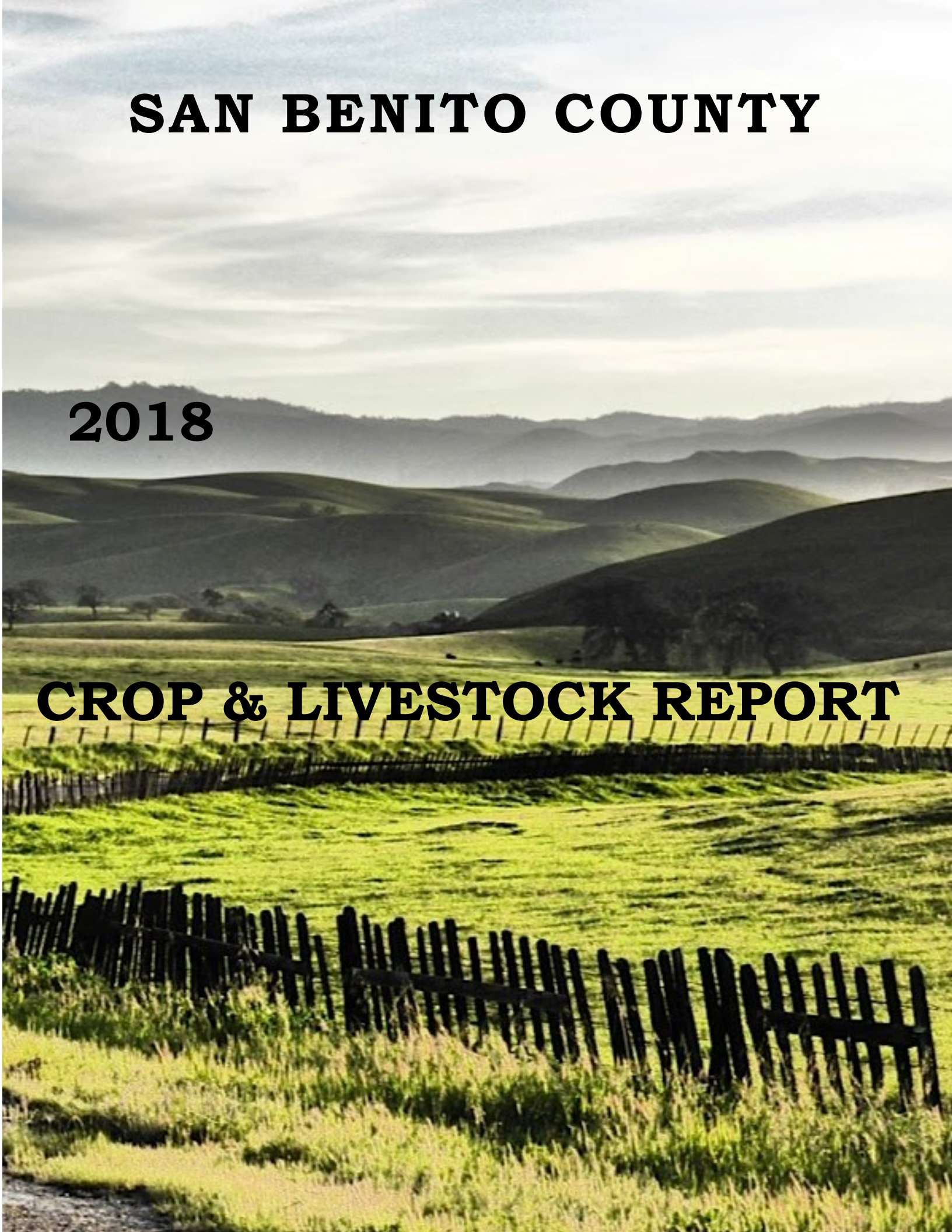


SAN BENITO COUNTY

2018

CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT



GORDON McCLELLAND

Thank you for your service!!

