

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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## 103rd Annual Meeting Held Via Zoom



2020 Farmer  
of the Year:

“All Santa  
Cruz  
County  
Growers  
and Farm  
Employees”

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau named “All Santa Cruz County Growers and Farm Employees” as the 2020 Farmer of the Year. The announcement was made during Thanksgiving week. In making this announcement, Arnett Young, President, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau stated, “Local agriculture has been an important essential business during this pandemic to ensure that food production was not interrupted, so as people spent more time at home, they could be assured of a safe and adequate food supply.” President Young continued, “We commend everyone involved in local agriculture for the outstanding service they provided the community, our state, country and worldwide.” This award is presented annually to the farmer(s) who have contributed beyond their normal farming duties to help the community. The decision was made during the Farm Bureau’s 103rd Annual “Virtual” Meeting. The Board of Directors felt it was appropriate to honor all local growers and farm employees because of their resilience and adaptability in the face of the pandemic. President Young further stated, “It seems appropriate that we make this announcement during the week of

Thanksgiving when families are enjoying the bounty made possible by growers and farm employees.”

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# ASK MARK

**Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor**  
Strawberries & Caneberries, UCCE

## The Use of Biodegradable Mulches in Strawberries

**Q.** Can you elaborate a bit on biodegradable mulches for use in strawberry, in particular what is going on with their use in organic systems?

**A.** You are correct that UC Cooperative Extension, in close collaboration with Pam Krone from the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Dr. Lisa Devetter from Washington State University, has been investigating the use of biodegradable mulches in strawberries here in California.

These biodegradable mulches, also known by their acronym BDM, are indeed a promising alternative for strawberry growers. Beyond the obvious environmental benefits of using a plastic which biodegrades in the field and does not contribute to the immense amount of non-degradable plastic going to the landfill, BDM's can simply be tilled into the soil at the end of the season, and subsequently allow the grower to avoid all the costs and effort of retrieving bed plastic and transporting it to the landfill.

That said, it is important to understand that care must be taken currently when applying this concept to organic systems! In short, while the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) did add biobased biodegradable mulches to their

list of allowed synthetic substances, it is nevertheless a fact right now that, outside of paper based mulches, no commercial formulation of these mulches meets this NOP criteria for use in certified organic production.

The difficulty with our current selection of BDM's meeting these NOP criteria are that these mulches are produced by genetically modified organisms (not using these organisms would make BDM commercial manufacture cost prohibitive), in addition to the as of yet incomplete knowledge on meeting certain compostability specifications and reaching at least 90% biodegradation in the soil within two years. All three of these matters are being worked on currently by researchers in California, Washington and other states.

If you would like to learn more about biodegradable mulches for conventional as well as the ongoing discussion regarding their use in organic systems, please visit the website maintained by WSU : <https://smallfruits.wsu.edu/plastic-mulches/>.

As always, for questions regarding this topic and others in berries on the Central Coast, please contact Mark Bolda, UC Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz County, [mpbolda@ucanr.edu](mailto:mpbolda@ucanr.edu) or 831 763 8025.

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*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

# THE WATER NANNY

## Be of Good Cheer

The holidays provide every writer with an opportunity to easily fill her column with stories of past and present festivals and to lay out an optimistic fantasy of the coming year. We have all become spoiled by our seemingly perpetual prosperity and good fortune. 2020 has reminded us that occasionally we can have a below average year.

We have lived, and lasted, through great depressions and great wars, which tarnished our Christmas spirit. Looking back, winter and holidays have always been a mixed bag. Great and wondrous things typically appear during the holidays. On December 24, 1864 children of Watsonville were "made glad by receiving from the Christmas Union Tree (during the Civil war Watsonville was a Union town) the various presents designed for them by parents, teachers and friends." In December 1898 the Relief Committee of the Pajaro Valley collected food and household supplies to be distributed to 584 needy residents (most everyone) of South Monterey County, where two years of crop failure in 1897 and 1898, rendered them destitute. The highlight of the Christmas season in 1938 was the Lion's Club Santa Claus Workshop, an annual tradition in the Watsonville Plaza, with the first radio broadcast over KHUB (radio was new, live and high tech).

