

# San Benito County



2014  
Annual  
Crop Report



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# COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

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KAREN OVERSTREET AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES  
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July 16, 2015

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 2014 annual crop report for San Benito County.

San Benito's agricultural strength is based on agriculture production diversity. With its unique climate along with fertile soils and water supplies, agriculture is the county's largest industry. The county continues to diversify and improve efficiency in the midst of its third year of drought conditions. The county produces a variety of commodities and is one of the top five producing counties in California for four different crops; Spinach, Lettuces, Salad Mix, and Peppers.

In 2014, the overall value of the county's agricultural production slightly decreased from 2013. This was a similar year to the last across the board for vegetable production. Acreages, yields, and unit prices shifted only slightly. Processing tomato acreage decreased and the ground was productive for commodities which require less water such as leafy greens. The largest gain was in the rangeland unit prices and paid cent weights on cattle.

However, a mild winter hindered the cherry and vine crop yields, as well as, caused large crop losses to dry land acreage. Commodities that require chilling hours and/or are dependent on rainfall suffered substantial yield losses or crop failure.

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,

*Karen Overstreet*

Agricultural Commissioner

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

**Margie Barrios, Chair**

**Anthony Botelho**

**Robert Rivas, Vice Chair**

**Jerry Muenzer, Chair**

**Jaime De La Cruz**

**District 1**

**District 2**

**District 3**

**District 4**

**District 5**

**Ray Espinosa , County Administrative Officer**



# San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's Office



#### Front Row:

**Christy Clayton, Sr. Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**  
**Donna Carbonaro, Sr. Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**

#### Middle Row:

**Billie Jimenez, Secretary II**  
**Lorie Tilley, Agricultural Technician**  
**Michael Silverman, Sr. Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**  
**Karen Overstreet, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
**Cassia Mendez, Account Clerk II**

#### Back Row:

**Ronald Ross, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures ~ Retired**  
**Gordon McClelland, Deputy Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
**Ken Griffin, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector II**  
**Matt Bozzo, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector I**  
**Victor Ayala, Agricultural Technician**

#### Absent:

**Sally Boden, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector**  
**Rosemary Bridwell, Agricultural Technician**  
**Tony Wilson, Agricultural Technician**

On January 9th 2015, Ron Ross officially retired as San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures. Ron began his career with the County in 1982 and was appointed Agricultural Commissioner in 2009.

We thank Ron for his dedicated service to the County and the agricultural community. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