Gordon started in San Benito County in 1988 as an Agricultural Biologist. Gordon made a priority to quickly obtain his licenses and learn the Agriculture Industry and community of San Benito County. He learned the job and did much of the heavy lifting for the department for many years. In his time, the county was assisting ranchers by administering squirrel bait applications riding horseback. For the first two years of service for San Benito County Gordon commuted about 4 hours round-trip from Lodi. Gordon moved up through the ranks of the office quickly and was highly regarded as an outstanding community servant and a fair regulator in the Agriculture Community. He is an outstanding resource, and has brilliant knowledge of the laws and regulations governing Agriculture Production and Weights and Measures. He selected good employees, mentored new inspectors, and helped develop a phenomenal group of Inspector/ Biologists currently employed with the Agricultural Commissioner's office.

Gordon retired as the Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures in 2018 after 30 years of service. Enjoy your much deserved retirement Gordon!





COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

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

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 2018 annual crop report for San Benito County. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of this counties agriculture commodities.

San Benito County agriculture commodities grossed \$352,878,000 in 2018. Prices and acreage fluctuated with many commodities. Notable acreage and/or value changes reported were most significant in the following commodities:

- Broccoli / Celery / Romaine / Bell Pepper / Wine Grapes / Tomatoes -

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the cost of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report.

San Benito County continues to be a major supplier of fresh vegetables, fruits and nuts, livestock products and wine grapes to the consumer.

Our agricultural industry produces a variety of commodities. Numerous specialty vegetable crops, fruits, nuts, choice meats and quality wine grapes come from this county. In 2018, the overall value of the county's agricultural production increased slightly from 2017.

I wish to thank the many farmers, ranchers, industry representatives, and businesses that have cooperated in providing the data required for this report.

Sincerely,

Karen Overstreet

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SAN BENITO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSONER and SEALERS OFFICE

County Board of Supervisors

Mark Medina, District 1
Chairman

Anthony Botelho, District 2

Peter Hernandez, District 3

Jim Gillio, District 4

Jaime De La Cruz, District 5
Vice Chairman

**Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of
Weights & Measures**

Karen Overstreet

**Deputy Ag Commissioner/Deputy
Sealer of Weights & Measures**

Gordon McClelland

**County Administrative
Officer**

Ray Espinosa



Agricultural Biologist/Inspectors

Rafael Martinez
Michael Silverman
Donna Carbonaro
Victor Ayala
Ken Griffin

Agricultural Technicians

Gabby Jimenez
Rick Perez
Elyssa Soria
Lorie Tilley
Tony Wilson

Administrative Support

Billie Jimenez

Secretary II

Commodity Summary


Agricultural value from San Bento County increased 1 percent; 1.5 million dollars in gross sales for 2018. This year decreases and increases were found across the board in the vegetable and row crop production numbers. Total commodity values for the previous two years are compared below.



	2018		2017	
Field Crops	\$33,738,000	10%	\$31,044,250	9%
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$52,022,000	15%	\$53,305,250	15%
Vegetable and Row Crop	\$245,843,000	70%	\$244,418,500	70%
Cattle	\$20,037,000	5%	\$21,577,750	6%
Other Livestock & Poultry	\$1,238,000	min	\$995,000	min
Totals	\$352,878,000	100%	\$351,340,750	100%



Top 10 Commodities



2018 Rank	Product	2017 rank	Value	% of Total	% Change from 2017	
1	Misc. Vegetables	(1)	\$ 48,939,000	14%	3 %	↑
2	Spinach	(2)	\$ 37,599,000	11%	unch	
3	Lettuce, Salad Mix	(3)	\$ 37,260,000	11%	7 %	↑
4	Wine Grapes	(4)	\$ 33,915,000	9.5%	9 %	↑
5	Broccoli/Brocchetto	(7)	\$ 22,212,000	6%	24 %	↑
6	Lettuce, Romaine	(5)	\$ 19,245,000	5.5%	25 %	↓
7	Peppers, All	(6)	\$ 17,947,000	5%	17 %	↓
8	Celery	(14)	\$ 16,160,000	4.5%	54 %	↑
9	Pasture/Rangeland	(9)	\$ 16,128,000	4.5%	14 %	↑
10	Tomato, fresh mkt.	(11)	\$ 14,041,000	4%	15 %	↑
	Total		\$ 263,446,000	75%		

