

2015 CROP REPORT



SAN BENITO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

KAREN OVERSTREETAGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES 3224 Southside Road, Hollister, CA 95023 Telephone (831) 637-5344, FAX (831) 637-9015

July 21, 2016

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 2015 annual crop report for San Benito County.

San Benito County's leading industry is production agriculture. A temperate climate and fertile soils promotes this thriving industry. The industry produces a variety of commodities and numerous specialty vegetable crops. San Benito County continues to be one of the top five producing counties in California of spinach, peppers, lettuces, and salad mix products and plays a big part in feeding the world and providing work to numerous people throughout the region. The impact of production agriculture to our local economy is much greater than the gross production value.

In 2015, the overall value of the county's agricultural increased nearly 11% from 2014 for a record high of \$360,593,000. This was a more productive year in quantities and higher market values from the previous year. Acreages, yields, and unit prices for the majority of commodities gained substantially. Salad mix / baby leaf products had the biggest gain. Processing tomato acreage decreased slightly as more ground was productive for leafy greens and miscellaneous fresh vegetable crops. Cattle prices reached an all-time high, although many producers held onto replacements in anticipation of the projected rainfall for the year to come.

2015 again experienced another below average precipitation year. The late spring rains devastated the cherries and other commodities experienced a less than average harvest yield. The warmer than average winter hindered other commodities. Vine and tree crop yields were below average and walnut yields were inconsistent as well as the quality was well below normal.

It should be emphasized that these figures are gross values only. They do not represent net profit to the producers. The figures are also periodically averaged and or rounded in the process to achieve the end value.

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

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San Benito County

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures 2015 Crop Report

San Benito County Board of Supervisors

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Michael Silverman

Ken Griffin

Victor Ayala

Rafael Martinez

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Asian Citrus Psyllid

What is it?

The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) is a small insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. The ACP can transmit a disease that is fatal for citrus called Huanglongbing



(HLB), also known as citrus greening disease. All citrus and closely related species such as curry trees are susceptible hosts for both the insect and the disease. There is no cure once a tree becomes infected. The diseased tree will decline in health and produce bitter, misshaped fruit until it dies.

ACP History

The state of Florida first detected the pest in 1998 and the disease in 2005, and the two have now been detected in all 30 citrus producing counties in the state of Florida. The pest and disease are also present in Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina and Texas. The states of Mississippi, Arizona and Alabama have detected the pest but not the disease. The ACP was first detected in California in 2008 and is now being found throughout much of the state. When the pest is found, quarantines are put in place to restrict the movement of citrus plants and plant clippings in order to limit spread of the pest.

Why is it important?

Controlling populations of the Asian citrus psyllid is critical to controlling the spread of the disease. The San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture are undergoing an extensive survey and treatment program in response to the detection of one Asian citrus psyllid in the City of Hollister in San Benito County.

The ACP feeds on all citrus trees, including orange, lemon, lime, mandarin, pomelo, kumquat, grapefruit and tangerine trees. It also feeds on some relatives of citrus, like orange jasmine and curry leaves. If you have any of these plants in your backyard, inspect them monthly, or whenever watering, spraying, pruning or tending trees.

Fighting the Asian citrus psyllid and huanglongbing is a collaborative effort. Included in the fight are government agencies at the Federal, State and County level, agricultural citrus growers, nursery operators and residents. By working together we can all save our citrus trees.

Visit http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/ for more information on the Asian citrus psyllid and huanglongbing disease.

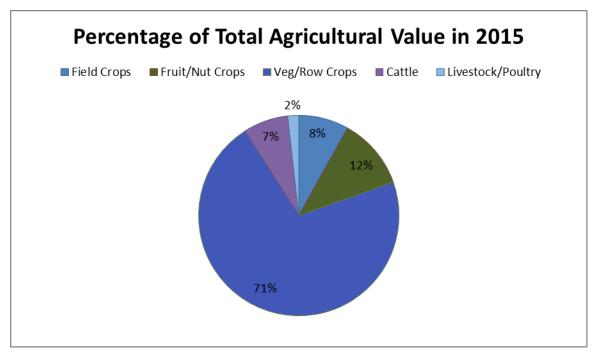


Help protect our citrus! Learn how to inspect your own citrus trees and help us stop the advancement of ACP and the potential spread of HLB. The Save Our Citrus app is a free iPhone application from the USDA that can help identify common citrus tree diseases. If you find what you think is ACP or HLB then call our office at (831)637-5344.