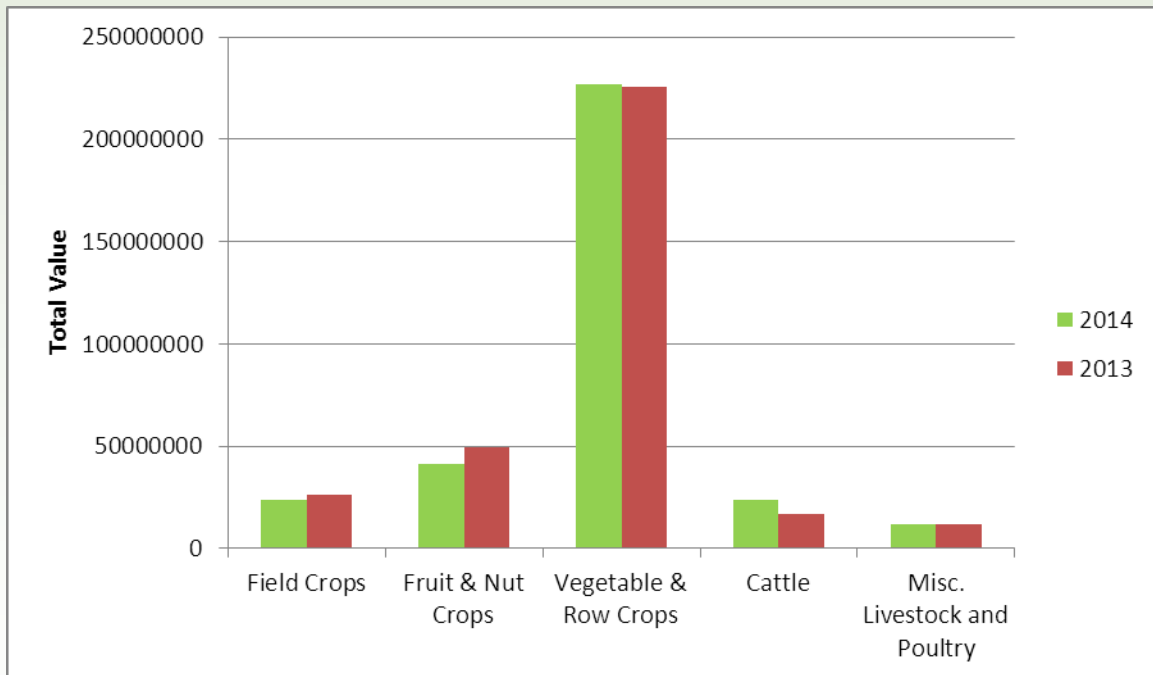


# Commodity Summary



Total commodity values are compared between 2013 and 2014. Agricultural value from San Benito County decreased by \$2,141,000 gross sales dollars in 2014.

Commodity	Year	
	2014	2013
Field Crops	23,729,000	25,993,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	42,275,000	49,709,000
Vegetable & Row Crops	226,798,000	225,673,000
Cattle	23,284,000	17,179,000
Misc. Livestock & Poultry	12,175,000	11,848,000
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>328,261,000</b>	<b>330,402,000</b>



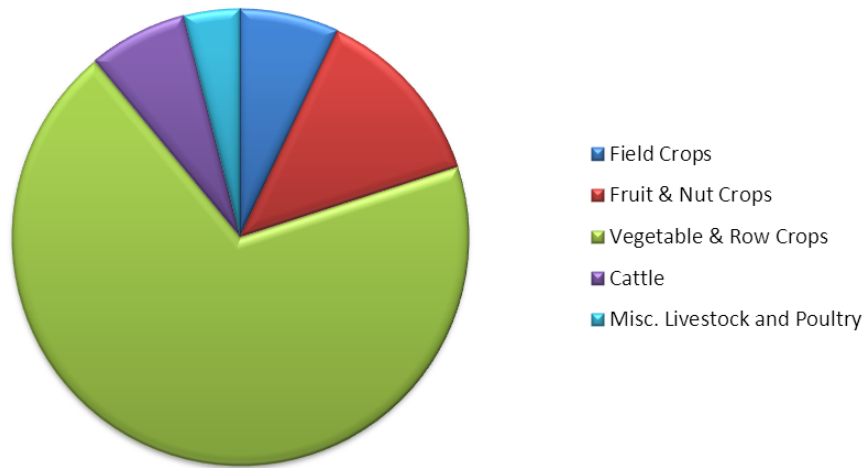
## Total agricultural value over a decade:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total Value (Million \$)</b>	\$266	\$269	\$271	\$293	\$262	\$243	\$256	\$263	\$298	\$330	\$328

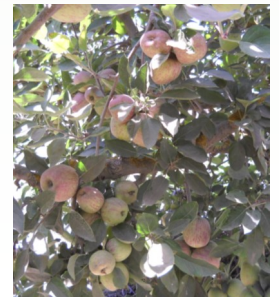
# Commodity Summary Continued



**Percentage of Total Agricultural Value in 2014**



Field Crops	\$23,729,000	7%
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$42,275,000	13%
Vegetable and Row Crops	\$226,798,000	69%
Cattle	\$23,284,000	7%
Misc. Livestock & Poultry	\$12,175,000	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$328,261,000</b>	<b>100%</b>





# Field Crops



		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
**Misc.Field Crops	2014	227				\$ 427,000
	2013	185				\$ 126,000
*Grain Hay	2014	11,000		1,050 tons	272	\$ 285,000
	2013	12,900	1.38	17,802 tons	150	\$ 2,670,250
** Nursery Stock	2014	225				\$ 10,260,000
	2013	288				\$ 12,550,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2014	508,000		acres	20.00	\$ 10,160,000
	2013	508,000		acres	15.00	\$ 7,620,000
Permanent Pasture	2014	452		acres	230	\$ 104,000
	2013	470		acres	210	\$ 99,000
** Seed Crops	2014	554		acres	4,500	\$ 2,493,000
	2013	723		acres	3,700	\$ 2,928,000
* Drought created crop loss__						
** See page 12 for specifics						

