

## Department of Agriculture

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## Contra Costa County



Edward P. Meyer  
Agricultural Commissioner-  
Director Of Weights and Measures

To: BILL LYONS, JR., SECRETARY  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
and  
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2001 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control Activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2001 was \$97,515,400, up \$4,917,800 dollars from 2000. Nursery stock sales continued to go up as new nurseries came to Contra Costa County and our existing nurseries increased their production. Alfalfa, wheat, and field corn showed significant improvement in the number of acres planted and value per ton. Poor prices for apples and grapes reduced the Fruit & Nut category by \$2,440,400.

Prices per ton were lower for many crops such as safflower, tomatoes, apples, and walnuts due to market competition. In some cases, the lower prices led to decreases in the acreage planted. Bedding plants, herbaceous perennials, vegetable plants, and miscellaneous nursery plants were in high demand to supply both the new housing market and the home gardener.

There were some significant changes in reporting for the 2001 Annual Crop and Livestock Report. Rangeland pasture acreage estimates were increased as new data became available from the California Gap Analysis Project. The low number of producers for milk and cut roses made it necessary to place them in grouped categories. Cut roses were placed with other flowers in a new category called Cut Flowers. Milk was placed in the Miscellaneous Livestock Product category.

Several crop categories exceeded \$1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include bedding plants, miscellaneous livestock products, sweet corn, grapes, cattle and calves, rangeland pasture, herbaceous perennials, tomatoes, apples, miscellaneous vegetables, alfalfa, miscellaneous nursery, field corn, vegetable plants, apricots, indoor decoratives, cherries, walnuts, and miscellaneous field crops.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are gross receipts and do not include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Nancy Niemeyer and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward P. Meyer".

Edward P. Meyer  
Agricultural Commissioner

# **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures**

Edward P. Meyer

## **Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer**

Vince Guise

### **AGRICULTURE**

#### **Deputy Agricultural Commissioner**

Larry Yost

Cathleen M. Roybal

Suzanne Maddux

#### **Agricultural Biologist III**

Bob Case

Ann McClure

Patty Whitlock

#### **Agricultural Biologist II**

Jorge Vargas

Ralph Fonseca

Laurie Stout

Joe Deviney

Gene Mangini

Nancy Niemeyer

Beth Slate

#### **Agricultural Biologist I**

James Chan

Tom Donlon

### **WEIGHTS and MEASURES**

#### **Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures**

Patrick J. Roof

#### **Weights & Measures Inspector III**

Arthur Mangonon

#### **Weights & Measures Inspector II**

Cris Espejo

Gil Rocha

Becky Schwenger

#### **Weights & Measures Inspector I**

Cecilie Siegel-Sebolt

### **CLERICAL**

#### **Executive Secretary**

Susan Finley

#### **Senior Clerk**

Teri Murphy

#### **Experienced Clerk**

Jacqueline Dixon

*On the Cover:* a glimpse at the poinsettia crop at Colorsport Nursery in Richmond.

