California Department of Food and Agriculture

Agricultural Commissioners' Crop Reports

Contra Costa County

2000-2004

California County Agricultural Commissioners' Reports from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This collection consists of annual crop and livestock data from each of the 58 California Counties. The collection covers 1915-1981; digitization of the rest of the collection is forthcoming.

This digitization project was funded by the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, http://giannini.ucop.edu/ .

The work was completed by the staff of the Giannini Foundation Library, University of California, Berkeley, http://are.berkeley.edu/library/ . **Please contact the Library to consult the originals.**


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Department of Agriculture
2000 Crop Report

Department of Agriculture
2366 A Stanwell Circle
Concord, California 94520-4807
(925) 646-5250
FAX (925) 646-5732

Branch Office
724 - 3rd Street
Brentwood, California 94513-1360
(925) 634-5682
FAX (925) 634-2201

Contra
Costa
County

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner-
Director Of Weights and Measures

To: BILL LYONS, JR., SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
and
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2000 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control Activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2000 was $92,597,600, up $2,106,820 dollars from 1999. Despite this increase in gross value, most major crop categories had reductions in value. Only the categories of Nursery Products and Livestock & Poultry showed increases in 2000.

Market competition continued to keep prices low for many crops such as safflower, apricots, apples and tomatoes. This led to decreases in the acreage planted or harvested. With the exception of Granny Smith and Gala apples, most apple prices declined. These lower prices led growers to selectively pick many apple varieties, leading to lower overall yield. Closure of processing plants led to a reduction in tomato contracts, resulting in less acreage planted. Prices also decreased. Roses, as a cut flower, dropped from the list of Million Dollar Crops for the first time since 1964, due to growers going out of business.

Weather was an important factor for several crops in 2000. Lack of winter chilling lowered the yield of cherries, nectarines and peaches. Late spring rain damaged some early cherries and also the first cutting of alfalfa. On the other hand, nursery plant sales continued to increase in response to good planting weather and a booming housing market. Prices on walnuts rebounded from the low levels of 1999 and grape yields continued to improve as vineyards mature.

Several crop categories exceeded $1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include bedding plants, grapes, cattle and calves, milk, sweet corn, tomatoes, apples, herbaceous perennials, miscellaneous vegetables, rangeland pasture, field corn, miscellaneous nursery, indoor decoratives, alfalfa, vegetable plants, apricots, walnuts, cherries.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are gross receipts and do not include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Nancy Niemeyer and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

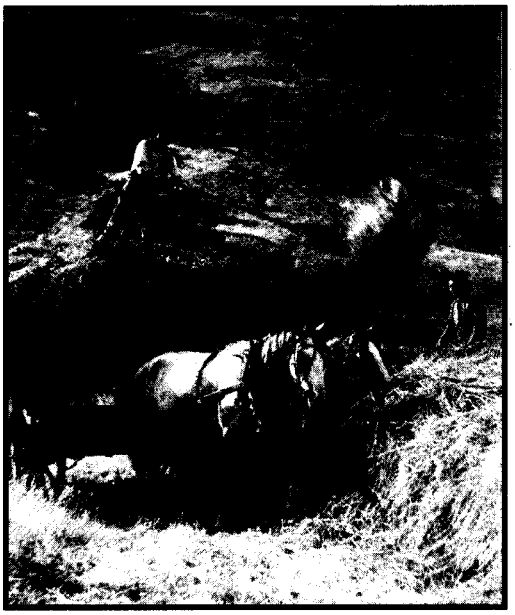
Respectfully submitted,

Edward P. Meyer

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner

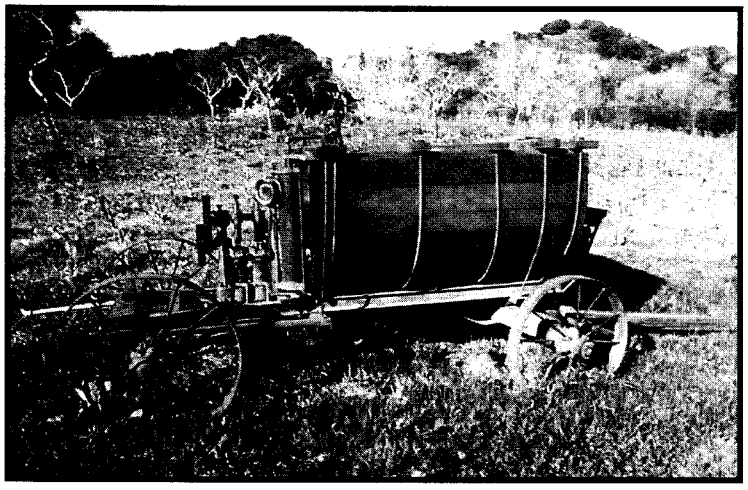
In conjunction with our 2000 Crop Report, it seems appropriate to reflect on crop changes that took place in Contra Costa County during the 20th century. This was a period of both dramatic population growth and advances in science. These factors have influenced cropping patterns, productivity and marketing in this County and throughout the State.

