

Department of Agriculture

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Contra Costa County



Vincent L. Guise

Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

To: KAREN ROSS, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
and
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2011 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 2011 was \$92,919,600, up \$13,295,800 from 2010. Severe drought and heat throughout the central states during 2010 and 2011 boosted the price of many California farm commodities. Hay, cattle, wheat, and field corn prices went up in response to strong demand from both domestic and foreign markets. The high prices led to a sharp increase in the planted acreage for grain hay and field corn. Wheat acreage dropped when some growers chose to plant hay instead.

The stormy winter weather helped some Contra Costa County crops and hurt others. Plentiful winter rains led to record high wheat yields. Cherry orchards benefited from good winter chilling and fruit set, leading to large harvests. Local cherry prices jumped sharply when other cherry growing areas in the state suffered crop losses due to storm damage. Apricot yields and price dropped when spring storms during bloom and early development damaged fruit. Walnut prices continued to climb as world demand stayed strong. Olive yields went up as young orchards matured.

Several crop categories exceeded \$1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include cattle and calves, sweet corn, tomatoes, field corn, grapes, cherries, rangeland pasture, alfalfa, beans, walnuts, and irrigated pasture.

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. The economic benefit of agricultural production is generally thought to be about three times the gross production value.

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,

Vincent L. Guise
Agricultural Commissioner

Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture/ Weights & Measures

Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures
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Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures

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Roxann Crosby

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Sylvia Alcantar

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Retiree Volunteer

Suzanne Maddux

Pest Detection/GWSS/Pest Management

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Christine Buelna
Oscar Dillard
Louellen Kelly
Rick Mata
Richard Padfield
Lindsay Skidmore
Alison Stewart

Erik Baxter
K. C. Canario
Herb Gilmore
Hardy Leopando
Betsy Montgomery
Eldren Prieto
Susie Somers
Tom Wright

Ann Bloxsom
Nancy Dennis
Paul Greer
Phyllis Lewis
Christine O'Boyle
Craig Shoener
Greg Spurlock
Oscar Zaldua

Plant Quarantine Detector Canines

Bella (handler: Cecilie Siegel)

Bart (handler: Mariah deNijs)



On the Cover: Field workers harvesting sweet corn

Field workers in California play an important part in the cultivation and harvest of many of the state's crops. California has a huge demand for crop labor and, according to a 2003-2004 National Agricultural Worker Survey, employs an estimated 36 percent of the nation's field workers.

California's worker safety regulations help protect field workers who work in fields that have been treated with a pesticide. Field worker employers are required to manage their workers and fields to prevent unacceptable levels of exposure to pesticide residues and drift. Employers are required to provide employee training, prior notification, protective equipment, and decontamination facilities. County Agricultural Biologists perform field worker safety inspections to ensure that employers are protecting their employees and complying with California law.

Field Crops



Crop	Year	Production		Total	Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre			Per Unit	Total
Field Corn	2011	8,150	4.18	34,100	Ton	197.00	6,718,000
	2010	6,380	4.09	26,100	Ton	174.00	4,541,000
Hay							
Alfalfa	2011	3,220	5.10	16,400	Ton	214.00	3,510,000
	2010	3,240	4.96	16,100	Ton	128.00	2,061,000
Grain	2011	2,400	2.44	5,860	Ton	135.00	791,000
	2010	1,610	2.69	4,330	Ton	68.00	294,000
Pasture							
Irrigated	2011	5,450			Acre	195.00	1,063,000
	2010	5,730			Acre	175.00	1,003,000
Rangeland	2011	169,000			Acre	20.90	3,532,000
	2010	169,000			Acre	19.60	3,312,000
Wheat	2011	1,050	2.90	3,050	Ton	209.00	637,000
	2010	2,100	2.19	4,600	Ton	135.00	621,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops*	2011	4,060					1,520,000
	2010	4,840					1,317,000
Total	2011	193,330					\$17,771,000
	2010	193,350					\$12,947,000

