

Weeding Out Our Pests

A small, detailed illustration of a fly is positioned at the top right of the title text.

2009 Annual Report

San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture | Weights & Measures

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures is committed to serving the community by protecting agriculture, the environment, and the health and safety of its citizens, and by ensuring equity in the marketplace.



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A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
And
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

We are pleased to release our annual report representing the value of crops produced in San Luis Obispo County for the 2009 calendar year.

Overall, it was another productive year for county agriculture with total proceeds estimated at \$623,095,000, a 3% increase in value from 2008. Values were up overall due to good growing conditions and increased yields for many of our major crops. Land in production was stable and prices were a little below average for the top 20 crops.

Wine grapes continued as the number one crop representing 27% of the total proceeds. Acreage remained stable, production was very high, and prices were down slightly. This report only reflects the value of the grapes produced and does not place a value on the fine wine coming out of our approximately 300 wineries in the county.

Strawberries continue to climb in value and are now the number two crop in the county passing up broccoli and cattle. Some of our traditional vegetable ground in the south county has been converted to strawberry production.

2009 was a difficult year for nursery stock production as the ongoing economic downturn has negatively affected the industry, especially ornamental plants and flowers. Lack of new construction and reduced discretionary spending by consumers created less demand for ornamentals.

San Luis Obispo County is ranked 15th of all 58 California Counties in value of crops produced.

The theme for this year's report highlights the many facets of the successful pest prevention programs conducted cooperatively in California through county, state, and federal efforts. Locally, staff is working diligently to keep new destructive pests out of the county and respond quickly to new infestations of quarantine pests. Please see pages 5-7 to learn more about pest exclusion, detection and eradication.

Special thanks go out to our hard working staff that made this report possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Lilley
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer



"THE BUG MAN" SAYS GOOD-BYE

This year we say good-bye and best wishes to our friend and colleague Rich Little.

Rich has chosen 2010 as the year to retire from his position with the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture after more than 27 years of government service. Rich has been the resident entomologist in our office for nearly 20 years where he worked his way up from Agricultural Inspector to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. He continues to maintain well-deserved respect by his colleagues throughout California as a highly regarded entomologist.

Rich developed his interest for insects and spiders as a child and has maintained his enthusiasm for these six and eight-legged creatures for decades. In 1978, Rich began his career in Los Angeles as a seasonal insect trapper for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). In 1982, Rich earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology from the University of Riverside. After graduation he accepted a job as an Interior Quarantine Biologist with CDFA. His office was in Riverside but his duties spanned many counties, from Monterey County south to Imperial and San Diego Counties. During this time, Rich worked with and got to know the staff at the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

Although extremely busy with travel and his career, Rich agreed to accept an offer set up by a friend for a "blind date." On that



date, Rich met Kris, who was a Radiological Technologist at Anaheim Memorial Hospital. After talking the night away, they both knew that on that day their lives would be forever changed. By their third date they knew they were destined to marry and within six months of meeting they became husband and wife.



Longing to relocate, both Rich and Kris started job searching in San Luis Obispo. In 1989, Kris accepted a job as a Radiological Technologist at Templeton Radiology. Several months later, Rich quit his job with CDFA and followed Kris to San Luis Obispo County. He took a job as Assistant Nursery Manager at Pacific Coast Home and Garden in Atascadero. Having already worked with the staff at the San Luis Obispo County Ag Department, Rich applied for an Inspector position and was hired in October 1990.

Affectionately known as "The Bug Man," some of Rich's favorite memories include his participation at the San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market in the "Stump the Bug Man" booth for kids. He greatly enjoyed the remarkable curiosity of children. Rich appeared in schools and at the Children's Museum to impart the message coined by the Farm Bureau, "I'd rather eat bugs than do drugs," and to teach young and old alike the excitement of the bug world. As another career highlight, Rich is credited with setting up our department laboratory. He equipped it with microscopes, equipment, resource materials, and provided training so that the staff could do their own preliminary pest identification.

Throughout his career, Rich has been a favorite staff trainer. He has passion and skill in grooming new employees and mentoring staff interested in advancing to other positions within the department.

After twenty years, Rich leaves a job he loves, experiences he'll cherish, and friends he'll never forget. He and Kris celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary next year and will begin the next 25 together at their home and property in Sweet Home, Oregon, on the South Santiam River.

In conclusion, Rich asked to express in his own words: "all of the people and staff here have made the past 20 years an incredible honor and experience, and as far as I'm concerned, I got the better end of the bargain."

Thank you Rich, and from all of us, we bid you a fond farewell and happy trails.

KEEPING OUT AND REACHING OUT:



THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE TO THE INVASION BY UNWANTED AGRICULTURAL PESTS

KEEPING AGRICULTURAL PESTS AWAY

From exotic fruit flies to noxious weeds, California's agriculture is constantly under attack by a wide variety of exotic and invasive pests. These pests pose significant threats to the state's agricultural crops, economy, food supply and native habitat. The number of invasive pests and pathogens newly detected in California and the rest of the United States has increased at alarming rates in recent years, and that trend is projected to continue into the future.