Commodity Summary

Total commodity values are compared between 2014 and 2015. Agricultural value from San Benito County increased by 32,332,000 gross sales dollars in 2015. The most growth has been seen in the fields of vegetable and row crops and field crops.

	Yea	ar
Commodity	2015	2014
Field Crops	29,209,000	23,729,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	41,445,000	42,275,000
Vegetable & Row Crops	257,351,000	226,798,000
Cattle	26,199,000	23,284,000
Misc. Livestock & Poultry	6,389,000	12,175,000
Total Value	360,593,000	328,261,000



Field Crops	29,209,000	8%
Fruit and Nut Crops	41,445,000	12%
Vegetable and Row Crops	257,351,000,	71%
Cattle	26,199,000	7%
Misc. Livestock & Poultry	6,389,000	2%
Total	360,593,000	100%

Top 10 Commodities

2015 Rank	Product	Value	% of Total	% of Increase
1	Misc. Vegetables	\$65,458,500	18%	8.5%
2	Lettuce, Salad Mix	\$37,797,000	10.5%	11.25%
3	Spinach	\$36,699,000	10%	14.75%
4	Lettuce, Romaine	\$31,553,000	8.75%	17%
5	Peppers, All	\$30,465,000	8.5%	1%
6	Grapes, wine	\$18,373,000	5%	16.5%
7	Calves	\$17,991,000	4.9%	12.9%
8	Misc. Fruits & Nuts	\$15,802,000	4%	5%
9	Kale	\$12,938,000	3.5%	42%
10	Pasture/Rangeland	\$11,407,500	3%	10.9%
	Total	\$278,484,000	76.15%	



Total agricultural value over a decade:

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Value (Million \$)	\$269	\$271	\$293	\$262	\$243	\$256	\$263	\$298	\$330	\$328	\$360

	Veget	table a	nd Row	Crops	S	
		Prod	luction		\	/alue
Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Broccoli	2015	835	7.25	6,053	1,040	\$6,300,500
	2014	841	7	5,888	810	\$4,769,000
Celery	2015	566	36.89	20,880	288	\$6,013,000
	2014	661	36.24	23,955	381	\$9,121,000
Kale	2015	930	12.5	11,625	1,113	\$12,938,000
	2014	649	12.25	7,950	944	\$7,504,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2015	800	17.26	13,808	350	\$4,842,000
	2014	663	18.11	12,006	339	\$4,071,000
Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)	2015	269	10	2,690	671	\$1,805,500
	2014	404	10.4	4,202	632	\$2,658,000
Lettuce, Romaine	2015	3,526	13.12	46,261	682	\$31,553,000
	2014	3,382	12.88	43,548	600	\$26,129,000
*Lettuce, Salad Mix	2015	6,500	3.32	21,580	1,750	\$37,797,000
	2014	4,500	3.55	15,970	2,100	\$33,547,000
*Misc. Veg. & Row Crops	2015	7,280				\$65,458,500
	2014	6,509				\$53,852,000
Onions, All	2015	821	17.4	14,285	627	\$8,965,000
	2014	934	17.24	16,102	634	\$10,209,000
Peppers, All Reported	2015	1,555	27.21	42,312	720	\$30,465,000
	2014	1,920	22.42	43,046	700	\$30,132,000
Spinach	2015	3,611	4.23	15,265	2,404	\$36,699,000
	2014	3,434	4.14	14,217	2,200	\$31,281,000
Tomatoes, Canning	2015	926	49.89	46,198	80	\$3,696,000
	2014	1,137	52.04	59,170	83.5	\$4,941,000
Tomatoes, Market	2015	706	13.93	9,835	1,100	\$10,818,500
	2014	578	14.56	8,416	1,020	\$8,584,000
Totals	2015					\$257,351,000
*See page 12 for list	2014					\$ 226,798,000