COMMODITY	Production				Value	
	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Broccoli/Broccolette	2018	2,343	8.00	18,744	1185	\$22,212,000
	2017	1917	7.66	14,684	1150	\$16,886,750
Celery	2018	810	33.25	26,933	600	\$16,160,000
	2017	587	33.60	19,723	445	\$8,776,750
Kale	2018	662	11.8	7,812	1,415	\$11,054,000
	2017	837	11.93	9,985	1,490	\$14,878,500
Lettuce, Iceberg	2018	1,220	17.25	21,045	385	\$8,102,000
	2017	1,498	18.48	27,683	376	\$10,409,000
Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)	2018	438	12.00	5,256	640	\$3,364,000
	2017	280	11.5	3,220	600	\$1,932,000
Lettuce, Romaine	2018	3,010	13.75	41,388	465	\$19,245,000
	2017	3,400	13.21	44,914	570	\$25,601,000
*Lettuce, Salad Mix	2018	7,560	3.89	29,408	1,267	\$37,260,000
	2017	7,788	3.56	27,778	1,255	\$34,861,500
*Misc. Veg. & Row Crops	2018	5,500				\$48,939,000
	2017	5,370				\$47,952,000
Onions-Shallots-Garlic	2018	940				\$9,920,000
	2017	1,100				\$11,566,500
Peppers, All Reported	2018	1,610	24.5	39,445	455	\$17,947,000
	2017	1,872	26.2	49,064	450	\$22,070,750
Spinach	2018	5,806	3.69	21,424	1,755	\$37,599,000
	2017	5,732	3.73	21,380	1,750	\$37,416,000
Tomatoes, Fresh	2018	610	16.21	9,888	1,420	\$14,041,000
	2017	636	14.16	9,006	1,340	\$12,067,750
TOTALS	2018					\$245,843,000
	2017					\$244,418,500
Page 12 for detail						

Page 12 for detail

Fruit and Nut Crops

COMMODITY	Production				Value	
	(all planted acres included)					
	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Apples	2018	356	12.6	4,486	350	\$1,570,000
	2017	285	13.2	3,762	365	\$1,373,250
Apricots	2018	566	1.6	906	1550	\$1,404,000
	2017	547	3.99	2,183	1100	\$2,401,000
Cherries	2018	518	1.7	881	520	\$458,000
	2017	540	4.44	2,398	300	\$719,500
Grapes (Wine)	2018	4740	4.77	22,610	1500	\$33,915,000
	2017	4460	4.06	18,108	1525	\$27,614,205
*Misc. Fruits & Nuts	2018	350				\$12,710,000
Olives	2017	350				\$12,544,500
	2018	145	.83	121	850	\$103,000
	2017	130	.71	92	850	\$78,500
Walnuts	2018	1125	.63	709	1700	\$1,205,000
	2017	1167	.499	582	2100	\$1,223,000
Walnuts (Organic)	2018	522	.42	219	3000	\$657,000
	2017	529	.395	209	4200	\$877,750
TOTAL	2018					\$52,022,000
	2017					\$53,305,250
Page 12 for detail						

Field Crops



COMMODITY	Production				Value	
	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Misc. Field Crops	2018	275				\$729,000
	2017	275				\$687,500
Grain Hay	2018	11,000	2.8	30,800	195	\$6,006,000
	2017	11,500	3.2	36,800	156.3	\$5,750,000
Nursery Stock	2018	130				\$7,926,000
	2017	130				\$7,787,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2018	504,000			32	\$16,128,000
	2017	504,600			27.5	\$13,876,500
Permanent Pasture	2018	245			325	\$80,000
	2017	290			325	\$94,250
Seed Crops	2018	380			7,550	\$2,869,000
	2017	385			7,400	\$2,849,000
TOTAL	2018					\$33,738,000
	2017					\$31,044,250