Since his appointment as California's Secretary of Agriculture in November of 2003, A.G. Kawamura has emphasized the importance of pest prevention in California.

The priority placed on pest prevention by Secretary Kawamura and the California Department of Food and Agriculture is shared by Bob Lilley, the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner. "No one knows for sure how these pests enter California. Finding the pests when populations are small and of limited distribution gives us the best chance to control their spread. The best solution is to prevent them from ever entering San Luis Obispo County," according to Commissioner Lilley.

The Agricultural Commissioner's defense against the continual threat of unwanted pests is a tiered system that has been developed over many years to target a variety of pest types including insects, plant diseases and noxious weeds. The approach is continually modified to meet new pest challenges. The four major components of the department's defense against unwanted pests are exclusion, detection, eradication and management.

PEST EXCLUSION – KEEPING PESTS OUT IS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Pest exclusion means preventing the introduction or spread of agricultural pests through enforcement of federal, state and local plant quarantine regulations and physical inspection of commercial and private plant shipments for the presence of detrimental pests. In 2009, San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Inspectors verified regulatory compliance for 22,421 plant shipments arriving into the county, physically inspected 10,607 of those shipments, and rejected 114 shipments for non-compliance with quarantine regulations. Additionally, 38 shipments found to be infested with agricultural pests were either destroyed, sent back to the origin shipper, or reconditioned to eliminate the pests.

(continued on page 6)

Inspection and certification of plant material grown locally and shipped out of San Luis Obispo County is also a component of pest exclusion. To protect the rest of California and beyond, the Ag Commissioner's staff verify regulatory compliance for plant material shipped to destinations outside the county. This helps to ensure that any pests or pathogens commonly found in the county are not spread to other areas where they do not occur. In 2009, inspectors certified 1,775 plant shipments bound for destinations in California, the United States and foreign countries.

PEST DETECTION – SEARCHING FOR PESTS BEFORE THEY BECOME PESTS

Pest detection puts the County on the offensive against newly introduced invasive pests. In 2009, Ag Department staff deployed over 2,000 specialized insect traps in urban, rural, cropland and nursery settings and performed over 26,000 periodic inspections of those traps. In addition, staff perform periodic visual surveys to detect the presence of agricultural pests that may have hitchhiked into the county on uninspected or illegally shipped plants. Continuous trapping and periodic surveys allow the Ag Commissioner's staff to find invasive pests when populations are still small and successful eradication is possible. The Light Brown Apple Moth is one such pest that was found recently in insect traps in San Luis Obispo County when populations



Light Brown Apple Moth

were low, isolated, and controllable, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Ag Commissioner's Pest Detection Program.

PEST ERADICATION –THE PEST IS HERE... NOW WHAT?

Pest eradication is the third component and is designed to eliminate small populations of invasive pests that have become established in the county. Rapid response and long term consistent follow-up are critical to an effective pest eradication project. The larger the infested area and the longer the pest is present in that area, the more difficult, time consuming and costly the eradication. A variety of tactics are used to eradicate a pest population. Depending on the pest type, location and the technology available, an eradication plan may include mechanical, cultural, chemical, or biological means. Regardless of the technique, eradication efforts are generally long term commitments.

Foxtail Restharrow (*Ononis alopecuroides*) is an example of a successful local eradication program. Foxtail Restharrow is an

invasive plant native to Spain and Portugal that was discovered in only one location in San Luis Obispo County in 1998. In fact, that one local occurrence is the only place in all of North America where this plant has been discovered! In Spain and Portugal, Foxtail Restharrow is a highly aggressive invader that forms dense stands that exclude native vegetation, and has the potential to severely affect pastures, rangeland, and oak woodland areas in San Luis Obispo County. The Ag Commissioner's staff has successfully controlled the Restharrow population for eleven straight years without allowing a single plant to reach maturity and produce new seed. However, new plants continue to germinate from the long-lived seeds produced prior to 1998. The seed bank is finally nearing the end of its viability, and the infestation should disappear within the next few years.



Jubata grass eradication at Cal Poly.

PEST MANAGEMENT – LEARNING TO LIVE WITH SOME OF THE PESTS

Pest management focuses on controlling significant agricultural pests that are well established in certain areas of the County. Pest management practices are employed when pest population levels are too large and too wide spread for eradication to be feasible. The focus shifts to preventing the spread of the pest to new areas within the county. This component of pest prevention is the most costly means of containing a pest population.