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

Vegetable & Seed Crops



Crop	Year	Production		Total	Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre			Per Unit	Total
Beans Fresh Market	2011	410	4.13	1,690	Ton	1,180.00	1,994,000
	2010	423	3.78	1,600	Ton	1,120.00	1,792,000
Squash	2011	19	3.04	58	Ton	1,200.00	69,600
	2010	16	4.05	65	Ton	958.00	62,300
Sweet Corn	2011	3,580	9.86	35,300	Ton	396.00	13,979,000
	2010	3,800	9.64	36,600	Ton	362.00	13,249,000
Tomatoes Total	2011	1,945		90,473	Ton		6,948,000
	2010	1,660		80,557	Ton		5,911,000
Fresh	2011	35	13.50	473	Ton	1,370.00	648,000
	2010	30	11.90	357	Ton	1,280.00	457,000
Processing	2011	1,910	47.10	90,000	Ton	70.00	6,300,000
	2010	1,630	49.20	80,200	Ton	68.00	5,454,000
Miscellaneous Vegetable & Seed Crops*	2011	1,360					13,284,000
	2010	1,120					10,546,000
Total	2011	7,314					\$36,274,600
	2010	7,019					\$31,560,300

* Asparagus, Artichokes, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Ginseng, Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Greens, Herbs, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes

Fruit & Nut Crops



Crop	Year	Production		Total	Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre			Per Unit	Total
Apricots	2011	97	2.64	256	Ton	1,930.00	494,000
	2010	109	3.12	340	Ton	2,450.00	833,000
Cherries	2011	413	3.08	1,270	Ton	4,570.00	5,804,000
	2010	389	2.40	934	Ton	2,870.00	2,681,000
Grapes	2011	1,950	4.35	8,480	Ton	704.00	5,970,000
	2010	1,930	4.81	9,280	Ton	599.00	5,559,000
Nectarines	2011	35	2.88	101	Ton	3,650.00	369,000
	2010	32	2.71	87	Ton	3,430.00	298,000
Olives	2011	206	1.07	220	Ton	1,190.00	262,000
	2010	255	0.47	120	Ton	1,360.00	163,000
Peaches	2011	140	2.84	398	Ton	1,860.00	740,000
	2010	134	2.96	397	Ton	1,860.00	738,000
Plums and Pluots	2011	34	3.36	114	Ton	2,510.00	286,000
	2010	36	3.47	125	Ton	2,920.00	365,000
Walnuts	2011	402	1.99	800	Ton	2,030.00	1,624,000
	2010	399	2.36	942	Ton	1,540.00	1,451,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut Crops*	2011	195					2,101,000
	2010	175					1,154,000
Total	2011	3,472					\$17,650,000
	2010	3,459					\$13,242,000

* Almonds, Apples, Apriums, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Melons, Pears, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Prunes, Pomegranates, Quinces, Strawberries

Nursery Products



Crop	Year	Production Area		Value
		House Sq. Ft.	Field Acres	Total
Bedding Plants	2011	35,000	0.50	492,000
	2010	34,900	0.50	365,000
Herbaceous Perennials	2011	40,000	2.00	719,000
	2010	52,400	1.50	1,114,000
Indoor Decoratives	2011	84,800	0.25	95,000
	2010	103,000	0.00	93,500
Vegetable Plants	2011	27,000	0.80	406,000
	2010	26,800	0.80	355,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Crops *	2011	3,700	32.20	781,000
	2010	3,500	29.60	699,000
Total	2011	190,500	35.75	\$2,493,000
	2010	220,600	32.40	\$2,626,500

* Christmas Trees, Cactus, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees, Cut Flowers.

Organic Farming

	Apricots	Cherries	Nectarines	Peaches	Pears	Pistachios	Plums	Fruit, other	Herbs	Peas/Beans	Sweet Corn	Vegetables, leafy	Vegetables, root	Vegetables, other	Nursery products	Livestock products
No. of Farms	3	5	3	3	2	1	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	5	2
Estimated Acres	27.5	49	14.2	39.2	18	38	12.6	13	2.7	110	32	2.6	1.8	3.9	1.3	
Total Acres Organically Farmed	366.0										Number of Organic Farms		14			

Livestock and Livestock Products



Item	Year	Production		Unit	Value	
		No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Unit	Per Total
Cattle & Calves	2011	26,000	147,000	Cwt	111.00	16,317,000
	2010	27,000	196,000	Cwt	94.50	18,522,000
Apiary Products*	2011					514,000
	2010					326,000
Miscellaneous Livestock and Livestock Products**	2011					1,900,000
	2010					400,000
Total	2011					\$18,731,000
	2010					\$19,248,000

