



NorthCoastGrowersAssociation.org
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Dear NCGA Members,

January 31st, 2020

We have been busy in the NCGA office preparing for what we hope to be a bountiful and exciting season ahead for 2020. This new decade brings a significant expansion of NCGA's operations to include the Southern Humboldt Farmers' Markets. Your board, staff and a member committee have developed transition plans that will ensure we continue everything that makes our SoHum markets unique and successful for the vendors and communities they serve. The stall fee structure will remain the same at these markets this year and all existing SoHum members are welcomed back to their markets while keeping their seniority. A big thanks to the volunteer market managers of Miranda (Toni) and Shelter Cove (Charlotte) for their time and energy in helping with the transition, and to our new NCGA staff member Leann who is the returning Garberville market manager.

This season we have tightened up our Zero Waste policies, both in the office and at the market through your cooperation with our allowable packaging products. We have also gone "paperless" with some of our annual "membership packet" materials and transferred them to our website where they can be accessed easily at any time. Please visit the NCGA website and click on the "Members" tab to find members resources, including copies of our 2019 Annual Report and Budget Summary, up-to-date Rules & Regulations and Bylaws, our full Zero Waste Standards, and anything else you might need. If you prefer paper copies of any materials just let us know and we'll be happy to provide them.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Membership Meeting on March 4 at 5pm at the Bayside Grange. We will have copies of the Annual Report, 2020 Budget and other important resources such as a step-by-step guide to accepting credit cards at market and information on how your customers can access Farmers' Market Bucks at the info booth when they don't have cash at market. We will also welcome our newest board members Lauren Riley, Mike Egan and Jamie Cohoon. We are so thankful for the donation of all our board members' time and energy to support the mission and operations of NCGA.

The board will be leading the effort to plan some fun new fundraising events celebrating local food and agriculture for NCGA this season. Join the planning effort and share your ideas by coming to our Fundraising Events meeting February 6 at 4:30pm at the Greenway Building.

I am personally excited for the start of the market season because my family will also be welcoming a baby girl to join us some time around the end of May! I will look forward to social visits to the markets with the new baby while enjoying some time off work for maternity leave. Ivy, Laura and the rest of the staff will surely keep operations running smoothly in my absence.

Portia Bramble, Executive Director

Hello Farmers, Makers, Crafters and all NCGA Members and Supporting Members,

I hope you are feeling recharged, re-inspired and ready for the season ahead. I am constantly inspired by our community of producers and all the artful creativity, hard work and ingenuity we share with our community and beyond. I want to assure you that the NCGA staff and Board have your interests at heart; that we are extremely focused and committed to keeping our organization strong, relevant and resilient; and that we always value your input. We have never had a more capable and dynamic team ready to handle all the successes, challenges and curve balls that are likely to come our way. We've got this!

Your Board President,
Farmer Melanie of Shakefork Community Farm