

# ***San Benito County***



**2013  
Annual  
Crop Report**



# COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

RONALD C. ROSS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES  
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August 19, 2014

Karen Ross, Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture, and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, and

Ray Espinosa, County Administrative Officer

In accordance with the requirements of Section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 2013 annual crop report for San Benito County.

With its unique climate along with fertile soils and water supplies, agriculture is the county's largest industry. The county produces a variety of commodities and is one of the top five producing counties in California for five different crops. This year's front cover shows one of San Benito County's legacy crops: dried apricots. While other commodities such as specialty lettuce have surpassed apricots in production and value, apricots still remains a million dollar crop in the county.

In 2013, the overall value of the county's agricultural production increased by nearly \$33 million dollars from 2012, making 2013 a record year. This was a very good year across the board for vegetable production. The largest gains were in the production of spinach, head lettuce, and onions along with a gain in their respective unit prices.

Favorable weather and prices allowed apricots, cherries, walnut and vine crops to rebound from poor weather related yields last year. Despite the drought, income from cattle operations increased due to good prices received by the ranchers.

It should be emphasized that these figures are gross values only, and do not represent net profit to the producers.

I wish to thank the many farmers, ranchers and businesses that have cooperated in providing the information required for the compilation of this report

Sincerely,

*Ronald C. Ross*

Agricultural Commissioner

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## **San Benito County Board of Supervisors**

<b>Margie Barrios, Vice Chair</b>	<b>District 1</b>
<b>Anthony Botelho</b>	<b>District 2</b>
<b>Robert Rivas</b>	<b>District 3</b>
<b>Jerry Muenzer, Chair</b>	<b>District 4</b>
<b>Jaime De La Cruz</b>	<b>District 5</b>

**Ray Espinosa , County Administrative Officer**

# San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's Office



**Clockwise from lower left:**

**Christy Clayton, Senior Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**  
**Billie Jimenez, Secretary II**  
**Ronald Ross, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
**Lorie Tilley, Agricultural Technician**  
**Gordon McClelland, Deputy Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
**Gina Rammer, Extra Help Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**  
**Ken Griffin, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector II**  
**Donna Carbonaro, Senior Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**  
**Matt Bozzo, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector I**  
**Michael Silverman, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector III**  
**Sergio Garcia, Agricultural Technician**  
**Rosemary Bridwell, Agricultural Technician**

**Absent:**

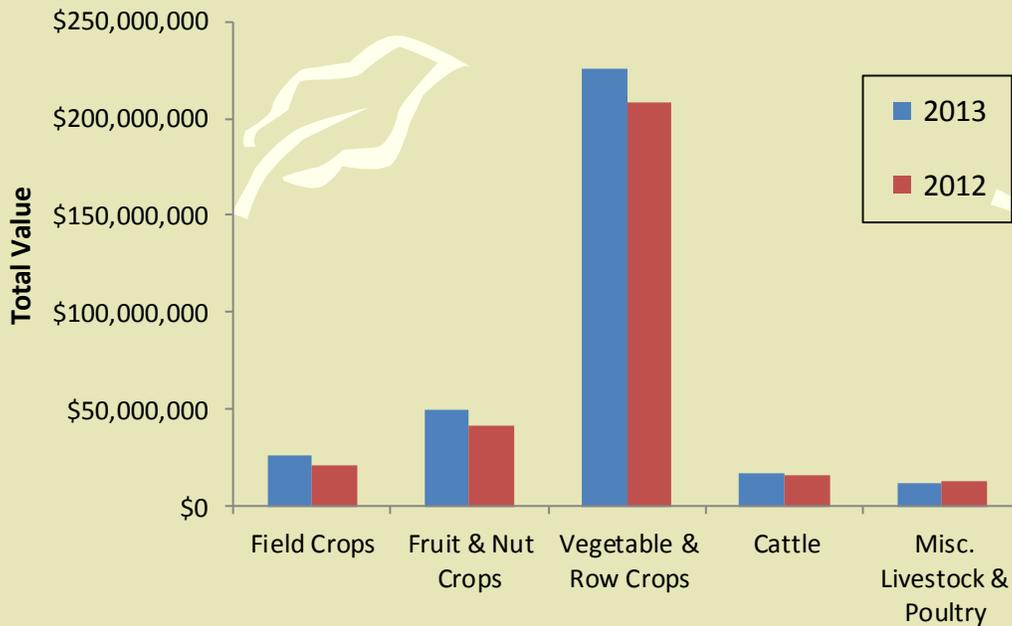
**Sally Boden, Extra Help Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**  
**Tony Wilson, Agricultural Technician**