CATTLE & LIVESTOCK



	Production			Value	
	Year	# of Head	TOTAL Cwt	\$ Per Cwt	TOTAL
All Cattle	2018	49,176			
	2017	46,737			
Calves	2018	12,010	74,462	158.75	\$11,821,000
	2017	12,340	78,400	163.60	\$12,826,250
Pasture and Stockers	2018	34,066	107,307	48.00	\$5,151,000
	2017	31,510	104,432	48.00	\$5,012,750
Cows	2018	2,920	40,880	68.50	\$2,800,000
	2017	2,775	38,850	91.00	\$3,535,500
Bulls	2018	180	3,492	76.00	\$265,000
	2017	112	2,162	94.00	\$203,250
TOTAL	2018				\$20,037,000
	2017				\$21,577,750

CATTLE HERD INVENTORY

	<u>YEAR ROUND</u>	<u>8-10 MONTHS</u>	<u>2-6 MONTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL HEAD</u>
2018	22,320	13,700	35,200	71,220
2017	22,020	13,650	33,440	69,110

Other Livestock & Poultry Products

Totals: 2018—\$1,238,000 2017— \$995,000

**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

Artichokes	Cantaloupe	Corn	Herbs	Potatoes
Arugula	Carrots	Corn, Sweet	Leek	Pumpkins
Asparagus	Cauliflower	Cucumbers	Kohlrabi	Radicchio
Beans	Celery Root	Dandelion Green	Melons	Radishes
Beets	Chard	Eggplant	Mixed Vegetables	Rapini
Bok Choy	Chinese Greens	Endive	Mushrooms	Rutabagas
Borage	Chicory	Escarole	Mustard	Snow Peas & Shoots
Brussel Sprouts	Cilantro	Fennel	Okra	Squash
Cabbage	Collards	Frisee	Parsley	Tomatillos
		Gourds	Parsnips	Processing Tomatoes
		Garbanzo Beans	Peas	

Salad Mix

Butter Lettuce	Arugula	Red/Green Mustard
Lollo Rosa	Beet Tops	Tat-Soi
Tango	Baby Spinach	Frisee
Mizuna	Mache	Red/Green Chard

Field Crops

Garbanzo Beans Alfalfa Honey & Pollination Forage Crop Seed

Seed Crops

Flowers Vegetable Crops Vine Crops

Nursery Stock

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

Fruit & Nut Crops

Almonds	Blueberries	Lemons	Pecans
Avocados	Figs	Peaches	Persimmons
Blackberries	Kiwi	Pears	Plums

Livestock & Poultry Products

Chickens	Eggs	Lambs
Turkeys	Goats	Milk
	Hogs	

Export Shipments Around The World

San Benito County Biologists facilitated world trade in 2018 with 2,936 certified shipments across the globe. Our top partners were Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the Netherlands. We also certified 600 plus domestic shipments of fruits, nuts, vegetables , and plant materials.



COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS
ALGERIA	20	IRAN	11	PHILIPPINES	16
ARGENTINA	22	IRAQ	18	POLAND	-
AUSTRALIA	37	ISRAEL	9	PORTUGAL	3
BOLIVIA	5	ITALY	82	QATAR	-
BRAZIL	30	JAPAN	147	RUSSIA	1
CANADA	1,122	JORDAN	22	SAUDI ARABIA	19
CHILE	20	KENYA	-	SOUTH AFRICA	25
CHINA	49	KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	10	SPAIN	13
COLUMBIA	5	KUWAIT	-	SUDAN	-
COSTA RICA	-	LEBANON	19	SWEDEN	-
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	LIBYA	4	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	17
ECUADOR	5	MEXICO	845	TAIWAN	24
EGYPT	11	MOROCCO	33	THAILAND	3
EL SALVADOR	-	NETHERLANDS	117	TRINIDAD and TOBAGO	8
FRANCE	22	NEW ZEALAND	3	TURKEY	22
GERMANY	1	OMAN	3	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4
GREECE	6	PAKISTAN	4	UNITED KINGDOM	2
GUATEMALA	4	PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	-	UZBEKISTAN	3
HONDURAS	4	PANAMA	6	VENEZUELA	1
HONG KONG	-	PARAGUAY	3	VIETNAM	9
INDIA	41	PERU	12	YEMEN	13
INDONESIA	-				

ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming is an large part of the agricultural economy in San Benito County. San Benito County continues to see an increase in the numbers of producers and acres farmed each year. San Benito County had 91 CDFA registered growers in 2018. Our growers produce a wide variety of fruits, nuts, vegetables, seed, nursery stock, field and livestock. The most popular and highest grossing commodities included salad mix varieties, spinach, and cole crops. Gross sales were near 50 million dollars.



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. In 2018, the San Benito County Agricultural Department certified 2 farmers' markets, issued 74 Certified Producer's Certificates, and conducted numerous production site and market inspections throughout the season.

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 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 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 deployed 1,002 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

* 10,706 servicing's completed in over 3900 hours. *

Pest Eradication

Invasive plant pests are eradicated throughout the year using a combination of chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods. Yellow & Purple Star-thistle, Scotch & Artichoke Thistle have been the targeted species.



Weights & Measures

Weights and Measures inspectors certify that the devices used in commerce, to weigh, measure, or count a product are correct. Some devices are large and have weighing capacities of hundreds to thousands of pounds.



Pictured to the left is a vehicle scale. When loaded the county's weight truck weighs 38,000 pounds including sixteen 1000 lb blocks. With the truck certified at that weight, it is used to seal vehicle scales. The on-board crane makes quick work of loading and unloading blocks when certifying livestock, dormant, and platform scales.



The platform scale below to the left shown is used to weigh many commodities. Capacities of this type of device vary from 3,000—6,000 pounds.



To the right is a computing scale. The maximum capacity is 30-40 pounds. This device is very common in the marketplace for items sold by weight.



Consumer Protection



Inspectors do a yearly inspection of all fuel delivery meters in the county to insure the correct amount is dispensed to the customer.

To insure consumer protection the department will carry out price verification inspections. This corroborates the lowest advertised price with the price you are charged at the cash register.



Device Inspection Statistics

Measuring Device Inspections

- 387 gas & diesel pumps
- 22 retail water meters
- 11 fuel delivery truck meters
- 3 fabric/cord/wire meters
- 28 LPG meters
- 60 electric sub meters
- 238 vapor Sub meters

Weighing Device Inspections

- 140 retail store scales
- 45 platform scales
- 5 prescription/jewelers scales
- 1 railway scale
- 39 truck scales
- 65 cattle scales
- 120 farmers market scales

Mosquito Abatement Program

Mosquito Control

In response to the introduction of West Nile Virus (WNV) to California, the Agricultural Commissioner has responsibility for mosquito abatement. Our program utilizes surveillance and control methods following Integrated Pest Managements' best management practices incorporating public education, biological control, source reduction and least toxic pesticides that have minimal impact on people, wildlife and the environment.



Monitoring

Adult mosquito monitoring is conducted each year during mosquito season from April-November. Standardized traps emitting carbon dioxide are used to determine mosquito populations, location, and species. Mosquito samples are collected from specific traps and sent to a State laboratory for WNV testing. Visual site evaluations for larvae detection are also completed in certain problem areas. A flock of ten sentinel chickens are kept throughout the season and blood samples are collected biweekly for the presence of WNV.

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 can also be used to reduce the adult mosquito population in problem areas, protecting communities from bites and the potential spreading of WNV.



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.

Public Outreach

Community Outreach 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 at schools, farmers markets and community events. For more information on steps you can take to reduce mosquito breeding and habitat, contact the agricultural commissioner's office.