John Muir's house in Martinez in the 1910's *Courtesy of the John Muir Historical Site*



Hay stacking in the 1920's
Courtesy of the Concord Historical Society

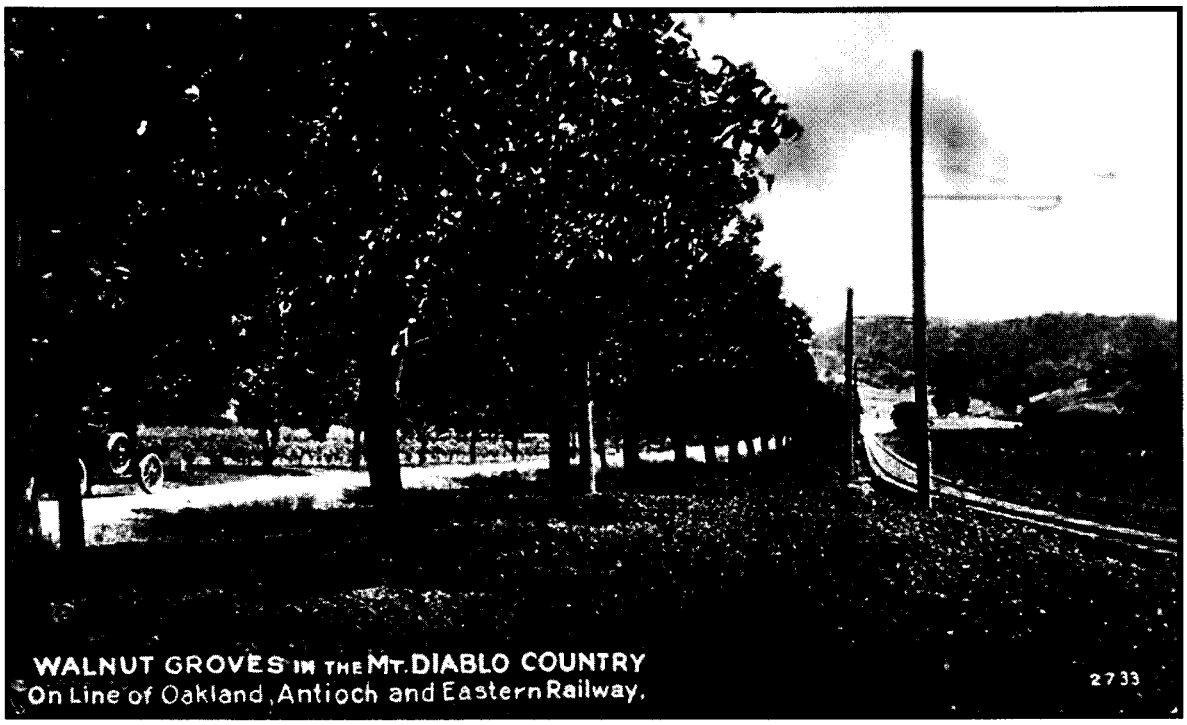
The beginning of the 20th century was already a time of change for Contra Costa County agriculture. Wheat had been the main crop in the last half of the 19th century and Port Costa was one of the busiest ports in the world. However, a steady decline in world wheat prices led to a gradual change from wheat fields to orchards and vineyards. By 1900, Contra Costa County grew a large variety of fruit and nut crops such as almonds, grapes, pears, apricots, prunes, peaches, olives, and oranges. Hay and grain were still major field crops, along with sugar beets and tomatoes. Contra Costa County was also the home for many famous wineries such as Mont Alhambra Vineyard Company, Christian Brothers Winery, and the Mt. Diablo Vineyards & Winery. Cattle ranching remained an important part of the County's economy as it has been since the days of the Spanish land grants.



Pesticide Sprayer from the 1900's *Courtesy of the John Muir Historical Site*

Plowing in the 1920's *Courtesy of the Concord Historical Society*

One of the richest farming areas in the 1900's was the long valley stretching from Martinez and Concord in the north to Danville and San Ramon in the south. The Bishop Ranch in San Ramon, soon to become a leading producer of pears, was still a large cattle ranch. Farmland cost about $50 per acre in what was to become the modern city of Walnut Creek. The Clayton area had over five hundred acres of wine grapes and several large wineries. In 1900, a ton of wine grapes cost $18 (compared to over $1000 now). Christian Brothers Winery in Martinez used grapes grown locally in the Alhambra Valley, many from vineyards near John Muir's house, where State Highway 4 runs today. There are still some vineyards dating back to the 1880's in the Martinez area.



