

# SAN BENITO COUNTY

2020

*Crop & Livestock Report*

A scenic view of a valley in San Benito County, California. The foreground shows a field of tall, dry grasses. In the middle ground, there is a farmstead with a barn, a fence, and a yellow tractor. A large vineyard with rows of grapevines stretches across the valley. The background consists of rolling hills covered in dense green trees and shrubs under a clear blue sky.





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# COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

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**KAREN OVERSTREET** AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES  
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September 15, 2021

Karen Ross, Secretary California Department of Food and Agriculture  
The Honorable San Benito County Board of Supervisors  
Ray Espinosa, County Administrative Officer

In accordance with the requirements of section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I respectfully submit the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures' 2020 Annual Livestock and Crop Report.

The year began tenuously as news of the novel corona virus' impact in China was initially reported. By the end of March, major segments of the food-service industry, such as restaurants and schools, were closed due to the pandemic's spread in the United States. The closure of substantial crop and livestock markets in 2020 clearly had a financial impact, as indicated in this report. The pandemic also created impediments to the production of agricultural commodities, including labor shortages and expensive modifications to work environments. In addition, a long and intense wildfire season caused difficult working conditions. Despite these obstacles, San Benito County agricultural industry plowed on.

The wide variety of specialty crops produced in the county insulated our growers from steeper declines in revenue seen in other regions. Industry participants were ingenuitive in adapting to loss of markets and new work-place restrictions, for instance finding new platforms to off-load product, which further reduced potential losses. Many thanks are owed to the California Department of Food and Agriculture and California Office of Emergency Services which provided personal protective equipment against Covid-19 and wildfire smoke. This enabled work to be done more safely in hazardous conditions. Our local agricultural community performed considerably well during highly unusual and difficult circumstances.

The County Crop Report is the result of a joint effort between department staff and our industry representatives. Without their support, the report would not be possible. Thank you to all who call agriculture their professional career, and especially to the staff who collected, analyzed and published this important data.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the cost of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report. The figures are also periodically averaged and or rounded in the process to achieve the end value.

To learn more about the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the services we provide including crop reports, visit us @ <https://www.cosb.us/departments/agriculture/crop-report>.

Sincerely,

*Karen Overstreet*

Karen Overstreet

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# SAN BENITO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSONER and SEALERS OFFICE

## County Board of Supervisors

Vacant	District 1	
Kollin Kosmicki	District 2	
Peter Hernandez	District 3	
Bob Tiffany	District 4	Vice Chairman
Bea Gonzales	District 5	Chairman

## County Administrative Officer

Ray Espinosa



## SAN BENITO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STAFF

### **Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures**

*Karen Overstreet*

### **Deputy Ag Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures**

*Ken Griffin*

### **Supervising Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**

*Donna Carbonaro*

#### **Agricultural Biologist**

- *Rafael Martinez*
- *Bleu Pettigrew*
- *Michael Silverman*
- *Belen Velasquez*
- *Kacy Wentzell*

#### **Agricultural Technician**

- *Jose Carapia*
- *Clayton Holly*
- *Gabby Jimenez*
- *Elyssa Soria*
- *Lorie Tilley*
- *Tony Wilson*