Fie	ld	Crop	S
Fie	ld	Crop	S

	•					
		Pr	oduction			Value
					\$ Per	
Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	Unit	TOTAL
Misc. Field Crops	2015	229				\$429,000
	2014	227				\$427,000
Grain Hay	2015	12,000	1.51	18,120	230	\$4,167,500
	2014	11,000		1,050	272	\$285,000
Nursery Stock	2015	225				\$11,383,000
	2014	225				\$10,260,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2015	507,000			23.50	\$11,407,500
	2014	508,000			20	\$10,160,000
Permanent Pasture	2015	380			260	\$98,500
	2014	452			230	\$104,000
Seed Crops	2015	314			5,488	\$1,723,500
	2014	554			4,500	\$2,493,000
TOTAL	2015					\$29,209,000
	2014					\$23,729,000



Fruit	and	Nut	Crops
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		Pro	duction		V	'alue
Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Apples	2015	279	20.9	5831	305	\$1,778,500
	2014	264	25	6600	298	\$1,967,000
Apricots	2015	547	3.68	2013	900	\$1,812,000
	2014	552	5.17	2854	922	\$2,631,500
*Cherries	2015	576	0.25	144	3750	\$540,000
	2014	576	1.05	605	2696	\$1,631,000
Grapes (Wine)	2015	4118	3.38	13919	1320	\$18,373,000
	2014	4268	2.86	12209	1256	\$15,335,000
**Misc. Fruits & Nuts	2015	395				\$15,802,000
	2014	385				\$14,979,000
Olives	2015	121	0.86	104	700	\$72,500
	2014	121	1.75	210	700	\$147,000
Walnuts	2015	1068	.726	776	1360	\$1,055,500
	2014	1560	1.039	1,621	3445	\$5,584,500
Walnuts (Organic)	2015	564	.613	353	5813	\$2,011,500
TOTAL *Late rains destroyed the crop	2015					\$41,445,000
**See page 12	2014					\$42,275,000



		Cat	ttle		
		Production		V	alue
	Year	# of Head	TOTAL Cwt	\$ Per Cwt	TOTAL
All Cattle	2015	42,245			
	2014	42,465			
Calves	2015	11,600	65,540	274.50	\$17,991,000
	2014	12,055	68,111	230	\$15,666,000
Pasture and	2015	28,300	67,920	44	\$2,988,500
Stockers	2014	27,000	60,750	42	\$2,551,500
Cows	2015	2,980	41,720	113	\$4,714,500
	2014	3,250	45,500	105	\$4,777,500
Bulls	2015	210	3,885	130	\$505,000
	2014	160	2,960	97.75	\$289,000
TOTAL	2015				\$26,199,000
	2014				\$23,284,000
<u>Cattle Herd</u>		Year Round	8-10 months	2-6 months	Total Head
Inventory	2015	20,700	13,000	31,300	65,000
	2014	19,800	12,000	28,750	60,550