* Honey, Wax, Pollination,

**Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep, Turkeys, Milk, Wool, Eggs

Biological Control

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle (<u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>)	Hairy Weevil (<u>Eustenopus villosus</u>)	Ongoing
	YST Flower Weevil (<u>Larinus curtus</u>)	Ongoing
	Rust Pathogen (<u>Puccinia jaceae</u> var. <u>solstitialis</u>)	Ongoing
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<u>Glycaspis brimblecombei</u>)	Encyrtid Parasitoid Wasp (<u>Psyllaephagus bliteus</u>)	Ongoing

Recapitulation



Category	<u>Gross Value/Million Dollars</u>		<u>Ranking</u>	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Vegetable & Seed Crops	36.2	31.6	1	1
Livestock & Livestock Products	18.9	13.2	2	2
Field Crops	17.8	12.9	3	4
Fruit & Nut Crops	17.7	15.3	4	3
Nursery Products	2.5	2.6	5	5

Category	<u>Gross Value</u>		<u>Change</u>
	2011	2010	
Field Crops	17,771,000	12,947,000	4,824,000
Vegetable & Seed Crops	36,274,600	31,560,300	4,714,300
Fruit & Nut Crops	17,650,000	13,242,000	4,408,000
Nursery Crops	2,493,000	2,626,500	-133,500
Livestock & Livestock Products	18,731,000	19,248,000	-517,000
Total	\$92,919,600	\$79,623,800*	13,295,800

*2010 value adjusted

Total Acres in County	482,000
Population in County July 2011	1,061,132
Land in Farms - Acres (2007 Census)	146,993
Harvested Cropland - Acres (2007 Census)	23,876

Certified Farmers' Markets

Tuesday	Concord	El Cerrito	Martinez	Walnut Creek Kaiser
Wednesday	Point Richmond			
Thursday	Antioch Kaiser San Ramon	Concord	Martinez	Martinez Kaiser
Friday	Richmond	Walnut Creek Rossmoor		
Saturday	Brentwood Hercules San Ramon	Clayton Orinda	Danville Pinole	Diablo Valley Pittsburg El Cerrito Pleasant Hill
Sunday	Antioch	Kensington	Martinez	Moraga Walnut Creek

For more information about the Certified Farmers' Markets in Contra Costa County, visit our website at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us and click on Departments, then Agriculture/Weights & Measures.

Million Dollar Crops



Category	<u>Gross Value/Million Dollars</u>		<u>Ranking</u>	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Cattle & Calves	16.3	18.5	1	1
Sweet Corn	14.0	13.2	2	2
Tomatoes, All	6.9	5.9	3	3
Field Corn	6.7	4.5	4	5
Grapes	6.0	5.6	5	4
Cherries	5.8	2.7	6	7
Rangeland Pasture	3.5	3.3	7	6
Hay - Alfalfa	3.5	2.1	8	8
Beans	2.0	1.8	9	9
Walnuts	1.6	1.5	10	10
Irrigated Pasture	1.1	1.0	11	12

Top 15 Crops 50 Years Ago

Crop	Value in 1961	Value in 2011 Dollars	Current Value
Cattle	4,080,000	29,988,000	16,317,000
Lettuce	2,079,000	15,280,650	*Misc.
Walnuts	1,945,000	14,295,750	1,624,000
Asparagus	1,853,000	13,619,550	*Misc.
Cut Flowers	1,612,400	11,851,140	*Misc.
Almonds	1,445,000	10,620,750	*Misc.
Apricots	1,362,900	10,017,315	494,000
Milk	1,335,200	9,813,720	*Misc.
Tomatoes	1,178,000	8,658,300	6,948,000
Barley	713,000	5,240,550	*Misc.
Pears	688,540	5,060,769	*Misc.
Rangeland Pasture	650,000	4,777,500	3,532,000
Sweet Corn	483,000	3,550,050	13,979,000
Field Corn	355,000	2,609,250	6,718,000
Alfalfa	340,000	2,499,000	3,510,000

* Combined in a Miscellaneous category due to small production or few producers.