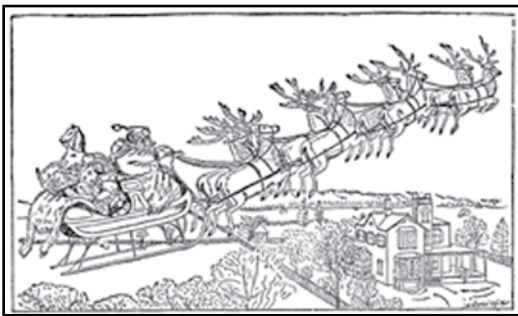
Individual communities have also overcome great winter tragedies and recovered in the New Year. Who can forget Washington's 1777 winter encampment at Valley Forge, without sufficient food clothing or socks, only to eventually

the San Lorenzo inundated Santa Cruz and Capitola was evacuated on December 23, 1955.

Like a ghost in *A Christmas Carol*, we now see both the bad and good of our present. It was the fourth and last ghost, the *Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come*, which made Ebenezer a new man. As we stay at home for the holidays, we will have more time to divine how change can improve the New Year. From a farm prospective, our old customer base will slowly return, restaurants and hotels will reopen, but there will be bumps. More severe regulations are foreshadowed, but their actual implementation will be long delayed by appeals to State Boards and courts, making it wise to anticipate, but not required in 2021.

Of greater need, as this is the lesson of the fourth ghost, is our community. Too many have been severely impacted by the pandemic; loss of employment and tenuous Wi-Fi education. The ghost suggests we step up to aid those impacted. Unfortunately our cities and county may not be able to rise to the occasion, so home action like the 1898 Relief Committee may be the best savior. Please check out our Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes, Salvation Army, the Community Foundation and other local charities for compelling needs.

The New Year brings hope. As farmers, spring is always a time of optimism. We could never plant our crops to be harvested in the future without the hopeful belief in success, so it is again this year. In this time of pandemic and political strife, we can all agree on one thing; it is a low hurdle for 2021 to be a better year than 2020. This year will be remembered forever, and next year will be marvelous. *"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."* (Thomas Jefferson)



in December, 1846. One of

the key Donner Party families, Patrick Breen's, survived to become a pillar of the nascent American community in San Juan Bautista. Locally, after days of torrential rain, the Pajaro River levee broke flooding Watsonville (boats on Main Street),



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Chewy Ginger Molasses Cookies

Christmas is the time of year to bake cookies. All cookies are good, some are just more special than others during the holidays. You may have your Grandma's Christmas cookie recipe or a recipe from your favorite aunt; but no matter where it comes from, we must have cookies at Christmas. Here are a couple of my favorites. Merry cookie baking season and Merry Christmas too!

3/4 cup butter	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup sugar	1/2 teaspoon cloves
1 egg	Pinch of nutmeg
1/4 cup molasses	1/2 teaspoon ginger
2 cups flour	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking soda	

Cream the butter and sugar together. Add the egg and molasses. Combine the dry ingredients and blend into the molasses mixture. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Portion dough into desired cookie size and bake for 10 - 12 minutes.

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## Snowball Cookies

1 cup butter	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup powdered sugar	1 cup pecans, chopped
2 teaspoons vanilla	powdered sugar for dusting
2 cups all-purpose flour	

Blend softened butter with powdered sugar. Add vanilla.

Mix in salt, flour and chopped pecans

Form dough into 1 inch balls (or flattened cookies, if you prefer) and place on an ungreased cookie sheet

Bake in a 325°F oven for 20 minutes. While hot, roll in powdered sugar.

Let cool and roll again in powdered sugar.

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## Interesting Trivia

If Facebook was a country, it would have 1 billion more people than China. At 2.45 billion monthly users, Facebook overshadows China's (1.4 billion) and India's (1.3 billion) populations. Even Instagram has three times as many people as the U.S. now.