# Commodity Summary



Total commodity values are compared between 2012 and 2013. Gross agricultural value from San Benito County increased by \$32,647,000 in 2013.

Commodity	Year	
	2013	2012
Field Crops	\$25,993,000	\$20,612,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$49,709,000	\$41,190,000
Vegetable & Row Crops	\$225,673,000	\$207,831,000
Cattle	\$17,179,000	\$15,636,000
Misc. Livestock & Poultry	\$11,848,000	\$12,486,000
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$330,402,000</b>	<b>\$297,755,000</b>



## Total agricultural value over a decade:

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Total Value (Million \$)</b>	\$239	\$266	\$269	\$271	\$293	\$262	\$243	\$256	\$263	\$298	\$330

# 50 Years Ago...

Agriculture is a dynamic industry. It is constantly changing as world markets, costs, commodity prices and consumer's tastes change. Fifty years ago, orchard crops were the predominate crop. Now vegetable crops make up the bulk of the agricultural economy. What will the next 50 years look like? Over the past several years, acreage devoted to salad products have exploded. However, small plantings of new orchards have recently taken place. Perhaps 50 years from now orchards will dominate again...or perhaps an entirely new crop group will emerge?

## Top 10 Agricultural Commodities in 1963 in San Benito County

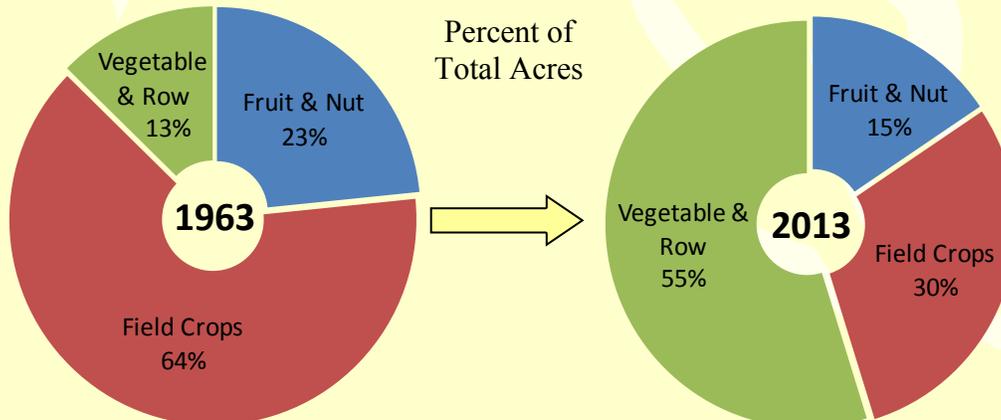
Rank	Commodity	Acres	Gross Value
1	Cattle	n/a	\$3,184,000
2	Apricot	4,126	\$2,953,000
3	Tomato	3,443	\$2,410,000
4	Prunes	2,880	\$1,655,000
5	Walnut	3,208	\$1,476,000
6	Chicken Eggs	3,491,833 doz.	\$1,292,000
7	Sugar Beets	3514	\$1,107,000
8	Garlic	889	\$1,027,000
9	Lettuce	899	\$619,000
10	Barley	13,250	\$513,000

## Then & Now

In 1963 the total value of San Benito County agricultural production was \$24,007,000 (7.3% of 2013's total value). Harvestable acreage was occupied primarily by field and orchard crops; whereas today we see mostly vegetable & row crops.