Walnut Creek in the 1920's

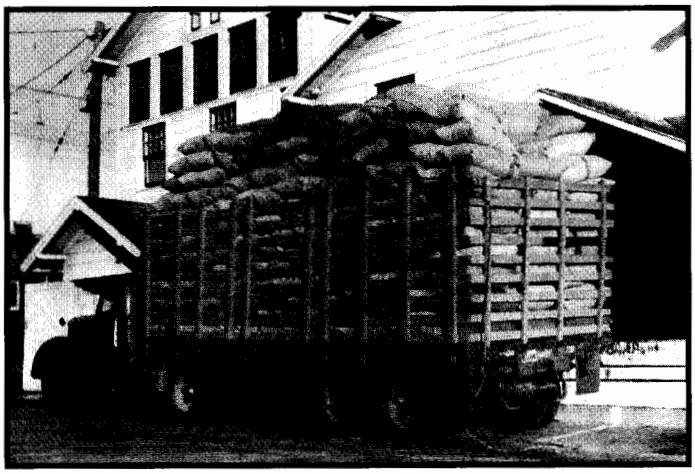
Courtesy of the Shadelands Ranch Historical Society

Another major farming area at that time was in the eastern part of Contra Costa County, running from Oakley in the north to Byron in the south. This is the part of the County where agriculture is still strong today. The region's major crops were wheat and hay; however, growers were also producing many kinds of fruit and nuts. The rich peat soils of the Delta Islands east of Brentwood also grew large crops of asparagus, potatoes, and celery. Milk and cream were shipped from many dairy farms around Knightsen, via the Santa Fe Railroad lines running through the heart of East County. The County's only remaining dairy is still located north of Knightsen. The majority of Contra Costa County's oldest surviving vineyards are located in East County. Many were planted around Oakley in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

The San Pablo Valley and Rodeo Valley, in the western part of Contra Costa County, produced large hay and grain crops in the early 1900's. This era also saw the beginnings of cut flower nurseries and truck farms along the coast, where mild summer and winter temperatures allowed nearly year round production. Western Contra Costa County was the home of several large ports such as those at Crockett, Port Costa and Pinole. Richmond's natural harbor and its location as the western terminus for the Santa Fe Railroad led, by mid-century, to Richmond's becoming the greatest port in California.

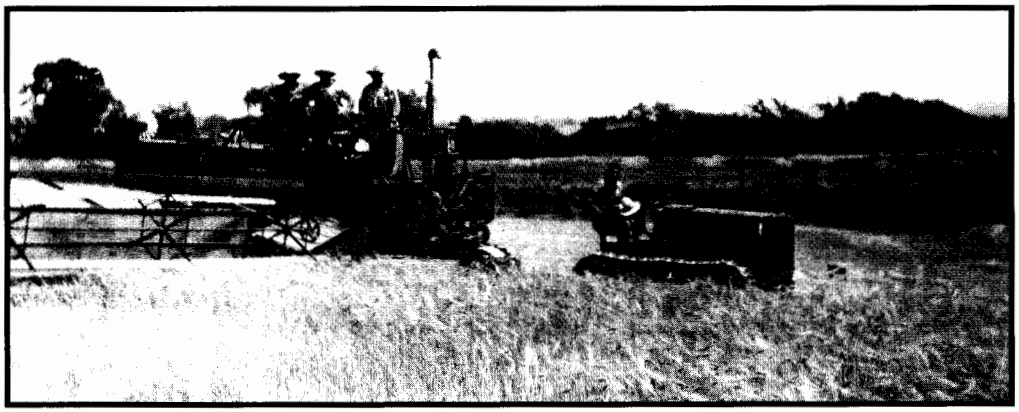
In the years around World War I, fruit and nuts continued to be major crops. The East County Irrigation Project started in 1913 and allowed increased planting of crops in the Oakley, Brentwood, and Byron areas that needed summer irrigation. Walnut production in the County had increased to the point that local growers founded the Contra Costa County Walnut Growers Association in 1920. This cooperative operated a walnut packing and processing plant in Walnut Creek. A second, independent walnut processing and packing plant was located near Acalanes High School on Pleasant Hill Road. During Prohibition in the 1920's, wine making was virtually outlawed except for limited production by home winemakers. Many grape growers in Contra Costa County survived this period by selling to individual households on the East and West Coasts of the United States as well as to Canada. Many other local vineyards were torn out.