# "Agriculture, the Original Green"

## 2020 Farmer of the Year

Continued from Page 1

During the 103rd Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors acknowledged the great work done this year by Farm Bureau's COVID-19 Task Force, which interacted with the County Health Department on a regular basis.

Other activities of the Annual Meeting included the election of officers and board members for the upcoming 2020/2021 fiscal year. Those elected were:

### Officers:

President/State Delegate – Arnett Young

1st Vice President/State Delegate – Dennis Webb

2nd Vice President/Alternate Delegate – Peter Navarro

Past President/Alternate Delegate – Brendan Miele

### Directors:

For 1st term, three-year director:  
Greg Estrada

For 2nd term, three-year director:  
Nishan Moutafian, Berries  
Mike Jani, Timber

For 3rd term, three-year directors:  
John Pisturino, Cattle  
Geri Prevedelli-Lathrop, Apples

## I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...



"I want to support the organization that supports our local agricultural community!"

Amanda Peixoto-Castro,  
Lakeside Organic Gardens

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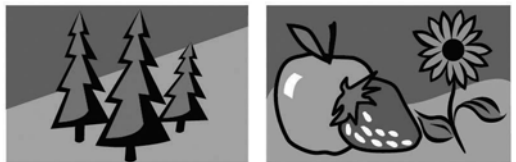
What was the first toy to be advertised on television?  
Hint: It's involves a vegetable. See Answer on page 9

# Become A Farm Bureau Member

## Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



# FARM



# BUREAU

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. We are continually involved in local land use and transportation issues as well as opportunities to provide educational support through scholarships and school programs. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau helps ensure that the agriculture industry here remains viable, and continues to generate financial security for the entire community.

### WHY JOIN THE FARM BUREAU?

Whether you represent a community involved in the production of food products, are home to one of the ports that ships California-grown products all over the world, or are one of the 38 million California consumers of the food, fiber or foliage we produce, you have a stake in the future of California farms and ranches.

With more than 400 different commodities produced in California, Farm Bureau is committed to helping consumers understand where their food comes from, the challenges associated with producing a safe, affordable food supply and ensuring consumer confidence in California-grown products.

When you join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, you automatically become eligible for California Farm Bureau member benefits.

**Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership and receive the many benefits and services available.**

**By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.**

### HOW TO JOIN

To join the Farm Bureau, complete the Agricultural Member Application or the Associate Member Application

Go to [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com) and click on the "JOIN" button. No need to log in on this page. Go to the bottom of the page and click on NEVER BEEN A MEMBER to set up a new account.

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# President's Message

## COVID-19 Is Real



**ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT**

**H**appy Holidays! We are well into this festive season, one unlike any I have experienced; truthfully, unlike any one of us has ever experienced. This is the time of year we traditionally spend gathered with friends and family; cooking, eating, laughing and celebrating one year passing and a new year coming. However, this year we should be celebrating differently from our traditions due to

COVID 19, but that does not mean it carries less meaning or good will.

COVID is real; at the time of this writing, over 266,000 Americans have died due to COVID 19. By the time you read this, it is expected nearly another 30,000 Americans will be added to the death toll. Medical experts (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and American Public Health Association to name a few) are encouraging us to celebrate with our household units, "bubbles", to slow/stop the spread of COVID 19. When out of the house, wear a mask, social distance and be patient. Protecting others is an expression of love, hope and kindness.

Responses to address the spread of COVID 19 in communities have left many in economic distress. Charities are reporting an increase in demand for their services; Goodwill, Salvation Army, Second Harvest Food Bank, Toys For Tots, along with various mental health support organizations and shelters, are a few non-profits that need and rely on our donations and support. If you have the means, consider redirecting the funds you might normally spend on large gatherings and offer them instead to charities that help others in our community. Let's work together and spread compassion by ensuring these charities have the resources to deliver to our neighbors in need.