When developing a pest management plan, it is important to incorporate many different techniques and prioritize the areas that need to be treated. For example, the Ag Commissioner's management plan for controlling the invasive weed, yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), is much like fighting a wildfire. The first element of the plan is establishing a perimeter, or a "fire line," and any starthistle plants growing outside of the perimeter become the highest priority for removal. The second element is preventing yellow starthistle from spreading within the established "fire line." The final

Yellow Starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis)



weed management effort takes place within an infested area. Different techniques, including physical removal, herbicide applications and biological control are utilized in an effort to reduce the population and minimize the negative impacts to our local agricultural lands and natural habitats.

REACHING OUT TO THE PUBLIC FOR HELP – EVERYONE CAN HELP PREVENT THE INVASION OF UNWANTED AGRICULTURE PESTS

The pest prevention system in San Luis Obispo County has proven to be an effective means to reduce the potential for the spread and impact of invasive pests. However, the Ag Commissioner's staff can only conduct inspections on plant shipments they are aware of, such as nursery stock and harvested crop shipments from commercial sources. Detection efforts are also limited to the locations where insect traps can be placed. Pest eradication and management are long term and very costly programs. To expand the presence of eyes looking for unusual pest problems, the Ag Commissioner enlists the help of a very important component of the response system: the public.

Historically, throughout the state, most discoveries of invasive or exotic agricultural pests are linked to uninspected "backyard" plants brought into an area by uninformed and unsuspecting members of the public. According to Ag Commissioner Lilley, "most people are unaware of the regulations that apply to the transportation of plants and do not realize that serious agricultural pests may be hiding on the very plants they bring into The County."



Phytophthora ramorum symptoms on oak tree.

In order to expand the public's understanding of the importance of pest prevention, the Ag Commissioner conducts community outreach and provides information on the Department's website (www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm). Members of the public are asked to contact the local Ag

Commissioner whenever they plan to move any plant material either into or out of the county, or if they have any questions related to agricultural pests. "We encourage the public to obtain plants from local sources and tap into the knowledge of staff at local nurseries for pest prevention information," says Commissioner Lilley. "We utilize the knowledge of the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners for their services to the public in plant, disease and insect identification as a way for us to be alerted to any unusual specimens and to determine if those specimen are cause for alarm," continued Commissioner Lilley.

FEEDING AND BEAUTIFYING THE WORLD -THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE LOCAL PEST PREVENTION PROGRAM

Keeping agricultural pests out of the county, vigilantly looking for and dealing with pest problems as they arise, and reaching out to the public are the keys to the Ag Commissioner's successful pest prevention program, thus protecting not only the local agricultural economy, food supply, and native habitat, but also helping to preserve California's ability to feed and beautify the world.



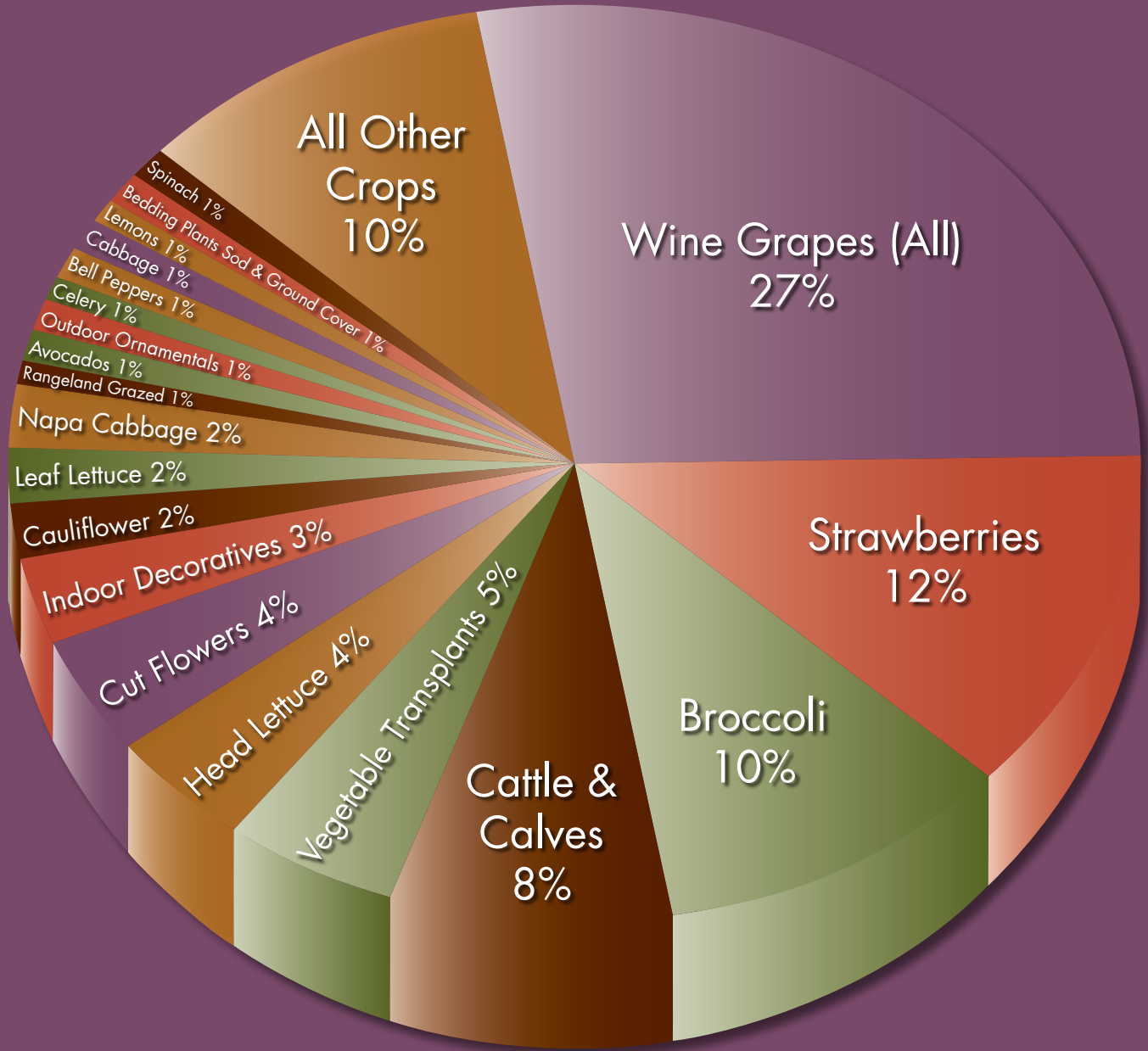
Inspection of plant material during annual nursery surveys.

