

SAN BENITO COUNTY

2021

Crop & Livestock Report





COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

KAREN OVERSTREET AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES
PO Box 699, Hollister, CA 95024-0699 Telephone (831) 637-5344 Fax (831) 637-9015

October 7, 2022

Karen Ross, Secretary California Department of Food and Agriculture
The Honorable San Benito County Board of Supervisors
Ray Espinosa, County Administrative Officer

In accordance with the requirements of section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I respectfully submit the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures' 2021 Annual Livestock and Crop Report.

Change in weather patterns proved to be prevalent as it affected growers and producers immensely. The drought forced farmers and ranchers to depend on the limited amount of water they had available to tend to their crop and provide for their livestock. Some growers with little water to work with in good years, were forced to cut back or ultimately stop production due to the water shortage due to the drought. Ranchers throughout the county were forced to sell large amounts of the herd in hopes to preserve the rangeland forages to sustain a smaller herd. Despite these hardships, San Benito County agricultural industry powered through.

The County Crop Report is the result of a joint effort between department staff and our industry representatives. Without their support, this report would not be possible. A special appreciation to our now retired Agricultural Commissioner Karen Overstreet. Karen served as the Agricultural Commissioner for San Benito County for six years. She understood the agricultural industry, enforced the laws and regulations, all while taking into consideration the needs of our farmers and ranchers. Thank you to all who call agriculture their professional career, and especially to the staff who collected, analyzed, and published this important data.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into consideration the cost of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report. The figures are also periodically averaged and or rounded in the process to achieve the end value.

To learn more about the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the services we provide including crop reports, visit us @ <https://www.cosb.us/departments/agriculture/crop-report>.

Sincerely,

Karen Overstreet

Karen Overstreet

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SAN BENITO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSONER and SEALERS OFFICE

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County Board of Supervisors

Betsy Dirks	District 1	
Kollin Kosmicki	District 2	
Peter Hernandez	District 3	
Bob Tiffany	District 4	Vice Chairman
Bea Gonzales	District 5	Chairman

County Administrative Officer

Ray Espinosa



SAN BENITO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STAFF

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

Karen Overstreet

Deputy Ag Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures

Ken Griffin

Supervising Agricultural Biologist/Inspector

Donna Carbonaro

Agricultural Biologist

- *Rafael Martinez*
- *Blen Pettigrew*
- *Michael Silverman*
- *Belen Velasquez*
- *Kacy Wentzell*
- *Mary Ramirez*

Agricultural Technician

- *Jose Carapia*
- *Clayton Holly*
- *Gabby Jimenez*
- *Elyssa Soria*
- *Lorie Tilley*
- *Tony Wilson*