There is hope. Medical advances are reducing the number of deaths through innovative medical care. Multiple vaccines are being finalized for approval by the FDA and should soon be available. These are reasons to celebrate! We have lived with this virus for almost a full year. COVID has changed

how we live, work, communicate and interact. Do not let it change our caring for one another; help others by donating to local charities. Protect others by wearing a mask and social distancing. These are two of the simplest things we can do so that we all can see an end to this pandemic together. Happy Holidays and stay safe.



*A Happy Holiday Season  
from all of us here at the  
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.  
Stay safe and stay healthy!*



## Preparing for the Next Agricultural Season as the Pandemic Continues



With the majority of our agricultural season wrapping up for the year, it is important to take the time to familiarize yourself with new COVID-19 State requirements that become effective on January 1, 2021 and to fine tune your COVID-19 preparedness plan to keep employees safe on the farm for the 2021 season. The Santa Cruz County Health Department has put together an employer toolkit website to help businesses better prepare for COVID-19 in the workplace. You can access the site here:

<http://santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome/PublicInformation/Employers.aspx>

The website provides the latest information to employers on their responsibilities for prevention, preparedness, and outbreak management. The site contains step-by-step guidance employers can follow to help contain and mitigate COVID-19 cases in the workplace and includes forms and other documents that can be used to meet notification requirements, assist with contact tracing and incorporated into your operation's preparedness plan. The information contained on the site can generally be applied to most places of business except healthcare or congregate living settings.

For COVID-19 guidance more specific to agricultural settings, you should refer the document titled: *COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Agriculture and Livestock*. This document can be found on the State of California COVID-19 website here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>

This website also provides information on employer policies and resources and the latest information on the State's tiering strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The new year brings the implementation of new employer requirements to protect workers from COVID-19 in the workplace. Effective January 1, 2021, AB 685 will require employers to notify their employees and the employer of subcontracted workers who may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace, and to report workplace

outbreaks of COVID-19 to the local health officer. (The requirement to report outbreaks in the workplace has already been in place since September.). An outbreak is defined as having at least three employee COVID-19 cases at the same worksite within a 14-day period. As part of the notification mandate to employees and the employer of subcontracted workers, the law requires that the employer also provide information about COVID-19 benefits including workers' compensation, company sick leave, supplemental sick leave, and anti-retaliation and anti-discrimination protections. In addition, the employer must also notify their employees of the operation's disinfection and safety plan for the worksite. AB 685 also gives CalOSHA authority to shut down a worksite that exposes employees to a hazard which may lead to exposure to COVID-19 and to issue citations or fines for serious violations related to COVID-19, including failure to provide notification. For more information regarding the requirements of this law visit the California Department of Public Health guidance at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>



Answer: Mr. Potato Head was first created in 1952 by Hasbro, Inc. (which was the Hassenfeld Brothers company at the time) in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. On April 30th of that same year, the toy appeared in the first commercial that was aimed at children instead of adults.

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Will Rogers

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*~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver*

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**VOLUME 44, ISSUE 12**



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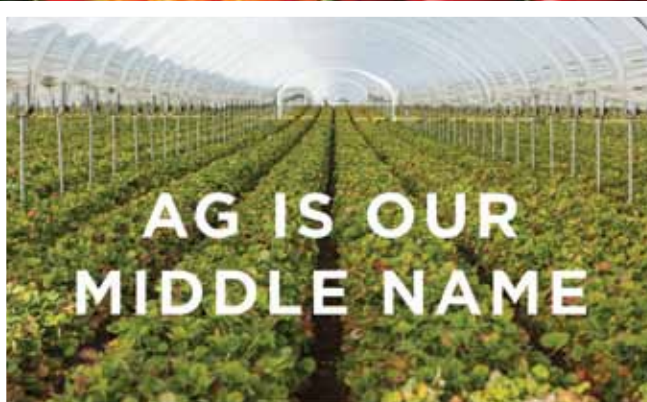
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## CALENDAR

**FRIDAY - DECEMBER 25**  
Christmas Day - Office Closed

**FRIDAY - JANUARY 1**  
New Year's Day - Office Closed

**THURSDAY - JANUARY 28**  
Board Retreat



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