Crop	Total Acres		Gross Value	
	1963	2013	1963	2013
Fruit & Nut	13,061	7,418	\$7,171,000	\$49,709,000
Field Crops	35,693	14,096	\$4,001,000	\$25,993,000
Vegetable & Row	7,083	26,094	\$5,283,000	\$225,673,000
Other	n/a	n/a	\$7,552,000	\$29,027,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55,837</b>	<b>47,608</b>	<b>\$24,007,000</b>	<b>\$330,402,000</b>

\*Field crop acreage excludes pasture & rangeland.



# Field Crops

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
*Misc. Field Crops	2013	185				\$ 126,000
	2012	300				\$ 193,000
Grain Hay	2013	12,900	1.38	17,802 tons	150	\$ 2,670,250
	2012	13,850	1.50	20,775 tons	95	\$ 1,973,000
*Nursery Stock	2013	288				\$ 12,550,000
	2012	276				\$ 9,602,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2013	508,000		acres	15.00	\$ 7,620,000
	2012	508,000		acres	12.50	\$ 6,350,000
Permanent Pasture	2013	470		acres	210	\$ 99,000
	2012	500		acres	210	\$ 105,000
*Seed Crops	2013	723		acres	3,700	\$ 2,928,000
	2012	480		acres	4,976	\$ 2,389,000

**TOTALS 2013:**

**\$ 25,993,000**

**2012:**

**\$ 20,612,000**

\*See page 12 for specific crops



# Vegetable and Row Crops



		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Broccoli	2013	891	7.17	6,392 tons	1050	\$ 6,711,500
	2012	1021	7.21	7,362 tons	1210	\$ 8,910,500
Cabbage	2013	183	26.5	4,850 tons	337	\$ 1,634,500
	2012	153	22.8	3,489 tons	330	\$ 1,154,000
Celery	2013	468	37.59	17,630 tons	424	\$ 7,475,000
	2012	500	35.51	17,755 tons	441	\$ 7,842,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2013	685	20.21	13,844 tons	416	\$ 5,759,000
	2012	523	19.74	10,322 tons	375	\$ 3,870,500
Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)	2013	376	10.5	3,948 tons	635	\$ 2,507,000
	2012	295	10.48	3,092 tons	659	\$ 2,040,500
Lettuce, Romaine	2013	2,927	14.01	41,001 tons	610	\$ 25,014,000
	2012	3,254	13.21	42,986 tons	628	\$ 26,995,000
* Lettuce, Salad Mix	2013	4,974	3.25	16,166 tons	2,031	\$ 32,840,000
	2012	4,781	3.25	15,539 tons	1,900	\$ 29,524,000
** Misc.Veg. & Row Crops	2013	6,387				\$ 55,903,000
	2012	6,325				\$ 55,532,500
Onions, All	2013	970	17.52	16,994 tons	629	\$ 10,703,000
	2012	907	17.39	15,773 tons	480	\$ 7,567,000

# Vegetable and Row Crops Continued



		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Peppers, Bell	2013	1,838	24.17	44,425 tons	654	\$ 29,067,500
	2012	2,118	23.85	50,514 tons	496	\$ 25,073,500
Spinach	2013	4,194	3.96	16,608 tons	1,992	\$ 33,089,000
	2012	3,499	3.43	12,000 tons	1,793	\$ 21,516,000
Tomatoes, Canning	2013	1,536	47.44	72,868 tons	70.50	\$ 5,137,250
	2012	1,730	61.00	105,530 tons	73	\$ 7,709,000
Tomatoes, Market	2013	665	14.32	9,523 tons	1,033	\$ 9,832,500
	2012	670	13.06	8,750 tons	1,154	\$ 10,097,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2013</b>					<b>\$ 225,673,000</b>
	<b>2012</b>					<b>\$ 207,831,000</b>



\* May include: Baby Lettuces, (Red & Green Romaine, Red & Green Oak Leaf, Butter Lettuce, Lollo Rosa, Tango) Mizuna, Red & Green Kale, Arugula, Beet Tops, Baby Spinach, Mache, Red and Green Mustard, Tat-Soi, Frisee, Red and Green Chard, Radicchio and Herbs.