**TOTALS 2014:**

**\$ 23,729,000**

**2013:**

**\$ 25,993,000**







# Vegetable and Row Crops

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Broccoli	2014	841	7.00	5,888 tons	810	\$ 4,769,000
	2013	891	7.17	6,392 tons	1050	\$ 6,711,500
Cabbage	2014	166	23.5	4,067 tons	372	\$ 1,514,000
	2013	183	26.5	4,850 tons	337	\$ 1,634,500
Celery	2014	661	36.24	23,955 tons	381	\$ 9,121,000
	2013	468	37.59	17,630 tons	424	\$ 7,475,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2014	663	18.11	12,006 tons	339	\$ 4,071,000
	2013	685	20.21	13,844 tons	416	\$ 5,759,000
Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)	2014	404	10.4	4,202 tons	632	\$ 2,658,000
	2013	376	10.5	3,948 tons	635	\$ 2,507,000
Lettuce, Romaine	2014	3,382	12.88	43,548 tons	600	\$ 26,129,000
	2013	2,927	14.01	41,001 tons	610	\$ 25,014,000
* Lettuce, Salad Mix	2014	4,500	3.55	15,970 tons	2,100	\$ 33,547,000
	2013	4,974	3.25	16,166 tons	2,031	\$ 32,840,000
** Misc.Veg. & Row Crops	2014	6,509				\$ 59,842,000
	2013	6,387				\$ 55,903,000
** See page 12 for list						
Onions, All	2014	934	17.24	16,102 tons	634	\$ 10,209,000
	2013	970	17.52	16,994 tons	629	\$ 10,703,000

\*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.



# Vegetable and Row Crops Continued

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Peppers, All	2014	1,920	22.42	43,046 tons	700	\$ 30,132,000
	2013	1,838	24.17	44,425 tons	654	\$ 29,067,500
Spinach	2014	3,434	4.14	14,217 tons	2,200	\$ 31,281,000
	2013	4,194	3.96	16,608 tons	1,992	\$ 33,089,000
Tomatoes, Canning	2014	1,137	52.04	59,170 tons	83.50	\$ 4,941,000
	2013	1,536	47.44	72,868 tons	70.50	\$ 5,137,250
Tomatoes, Market	2014	578	14.56	8,416 tons	1,020	\$ 8,584,000
	2013	665	14.32	9,523 tons	1,033	\$ 9,832,500
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2014</b>					<b>\$ 226,798,000</b>
	<b>2013</b>					<b>\$ 225,673,000</b>





# Fruit and Nut Crops



		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Apples	2014	264	25	6,600 tons	298	\$ 1,967,000
	2013	309	17.25	5,330 tons	302	\$ 1,610,000
Apricots	2014	552	5.17	2,854 tons	922	\$ 2,631,500
	2013	582	4.09	2,380 tons	820	\$ 1,952,000
Cherries	2014	576	1.05	605 tons	2,696	\$ 1,631,000
	2013	558	2.89	1,613 tons	2,788	\$ 4,496,500
Grapes (wine)	2014	4,468	2.86	12,779 tons	1,200	\$ 15,335,000
	2013	3,885	4.05	15,753 tons	1,382	\$ 21,771,500
*Misc. Fruits & Nuts	2014	385				\$ 14,979,000
	2013	400				\$ 15,007,000
Olives	2014	121	1.75	210 tons	700	\$ 147,000
	2013	110	.99	94 tons	1,500	\$ 134,000
Walnuts	2014	1,560	1.039	1,621 tons	3,445	\$ 5,584,500
	2013	1,574	0.938	1,477 tons	3,205	\$ 4,733,750
<b>TOTALS 2014</b>						<b>\$ 42,275,000</b>
<b>2013</b>						<b>\$ 49,709,000</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>
All Cattle	2014	42,465			
	2013	43,855			
Calves	2014	12,055	68,111 cwt.	230.00	\$ 15,666,000
	2013	11,600	61,045 cwt.	178.50	\$ 10,896,000
Pasture and Stockers	2014	27,000	60,750 cwt.	42.00	\$ 2,551,500
	2013	29,620	74,050 cwt.	42.00	\$ 3,110,000
Cows	2014	3,250	45,500 cwt.	105.00	\$ 4,777,500
	2013	2,450	30,625 cwt.	94.00	\$ 2,879,000
Bulls	2014	160	2,960 cwt.	97.75	\$ 289,000
	2013	185	3,330 cwt.	89.00	\$ 294,000
<b>TOTALS 2014</b>					<b>\$ 23,284,000</b>
<b>2013</b>					<b>\$ 17,179,000</b>