## FIELD CROPS

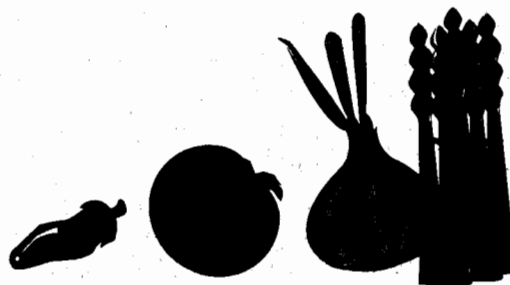


| CROP                           | YEAR | HARVESTED<br>ACREAGE | PRODUCTION  |        | UNIT | VALUE       |              |
|--------------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------|--------|------|-------------|--------------|
|                                |      |                      | PER<br>ACRE | TOTAL  |      | PER<br>UNIT | TOTAL<br>\$  |
| Field Corn                     | 2001 | 6,650                | 3.72        | 24,700 | Ton  | 89.70       | 2,217,000    |
|                                | 2000 | 7,150                | 3.33        | 23,800 | Ton  | 86.70       | 2,065,000    |
| Hay     Alfalfa                | 2001 | 3,610                | 5.76        | 20,800 | Ton  | 117.00      | 2,441,000    |
|                                | 2000 | 3,290                | 5.61        | 18,500 | Ton  | 89.40       | 1,650,000    |
| Grain                          | 2001 | 1,340                | 2.14        | 2,860  | Ton  | 86.30       | 246,000      |
|                                | 2000 | 1,570                | 2.68        | 4,210  | Ton  | 64.60       | 272,000      |
| Pasture     Irrigated          | 2001 | 5,620                |             | Grazed | Acre | 150.00      | 843,000      |
|                                | 2000 | 5,890                |             | Grazed | Acre | 125.00      | 736,000      |
| Pasture     Rangeland          | 2001 | 259,000 *            |             |        | Acre | 17.50       | 4,533,000    |
|                                | 2000 | 163,000              |             |        | Acre | 17.40       | 2,836,000    |
| Safflower                      | 2001 | 504                  | 1.04        | 522    | Ton  | 219.00      | 114,000      |
|                                | 2000 | 1,570                | 1.02        | 1,610  | Ton  | 224.00      | 361,000      |
| Wheat                          | 2001 | 3,150                | 2.16        | 6,790  | Ton  | 90.70       | 616,000      |
|                                | 2000 | 2,150                | 1.70        | 3,660  | Ton  | 85.20       | 312,000      |
| Miscellaneous<br>Field Crops** | 2001 | 2,088                |             |        |      |             | 1,130,000    |
|                                | 2000 | 3,350                |             |        |      |             | 930,000      |
| Total                          | 2001 | 281,962              |             |        |      |             | \$12,140,000 |
|                                | 2000 | 187,970              |             |        |      |             | \$9,162,000  |

\*2001 Acreage Value from the California Gap Analysis Project

\*\*Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Rye, Silage, Straw, Sudan Grass

## VEGETABLE & SEED CROPS



| CROP                                          | YEAR | HARVESTED<br>ACREAGE | PRODUCTION  |         | UNIT | VALUE       |              |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------|---------|------|-------------|--------------|
|                                               |      |                      | PER<br>ACRE | TOTAL   |      | PER<br>UNIT | TOTAL<br>\$  |
| Beans                                         | 2001 | 263                  | 3.57        | 937     | Ton  | 1,010.00    | 950,000      |
|                                               | 2000 | 318                  | 2.87        | 915     | Ton  | 963.00      | 881,000      |
| Onions                                        | 2001 | 34                   | 15.4        | 525     | Ton  | 409.00      | 215,000      |
|                                               | 2000 | 39                   | 15.4        | 598     | Ton  | 435.00      | 260,000      |
| Squash                                        | 2001 | 18                   | 4.01        | 70      | Ton  | 714.00      | 50,000       |
|                                               | 2000 | 14                   | 2.09        | 29      | Ton  | 848.00      | 24,400       |
| Sweet Corn                                    | 2001 | 2,760                | 9.61        | 26,500  | Ton  | 327.00      | 8,652,000    |
|                                               | 2000 | 2,380                | 9.62        | 22,900  | Ton  | 305.00      | 6,980,000    |
| Tomatoes                                      |      |                      |             |         |      |             |              |
| Total                                         | 2001 | 1,662                |             | 59,264  | Ton  |             | 3,518,000    |
|                                               | 2000 | 2,643                |             | 102,816 | Ton  |             | 5,742,000    |
| Fresh                                         | 2001 | 72                   | 13.40       | 964     | Ton  | 790.00      | 761,000      |
|                                               | 2000 | 43                   | 18.90       | 816     | Ton  | 879.00      | 718,000      |
| Processing                                    | 2001 | 1,590                | 36.60       | 58,300  | Ton  | 47.30       | 2,757,000    |
|                                               | 2000 | 2,600                | 39.10       | 102,000 | Ton  | 49.40       | 5,024,000    |
| Miscellaneous<br>Vegetable and<br>Seed Crops* | 2001 | 1,270                |             |         |      |             | 2,670,000    |
|                                               | 2000 | 1,380                |             |         |      |             | 3,139,000    |
| Total                                         | 2001 | 6,007                |             |         |      |             | \$16,055,000 |
|                                               | 2000 | 6,774                |             |         |      |             | \$17,026,400 |

\* Asparagus, Artichokes, Assorted Vegetables, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Lettuce, Okra, Organic Greens, Herbs, Melons, Peas, Peppers, Wheatgrass.