\*\* See page 12 for specific list



# Fruit and Nut Crops

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Apples	2013	309	17.25	5,330 tons	302	\$ 1,610,000
	2012	314	19.3	6,060 tons	278	\$ 1,687,000
Apricots	2013	582	4.09	2,380 tons	820	\$ 1,952,000
	2012	592	2.82	1,669 tons	595	\$ 993,000
Cherries	2013	558	2.89	1,613 tons	2,787	\$ 4,496,500
	2012	558	2.0	1,116 tons	2,384	\$ 2,660,500
Grapes (wine)	2013	3,885	4.05	15,753 tons	1,382	\$ 21,771,500
	2012	3,651	4.76	17,360 tons	1,100	\$ 19,097,000
*Misc.Fruits & Nuts	2013	400				\$ 15,007,000
	2012	395				\$ 13,690,000
Olives	2013	110	.84	92.4 tons	1,500	\$ 138,500
	2012	110	.99	94 tons	1,425	\$ 134,000
Walnuts	2013	1,574	0.938	1,477 tons	3,205	\$ 4,733,750
	2012	1,582	0.891	1,410 tons	2,077	\$ 2,928,500
<b>TOTALS 2013</b>					<b>\$ 49,709,000</b>	
<b>2012</b>					<b>\$ 41,190,000</b>	

\*See page 12 for specific list



# Cattle

		<u>Production</u>		<u>Value</u>	
		<u># of Head</u>	<u>Total Cwt</u>	<u>\$ per Cwt</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Bulls	2013	185	3,330 cwt.	89.00	\$ 294,000
	2012	170	3,060 cwt.	83.00	\$ 256,000
Calves	2013	11,600	61,045 cwt.	178.50	\$ 10,896,000
	2012	10,940	64,576 cwt.	137.00	\$ 8,847,000
Pasture and Stockers	2013	29,620	74,050 cwt.	42.00	\$ 3,110,000
	2012	31,864	84,439 cwt.	37.00	\$ 3,125,000
Cows	2013	2,450	30,625 cwt.	94.00	\$ 2,879,000
	2012	3,100	38,750 cwt.	88.00	\$ 3,410,000
All Cattle Sold	2013	43,855			
	2012	46,074			
<b>TOTALS 2013</b>					<b>\$ 17,179,000</b>
<b>2012</b>					<b>\$ 15,636,000</b>

## Other Livestock/Livestock & Poultry Products

\*Misc.Livestock &

Poultry Products

		<u>Production</u>	<u>Value</u>
			<u>\$ Total</u>
<b>TOTALS 2013</b>			<b>\$ 11,848,000</b>
<b>2012</b>			<b>\$ 12,486,000</b>

<u>Cattle Herd Inventory</u>	<u>Year Round</u>	<u>8-10 months</u>	<u>4-6 Months</u>	<u>Total Head</u>
<b>2013</b>	21,500	11,500	30,000	63,000
<b>2012</b>	21,000	11,000	32,000	64,000

\* See Page 12 for Specific Crop List

# Miscellaneous Crops and Products

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

## Vegetable & Row Crops

Artichokes	Arugula	Asparagus	Borage
Beans	Beets, table	Bok Choy	Carrots
Broccollette	Brussels Sprouts	Cantaloupe	Chicory
Cauliflower	Celery Root	Chard	Collards
Corn	Chinese Greens	Cilantro	Dandelion Greens
Eggplant	Corn, sweet	Cucumbers	Fennel
Frisee	Endive	Escarole	Gourds
Herbs	Garbanzo Beans	Garlic	Mushrooms
Mustard	Kale	Kohlrabi	Parsnips
Peas	Melons	Mixed Vegetables	Pumpkins
Radicchio	Okra	Parsley	Rutabagas
Radishes	Potatoes	Rapini	Tomatillos
Snow Peas & shoots	Squash	Turnips	Watermelons

## Field Crops

Garbanzo Beans    Alfalfa    Honey & Pollination    Oats    Wheat

## Fruit & Nut Crops

Almonds	Avocados	Blackberries	Blueberries
Figs	Kiwi	Lemons	Misc Fruit
Peaches	Pears	Persimmons	Plums
	Strawberries	Raspberries	