<u>Cattle Herd Inventory</u>	<u>Year Round</u>	<u>8-10 months</u>	<u>2-6 Months</u>	<u>Total Head</u>
2014	19,800	12,000	28,750	60,550
2013	21,500	11,500	30,000	63,000

## Other Livestock & Poultry Products

Totals—  
 2014 - \$12,175,000  
 2013 - \$11,848,000

\*Misc. Livestock and Poultry Products listed on page 12.

# 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
Raspberries	Strawberries		

## 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

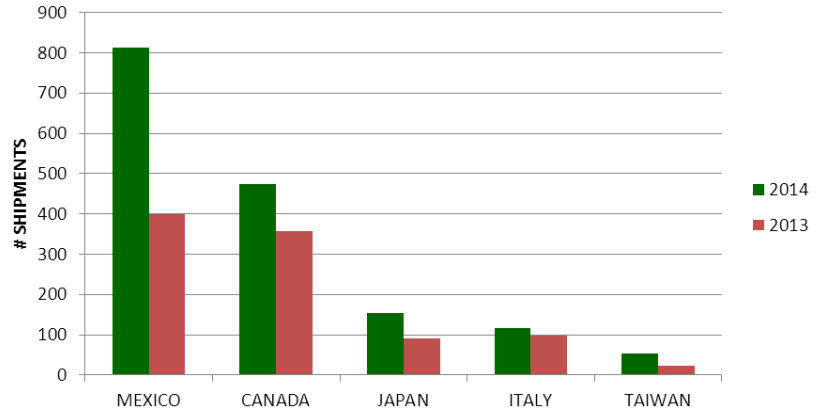
## Livestock & Poultry Products

Chickens    Turkeys    Eggs    Goats    Hogs    Lambs    Milk    Wool

# San Benito County Export Destinations

San Benito county biologists inspected and certified a total of 2125 agricultural shipments to 52 countries in 2014. The top export countries were Mexico and Canada with 813 and 473 shipments respectively.

**Top 5 Export Countries**



# Organic Farming

San Benito county had 75 certified registered growers in 2014 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.



## 2014 Organic Farming Statistics

Commodity	Total Acres	*Total Value
Salad Mix	4,693	56,469,000
Misc. Vegetables	3,137	36,598,000
Misc. Fruit, Nut, Nursery, Chicken	253	1,472,000
Walnuts	564	1,943,000
Rangeland/Livestock	18,750	6,094,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>27,397 Ac.</b>	<b>\$ 102,576,000</b>

\*Total value = producer gross sales reported in 2014  
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: <http://www.cosb.us/county-departments/agriculture/crop-report/>.

## Certified Farmers' Markets

The Hollister Farmer's Market was established to provide raw agricultural products directly to the consumers in San Benito County. This office inspects certified growing sites and markets to preserve the integrity of the 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 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. Samples are drawn for germination and purity testing. Labeling is inspected for compliance with state requirements. Through this program, 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

390 gas & diesel pumps  
22 water meters  
9 fuel delivery truck meters  
3 fabric/cord/wire meters  
21 LPG meters  
460 Electric sub meters

### Weighing Device Inspections

138 store scales  
8 platform scales  
6 prescription/jewelers scales  
1 railway scale  
36 truck scales  
67 cattle scales

## Scanner Inspections

County inspectors regularly inspect price scanning systems with highly accurate equipment to protect consumers, businesses, and manufacturers from unfair practices. Scanners at retail establishments include any automated system by which a marking affixed to an item for sale is electronically scanned and read at the point of sale (POS) terminal to determine the identity and price charged for the item. This includes electronic or laser scanners, radio frequency identifications, and cell phone camera scanners.

## 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 the County to ensure that weighmaster and weighmaster certificates are in compliance with the California Business and Professions Code.. The county also inspects retail fuel stations for correct advertising and posting requirements.

# Mosquito Abatement Program



Releasing mosquito fish to pond



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



Mosquito fish feed on larvae



Mosquito abatement information booth at the Home and Garden Show

## 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 and 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.