## FRUIT & NUT CROPS



| CROP                  | YEAR | BEARING<br>ACREAGE | PRODUCTION  |       | UNIT | VALUE       |              |
|-----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------|-------|------|-------------|--------------|
|                       |      |                    | PER<br>ACRE | TOTAL |      | PER<br>UNIT | TOTAL<br>\$  |
| Apples                | 2001 | 1,640              | 4.52        | 7,420 | Ton  | 440.00      | 3,270,000    |
|                       | 2000 | 1,570              | 4.42        | 6,920 | Ton  | 590.00      | 4,086,000    |
| <b>Apricots</b>       |      |                    |             |       |      |             |              |
| Total                 | 2001 | 639                | 6.31        | 4,030 | Ton  |             | 1,332,000    |
|                       | 2000 | 576                | 5.95        | 3,430 | Ton  |             | 1,284,000    |
| Fresh                 | 2001 |                    |             | 340   | Ton  | 714.00      | 243,000      |
|                       | 2000 |                    |             | 460   | Ton  | 1,030.00    | 474,000      |
| Processing            | 2001 |                    |             | 3,690 | Ton  | 295.00      | 1,089,000    |
|                       | 2000 |                    |             | 2,970 | Ton  | 272.00      | 810,000      |
| Cherries              | 2001 | 331                | 1.71        | 565   | Ton  | 2,220.00    | 1,254,000    |
|                       | 2000 | 322                | 1.33        | 429   | Ton  | 2,360.00    | 1,013,000    |
| Grapes                | 2001 | 1,890              | 4.03        | 7,610 | Ton  | 946.00      | 7,201,000    |
|                       | 2000 | 1,640              | 5.24        | 8,570 | Ton  | 1,030.00    | 8,869,000    |
| Nectarines            | 2001 | 31                 | 2.07        | 64    | Ton  | 1,600.00    | 103,000      |
|                       | 2000 | 34                 | 2.21        | 74    | Ton  | 1,580.00    | 118,000      |
| Peaches               | 2001 | 141                | 3.51        | 495   | Ton  | 1,250.00    | 617,000      |
|                       | 2000 | 173                | 2.93        | 506   | Ton  | 1,260.00    | 639,000      |
| Pears                 | 2001 | 49                 | 11.20       | 551   | Ton  | 215.00      | 118,000      |
|                       | 2000 | 77                 | 13.20       | 1,020 | Ton  | 152.00      | 155,000      |
| Plums                 | 2001 | 23                 | 2.24        | 51    | Ton  | 931.00      | 47,600       |
|                       | 2000 | 17                 | 2.21        | 38    | Ton  | 1,070.00    | 41,000       |
| Walnuts               | 2001 | 1,026              | 1.12        | 1,150 | Ton  | 991.00      | 1,138,000    |
|                       | 2000 | 1,070              | 0.95        | 1,010 | Ton  | 1,160.00    | 1,175,000    |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>  |      |                    |             |       |      |             |              |
| Fruit & Nut<br>Crops* | 2001 | 127                |             |       |      |             | 529,000      |
|                       | 2000 | 147                |             |       |      |             | 670,000      |
| Total                 | 2001 | 5,897              |             |       |      |             | \$15,609,600 |
|                       | 2000 | 5,626              |             |       |      |             | \$18,050,000 |

\*Almonds, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pluots, Pomegranates, Strawberries and other Miscellaneous Tree Crops.

# NURSERY PRODUCTS



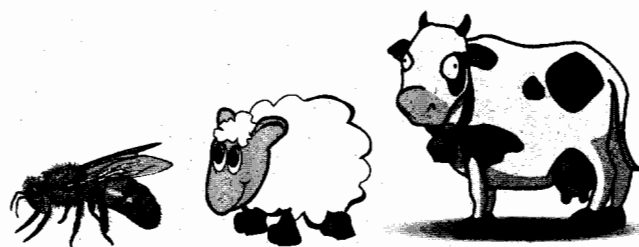
| CROP                           | YEAR | PRODUCTION AREA* |                | QUANTITY<br>SOLD BY<br>PRODUCERS | UNIT   | VALUE       |             |
|--------------------------------|------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|
|                                |      | HOUSE<br>SQ. FT. | FIELD<br>ACRES |                                  |        | PER<br>UNIT | TOTAL<br>\$ |
| <b>Nursery Stock</b>           |      |                  |                |                                  |        |             |             |
| Bedding Plants                 | 2001 | 5,955,000        | 312.00         |                                  |        |             | 26,921,000  |
|                                | 2000 | 5,755,000        | 301.00         |                                  |        |             | 22,675,000  |
| Herbaceous Perennials          | 2001 | 717,000          | 15.35          |                                  |        |             | 3,842,000   |
|                                | 2000 | 612,000          | 11.50          |                                  |        |             | 3,286,000   |
| Indoor Decoratives             | 2001 | 760,000          |                |                                  |        |             | 1,281,000   |
|                                | 2000 | 840,000          |                |                                  |        |             | 1,669,000   |
| Vegetable Plants               | 2001 | 110,000          | 11.30          |                                  |        |             | 2,216,000   |
|                                | 2000 | 110,000          | 8.30           |                                  |        |             | 1,487,000   |
| Christmas Trees                | 2001 |                  | 54.00          | 1,420                            | Trees  | 36.40       | 51,500      |
|                                | 2000 |                  | 64.00          | 1,680                            | Trees  | 36.10       | 60,700      |
| Cut Flowers**                  | 2001 | 330,000          | 3.00           |                                  | Blooms |             | 767,000     |
|                                | 2000 | 507,000          | 4.15           |                                  | Blooms |             | 1,216,000   |
| Miscellaneous Nursery Crops*** | 2001 | 135,000          | 21.70          |                                  |        |             | 2,431,000   |
|                                | 2000 | 109,000          | 18.10          |                                  |        |             | 1,711,000   |
| <b>Total</b>                   | 2001 | 8,007,000        | 417            |                                  |        |             | 37,509,500  |
|                                | 2000 | 7,933,000        | 407            |                                  |        |             | 32,104,700  |