Pear packers in the 1920's *Courtesy of the Concord Historical Society*



Walnut truck in the 1930's *Courtesy of the Shadelands Ranch Historical Society*

During the 1930's and 1940's, Contra Costa County agriculture was thriving. More than 130,000 acres of fruit, vegetable, and field crops were harvested in 1940, with a value of over $7,000,000. Asparagus, apricots, tomatoes, and walnuts were the top crops of that year. Balfour-Guthrie & Company was a large East County grower who ran the largest fruit drying yard in the world. They operated until the mid 1940's when they sold off the land that would become much of what is now the city of Brentwood. Nursery and cut flower production had become a significant part of the County's agriculture, with over fifty nurseries recorded in 1939. Tragically, during World War II, Americans of Japanese descent were placed in internment camps. Some local growers lost their farms and nurseries or returned from the internment camps to find their property destroyed.



Harvesting wheat in the 1930's *Courtesy of the Concord Historical Society*

Cities replaced farmland in Contra Costa County at an increased rate in the 1950's and 1960's. Between 1940 and 1970, more than half of our farmland was lost to development, with grape, peach, tomato, hay, and pear acreage declining 80% or more from their 1940 levels. Less than 60,000 acres of fruit, vegetable, nursery, and field crops were harvested in 1970, with a value of more than $18,000,000. Lettuce, cut roses, asparagus, and walnuts were the top crops of that year. Some commodities that were not major crops in 1940, such as cherries, lettuce, and cut flowers, had become important in Contra Costa County by 1970.

In some cases, the replacement of farmland was accelerated by the introduction of new pests and diseases. In 1929, a disease of walnuts, called Black Line, was discovered for the first time in California in the City of Walnut Creek. The cause of this disease was unknown for about 50 years. Between 1955 and 1970, Contra Costa County walnut acreage dropped from 16,471 to 8,213. Most of this lost acreage was in the central part of the County from Martinez to San Ramon as the disease gradually spread to new locations.

During the 1950's and 1960's, the cut flower business boomed. Roses from Contra Costa County were shipped all over the United States. However in the 1970's, the United States began a program to encourage South America to grow flowers instead of drugs. They gave money and free entry into the USA for South American roses. These subsidized, imported roses have driven almost all of our local rose growers out of business.

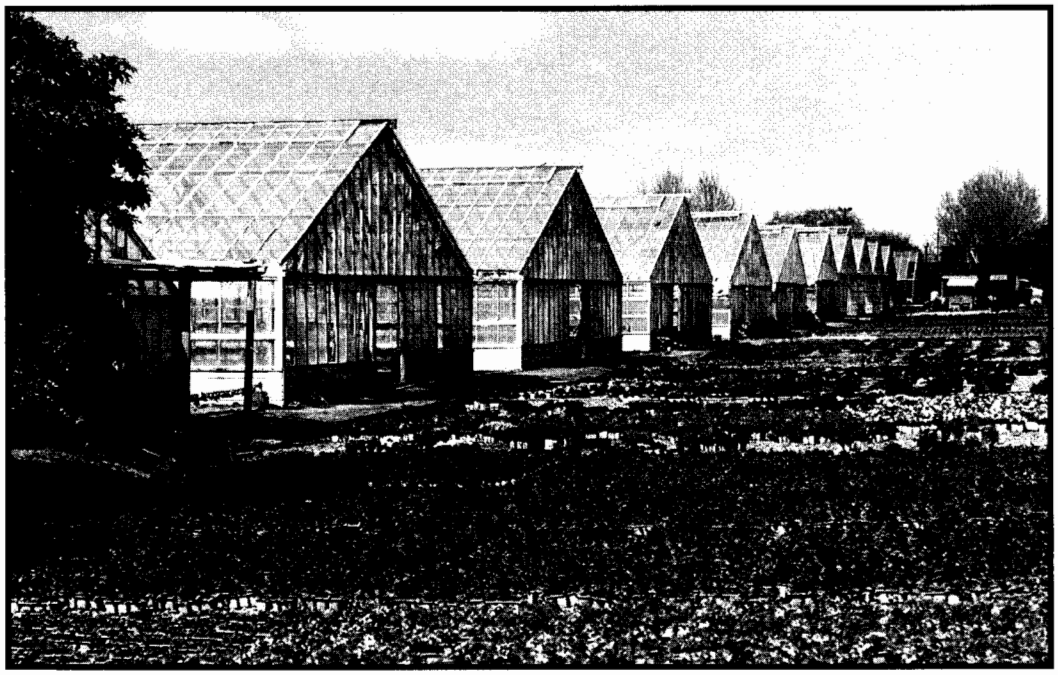
Bishop Ranch in the 1960's (now Bishop Ranch Business Park)

Lettuce harvest in Brentwood in the 1960's

With the growth of Silicon Valley and other Bay Area industries in the 1980's and 1990's, the pressure to develop farmland and other open space became critical. Farming, except for nurseries and cattle ranching, has nearly disappeared from Contra Costa County west of Mount Diablo. Agriculture is still very much alive in the eastern region of the County, although housing developments continue to replace farmland at an alarming rate. Brentwood was one of the fastest growing cities in California during the last decade.