For more information about the Ag Commissioner's Pest Prevention Program visit the website at www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm. The San Luis Obispo County Master Gardeners can be reached in San Luis Obispo at 805-781-5939, Templeton at 805-434-4105, and Arroyo Grande at 805-473-7190.



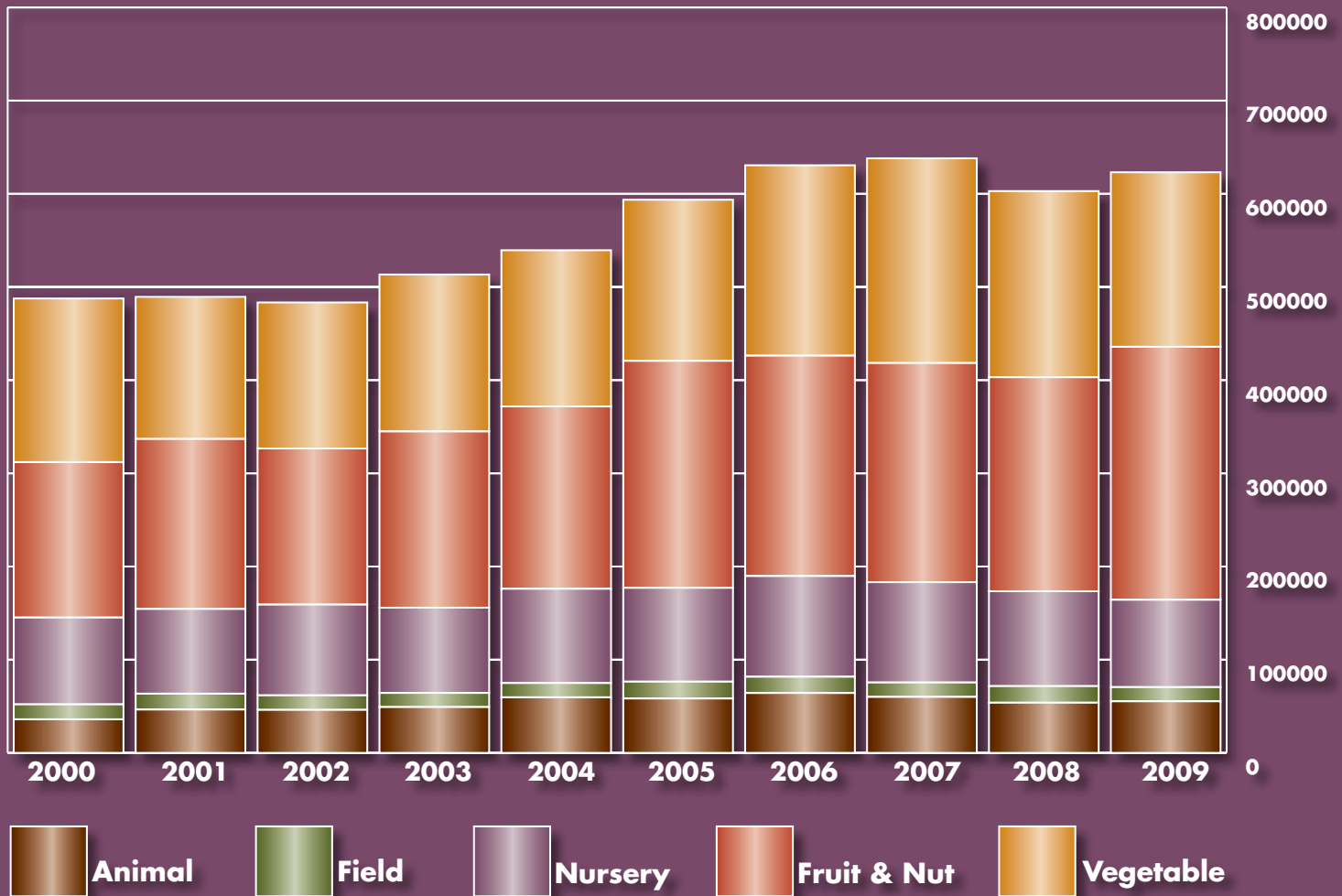
Mediterranean Fruitfly

TOP TWENTY VALUE CROPS



1. Wine Grapes (All)	\$166,378,000	11. Napa Cabbage	\$10,906,000
2. Strawberries	\$73,198,000	12. Rangeland, Grazed	\$9,225,000
3. Broccoli	\$60,162,000	13. Avocados	\$9,218,000
4. Cattle and Calves	\$51,992,000	14. Outdoor Ornamentals	\$9,035,000
5. Vegetable Transplants	\$33,207,000	15. Celery	\$8,152,000
6. Head lettuce	\$27,721,000	16. Bell peppers	\$7,194,000
7. Cut Flowers	\$25,026,000	17. Cabbage	\$6,716,000
8. Indoor Decoratives	\$18,430,000	18. Lemons	\$6,124,000
9. Cauliflower	\$13,618,000	19. Bedding Plants, Sod & Ground Cvr	\$5,269,000
10. Leaf Lettuce	\$12,313,000	20. Spinach	\$4,842,000

COMPARISON OF VALUATION OF MAJOR GROUPS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS



YEAR	ANIMAL	FIELD	NURSERY	FRUIT & NUT	VEGETABLE	TOTAL VALUE
2000	36,012,000	16,053,000	93,171,000	166,779,000	175,643,000	487,658,000
2001	46,517,000	17,025,000	90,908,000	182,415,000	152,531,000	489,396,000
2002	46,161,000	15,595,000	97,377,000	167,555,000	156,687,000	483,375,000
2003	49,181,000	15,161,500	91,476,000	189,144,000	168,423,000	513,385,500
2004	59,620,000	15,342,100	101,156,000	195,712,000	167,606,000	539,436,100
2005	58,380,000	18,055,000	100,697,000	243,604,000	172,896,000	593,632,000
