing of the first four dogs we have had on the farm. After going 16 years without losing a single dog, it has been very hard to say good-bye to four within the past two-and-a-half years. But our hearts are still open enough to dearly love the dogs we have now (Koda and Athena), as well as our five cats (Shasta, Lola, Nathaniel, D.C., and Shadow).

We miss watching Noel play with the dogs and curled up asleep against Gretchen's lap. We miss watching her sprinting circles around the house as she often used to do at dusk. We miss the image of Roxy sitting at the fence line with our neighbor, silently watching and listening as she used to do for hours at a time. She loved to sneak dips into our neighbor's pond and to go on long walks with us. She liked trying to sit in people's laps and sunbathing on the lawn. She definitely made sure the other dogs knew she was boss, and it was rare that any of them challenged her. As you can see by looking at her pictures, she was extremely camera-shy, so we only have a small handful of good pictures of her!

The absence of Noel and Roxy (and Travis and Caesar) is felt very deeply on the farm, but life does move on and we are so abundantly grateful for all the years we had with these dogs. They were all very special to us, but in unique ways for each.

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