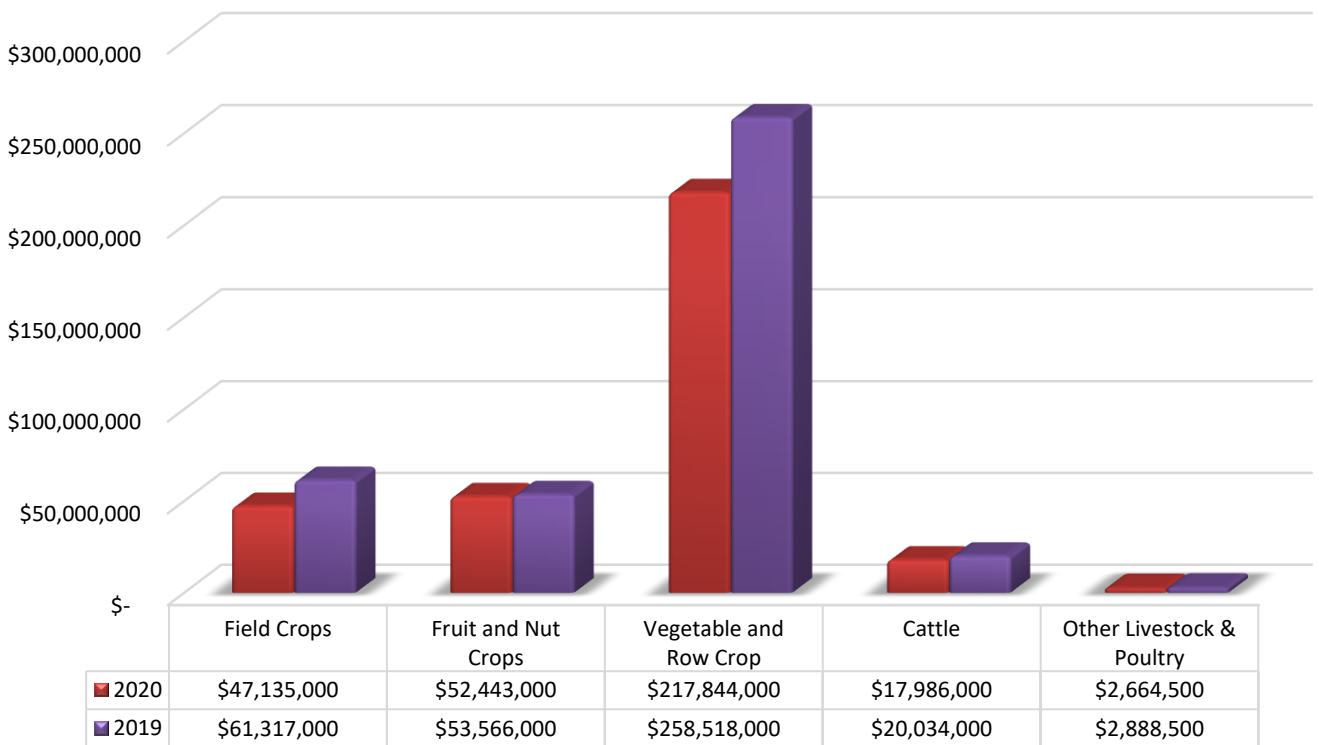
#### **Administrative Support**

- *Angie Pate*

# Commodity Summary

Agricultural value from San Bento County decreased by 15%, 58 million dollars in gross sales for 2020. The biggest decrease was found in the vegetable and row crops. Total commodity values for the previous two years are compared below.

## Commodity Summary



# Top 10 Commodities



## 2020 Top 10 Commodities

2019 Rank	2020 Rank	Product	Value	%	% difference
1	1	Misc. Veg & Row	\$46,167,000	14%	-10%
3	2	Lettuce, Salad Mix	\$36,755,000	11%	-15%
4	3	Wine Grapes	\$34,773,000	10%	4%
2	4	Spinach	\$34,417,000	10%	-22%
6	5	Peppers, All Reported	\$16,443,000	5%	-7%
5	6	Industrial Hemp	\$16,245,000	5%	-37%
10	7	Tomato, Fresh mkt.	\$15,302,000	5%	-4%
7	8	Broccoli/Brocchetto	\$15,181,000	4%	-13%
9	9	Pasture/Rangeland	\$15,120,000	4%	-12%
8	10	Lettuce, Romaine	\$14,801,000	4%	-15%