Administrative Support

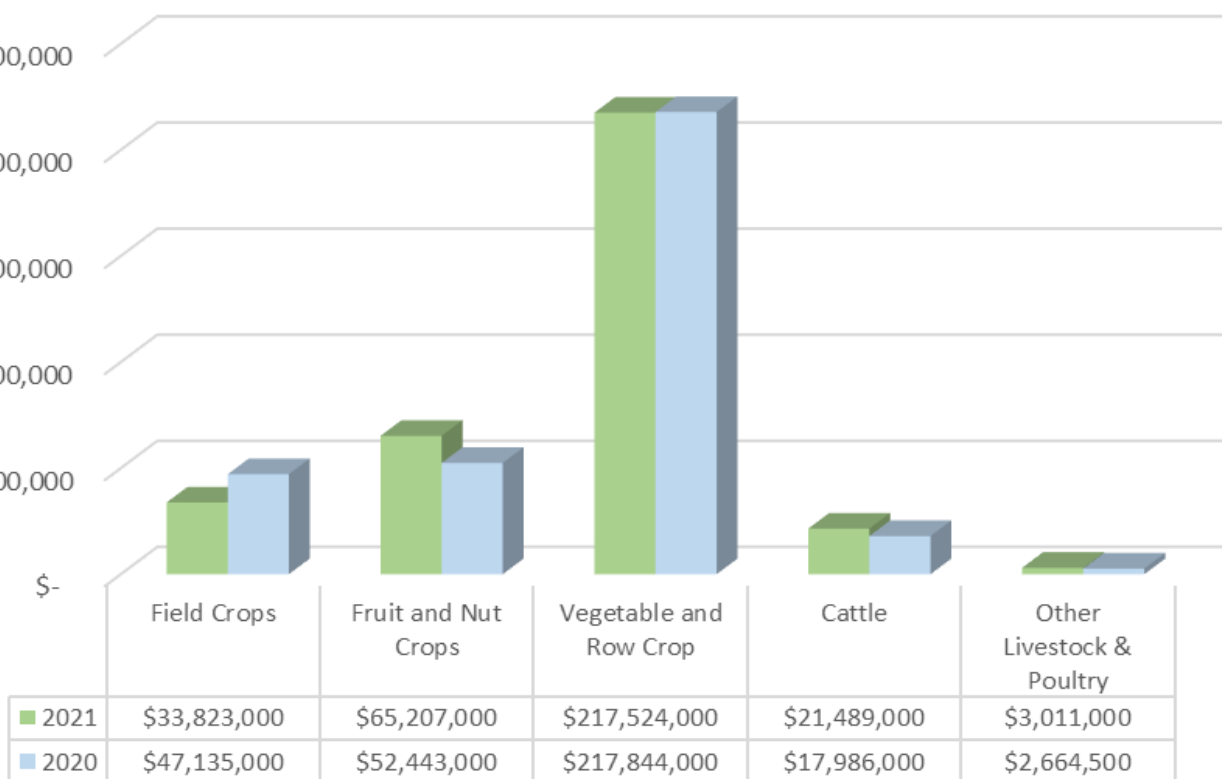
- *Angie Pate*

Commodity Summary

Agricultural value from San Benito County increased by 1.9 million dollars in gross sales for 2021. The biggest decrease was found in the Field crops. Total commodity values for the previous two years are compared below.

Total Gross Sales	
2021	\$ 341,054,000
2020	\$ 338,072,500

Commodity Summary



Top 10 Commodities

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2021 Top 10 Commodities

2020 Rank	2021 Rank	Product	Year	Value	% of Total	% difference
1	1	Misc. Veg & Row	2021	\$50,993,000	15%	10%
3	2	Wine Grapes	2021	\$44,928,000	13%	23%
2	3	Lettuce, Salad Mix	2021	\$36,077,000	11%	-2%
4	4	Spinach	2021	\$35,238,000	10%	2%
8	5	Broccoli/Broccollette	2021	\$25,189,000	7%	40%
NR	6	Cattle & Livestock	2021	\$21,489,000	6%	16%
10	7	Lettuce, Romaine	2021	\$16,628,000	5%	11%
9	8	Pasture/ Rangeland	2021	\$16,380,000	5%	8%
5	9	Peppers, All Reported	2021	\$14,370,000	4%	-14%
7	10	Tomato, Fresh mkt.	2021	\$12,558,000	4%	-22%
Total Value				\$273,850,000	80% of ALL Commodities	

Vegetable and Row Crops

Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per unit	Total
Broccoli/Brocquette	2020	1743	7.4	12,898	1177	\$15,181,000
	2021	3003	6.99	20,991	1200	\$25,189,000
Celery	2020	536	31	16,616	440	\$7,311,000
	2021	557	32.5	18,103	320	\$5,793,000
Kale	2020	982	11	10,802	1125	\$12,152,000
	2021	656	9.3	6,101	1190	\$7,260,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2020	842	17.2	14,482	333	\$4,823,000
	2021	865	12.4	10,726	368	\$3,947,000
Lettuce, Romaine	2020	2760	12.3	33,948	436	\$14,801,000
	2021	2855	13	37,115	448	\$16,628,000
Peppers, All Reported	2020	1585	22.8	36,138	455	\$16,443,000
	2021	1562	20	31,240	460	\$14,370,000
Tomatoes, Fresh	2020	745	15.8	11,771	1300	\$15,302,000
	2021	690	14	9,660	1300	\$12,558,000
Carrot	2020	760	4665	-	-	\$3,546,000
	2021	553	4680	-	-	\$2,580,000
Lettuce, Salad Mix	2020	6775	5425	36,754,375		\$36,755,000
	2021	6650	5223	34,732,950		\$36,077,000
Misc. Veg & Row * See page 11	2020	5615	-	-		\$46,167,000
	2021	6202	-	-		\$50,993,000
Onions-Shallots-Garlic	2020	1050	-	-	0	\$10,946,000
	2021	661	-	-	0	\$6,891,000
Spinach	2020	4945	6960	34,417,200		\$34,417,000
	2021	5063	7000	35,441,000		\$35,238,000