Other Livestock & Poultry Products

Totals— 2015— \$6,389,000

2014— \$12,175,000

^{*}Miscellaneous Livestock and Poultry Products listed on page 12

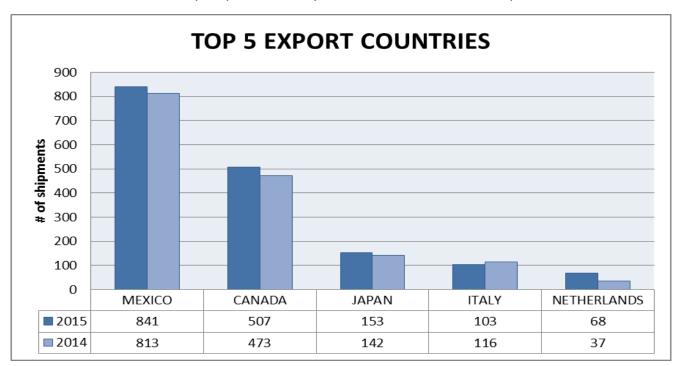
Miscellaneous Crops and Products

*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	Cantaloupe	Cucumbers	Kohlrabi	Radicchio
Artichokes	Carrots	Dandelion Green	Melons	Radishes
Arugula	Cauliflower	Eggplant	Mixed Vegetables	Rapini
Asparagus	Celery Root	Endive	Mushrooms	Rutabagas
Beans	Chard	Escarole	Mustard	Snow Peas & Shoots
Beets, Table	Chinese Greens	Fennel	Okra	Squash
Bok Choy	Chicory	Frisee	Parsley	Tomatillos
Borage	Cilantro	Gourds	Parsnips	Turnips
Broccolette	Collards	Garbanzo Beans	Peas	Watermelons
Brussel Sprouts	Corn	Garlic	Potatoes	
Cabbage	Corn, Sweet	Herbs	Pumpkins	
Salad Mix	Lollo Rosa	Arugula	Ta	at-Soi
Baby Lettuces	Tango	Beet Tops	s Fi	risee
Red/Green Romaine	Mizuna	Baby Spir		ed/Green Chard
Red/Green Oak Leaf	Red Kale	Mache		adicchio
	Green Kale	Red/Gree	n Mustard H	erbs
Butter Lettuce				
Field Crops	Garbanzo Beans A	Alfalfa Honey & Po	lination Oats	Wheat
	Almonds	Figs	Pears	Raspberries
Fruit & Nut	Allifolius	riys	reais	Naspueilles
I Tall a Hat	Avacados	Kiswi	Pocone	Strawbarries
	Avocados	Kiwi	Pecans	Strawberries
<u>Crops</u>	Blackberries	Lemons	Persimmons	Strawberries
				Strawberries
Crops	Blackberries	Lemons	Persimmons	Strawberries
	Blackberries	Lemons Peaches	Persimmons	Strawberries
Crops	Blackberries Blueberries	Lemons Peaches	Persimmons Plums	Strawberries
Crops Seed Crops	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops	Persimmons Plums	Strawberries Vegetable Transplants
Crops	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse	Persimmons Plums Field Crops	
Crops Seed Crops	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl Cut Flowers	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse	Persimmons Plums Field Crops ry Plants &Trees	Vegetable Transplants
Crops Seed Crops Nursery Stock	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl Cut Flowers Mushroo	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse	Persimmons Plums Field Crops ry Plants &Trees Turf	Vegetable Transplants
Crops Seed Crops	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl Cut Flowers Mushroo	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse m Spawn	Persimmons Plums Field Crops ry Plants &Trees Turf	Vegetable Transplants Christmas Trees
Crops Seed Crops Nursery Stock Livestock & Po	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl Cut Flowers Mushroo	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse m Spawn Eggs	Persimmons Plums Field Crops ry Plants &Trees Turf La	Vegetable Transplants Christmas Trees ambs
Crops Seed Crops Nursery Stock	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl Cut Flowers Mushroo	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse m Spawn Eggs Goats	Persimmons Plums Field Crops ry Plants &Trees Turf La	Vegetable Transplants Christmas Trees ambs iilk
Crops Seed Crops Nursery Stock Livestock & Po	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl Cut Flowers Mushroo	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse m Spawn Eggs Goats	Persimmons Plums Field Crops ry Plants &Trees Turf La	Vegetable Transplants Christmas Trees ambs iilk
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Crops Seed Crops Nursery Stock Livestock & Po	Blackberries Blueberries Flowers Vegetabl Cut Flowers Mushroo	Lemons Peaches e Crops Vine Crops (dry & fresh) Nurse m Spawn Eggs Goats	Persimmons Plums Field Crops ry Plants &Trees Turf La	Vegetable Transplants Christmas Trees ambs iilk

Export Destinations

San Benito County biologists inspected and certified a total of 2240 agricultural shipments to 63 countries in 2015. The top export country was Mexico with 841 shipments.



COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS
ALGERIA	12	IRAN	1	PHILIPPINES	7
ARGENTINA	15	IRAQ	6	PORTUGAL	2
AUSTRALIA	29	ISRAEL	11	RUSSIA	5
BOLIVIA	1	ITALY	103	SAUDI ARABIA	35
BRAZIL	28	JAPAN	142	SLOVENIA	1
CANADA	507	JORDAN	24	SOUTH AFRICA	24
CHILE	20	KAZAKHSTAN	1	SPAIN	23
CHINA	33	KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	20	SUDAN	2
COLUMBIA	11	KUWAIT	4	SWEDEN	1
COSTA RICA	3	LEBANON	25	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	11	LIBYA	1	TAIWAN	27
ECUADOR	6	MEXICO	841	THAILAND	7
EGYPT	5	MOROCCO	12	TURKEY	26
EL SALVADOR	1	NETHERLANDS	68		
FRANCE	31	NEW ZEALAND	6	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	6
FRENCH POLYNESIA	3	OMAN	1	UNITED KINGDOM	3
GREECE	6		_	UZBEKISTAN	5
GUATEMALA	8	PAKISTAN	3	VENEZUELA	1
HONDURAS	2	PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	-	VIETNAM	8
HONG KONG	3	PANAMA	1	YEMEN	1
INDIA	31	PARAGUAY	1		
INDONESIA	1	PERU	16		

Organic Farming

San Benito county had 77 certified registered growers in 2015 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.

Organic Farming Statistics						
<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Total Value</u>			
Salad Mix	2015	5382	\$62,385,000			
Salau Wiix	2014	4693	\$56,469,000			
Mice Vegetables	2015	3205	\$37,390,000			
Misc. Vegetables	2014	3137	\$36,598,000			
Misc. Fruit, Nut,	2015	255	\$1,492,000			
Nursery, Chicken	2014	253	\$1,472,000			
Walnuts	2015	564	\$2,011,500			
vailats	2014	564	\$1,943,000			
Rangeland/	2015	22000	\$8,052,000			
Livestock	2014	18750	\$6,094,000			
Total	2015	31406	\$111,330,500			
	2014	27397	\$102,576,000			



AG 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 it's 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/cropreport/.

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 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. 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.

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

Pest Eradication

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

Weights & Measures

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.



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.

Device Inspection Statistics

Measuring Device Inspections Weighing Device Inspections

390 gas & diesel pumps 138 store scales

22 water meters 8 platform scales

9 fuel delivery truck meters 6 prescription/jewelers scales

3 fabric/cord/wire meters 1 railway scale

21 LPG meters 36 truck scales

460 Electric sub meters 67 cattle scales

96 Farmers market scales

Mosquito Abatement Program

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 and habitat, contact the agricultural commissioner's office.





Welcome

Karen Overstreet

Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures

In March 2015 we were pleased to welcome Karen Overstreet as the new Agricultural Commissioner, taking over for retired commissioner Ron Ross. San Benito County has deep roots in the agricultural community and is proud to ensure the protection of environmental resources. We welcome the new commissioner to this important role.

Karen Overstreet comes to us with over 20 years of experience from our neighboring Merced County. She began her career as a Weights and Measures Inspector working her way up to Assistant Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures before coming to San Benito County as the Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Along with her professional experience Karen also has a long family history of cattle ranching dating back several generations to the 1870's. Karen enjoys time with her family including her four dogs. She also spends her time entering her Australian Shepherd, Sydney, into dog agility competitions. Her experience, positive attitude and leadership skills make her an excellent fit for the Agricultural Department and San Benito County. As the county continues to evolve with the new technologies and programs Karen is looking forward to providing quality agricultural services in the community while helping to move the county in a positive direction.

1914 to Present: Horticultural and Agricultural Commissioners of San Benito County

1914 to 1921: L.H. Day

1921 to 1921: D. Currier

1921 to 1923: J.O. McKinney

1923 to 1959: W.B. Saunders

(Association President 1949-1950)

1959 to 1984: J.H. Edmondson

(Association President 1975-1976)

1984 to 2004: Mark A. Tognazzini

(Association President 1997-1998)

2004 to 2009: Paul J. Matulich

2009 to 2015: Ronald C. Ross

2015 to present: Karen Overstreet