Pest Exclusion



Asian Citrus Psyllid



Plum Curculio



Japanese Beetle

Shipments Inspected

Mail/UPS/Fed Ex/Express Carriers	50,957
Truck shipments from within California	1,037
Truck shipments from other states	233
Household Goods	110

Total A & Q Rated Pests Found

<i>Quarantine Rejections</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Canine Program*</i>
Live Pests	16	
Japanese Beetle	9	
Citrus Pests	7	2
Reasonable Cause	4	
Plum Curculio	3	1
Burrowing Nematode	3	
Live Animals	2	3
Cedar-Apple Rust	2	
Glassywinged Sharpshooter	2	
Nursery Stock Certificate	2	
Asian Citrus Psyllid	1	
Cereal Leaf Beetle	1	
European Pine Shoot Moth	1	
Golden Nematode	1	
Hawaii Certification	1	
Persimmon Root Borer	1	
Origin/Markings	96	12
<i>Total</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>18</i>

* Contra Costa County has two canine detection teams that work in the Bay Area. The canine program values represent finds not marked as containing plant material in Contra Costa County only.

“A” and “Q” Rated Pests

Pests vary as to the level of potential harm they can do, so it is necessary to have a rating system to represent the statewide importance of the pest. Of special interest are pests that are rated “A” or “Q”. These organisms have the potential to cause serious harm and require enforcement action when they are found. “A” rated pests, such as the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, are known to cause serious harm. “Q” rated pests are those that are suspected to cause serious harm but their status is uncertain because of incomplete information about the species.



Banana Mealybug



Cycad Wax Scale



White-footed Ant



Magnolia White Scale

A & Q Pest Interceptions

ANTS

Technomyrmex albipes / White-footed Ant
Pheidole megacephala / Bigheaded Ant
Pheidole sp. / Ant

Rating

Rejections

Q	2
Q	2
Q	1

SCALES

Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli / Magnolia White Scale
Pinnaspis buxi / Boxwood Scale
Pseudaulacaspis brimblecombei / Macadamia White Scale
Aulacaspis yasumatsui / Cycad Wax Scale
Milviscutulus mangiferae / Mango Shield Scale

A	2
A	1
Q	1
Q	1
Q	1

OTHER INSECTS, MITES, & MOLLUSCS

Dreissena bugensis / Quagga Mussel
Mytilopsis leucophaeta / False Dark Mussel
Pseudococcus elisae / Banana Mealybug

A	1
Q	1
Q	1

Pest Eradication/ Management



Pest	Scientific Name	Control Method	#Sites/Treated Acres
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Chemical	Many sites/205.5 ac.
Purple Starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Chemical	Many sites/152.93 ac.
Oblong Spurge	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	Chemical	5 sites/0.78 ac.
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria</i> spp.	Chemical	6 sites/0.37 ac.
Barb Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	5 sites/2.28 ac.
Kangaroo Thorn	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Mechanical	1 site/0.01 ac.
White Horsenettle	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Chemical	12 sites/0.61 ac.
Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Chemical	3 sites/18.41 ac.
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Chemical	1 watershed/0.13 ac.
Smooth Distaff Thistle	<i>Carthamus baeticus</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	1 site/0.08 ac.
Red Sesbania	<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	Mechanical	12 sites/2838 plants
Japanese Dodder	<i>Cuscuta japonica</i>	Mechanical	46 sites/0 in 2011
Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Chemical	Many sites/13.35 ac. (Satellite infestations)

Pest Detection



Pest	Trap Type	# Traps	# Servicings
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Jackson	943	9,912
Various	McPhail	858	18,889
Oriental Fruit Fly	Jackson	930	9,749
Melon Fly	Jackson	885	6,784
Glassywinged Sharpshooter	Yellow Panel	1,200	14,144
Light Brown Apple Moth	Jackson	54	183
Gypsy Moth	Delta	711	3,497
Japanese Beetle	Funnel	462	2,643
Pine Shoot Moth	Wing	6	57
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Wing	9	74
Various	Champ	40	222
Apple Maggot	Yellow Panel	8	32
Asian Citrus Psyllid	Yellow Panel	41	369
Vine Mealybug	Delta	61	476
European Grapevine Moth	Delta	299	3,567
Oriental Fruit Moth	Wing	15	765
Khapra Beetle	Trogo	4	21