Between 1970 and 2000, 45% of our remaining farmland was lost to development. Less than 32,000 acres of fruit, vegetable, nursery, and field crops were harvested in 2000, with a value of more than $72,000,000. Walnut, apricot, lettuce, and almond acreage declined 80% or more from their 1970 levels. Other crops which were not of major importance in 1970, nursery plants, grapes, sweet corn, tomatoes, and apples, have become the top crops of 2000. The 1980's and 1990's in Contra Costa County have seen the rise of

direct-to-consumer farming operations such as grower run markets, U-picks, and urban Farmers' Markets. During the 1990's, organic farming has also become an important part of the County's agriculture.



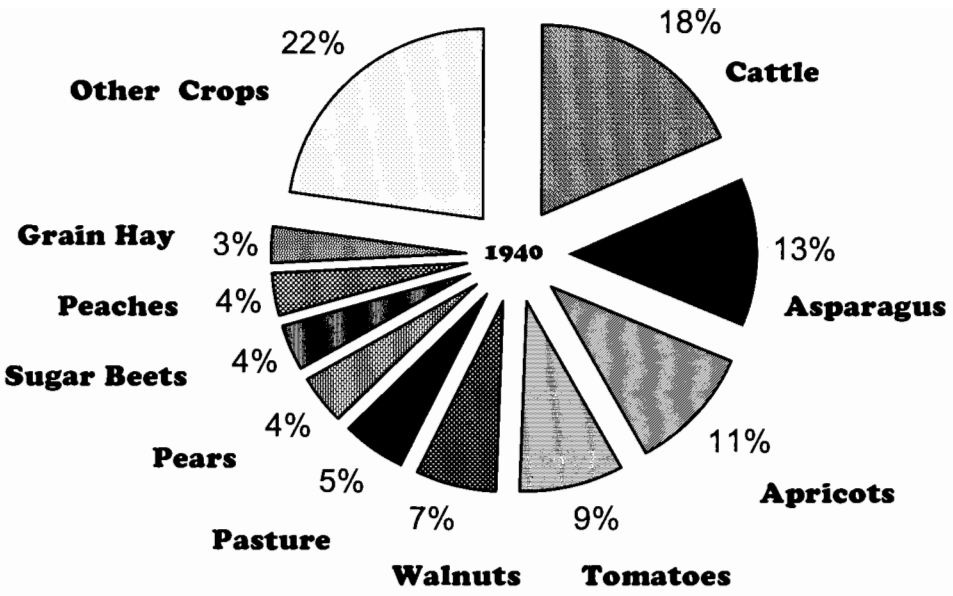
Nursery plant growing grounds in Richmond

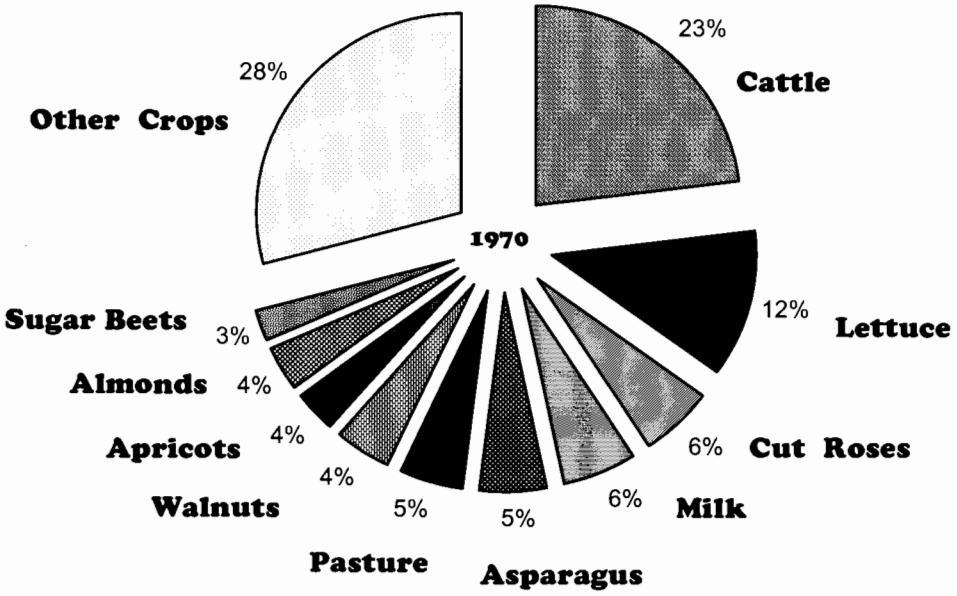
As we head into the 21st Century, we can be sure that the face of agriculture in our county will continue to change. As an industry, agriculture needs to be able to adapt and respond to changes that affect marketing and production. This need for flexibility can be illustrated by the local changes that have taken place over the last 100 years. At the same time, many people are beginning to recognize that the loss of agricultural land represents a change in lifestyle and the quality of life for Contra Costa County residents. This realization has led to a growing concern for the loss of agricultural land in our County and has generated interest in ways to preserve this valuable resource. As we focus on protecting our remaining farmland, we need to recognize that a vital element in the preservation process is maintaining agriculture's viability. This can only be done if the industry is able to continue to respond to the changes it will face.