**Total Value \$245,204,000**

73% of ALL Commodities

# Vegetable and Row Crops

Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per unit	Total
Broccoli/Brocquette	2019	1812	8.1	14,677	1195	\$17,539,000
	2020	1743	7.4	12,898	1177	\$15,181,000
Celery	2019	775	33.5	25,963	595	\$15,448,000
	2020	536	31	16,616	440	\$7,311,000
Kale	2019	851	11.6	9,872	1440	\$14,215,000
	2020	982	11	10,802	1125	\$12,152,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2019	973	18.1	17,611	360	\$6,340,000
	2020	842	17.2	14,482	333	\$4,823,000
Lettuce, Romaine	2019	2530	14	35,420	490	\$17,356,000
	2020	2760	12.3	33,948	436	\$14,801,000
Peppers, All Reported	2019	1525	25.1	38,278	464	\$17,761,000
	2020	1585	22.8	36,138	455	\$16,443,000
Tomatoes, Fresh	2019	700	16.1	11,270	1420	\$16,003,000
	2020	745	15.8	11,771	1300	\$15,302,000
Carrot	2019	800	4840	-	-	\$3,872,000
	2020	760	4665	-	-	\$3,546,000
Lettuce, Salad Mix	2019	7740	5600	-	-	\$43,344,000
	2020	6775	5425	-	-	\$36,755,000
Misc. Veg & Row * See page 11	2019	5710	-	-	-	\$51,034,000
	2020	5615	-	-	-	\$46,167,000
Onions-Shallots-Garlic	2019	1090	-	-	-	\$11,626,000
	2020	1050	-	-	-	\$10,946,000
Spinach	2019	5864	7500	-	-	\$43,980,000
	2020	4945	6960	-	-	\$34,417,000

Totals	
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$258,518,000</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$217,844,000</b>



# Fruit and Nut Crops



Production (all planted acres included)					Value	
Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per unit	Total
Apples	2019	348	14.8	5,150	355	\$1,828,000
	2020	348	13.7	4,678	280	\$1,310,000
Apricots	2019	551	3	1,653	1500	\$2,480,000
	2020	537	3.68	1,976	650	\$1,285,000
Cherries	2019	518	1.1	570	650	\$371,000
	2020	512	3.96	2,028	1095	\$2,220,000
Grapes	2019	4740	4.63	21,946	1523	\$33,424,000
	2020	4740	5.24	24,838	1400	\$34,773,000
Misc	2019	340		-		\$13,626,000
	2020	322		-		\$11,800,000
Olives	2019	174	2.4	418	800	\$334,000
	2020	174	1.6	278	675	\$188,000
Walnuts	2019	1061	0.56	594	1600	\$951,000
	2020	982	0.49	481	1090	\$525,000
Walnuts (O)	2019	502	0.4	201	2750	\$552,000
	2020	378	0.34	129	2660	\$342,000

2019 Total

\$53,566,000

2020 Total

\$52,443,000

# Field Crops

Field Crops						
Commodity	Year	Production			Value	
		Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per unit	Total
Misc Field Crops	2019					\$705,000
	2020					\$596,000
Grain Hay	2019	11000	2.65	29,150	210	\$6,122,000
	2020	10500	2.5	26,250	225	\$5,906,000
Nursery Stock	2019	135				\$7,480,000
	2020	135				\$6,297,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2019	504000			34	\$17,136,000
	2020	504000			30	\$15,120,000
Permanent Pasture	2019	200			325	\$65,000
	2020	200			330	\$66,000
Seed Crops	2019	511			7500	\$3,833,000
	2020	415			7000	\$2,905,000
Hemp	2019	530				\$25,976,000
	2020	438				\$16,245,000
2019 Total						61,317,000
2020 Total						47,135,000

# Cattle & Livestock

	Year	# of Head	Total Cwt	\$ per Cwt	Total
Calves	2019	12,240	75,276	160.25	\$12,063,000
	2020	12,050	73,505	137	\$10,070,000
Pasture	2019	35,940	109,620	48.00	\$5,262,000
	2020	36,130	106,945	48.00	\$5,134,000
Cows	2019	2,805	39,130	63.00	\$2,465,000
	2020	2,490	34,910	74.00	\$2,584,000
Bulls	2019	155	2,945	83.00	\$244,000
	2020	120	2,244	88.00	\$198,000
2019 Total	All Cattle	51,140			20,034,000
2020 Total	All Cattle	50,640			17,986,000



Cattle Herd Inventory				
Year	Year Round	8-10 Months	2-6 Months	Total Head
2019	22,850	11,865	37,140	71,855
2020	23,000	12,135	36,980	72,115

Other Livestock & Poultry Products	
Year	Totals
2019	\$2,888,500
2020	\$2,664,500

# Miscellaneous Crops and Products

\*Commodities in these categories are combined with other similar products because the number of producers of each commodity were less than three, or one producer is responsible for 60 percent or more of the product. This is common practice to avoid disclosure of personal business affairs of the operations reporting.