Totals	
2020	\$217,844,000
2021	\$217,524,000

Fruit and Nut Crops

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Production (all planted acres included)					Value	
Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per unit	Total
Apples	2020	348	13.7	4,678	280	\$1,310,000
	2021	330	21.6	7,128	214	\$1,525,000
Apricots	2020	537	3.68	1,976	650	\$1,285,000
	2021	545	3.46	1,886	790	\$1,490,000
Cherries	2020	512	3.96	2,028	1095	\$2,220,000
	2021	510	5.55	2,831	1305	\$3,694,000
Grapes	2020	4740	5.24	24,838	1400	\$34,773,000
	2021	4800	6	28,800	1560	\$44,928,000
Misc	2020	514		-		\$11,800,000
	2021	523		-		\$12,006,000
Olives	2020	174	1.6	278	675	\$188,000
	2021	174	1.88	327	704	\$230,000
Walnuts	2020	982	0.49	481	1090	\$524,000
	2021	912	0.58	529	1526	\$807,000
Walnuts (O)	2020	378	0.34	129	2660	\$342,000
	2021	354	0.4	142	3724	\$527,000

2020 Total

\$52,441,000

2021 Total

\$65,208,000

Field Crops



Field Crops						
Commodity	Year	Production			Value	
		Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per unit	Total
Misc Field Crops	2020					\$596,000
	2021					\$708,000
Grain Hay	2020	10500	2.5	26,250	225	\$5,906,000
	2021	10000	2.66	26,600	240	\$6,384,000
Nursery Stock	2020	135				\$6,297,000
	2021	135				\$6,801,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2020	504000			30	\$15,120,000
	2021	504000			32.5	\$16,380,000
Seed Crops	2020	415			7000	\$2,905,000
	2021	229				\$1,603,000
Hemp	2020	438				\$16,245,000
	2021	105				\$1,947,000
2020 Total						\$47,069,000
2021 Total						\$33,823,000

Cattle & Livestock

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Production				Value	
	Year	# of Head	Total Cwt	\$ per Cwt	Total
Calves	2020	12,050	73,505	137	\$10,070,000
	2021	13,160	83,829	153	\$12,826,000
Pasture	2020	36,130	106,945	48.00	\$5,133,000
	2021	28,860	80,808	48.00	\$3,879,000
Cows	2020	2,490	34,910	74.00	\$2,583,000
	2021	3,800	53,960	81.00	\$4,371,000
Bulls	2020	120	2,244	88.00	\$197,000
	2021	260	4,862	85.00	\$413,000
2020 Total	All Cattle Sold	50,640			\$17,984,000
2021 Total	All Cattle Sold	46,080			\$21,489,000



Cattle Herd Inventory

Year	Year Round	8-10 Months	2-6 Months	Total Head
2020	23,000	12,135	36,980	72,115
2021	21,775	10,310	30,000	62,085

Other Livestock & Poultry Products

Year	Totals
2020	\$2,664,500
2021	\$3,011,000

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 common practice to avoid disclosure of personal business affairs of the operations reporting.

Vegetable & Row Crops

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

Fruit & Nut Crops

<i>Almonds</i>	<i>Pears</i>
<i>Avocados</i>	<i>Persimmon</i>
<i>Blackberry</i>	<i>Plums</i>
<i>Blueberries</i>	<i>Raspberries</i>
<i>Figs</i>	<i>Strawberries</i>
<i>Kiwi</i>	
<i>Lemons</i>	
<i>Peaches</i>	

Salad Mix

<i>Baby Lettuces</i>	<i>Mizuna</i>	<i>Frisee</i>
<i>Red/Green</i>	<i>Arugula</i>	<i>Red/Green Chard</i>
<i>Romaine</i>	<i>Beet Tops</i>	<i>Radicchio</i>
<i>Red/Green Oak</i>	<i>Baby Spinach</i>	<i>Herbs</i>
<i>Leaf</i>	<i>Mache</i>	
<i>Butter Lettuce</i>	<i>Red/Green</i>	
<i>Lollo Rosa</i>	<i>Mustard</i>	
<i>Tango</i>	<i>Tat-Soi</i>	