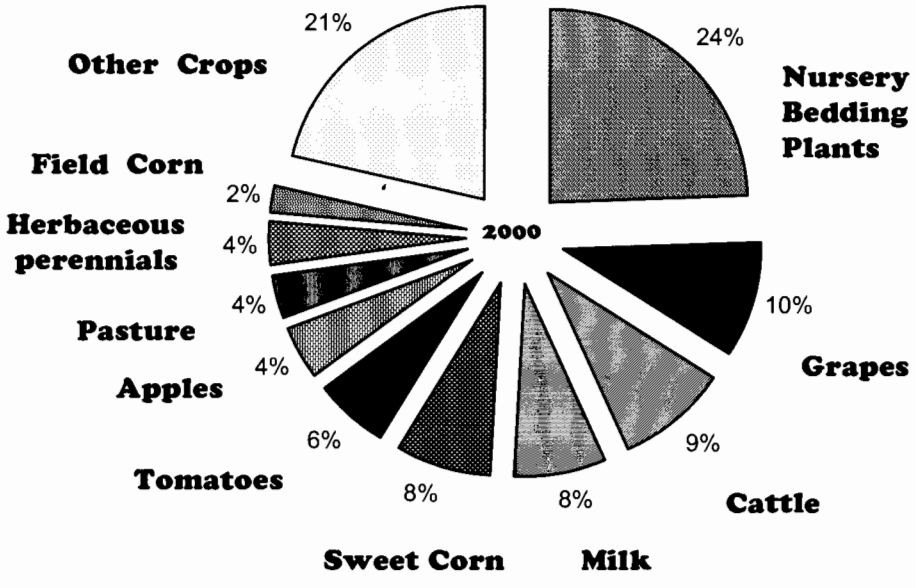
New housing development on agricultural land near Discovery Bay

Sweet corn field next to new housing in Brentwood

Top ten crops of 1940*, 1970, and 2000.







*1940 values do not include milk, nursery plants, and apiary.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures
Edward P. Meyer

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Vince Guise

AGRICULTURE

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Larry Yost — Cathleen M. Roybal — Suzanne Maddux

Agricultural Biologist III

Bob Case — Ann McClure — Patty Whitlock

Agricultural Biologist II

Jorge Vargas — Ralph Fonseca — Laurie Stout
Joe Deviney — Gene Mangini — Nancy Niemeyer

Agricultural Biologist I

Beth Slate — James Chan — Tom Donlon

WEIGHTS and MEASURES

Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures

Patrick J. Roof — Ken Robinson

Weights & Measures Inspector III
Arthur Mangonon

Weights & Measures Inspector II

Cris Espejo — Gil Rocha — Marcin Tokarzewski

Weights & Measures Inspector I
Becky Schwenger

CLERICAL

Executive Secretary	**Senior Clerk**	**Experienced Clerk**
Susan Finley	Teri Murphy	Jacqueline Dixon

FIELD CROPS

CROP		YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Field Corn		2000	7,150	3.33	23,800	Ton	86.70	2,065,000
		1999	6,790	3.77	25,600	Ton	87.10	2,227,000
Hay	Alfalfa	2000	3,290	5.61	18,500	Ton	89.40	1,650,000
		1999	3,500	6.41	22,400	Ton	88.80	1,992,000
	Grain	2000	1,570	2.68	4,210	Ton	64.60	272,000
		1999	1,620	2.42	3,920	Ton	67.60	265,000
Pasture								
	Irrigated	2000	5,890		Grazed	Acre	125.00	736,000
		1999	5,970		Grazed	Acre	95.00	567,000
Pasture								
	Rangeland	2000	163,000			Acre	17.40	2,836,000
		1999	168,000			Acre	14.80	2,486,000
Safflower		2000	1,570	1.02	1,610	Ton	224.00	361,000
		1999	2,070	1.05	2,180	Ton	295.00	642,000
Wheat		2000	2,150	1.70	3,660	Ton	85.20	312,000
		1999	2,690	2.20	5,930	Ton	92.80	550,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops*		2000	3,350					930,000
		1999	2,660					796,000
Total		2000	187,970					$9,162,000
		1999	193,300					$9,525,000

