



Live Oak, that expanse of unincorporated land between Santa Cruz and Capitola, has changed character its over the years. A half a century ago, when this farm at 7th Avenue and Brommer Street was started, Live Oak mainly was made up of chicken and small truck farms. Victor Hernandez and Guillermo Gutteriez still work this farm, but Live Oak now has 21,000 people, and only 93.5 acres, or three per cent of the land, is used for agricultural. Emilio Maggiolo, owner of this six-acre multi-crop farm, predicts the demise of farming in Live Oak. "It's definitely a non-paying operation nowadays. We've been farming here for 50 years and now with the high cost of water, it's not feasible," the farmer said. (Sentinel Photo - Bill Lovejoy)