2006	64,244,000	17,477,000	108,066,000	236,491,000	204,336,000	630,614,000
2007	60,078,000	15,462,000	107,674,000	235,135,000	219,746,000	638,095,000
2008	53,848,000	17,790,000*	101,845,000*	229,661,000*	199,778,000*	602,922,000*
2009	55,375,000	15,178,000	93,759,000	271,474,000	187,309,000	623,095,000

*Revised

ANIMAL INDUSTRY

The cattle industry rebounded slightly due to improved market prices. However, reduced herd size due to four consecutive years of drought and limited grassland forage resulted in 8,500 fewer head of cattle going to market. An increase of approximately 1,000 lambs over 2008 herd levels contributed to the overall 3% increase in value of the animal category, compared to 2008.

Commodity	Year	Number Of Head	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	2009	82,500	565,125	Cwt	\$92.00	\$51,992,000
	2008	91,000	568,750	Cwt	\$88.00	\$50,050,000
Sheep and Lambs	2009	6,660	7,599	Cwt	101.00	767,000
	2008	5,550	5,535	Cwt	102.00	565,000
Miscellaneous*	2009					2,616,000
	2008					3,233,000
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY	2009					\$55,375,000
	2008					\$53,848,000

*Aquaculture, Bees Wax, Eggs, Goats, Hogs, Honey, Milk, Pollen & Pollination, Wool



FIELD CROPS

The high demand in 2008 for locally grown alfalfa and grain hay from California's central valley dairies disappeared in 2009 as dairy herds were reduced. Normal acreage amounts were planted but lower yields were harvested due to continued drought conditions. Overall, the value of field crops decreased 15% below 2008 levels.