## Vegetable & Row Crops



## Fruit & Nut Crops



## Salad Mix



## Livestock & Poultry Products



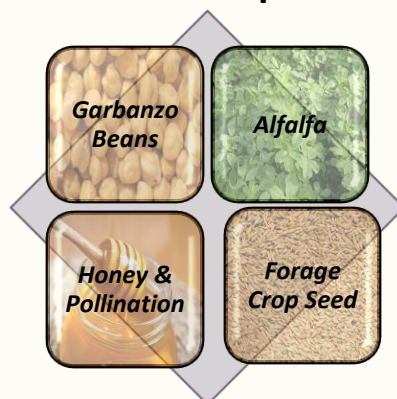
## Nursery Stock



## Seed Crops



## Field Crops



# Export Shipments Around The World

San Benito County Biologists facilitated world trade in 2020 with 2,442 certified shipments across the globe. Our top partners include Canada, Mexico, Japan, Italy and Netherlands. We also certified 488 plus domestic shipments of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and plant material.



COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS
ALGERIA	7	ISRAEL	17	PARAGUAY	3
ARGENTINA	21	ITALY	69	PERU	10
AUSTRALIA	26	JAPAN	18	PORTUGAL	1
BRAZIL	31	JORDAN	15	QATAR	1
CANADA	748	KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	21	SAUDI ARABIA	15
CHILE	13	LEBANON	11	SOUTH AFRICA	12
CHINA	47	LIBYA	1	SPAIN	14
COLUMBIA	3	LITHUANIA	1	SUDAN	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	MALAYSIA	1	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	6
ECUADOR	3	MEXICO	1083	TAIWAN	1
EGYPT	11	MOROCCO	11	THAILAND	3
FRANCE	35	NETHERLANDS	86	TURKEY	15
GREECE	2	NEW ZEALAND	4	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	15
GUATEMALA	4	NORWAY	2	UNITED KINGDOM	8
HONDURAS	1	OMAN	3	UNITED STATES	1
INDIA	17	PAKISTAN	1	UZBEKISTAN	3
IRAQ	3	PANAMA	1	VIETNAM	10
				YEMEN	9

# Organic Farming

Organic farming is a large part of the agricultural economy in San Benito County. San Benito County continues to see an increase in the number of producers and acres farmed each year. San Benito County had 77 CDFA registered growers in 2020. Our growers produce a wide variety of fruits, nuts, vegetables, seed, nursery stock, field crops and livestock. The most popular and highest grossing commodities included salad mix varieties, spinach, and cole crops. Gross sales reported were approximately 60 million dollars.



## Certified Farmer's Market

The Hollister Farmer's Market was established to offer agricultural products directly to the consumers in San Benito County. San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's office certified three farmer's markets, issued numerous Certified Producer's Certificates. Staff conducted inspections at the markets and the certified growing sites in order to preserve the integrity of the direct marketing program.

## Agricultural Statistics

As required by the California Food and Agricultural Code, the County Agricultural Commissioner compiles an annual report of the County's agricultural production. With its unique climate along with fertile soils and water supplies, agriculture is the County's largest industry. Yearly agricultural statistics have been compiled and reported by the San Benito Agricultural Commissioner's office since 1941 and can be viewed on the department's website: <http://www.cosb.us/county-departments/agriculture/crop-report/>.

## Vegetable Standardization

This program ensures compliance with California's minimum standards regarding quality and marketing of all produce commercially grown and/or marketed in the state. Direct Marketing regulation and Organic law enforcement are part of a program that provides for local protection to growers, marketers and consumers.

## Nursery & Seed Inspection

Through this program, the Commissioner inspects the growing, propagation, production, and sale of nursery stock to assure cleanliness from pests, true variety, and vigorous-healthy plants for sale to the consumer. Inspections are also performed at the retail and wholesale establishments that sell seeds. Samples are drawn for germination and purity testing. Labeling is inspected for compliance with state requirements. Certification services are also performed for growers and processors, in cooperation with the California Crop Improvement Association.