Livestock & Poultry Products

<i>Chickens</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Milk</i>
<i>Turkeys</i>	<i>Hogs</i>	<i>Wool</i>
<i>Eggs</i>	<i>Lambs</i>	

Nursery Stock

<i>Cut Flowers (dry & fresh)</i>	<i>Vegetable Transplants</i>
<i>Mushroom Spawn</i>	<i>Christmas Trees</i>
<i>Nursery Plants & Trees</i>	

Seed Crops



Field Crops



Export Shipments Around The World

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San Benito County Biologists facilitated world trade in 2021 with 3,837 certified shipments across the globe. Our top partners include Canada, Mexico, Japan, Italy and Netherlands. We also certified 590 plus domestic shipments of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and plant material.



COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS
Algeria	14	Israel	14	Portugal	1
Argentina	16	Italy	74	Qatar	3
Australia	19	Japan	17	Saudi Arabia	47
Brazil	19	Jordan	22	South Africa	5
Canada	807	Lebanon	6	Spain	18
Chile	27	Libya	1	Sudan	2
China	93	Malaysia	0	Syrian Arab Republic	9
Colombia	4	Mauritius	1	Taiwan	3
Costa Rica	1	Mexico	2157	Thailand	13
Dominican Republic	1	Morocco	5	The Republic of Korea	12
Ecuador	3	Netherlands	74	The Republic of Türkiye	13
Egypt	13	New Zealand	2	Trinidad and Tobago	1
El Salvador	1	Oman	2	United Arab Emirates	12
France	41	Pakistan	2	United Kingdom	7
Guatemala	1	Panama	1	Viet Nam	2
Honduras	1	Paraguay	3		
India	8	Peru	14		
Iraq	6	Philippines	1		

Organic Farming

Organic farming is a large part of the agricultural economy in San Benito County. San Benito County continues to see an increase in the number of producers and acres farmed each year. San Benito County had 90 CDFA registered growers in 2021. Our growers produce a wide variety of fruits, nuts, vegetables, seed, nursery stock, field crops and livestock. The most popular and highest grossing commodities included salad mix varieties, spinach, and cole crops. Gross sales reported were near the 75 million-dollar mark.



Certified Farmer's Market

The Hollister Farmer's Market was established to offer agricultural products directly to the consumers in San Benito County. San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's office certified one farmer's market and issued numerous Certified Producer's Certificates. Staff conducted inspections at the markets and the certified growing sites in order to preserve the integrity of the direct marketing program.

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/>.

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. 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's 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 1048 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 all amount to 11,102 servicing's completed in over 4200 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



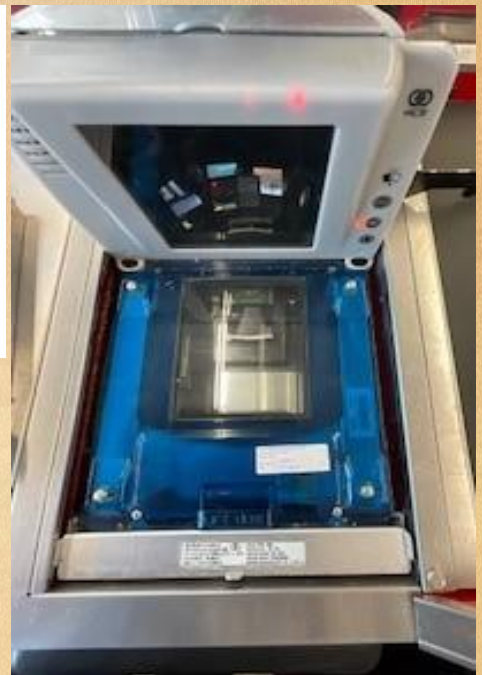
Weights and Measures inspectors certify that the devices used in commerce, to weigh, measure, or count a product are correct. Some devices are large and used to weigh hundreds if not thousands of pounds. Pictured to the left is the county's weight truck that holds 20,000 pounds of 1,000 lb blocks. The on-board crane makes quick work of loading and unloading the blocks. When loaded the truck weighs more than 45,000 pounds.