Crop	Year	Acreage		Production		Unit	Value	
		Planted	Harvested	Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Alfalfa Hay	2009	2,001	2,001	5.89	11,786	Ton	\$132.00	\$1,556,000
	2008	2,119	2,119	6.42	13,604	Ton	\$237.00	\$3,224,000
Barley	2009	12,465	8,593	0.71	6,101	Ton	144.00	879,000
	2008	8,288	6,015	0.91	5,474	Ton	214.00	1,171,000
Grain Hay++	2009	11,376	10,237	1.66	16,993	Ton	116.00	1,971,000
	2008	12,355	11,275	1.62	18,266	Ton	205.00	3,744,000
Grain Stubble (Grazed)	2009		10,098			Acre	11.00	111,000
	2008		9,910			Acre	10.00	99,000
Rangeland, Grazed	2009		1,025,000			Acre	9.00	9,225,000
	2008		1,025,000			Acre	8.00	8,200,000
Miscellaneous*	2009	2,688	3,313					1,436,000
	2008**	8,655	6,264					1,352,000
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	2009	28,530	1,059,242					\$15,178,000
	2008**	31,417	1,060,583					\$17,790,000

* Irrigated Pasture, Garbanzo Beans, Oats, Safflower, Wheat, Field seed

++ Includes winter forage

** Revised

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Wine grapes continue to hold the top position in overall value, representing 27% of the combined overall value of the County's entire agricultural industry. Favorable weather conditions with virtually no spring frosts and mild summer temperatures contributed to a 42% increase in yields over 2008 tonnage totals. Prices for grapes declined slightly, however.

The strawberry industry expanded by 370 acres, a 24% increase over 2008. The value increased by 12% over 2008 despite lower prices. Strawberries moved up to the number two overall ranking by value.

Coastal avocado and Valencia orange trees suffered fruit loss due to one week of unusually high temperatures in June 2009, resulting in significantly lower yields. Lemon yields were high, but reduced consumer demand caused prices to fall.



Crop	Year	Acreage		Production		Unit	Per Unit	Total
		Planted	Bearing/Harvested	Per Acre	Total			
Avocados	2009	4,800	3,919	0.922	3,613	Ton	2,551.00	\$9,218,000
	2008**	4,800	3,919	1.354	5,306	Ton	2,060.00	\$10,931,000
Grapes, Wine (All)	2009	36,276	34,100		147,380	Ton		166,378,000
	2008	36,845	34,622		103,507	Ton		124,126,000
Chardonnay	2009		3,481	6.192	21,554	Ton	1,289.00	27,784,000
	2008		3,109	5.516	17,149	Ton	1,445.00	24,781,000
Sauvignon Blanc	2009		983	6.025	5,923	Ton	920.00	5,449,000
	2008		1,147	3.660	4,198	Ton	962.00	4,038,000
White Wine (Other)	2009		1,763	4.933	8,697	Ton	1,212.00	10,541,000
	2008		2,053	3.221	6,613	Ton	1,373.00	9,079,000
Cabernet Sauvignon	2009		11,280	3.993	45,041	Ton	1,031.00	46,437,000
	2008		11,377	2.408	27,396	Ton	1,005.00	27,533,000
Merlot	2009		4,765	5.060	24,111	Ton	829.00	19,988,000
	2008		4,934	3.081	15,202	Ton	898.00	13,651,000
Pinot Noir	2009		1,905	2.299	4,380	Ton	2,714.00	11,887,000
	2008		1,548	1.866	2,889	Ton	3,107.00	8,975,000
Syrah	2009		3,525	2.986	10,526	Ton	1,188.00	12,504,000
	2008		3,550	2.517	8,935	Ton	1,261.00	11,267,000
Zinfandel	2009		2,883	3.812	10,990	Ton	1,106.00	12,155,000
	2008		3,253	3.025	9,840	Ton	1,064.00	10,470,000
Red Wine (Other)	2009		3,515	4.597	16,158	Ton	1,215.00	19,633,000
	2008		3,651	3.091	11,285	Ton	1,270.00	14,332,000
Lemons	2009	1,634	1,542	20.058	30,929	Ton	198.00	6,124,000
	2008	1,634	1,532	14.171	21,852	Ton	599.00	13,089,000
Strawberries (All)	2009		1,893		57,890	Ton		73,198,000
	2008		1,523		45,660	Ton		65,481,000
Fresh	2009			21.918	41,491	Ton	1,533.00	63,605,000
	2008			21.610	32,912	Ton	1,708.00	56,214,000
Processed	2009			8.663	16,399	Ton	585.00	9,593,000
	2008			8.370	12,748	Ton	727.00	9,267,000
Valencia Oranges	2009	304	304	6.015	1,829	Ton	261.00	477,000
	2008	304	304	21.262	6,464	Ton	137.00	886,000
English Walnuts	2009	2,371	2,330	0.330	769	Ton	1,796.00	1,381,000
	2008**	2,371	2,330	0.233	543	Ton	2,413.00	1,310,000
Miscellaneous*	2009	2,788	1,946					14,698,000
	2008	3,173	2,083					13,838,000
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	2009	48,173	46,034					\$271,474,000
	2008	49,127**	46,313					\$229,661,000

*Almonds, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Blueberries, Bushberries, Cherries, Feijoas, Grapefruit, Kiwis, Mandarin Oranges, Navel Oranges, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Quince, Specialty Citrus, Table Grapes, Tangerines

**Revised

VEGETABLE CROPS



Fewer acres were planted into vegetables due to changes in market demand, continuing drought conditions, and conversion of historical vegetable acreage to strawberries, resulting in a 6% decrease in overall value. Carrot acreage decreased and many fields were fallow during 2009.