## Seed Crops

Flowers    Vegetable Crops    Vine Crops    Field Crops

## Nursery Stock

Cut Flowers (dry & fresh)	Mushroom Spawn	Nursery Plants & Trees
Turf	Vegetable Transplants	Christmas Trees

## Livestock & Poultry Products

Chickens    Turkeys    Eggs    Goats    Hogs    Lambs    Milk    Wool

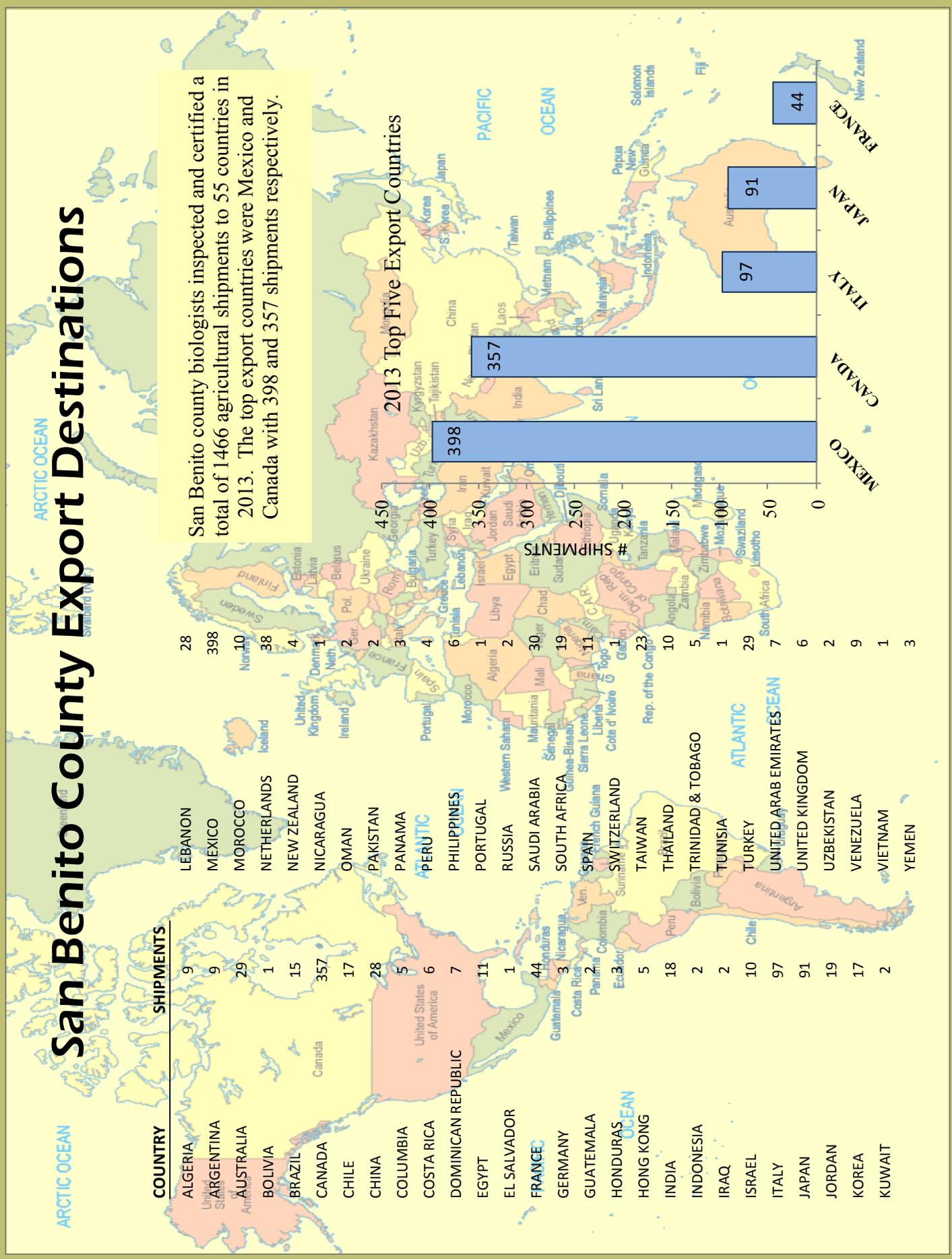
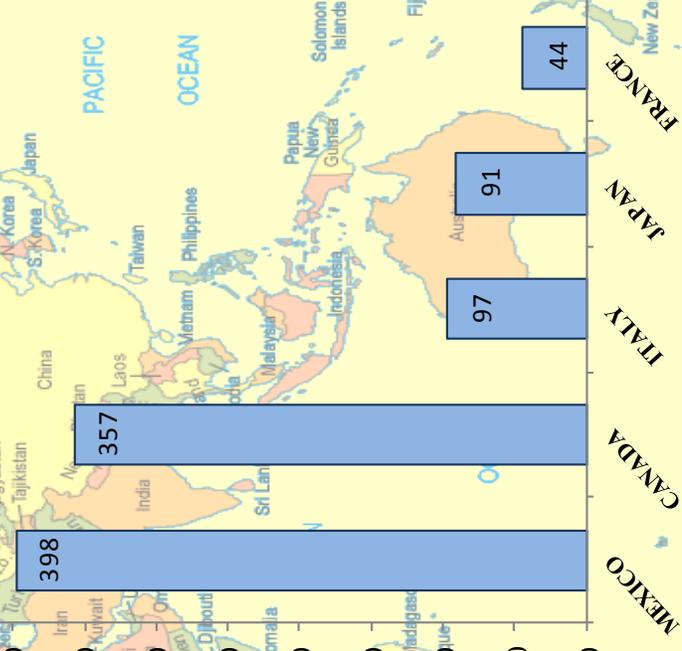
# San Benito County Export Destinations