## Pesticide Use Enforcement

California has the most comprehensive pesticide regulatory system in the nation. The Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for the implementation of the statewide program at the County level. This program regulates the proper, safe, and effective use of pesticides that are essential for production of food and for protection of the public's health and safety. Structural and landscape use of pesticides are also regulated by the Commissioner. It also protects the environment from potentially harmful pesticides by prohibiting, regulating or ensuring proper stewardship of pesticides. Other components of the program include pesticide use reporting, incident investigations, outreach activities, inspection of users/distributors of pesticides and monitoring applications in the field.

## Pest Detection

At the peak season, our office deployed 1205 insect detection traps throughout the county. These traps are designed to intercept new exotic and non-native insect species before they become established. Some of the insects we monitor for include Asian Citrus Psyllid - European Pine Shoot Moth - Japanese Beetle - Melon Fruit Fly - Mexican Fruit Fly - European Corn Borer - Glassy-winged Sharpshooter - Khapra Beetle - Mediterranean Fruit Fly - European Grapevine Moth - Gypsy Moth - Oriental Fruit Fly - Light Brown Apple Moth all amount to 12,761 servicing's completed in over 4200 hours. \*

## Pest Eradication

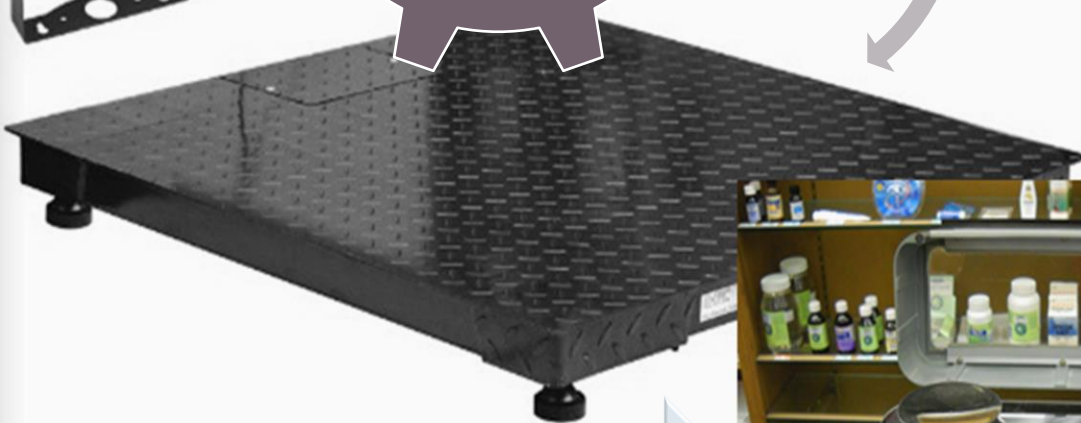
Invasive plant pests are eradicated throughout the year using a combination of chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods. Yellow & Purple Star-thistle, Scotch & Artichoke Thistle have been the targeted species.

# Weights & Measures



Weights and Measures inspectors certify that the devices used in commerce, to weigh, measure, or count a product are correct. Some devices are large and used to weigh hundreds if not thousands of pounds. Pictured to the left is the county's weight truck that holds 20,000 pounds of 1,000 lb blocks. The on-board crane makes quick work of loading and unloading the blocks. When loaded the truck weighs more than 45,000 pounds.

The platform scale below is used to weigh many commodities. Capacities of this type of device vary from 3,000—6,000 pounds.



To the right is a Torsion Balance that has a maximum weight capacity of 15.5 Grains, or about 1 gram, and can be used at pharmacies.





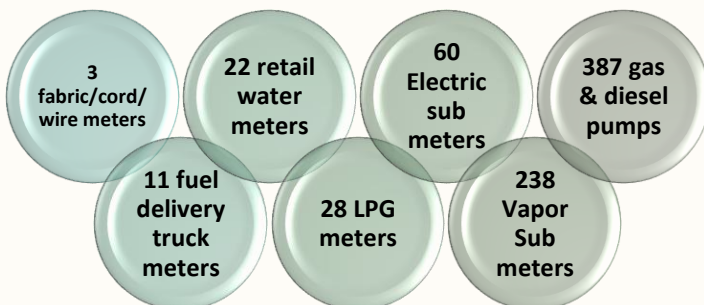


Inspectors do an annual inspection of all fuel delivery meters in the county to ensure the correct amount is dispensed to the consumer.