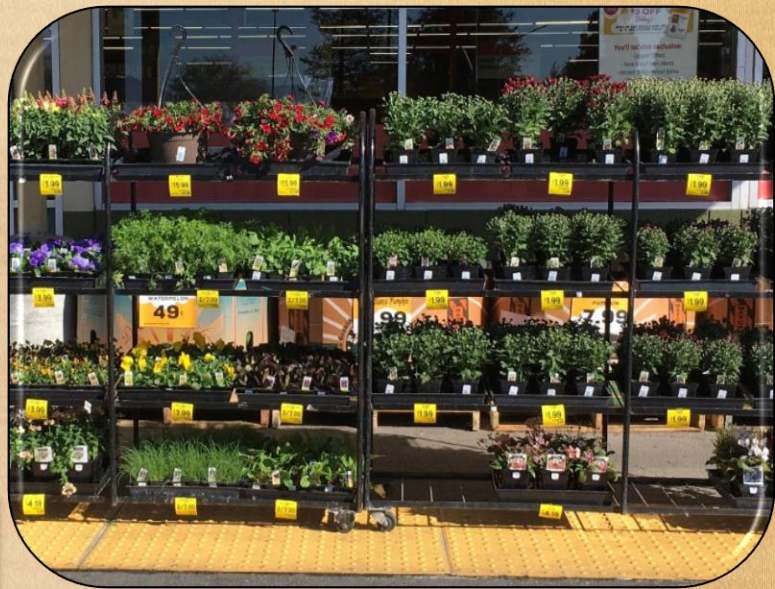


Inspectors test scales once a year upon completion a seal is placed on the device as pictured to the right to indicate the scale is within tolerance. Livestock Scales are generally used to weigh larger animals such as cattle, horses, or sheep.



To the right is a Computing Scale that is typically seen at the grocery store checkout stands. The maximum capacity for this scale is 30 lbs.



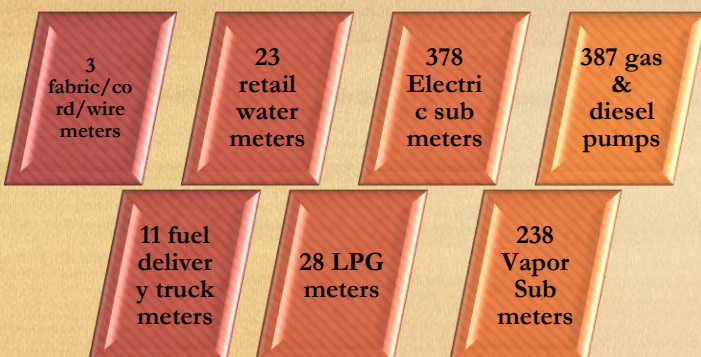


Inspectors do an annual inspection of all fuel delivery meters in the county to ensure the correct amount is dispensed to the consumer.

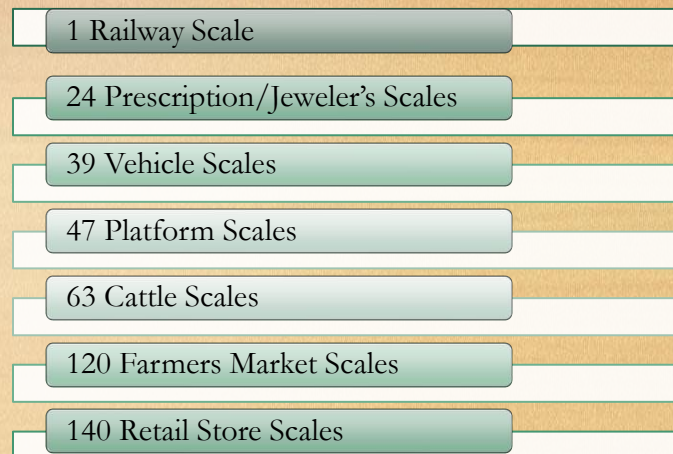
To ensure consumer protection, the department will carry out price verification inspections. This corroborates the lowest advertised price with the price you are charged at the cash register.

Device Inspection Statistics

Measuring Device Inspections



Weighing Device Inspections



Mosquito Abatement Program

Mosquito Control

In response to the introduction of West Nile Virus (WNV) to California, the San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for managing the mosquito abatement program. Our program utilizes Integrated Pest Management practices incorporating public education, biological control, source reduction and use of the 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 chicken are kept throughout the season and blood samples are collected every two weeks for screening.



Biological Control

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 conducts 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.

Dump, Drain & Defend

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 in the event of a population outbreak.