\*Gross Area

\*\*Alstromeria, Carnations, Gerbera, Lilies, Roses, Misc. Flowers.

\*\*\*Potted Flowers & Vegetables, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Hanging Baskets  
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees.

## LIVESTOCK & POULTRY



| ITEM                               | YEAR | PRODUCTION  |                 | UNIT | VALUE    |             |
|------------------------------------|------|-------------|-----------------|------|----------|-------------|
|                                    |      | NO. OF HEAD | TOTAL LIVEWIGHT |      | PER UNIT | TOTAL \$    |
| Cattle & Calves                    | 2001 | 14,400      | 104,000         | cwt. | 66.90    | 6,953,000   |
|                                    | 2000 | 17,300      | 108,000         | cwt. | 78.10    | 8,401,000   |
| Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry* | 2001 |             |                 |      |          | 471,000     |
|                                    | 2000 |             |                 |      |          | 428,000     |
| Total                              | 2001 |             |                 |      |          | \$7,424,000 |
|                                    | 2000 |             |                 |      |          | \$8,829,000 |

## LIVESTOCK, APIARY & POULTRY PRODUCTS

| ITEM                                         | YEAR | PRODUCTION | UNIT     | VALUE    |             |
|----------------------------------------------|------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|
|                                              |      |            |          | PER UNIT | TOTAL \$    |
| Honey                                        | 2001 | 36,000     | lbs.     | 2.55     | 91,800      |
|                                              | 2000 | 55,500     | lbs.     | 1.50     | 83,200      |
| Beeswax                                      | 2001 | 200        | lbs.     | 2.50     | 500         |
|                                              | 2000 | 400        | lbs.     | 2.00     | 800         |
| Pollination                                  | 2001 | 600        | colonies | 25.00    | 15,000      |
|                                              | 2000 | 1,800      | colonies | 25.00    | 45,000      |
| Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry Products** | 2001 |            |          |          | 8,670,000   |
|                                              | 2000 |            |          |          | 7,296,000   |
| Total                                        | 2001 |            |          |          | \$8,777,300 |
|                                              | 2000 |            |          |          | \$7,425,000 |

\*Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Fish, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep and Turkeys.

\*\*Milk, Wool, Eggs.

# RECAPITULATION



| CATEGORY               | GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS |      | RANKING |      |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|---------|------|
|                        | 2001                        | 2000 | 2001    | 2000 |
| Nursery Products       | 37.5                        | 32.1 | 1       | 1    |
| Vegetable & Seed Crops | 17.0                        | 17.0 | 2       | 3    |
| Fruit & Nut Crops      | 15.6                        | 18.1 | 3       | 2    |
| Field Crops            | 12.5                        | 9.2  | 4       | 4    |
| Livestock Products     | 8.8                         | 7.4  | 5       | 6    |
| Livestock & Poultry    | 7.4                         | 8.8  | 6       | 5    |

| CATEGORY                             | GROSS VALUE  |              | CHANGE     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
|                                      | 2001         | 2000         |            |
| Field Crops                          | 12,140,000   | 9,162,000    | 2,978,000  |
| Vegetable & Seed Crops               | 16,055,000   | 17,026,400   | -971,400   |
| Fruit & Nut Crops                    | 15,609,600   | 18,050,000   | -2,440,400 |
| Nursery Crops                        | 37,509,500   | 32,105,200   | 5,404,300  |
| Livestock & Poultry                  | 7,424,000    | 8,829,000    | -1,405,000 |
| Livestock, Apiary & Poultry Products | 8,777,300    | 7,425,000    | 1,352,300  |
| Total                                | \$97,515,400 | \$92,597,600 | 4,917,800  |