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Bell Peppers	2009	822	1,153.0	947,766	30#	7.59	\$7,194,000
	2008 **	937	1,091.0	1,022,267	30#	6.80	\$6,951,000
Bok Choy	2009 +	427	814.0	347,578	80#	8.87	3,083,000
Broccoli (All)	2009	12,909	547.0	7,061,223	23#	8.52	60,162,000
	2008 **	14,977	565.0	8,462,005	23#	8.32	70,404,000
Cabbage	2009	653	1,341.0	875,673	45#	7.67	6,716,000
	2008 **	977	772.0	754,244	45#	8.70	6,562,000
Cauliflower	2009	1,533	831.0	1,273,923	25#	10.69	13,618,000
	2008	1,567	666.0	1,043,622	25#	8.70	9,080,000
Celery	2009	787	1,160.0	912,920	60#	8.93	8,152,000
	2008 **	953	1,212.0	1,155,036	60#	9.83	11,354,000
Lettuce, Head	2009	5,312	591.0	3,139,392	50#	8.83	27,721,000
	2008 **	5,106	682.0	3,482,292	50#	6.84	23,819,000
Lettuce, Leaf	2009	2,163	482.0	1,042,566	25#	11.81	12,313,000
	2008 **	2,112	547.0	1,155,264	25#	11.95	13,805,000
Napa Cabbage (Oriental Vegetables)	2009 +	1,294	877.0	1,134,838	80#	9.61	10,906,000
	2008 **	1,185	835.0	989,475	80#	11.37	11,250,000
Peas Edible Pod	2009	361	245.0	88,445	10#	8.26	731,000
	2008	547	332.0	181,604	10#	10.40	1,889,000
Spinach	2009	834	463.0	386,142	20#	12.54	4,842,000
	2008	1,007	506.0	509,542	20#	11.77	5,997,000
Squash	2009	242	758.0	183,436	30#	7.37	1,352,000
	2008	278	771.0	214,338	30#	5.86	1,256,000
Miscellaneous*	2009	4,589					30,519,000
	2008 **	6,125					37,411,000
TOTAL VEGETABLE CROPS	2009	31,926					\$187,309,000
	2008 **	35,771					\$199,778,000

* Anise, Artichokes, Arugula, Beans, Beets, Brussel Sprouts, Carrots, Chard, Chili Peppers, Cilantro, Collards, Cucumbers, Daikon, Dandelion, Dill, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Green Garbanzo Beans, Herbs, Kale, Leeks, Melons, Mushrooms, Mustard, Onions, Parsley, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radicchio, Radishes, Rutabagas, Sweet Corn, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Turnips

** Revised

+ Formerly reported as Oriental Vegetable

NURSERY PRODUCTS



The struggling economy and lack of new housing construction hit the local nursery industry hard in 2009. The total value for the nursery industry fell another 8% following a 5% decrease in 2008. The cut flower, indoor decorative and ornamental plant growers suffered the greatest losses in this category caused by reduced consumer spending, while the demand from throughout the state for locally grown vegetable transplants held steady.

Crop	Year	Field Production (acres)	Greenhouse Production (sq ft)	Value
Bedding Plants, Sod, &	2009	74	96,806	\$5,269,000
	2008	130	107,990	\$5,978,000
Cut Flowers and Greens	2009 [^]	103	2,902,898	25,026,000
	2008 [^]	193	2,796,154	25,203,000
Indoor Decoratives	2009	0	2,805,784	18,430,000
	2008	2	2,843,694	21,011,000
Outdoor Ornamentals	2009	88	187,058	9,035,000
	2008	89	599,958	11,417,000
Vegetable and Ornamental	2009	33	2,073,948	33,207,000
	2008	33	2,077,560	35,682,000
Miscellaneous*	2009	186	141,042	2,792,000
	2008**	39	140,996	2,554,000
TOTAL NURSERY PRODUCTS	2009	484	8,207,536	\$93,759,000
	2008**	486	8,566,352	\$101,845,000

* Aquatic, Bulbs, Cacti, Christmas Trees, Fruit-Nut trees, Herbs, Propagative plants, Scion wood, Flower seed, Field crop seed, Specialty plants, Succulents

[^] Includes cut flowers grown in greenhouse and field

** Revised

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT



*Giant Whitefly
(Aleurodicus dugesii)*

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROGRAM

In 2009, the Department's Biological Control Program continued to collaborate with the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) to determine the presence and the effects of certain beneficial insects on populations of Giant Whitefly (*Aleurodicus dugesii*). Giant Whitefly, a native of Mexico, is primarily a pest of ornamental plants but can also become a citrus pest.