*Barley, Clover, Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Oats, Milo, Rye, Silage, Sudan Grass, Sugar Beets

VEGETABLE & SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Beans	2000	318	2.87	915	Ton	963.00	881,000
	1999	304	2.65	805	Ton	998.00	804,000
Onions	2000	39	15.4	598	Ton	435.00	260,000
	1999	45	18.4	831	Ton	309.00	257,000
Squash	2000	14	2.09	29	Ton	848.00	24,400
	1999	78	7.61	594	Ton	273.00	162,000
Sweet Corn	2000	2,380	9.62	22,900	Ton	305.00	6,980,000
	1999	2,430	9.50	23,100	Ton	274.00	6,326,000
Tomatoes							
Total	2000	2,643		102,816	Ton		5,742,000
	1999	3,089		114,010	Ton		7,177,000
Fresh	2000	43	18.90	816	Ton	879.00	718,000
	1999	89	11.40	1,010	Ton	726.00	732,000
Processing	2000	2,600	39.10	102,000	Ton	49.40	5,024,000
	1999	3,000	37.50	113,000	Ton	57.20	6,445,000
Miscellaneous Vegetable and Seed Crops*	2000	1,380					3,139,000
	1999	1,490					3,572,000
Total	2000	6,774					$17,026,400
	1999	7,436					$18,298,000

* Asparagus, Artichokes, Assorted Vegetables, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Lettuce, Okra, Organic Greens, Herbs, Melons, Peas, Peppers.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Apples	2000	1,570	4.42	6,920	Ton	590.00	4,086,000
	1999	1,930	7.24	13,900	Ton	371.00	5,165,000
Apricots*							
Total	2000	576	5.95	3,430	Ton		1,284,000
	1999	630	6.09	3,834	Ton		1,188,000
Fresh	2000			460	Ton	1,030.00	474,000
	1999			774	Ton	451.00	349,000
Processing	2000			2,970	Ton	272.00	810,000
	1999			3,060	Ton	274.00	839,000
Cherries	2000	322	1.33	429	Ton	2,360.00	1,013,000
	1999	372	2.85	1,060	Ton	1,900.00	2,007,000
Grapes	2000	1,640	5.24	8,570	Ton	1,030.00	8,869,000
	1999	1,580	4.07	6,440	Ton	1,080.00	6,978,000
Nectarines	2000	34	2.21	74	Ton	1,580.00	118,000
	1999	31	2.78	87	Ton	1,490.00	131,000
Peaches	2000	173	2.93	506	Ton	1,260.00	639,000
	1999	159	3.69	588	Ton	1,240.00	731,000
Pears	2000	77	13.20	1,020	Ton	152.00	155,000
	1999	102	12.70	1,300	Ton	196.00	255,000
Plums	2000	17	2.21	38	Ton	1,070.00	41,000
	1999	17	1.85	31	Ton	990.00	30,300
Walnuts	2000	1,070	0.95	1,010	Ton	1,160.00	1,175,000
	1999	1,138	1.26	1,440	Ton	799.00	1,148,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut Crops**	2000	147					670,000
	1999	111					615,000
Total	2000	5,626					$18,050,000
	1999	6,070					$18,248,300

*1999 value revised

**Almonds, Asian Pears, Berries, Figs, Kiwis, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pluots, Pomegranates, Quince, Strawberries and other Miscellaneous Tree Crops.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION AREA* HOUSE SQ. FT.	PRODUCTION AREA* FIELD ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Nursery Stock							
Bedding							
Plants	2000	5,755,000	301.00				22,675,000
	1999	5,816,000	301.00				19,733,000
Herbaceous							
Perennials	2000	612,000	11.50				3,286,000
	1999	611,000	12.70				1,983,000
Indoor							
Decoratives	2000	840,000					1,669,000
	1999	533,000					1,162,000
Vegetable							
Plants	2000	110,000	8.30				1,487,000
	1999	100,000	8.30				1,276,000
Christmas							
Trees	2000		64.00	1,680	Trees	36.10	60,700
	1999		62.00	1,980	Trees	30.90	61,200
Cut Flowers							
Roses, Std.	2000	328,000		3,266,000	Blooms	0.25	806,000
	1999	836,000		6,443,000	Blooms	0.24	1,517,000
Roses, Min.	2000	34,000		545,000	Blooms	0.13	72,500
	1999	56,000		907,000	Blooms	0.12	107,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Crops**	2000	254,000	22.20				2,049,000
	1999	230,000	36.00				2,363,000
Total	2000	7,933,000	407.00				$32,105,200
	1999	8,182,000	420.00				$28,202,200