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Total Acres in County        | 482,000 |
| Population in County *       | 972,000 |
| Land in Farms - Acres**      | 147,859 |
| Harvested Cropland - Acres** | 28,391  |

\*Jan. 2001

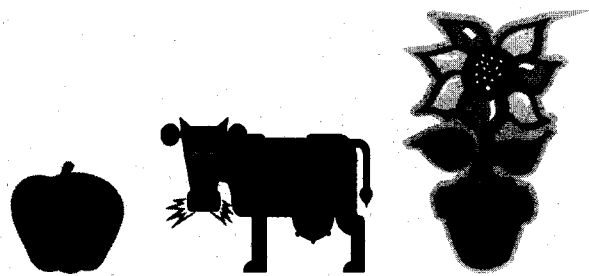
\*\*1997 census

## ORGANIC FARMING

|                 | Apples | Apricots | Cherries | Flowers | Garlic/Leeks | Herbs | Nectarines | Onions | Peaches | Pears | Pistachios | Plums | Salad Greens | Squash, Melons | Table Grapes | Tomatoes | Vegetables, Misc. |
|-----------------|--------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|-------|------------|--------|---------|-------|------------|-------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|
| No. of Farms    | 1      | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1            | 3     | 3          | 2      | 1       | 1     | 1          | 1     | 3            | 3              | 1            | 2        | 4                 |
| Estimated Acres | 1.5    | 2.0      | 5.0      | 0.8     | 0.3          | 1.6   | 1.6        | 0.1    | 8.0     | 6.0   | 36.8       | 1.0   | 0.4          | 0.2            | 1.0          | 0.3      | 3.5               |

Total Acres Organically Farmed - 70.1

## MILLION DOLLAR CROPS



| <u>CROP</u>               | <u>GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS</u> |             | <u>RANK</u> |             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                           | <u>2001</u>                        | <u>2000</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2000</u> |
| Bedding Plants            | \$26.9                             | 22.7        | 1           | 1           |
| Misc. Livestock Products* | 8.7                                | 7.3         | 2           | 4           |
| Sweet Corn                | 8.7                                | 7.0         | 3           | 5           |
| Grapes                    | 7.2                                | 8.9         | 4           | 2           |
| Cattle & Calves           | 7.0                                | 8.4         | 5           | 3           |
| Rangeland Pasture         | 4.5                                | 2.8         | 6           | 10          |
| Herbaceous Perennials     | 3.8                                | 3.3         | 7           | 8           |
| Tomatoes, all             | 3.5                                | 5.7         | 8           | 6           |
| Apples, all               | 3.3                                | 4.1         | 9           | 7           |
| Miscellaneous Vegetables  | 2.7                                | 3.1         | 10          | 9           |
| Hay - Alfalfa             | 2.4                                | 1.7         | 11          | 14          |
| Miscellaneous Nursery     | 2.4                                | 2.0         | 12          | 12          |
| Field Corn                | 2.2                                | 2.1         | 13          | 11          |
| Vegetable Plants          | 2.2                                | 1.5         | 14          | 15          |
| Apricots                  | 1.3                                | 1.3         | 15          | 16          |
| Indoor Decoratives        | 1.3                                | 1.7         | 16          | 13          |
| Cherries                  | 1.3                                | 1.0         | 17          | 18          |
| Walnuts                   | 1.1                                | 1.2         | 18          | 17          |
| Misc. Field Crops         | 1.1                                |             | 19          |             |

\*Revised Category

## ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING



### COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

| <u>Pest</u>                                         | <u>Agent/Mechanism</u>                     | <u>Scope of Program</u>                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Yellow Starthistle<br><u>Centaurea solstitialis</u> | Hairy weevil<br><u>Eustenopus villosus</u> | Five releases by the<br>Contra Costa County Ag Dept  |
|                                                     | YST flower weevil<br><u>Larinus curtus</u> | Seven releases by the<br>Contra Costa County Ag Dept |