Giant Whitefly has become established in the coastal region of the County. In 2009, Giant Whitefly was collected at seven different coastal locations for four consecutive months. At least one of the beneficial wasp species capable of controlling this pest, *Encarsiella noyesii* or *Idioporus affinis*, was detected at each site. CDFA is studying the population of the beneficial wasps throughout the season to determine if additional wasp releases are needed.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR COUNTY FACILITIES

The Department's County Facility Integrated Pest Management Program, established in 1997, continued to educate and train county employees to solve common workplace insect and rodent pest problems using least toxic means, resulting in a safer environment for county workers and the public that use county facilities. In 2009, staff responded to 166 requests for assistance at 42 county facilities for pest problems including ants, spiders, flies, rodents, wasps, cockroaches, hornets and scorpions.

PEST DETECTION PROGRAM

During 2009, county staff placed over 2000 insect traps throughout the county and made more than 26,000 total visits to these traps to determine if certain detrimental insects were present. The year was notable for the three insect pests captured in county-deployed traps for the first time: the Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*), which prompted an eradication program by CDFA; the Apple Maggot Fruit Fly (*Rhagoletis pomonella*), which is under close surveillance through continued trapping; and the Spotted-Winged Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*), a pest the University of California is studying to develop control techniques. Other examples of pests being sought through trap monitoring include the Asian Citrus Psyllid, Red Imported Fire Ant, Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle and a variety of exotic fruit flies. None of these pests were captured in traps in 2009. Efforts to detect detrimental pests through targeted trapping in 2009 helped to maintain the high quality of agricultural products grown in San Luis Obispo County.



*Light Brown Apple Moth
(Epiphyas postvittana)*



*Inspecting for
Glassy-winged
Sharpshooter.*

PEST EXCLUSION PROGRAM

Throughout 2009, staff intercepted, inspected, quarantined, excluded and destroyed plant shipments infested with various types of pests arriving into San Luis Obispo County from across the United States and around the world. Out of a total of 18,423 shipments arriving into San Luis Obispo County, 6,609 shipments were visually inspected by staff. One hundred and three shipments were rejected for significant pest finds or otherwise not meeting California's high quarantine standards, thus protecting local agriculture and the environment from the introduction of pests that do not currently exist in San Luis Obispo County.

In addition to the inspection of incoming plant material, staff certified 1,775 outgoing shipments of fresh produce and plants leaving local farms and nurseries for destinations throughout the United States and around the world.

Staff also searched for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (*Homaludisca coagulata*) through inspection of 3,998 nursery plant shipments originating from outside the county. Eleven shipments were rejected due to the presence of live Sharpshooters and were either sent back to origin, reconditioned or destroyed. This strict and thorough inspection program has been successful in keeping the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter out of the county, protecting the grape, citrus, and plant nursery industries from the devastating effects of this insect and the plant diseases it can spread.

ORGANIC CROP STATISTICS

Organic production decreased slightly in 2009 compared to 2008 both in the number of producers registered (-5%) and the number of harvested acres (-8%). New organic registrations decreased 39% compared to 2008 and several former registrants chose to de-register because the sales revenue did not compensate for the extra costs required to produce organic crops. The total acres registered as organic was 10,124 (including rangeland & wild mushroom land), an 8% decrease from 2008. According to CDFA, San Luis Obispo County ranked 13th out of 55 counties in the number of organic registrants in 2009. San Diego remained 1st with 381 registrants. Our neighboring counties of Santa Barbara and Monterey had 92 and 133 registered organic growers respectively.

Year	Number of Registrants	Harvested Acres (registered)
2009	83	10,124
2008	86	11,037

TOP 10 REGISTERED ORGANIC CROPS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Crop	Acres
Grapes	866
Walnuts	864
Broccoli	320
Strawberries	231
Spinach	229
Onions	210
Salad Mix	201
Avocados	163
Olives	158
Peppers	115

San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures FINANCIAL REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 2008-09

Revenue	\$5,870,993	
County Funds	2,719,460	46%
State Funds	2,684,565	46%
Collected Fees	466,968	8%

Expenditures	\$5,870,993	
Salaries And Benefits	4,714,889	80%
Services & Supplies	576,958	10%
Overhead	572,795	10%
Equipment	6,351	0%

FUNDING SOURCES \$5,870,994

Agricultural Resources	\$563,960
State Funds	51,000 9%
County Funds	402,930 71%
Collected Fees	110,030 20%

Weights and Measures	\$667,240
State Funds	8,946 1%
County Funds	492,776 74%
Collected Fees	165,518 25%

Environmental Protection	\$1,632,694
State Funds	919,718 56%
County Funds	674,911 41%
Collected Fees	38,065 2%

Pest Management	\$1,311,324
State Funds	530,715 40%
County Funds	739,639 56%
Collected Fees	40,970 3%

Product Quality	\$185,476
State Funds	69,526 37%
County Funds	89,229 48%
Collected Fees	26,721 14%

Pest Prevention	\$1,510,300
State Funds	1,104,660 73%
County Funds	319,976 21%
Collected Fees	85,664 6%