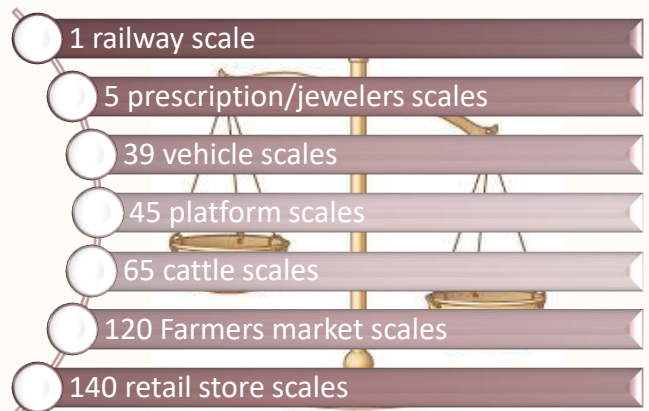
To ensure consumer protection, the department will carry out price verification inspections. This corroborates the lowest advertised price with the price you are charged at the cash register.

## Device Inspection Statistics

### Measuring Device Inspections



### Weighing Device Inspections



# Mosquito Abatement Program

## Mosquito Control

In response to the introduction of West Nile Virus (WNV) to California, the San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for managing the mosquito abatement program. Our program utilizes Integrated Pest Management practices incorporating public education, biological control, source reduction and use of the least toxic pesticides that have minimal impact on people, wildlife, and the environment.



## Monitoring

Adult mosquito monitoring is conducted each year during mosquito season from April-November. Standardized traps emitting carbon dioxide are used to determine mosquito populations, location, and species. Mosquito samples are collected from specific traps and sent to a State laboratory for WNV testing. Visual site evaluations for larvae detection are also completed in certain problem areas. A flock of ten sentinel chicken are kept throughout the season and blood samples are collected biweekly for screening.

## Biological Control

Biological control is employed through the use of mosquito fish. Mosquito fish are a natural predator of mosquito larvae and have been shown to be effective at reducing or eliminating the production of mosquitos from target sources. Mosquito fish are a hardy species and survive well in a wide range of conditions, making them an efficient and cost-effective method of control. The Agricultural Commissioner's office supplies mosquito fish at no cost to the public.

## Chemical Control

Larvicide tablets and granular formulations are used to treat infested water features like neglected pools and fountains as well as stagnant, standing water on lawns, agricultural land, and parks. Larvicide is also applied to city storm drains each year as a preventative measure. Fogging sprays can also be used in the event of a population outbreak.

## Public Outreach

Community Outreach involves education about proper pool maintenance, irrigation practices, and the overall reduction of stagnant water on one's property. The county conducts educational demonstrations at schools, farmers markets and community events. For more information on steps, you can take to reduce mosquito breeding and habitat, contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office.

**Dump, Drain & Defend**

# Face Coverings/Mask Distribution

On March 17, 2020, at 2:00pm, there was a press release notifying the County of San Benito of an order issued by the County Health Officer for the need to **Shelter in Place** effective 12:01 a.m. March 18, 2020. The Health Officer's order defines essential services and activities to include exceptions necessary to limit negative public health impact. They include law and safety operations, essential government services, health care operations, pharmacies, childcare facilities, food production including farming, food businesses including groceries and other food retailers, telecommunications, restaurants operating at reduced capacity, shelter including hotels, social services, establishments and agencies serving economically disadvantaged populations, gas stations, banks, laundry businesses, and safety and sanitation businesses.

Through a partnership with CDFA and CalOES, face Coverings/masks were distributed at no cost to San Benito County agricultural workers. At first the distribution was in response to the pandemic and the shortage of N95 masks for pesticide applications. Later in the year N95 masks were provided to agricultural workers in response to the unhealthy air quality caused by the wildfires.

Nearly 22,000 of the 24,2700 - N95 Masks were distributed directly to farmworkers in the field for unhealthy air quality due to the wildfires. Approximately 206,350 disposable and 2,000 reusable masks were distributed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. A total of 232,620 masks were distributed by our office.