## PEST EXCLUSION 2001



### SHIPMENTS INSPECTED

Household Goods  
Mail/UPS/FEDEX  
Truck  
A & Q Rated Pests Intercepted

### Rejections

28  
84  
6  
70

### Total Inspected

167  
36,135  
305

### Rejections from Fed-Ex & UPS Inspections

|                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| Cedar-Apple Rust                        | 14 |
| Chestnut Bark, Oak Wilt                 | 1  |
| Citrus Pests                            | 7  |
| Citrus Canker                           | 1  |
| Medfly/CA and Medfly/TX                 | 8  |
| Japanese Beetle                         | 1  |
| Live Pests                              |    |
| Ants - Hawaii                           | 15 |
| Aphids - Hawaii                         | 4  |
| Mealybugs - Hawaii                      | 3  |
| Scale Insects                           | 4  |
| Whitefly                                | 3  |
| Other Live Pests - Thrips, Planthoppers | 4  |
| Nut Tree Pests                          | 2  |
| Plum Curculio                           | 4  |
| Sweet Potato Weevil                     | 1  |

### Rejections from Truck Inspections

|                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| Mediterranean Fruit Fly larvae - Clementine Oranges | 3  |
| Two Spotted Leafhopper - Nursery Shipments          | 3  |
| Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Egg masses               | 12 |
| Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Nymphs                   | 3  |
| Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Adults                   | 3  |
| Quackgrass, Canada Thistle                          | 3  |

### Rejections from Household Goods Inspections

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Gypsy Moth                                  | 12 |
| Japanese Beetle                             | 1  |
| Eastern Tent Caterpillar                    | 14 |
| Tussock Moth                                | 2  |
| Asiatic Garden Beetle, Other Scarab Beetles | 2  |

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture and Division of Weights and Measures is responsible for operating many statewide programs here in Contra Costa County through a combination of education, outreach, and enforcement. We work under the direction of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the California Division of Measurement Standards. We also work in cooperation with many other federal, state, regional, and local agencies. Our main office is in Concord with a branch office in Brentwood.

Our Agriculture division's goal is to promote and protect agriculture, the environment, and the people of Contra Costa County. The goal of our Weights and Measures division is to help to ensure the honesty and integrity of everyday business transactions for the people of Contra Costa County. Weights and Measures protects buyers and sellers by promoting fair packaging and by checking commercial weighing, measuring and timing devices for accuracy. After all, businesses don't want to give away products for free any more than consumers want to pay for products they didn't get. Weights and Measures affects everyone. Whenever people buy any kind of goods, property, or service, some type of weights and measures is involved. The following is a summary of the Department's programs.

## PEST EXCLUSION

Fruit, vegetables, and other plant material shipped in violation of state quarantines can be infested with exotic pests and diseases. If not intercepted, these pests and diseases could cause huge losses to California agriculture and its export markets. Exotic pests can affect the environment by infesting, preying on, or competing with native species of plants and animals. Most exotic pests come into California because people bring or send them. Contra Costa County Biologists do a wide range of quarantine inspections at package delivery services, markets, and nurseries to keep these pests out. Incoming nursery shipments from infested areas are checked for life stages of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, a serious new insect pest. In 2001, Contra Costa Biologists performed over 36,000 exclusion inspections and wrote 188 rejections.



Quarantine inspection at a produce market



Monitoring for exotic insect pests

## **PEST DETECTION**

Pest Detection Trappers from the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture help find exotic pests before they grow into infestations costing California taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars to eradicate. Insect traps are placed throughout the county and monitored regularly. Many of the traps are baited with pheromones, a chemical perfume that attracts the male insect. Other traps may use a food scented lure. In 2001, Contra Costa County Pest Detection Trappers placed over 5,000 insect traps. An infestation of Oriental Fruit Fly was also detected and treated before it became a major threat to agriculture.



Checking pesticide application equipment



Inspection of a pest control business

## **PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT**

The State of California has the toughest rules on pesticide use in the world. The Department of Agriculture monitors the use of pesticides in Contra Costa County to help ensure a safe food supply and to protect human health and the environment. Growers and production nurseries who have pesticides applied to their crops must get a permit from the County Department of Agriculture. Golf courses, cemeteries, and parks must also get permits if they use pesticides. Even cities and other government agencies that use pesticides on rights of way must get permits. Businesses that apply pesticides for hire must be licensed with the State of California and then registered with the Department of Agriculture in the counties in which they will work. This includes businesses that perform agricultural spraying, structural pest control, and landscape maintenance. All these pesticide applicators must report the amounts of each pesticide they use to their County Department of Agriculture. Contra Costa County Biologists monitor the use of pesticides by growers and by businesses that apply pesticides for hire by inspecting pesticide applications, equipment, records, and storage. We also evaluate and monitor pesticide applications on environmentally sensitive sites and provide training to fieldworkers and pesticide handlers in English and Spanish. In 2001, Contra Costa County Biologists inspected over 340 pesticide applications.