San Benito county biologists inspected and certified a total of 1466 agricultural shipments to 55 countries in 2013. The top export countries were Mexico and Canada with 398 and 357 shipments respectively.

## COUNTRY SHIPMENTS

ALGERIA	9
ARGENTINA	9
AUSTRALIA	29
BOLIVIA	1
BRAZIL	15
CANADA	357
CHILE	17
CHINA	28
COLUMBIA	5
COSTA RICA	6
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	7
EGYPT	11
EL SALVADOR	1
FRANCE	44
GERMANY	3
GUATEMALA	2
HONDURAS	2
HONG KONG	5
INDIA	18
INDONESIA	2
IRAQ	2
ISRAEL	10
ITALY	97
JAPAN	91
JORDAN	19
KOREA	17
KUWAIT	2
LEBANON	28
MEXICO	398
MOROCCO	10
NETHERLANDS	38
NEW ZEALAND	4
NICARAGUA	1
OMAN	2
PAKISTAN	2
PANAMA	3
PERU	4
PHILIPPINES	6
PORTUGAL	1
RUSSIA	30
SAUDI ARABIA	19
SOUTH AFRICA	11
SPAIN	23
SWITZERLAND	10
TAIWAN	10
THAILAND	5
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	2
TUNISIA	2
TURKEY	10
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	97
UNITED KINGDOM	91
UZBEKISTAN	19
VENEZUELA	17
VIETNAM	2
YEMEN	3

## 2013 Top Five Export Countries



# Organic Farming

San Benito county had 76 certified registered growers in 2013 growing a wide variety of fruit, nut, vegetable, nursery, feed, and seed crops. Organic farming is an important part of the agricultural economy in San Benito county as consumer demand and grower returns continue to increase. Some of the most popular and highest grossing commodities include salad mix varieties, spinach, and walnuts.

## 2013 Organic Farming Statistics

Commodity	Total Acres	*Total Value
Spring Mix	4,518	\$ 40,689, 000
Misc. Vegetables	3,366	\$ 30,719,000
Misc. Fruit, Nut, Nursery, Chicken	273	\$ 2,439,000
Walnuts	478	\$1,492,000
Rangeland/ Livestock	20,000	\$6,490,750
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>28,650</b>	<b>Est. \$81,000,000</b>



\*Total value = producer gross sales reported in 2013  
Table data are summarized from CDFA organic program reports.



# Agricultural Programs

## **Agricultural Statistics**

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

## **Certified Farmers' Markets**

Farmers' Markets in California were established so that consumers can purchase agricultural products directly from the producers. This office inspects certified growing sites and markets to preserve the integrity of this direct marketing program.