## PEST MANAGEMENT

The Department of Agriculture has the responsibility for several pest management programs in Contra Costa County. Department staff control specific exotic noxious weeds such as Artichoke Thistle, Purple Starthistle, and Oblong Spurge on certain public and private lands. We also have a ground squirrel control program. The Department is one of over twenty organizations forming the Alameda-Contra Costa Weed Management Area. The Weed Management Area members work to accomplish an ecological and integrated approach to the management of noxious weeds. This includes mapping, monitoring, research, and the coordination of control efforts to halt the spread of noxious weeds and restore infested lands. Outreach efforts completed in 2001 include a brochure on Integrated Pest Management control options for Yellow Starthistle.



Weed management



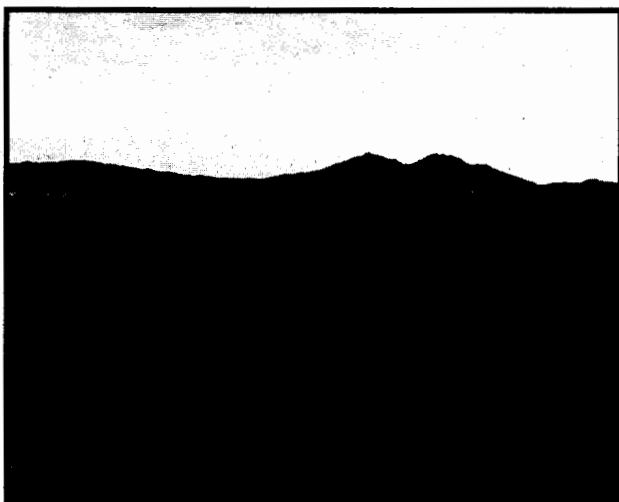
Farmer's market inspection

## QUALITY CONTROL

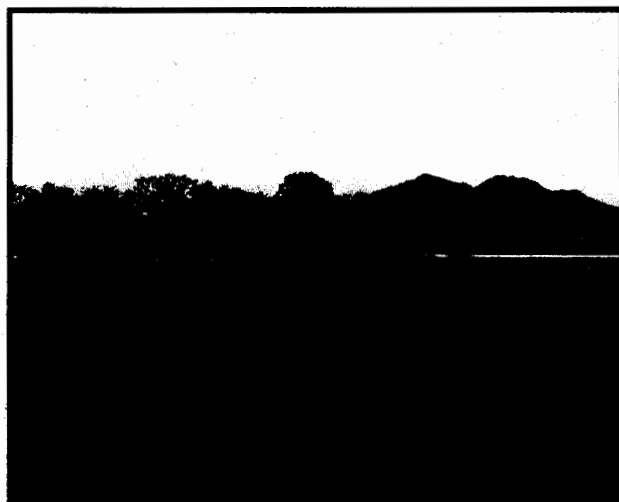
Contra Costa County Biologists inspect various agricultural commodities to ensure they meet established quality standards. Retail eggs are checked for compliance with state and federal requirements. At Certified Farmer's Markets, County Biologists make sure growers are only selling produce they have grown themselves. Nurseries that raise landscape plants, turf, trees, or vines are inspected at least once every two years for diseases, weeds, and pests. Growers producing organic commodities are audited to make sure they follow proper organic practices. Certain apple varieties can only be harvested when Biologists have determined they meet maturity standards.

## **EXPORT CERTIFICATION**

Agriculture has played an important part in the economy of Contra Costa County from the time of the first pioneers up until today. From the nurseries of Richmond in the west end of the county to Oakley's wine vineyards in the east, Contra Costa County growers continue to produce a rich variety of fruits, vegetables, nursery products, and other agricultural commodities. Contra Costa County sweet corn, cherries, nursery stock, apples, and other produce find eager buyers all over the world. When requested, Contra Costa County Biologists help growers and packers by certifying commodities that are free of diseases and pests of concern to the importing state or nation.



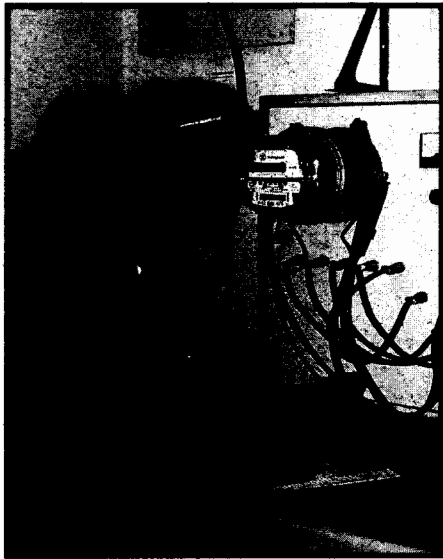
Field bedded for tomatoes



Alfalfa

## **STATISTICS**

The Department of Agriculture compiles many types of information on agriculture in Contra Costa County. Each year, the Department publishes an annual crop and livestock report showing the gross production and value of the county's agricultural commodities. During times when weather damage such as floods, storms, and freezing temperatures cause major losses to crops, the Department helps assess the damage in Contra Costa County. This information is used by state and federal agencies to provide emergency grants and loans to allow growers to get back into production as soon as possible.



Electric meter inspection



Checking a taxi for accuracy

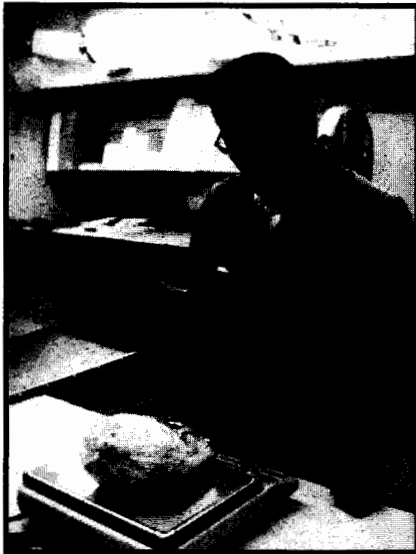
### **DEVICE INSPECTION**

Contra Costa County Weights and Measures Inspectors test a large variety of devices for accuracy. There are scales ranging from jeweler's scales used for tiny gemstones all the way up to scales that can weigh a fully loaded railroad car. Measuring devices come in a wide variety of types and capacities. There are meters for measuring gases such as propane and for liquids such as gasoline. There are length measuring meters used for purchases of wire or fabric. Taxis have meters that measure time as well as distance. There are even meters used to measure electricity.

You can be sure commercial scales and meters are accurate because a Weights and Measures Inspector has tested them. Before they can be put into commercial use and regularly after that, devices are inspected to make sure they are accurate and are a type approved for that use. After the inspection, the Weights and Measures Inspector seals any adjustable parts that might affect how they perform. Each commercial scale or meter that has been inspected will have a paper County seal attached to the front of it.



Large capacity scale inspection



Package inspection



Store scanner inspection

### **QUANTITY CONTROL**

Weights and Measures Inspectors check that packaged commercial products actually contain the quantity stated on the label. While at a store, they also check store scanners for accuracy and make sure the price charged at the register is the same as the posted or advertised price. If a product comes up short weight or quantity, the Inspectors will investigate more packages of that brand. Over the last several years, the Contra Costa County Division of Weights and Measures has investigated shortages in sales of such diverse products as baked goods, gravel, catsup, and wood. When necessary, we work with the District Attorney in the prosecution of serious violations of state laws involving weights and measures in Contra Costa County.

There are fair packaging regulations that cover many aspects of labeling and packaging so consumers will know clearly just what they are getting. The regulations prohibit deceptive packaging such as false bottoms and sidewalls. The weight of a product's wrappings or container can not be included in the stated weight of the commodity. The fair packaging regulations specify the type of information on a label and even the way the label is written and placed on the package. The regulations also cover signs and advertising. Signs advertising gasoline and other petroleum products must meet certain standards as to content, placement, and legibility. These standards help to eliminate such misleading practices as "bait and switch" advertising, and advertising only the lowest of several fuel prices.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Contra Costa County Division of Weights and Measures investigates consumer complaints. Many times these involve receiving short weight or quantity in a purchased commodity or having an advertised discount not taken off at the register. Other types of complaints we receive regard deceptive packaging or advertising, overcharges by taxi companies, inaccuracies by recycling companies, contamination of petroleum products, etc.