## **Vegetable Standardization**

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

## **Nursery & Seed Inspection**

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

## **Pesticide Use Enforcement**

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



# Agricultural Programs Continued

## Pest Detection

At the peak season, our office deploys up to 950 insect detection traps throughout the county. These traps are designed to intercept new exotic and non-native insect species before they become established. Some of the insects we monitor for include:

Asian Citrus Psyllid	European Corn Borer	European Grapevine Moth
European Pine Shoot Moth	Glassy-winged Sharpshooter	Gypsy Moth
Japanese Beetle	Khapra Beetle	Oriental Fruit Fly
Melon Fruit Fly	Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Light Brown Apple Moth
Mexican Fruit Fly		



## Pest Eradication

Invasive plant pests are eradicated throughout the year using a combination of chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods.

Pest			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Mechanism of Control	Scope of Program
Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum Acanthium</i>	Mechanical & Chemical	2 Sites
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara Cardunculus</i>	Chemical	4 Sites



## Biological Control

Pest		Biological Agent		Scope of Program
Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	
Yellowstar Thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Hairy Weevil	<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>	Widely Distributed
		Seed Head Weevil	<i>Bagasternus orientalis</i>	Widely Distributed

# Weights & Measures



## Weights & Measures Program

County inspectors inspect and test the various types of weighing and measuring devices throughout the County. Those found to comply with California standards are sealed and are allowed to be used for commercial transactions. Those devices that fail the testing are placed out of service until repaired by a licensed device repair company. Regular inspections protect consumers from misrepresentation and maintain fair competition between sellers.

## Device Inspection Statistics

### Measuring Device Inspections

373 gas & diesel pumps  
21 water meters  
9 fuel delivery truck meters  
3 fabric/cord/wire meters  
21 LPG meters

### Weighing Device Inspections

140 store scales  
8 platform scales  
8 prescription/jewelers scales  
1 railway scale  
37 truck scales  
65 cattle scales

## Scanner Inspections

Scanners are devices at retail stores that reads a bar code on an item for sale to determine the identity and price charged for the item. The Sealer of Weights and Measures conducts spot inspections at local stores to ensure that the price charged to the public is the correct shelf price.

## Weighmaster & Petroleum Inspections

Weighmasters play an important part in the economy of the County and the nation. Weighmasters are persons who are licensed by Weights and Measures to certify the weighted, measured or counted quantity of any material in certain commercial transactions. Inspections are conducted by our department to ensure that weighmaster and weighmaster certificates are in compliance with the California Business and Professions Code. Our department also inspects retail gas stations for correct petroleum advertising and petroleum posting requirements.

# Mosquito Abatement Program



Releasing mosquito fish to pond



Setting up CO<sub>2</sub> mosquito trap



Educating public on prevention



Applying larvicide to stagnant water

## Mosquito Control

In response to the introduction of West Nile Virus to California, the Agricultural Commissioner assumed responsibility for mosquito abatement. The program uses monitoring and trapping techniques along with chemical, biological, and cultural control methods to reduce pest abundance and prevent their associated diseases.

## Monitoring

Adult mosquito monitoring is conducted each year during mosquito season from May-October. Standardized traps emitting carbon dioxide are used to determine mosquito abundance, location, and species. Visual site evaluations for larvae detection are also completed in certain problem areas.

## Chemical Control

Larvicide tablets and granular formulations are used to treat infested water features like neglected pools and fountains as well as stagnant, standing water on lawns, agricultural land, and parks. Larvicide is also applied to city storm drains each year as a preventative measure. Fogging sprays from ground rigs can also be used to reduce the adult population in problem areas, protecting communities from bites and the potential for the spreading of disease.

## Biological Control

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

## Cultural Control and Outreach

Cultural, or behavioral control, involves education about proper pool maintenance, irrigation practices, and the overall reduction of stagnant water on one's property. The county holds outreach and educational demonstrations and booths yearly at the county fair. For more information on steps you can take to reduce mosquito breeding habitat, contact the agricultural commissioner's office.