*Gross Area

**Carnations, Eucalyptus, Potted Flowers & Vegetables, Floral Fruit Twigs, Cut Flowers, Gerberas, Ground Covers, Hanging Baskets, Lavender, Lisianthus, Mums, Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees, and Willow Foliage.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION NO. OF HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Cattle & Calves						
	2000	17,300	108,000	cwt.	78.10	8,401,000
	**1999	17,900	123,000	cwt.	60.00	7,368,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry*	2000					428,000
	1999					426,000
Total	2000					$8,829,000
	1999					$7,794,000

LIVESTOCK, APIARY & POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Milk - Market	2000	628,000	cwt.	11.50	7,222,000
	1999	614,000	cwt.	13.47	8,271,000
Honey	2000	55,500	lbs.	1.50	83,200
	1999	64,500	lbs.	1.00	64,500
Beeswax	2000	400	lbs.	2.00	800
	1999	650	lbs.	1.20	780
Pollination	2000	1,800	colonies	25.00	45,000
	1999	1,800	colonies	35.00	63,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry Products	2000				74,000
	1999				75,000
Total	2000				$7,425,000
	1999				$8,474,280

*Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Fish, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep and Turkeys.
**1999 Cattle categories revised and combined

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

CROP	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS		RANK	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
Bedding Plants	22.7	19.7	1	1
Grapes	8.9	7.0	2	5
Cattle & Calves	8.4	*7.4	3	3
Milk, all	7.2	8.3	4	2
Sweet Corn	7.0	6.3	5	6
Tomatoes, all	5.7	7.2	6	4
Apples, all	4.1	5.2	7	7
Herbaceous Perennials	3.3	2.0	8	14
Miscellaneous Vegetables	3.1	3.6	9	8
Rangeland Pasture	2.8	2.5	10	9
Field Corn	2.1	2.2	11	11
Miscellaneous Nursery	2.0	2.4	12	10
Indoor Decoratives	1.7	1.2	13	18
Hay - Alfalfa	1.7	2.0	14	13
Vegetable Plants	1.5	1.3	15	16
Apricots	1.3	*1.2	16	17
Walnuts	1.2	1.1	17	19
Cherries	1.0	2.0	18	12

CATEGORY				
	2000	1999	2000	1999
Nursery Products	32.1	28.2	1	1
Fruit & Nut Crops	18.1	18.2	2	3
Vegetable & Seed Crops	17.0	18.3	3	2
Field Crops	9.2	9.5	4	4
Livestock & Poultry	8.8	*7.8	5	6
Livestock Products	7.4	8.5	6	5

Total Acres in County	470,400
Population in County **	930,000
Land in Farms - Acres***	147,859
Harvested Cropland - Acres***	28,391

*1999 value revised
**Jan. 2000
***1997 census

RECAPITULATION

	1999	2000	Change
Field Crops	9,525,000	9,162,000	-363,000
Vegetable & Seed Crops	18,298,000	17,026,400	-1,271,600
Fruit & Nut Crops	18,197,300	18,050,000	-147,300
Nursery Crops	28,202,200	32,105,200	3,903,000
Livestock & Poultry	*7,794,000	8,829,000	1,035,000
Livestock, Apiary & Poultry Products	8,474,280	7,425,000	-1,049,280
Total	**$90,490,780	$92,597,600	2,106,820

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
REPORTING

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea solstitialis	Hairy weevil Eustenopus villosus	Two releases by CDFA*** and Contra Costa County Ag Dept
	YST flower weevil Larinus curtus	Five releases by CDFA *** and Contra Costa County Ag Dept

*1999 Cattle categories revised and combined
**1999 value revised
***CDFA is the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Biological Control Program, Sacramento

PEST EXCLUSION-2000	TYPE OF SHIPMENT	NUMBER REJECTED
	FED-EX- UPS	
Burrowing Nematode	"	13
Caribbean Fruit Fly	"	2
Cereal Leaf Beetle	"	1
Cedar-Apple Rust	"	1
Chestnut Bark, Oak Wilt	"	1
Citrus Pests	"	1
Citrus Canker	"	2
Colorado Potato Beetle	"	1
Golden Nematode	"	2
Imported Fire Ant	"	1
Japanese Beetle	"	2
Live Pests	"	14
Balsam Gall Midge, not inc. above	"	262
Ozonium Root Rot	"	2
Plum Curculio	"	2
Total Rejections		307
	TRUCK	
Quack Grass		3
Imported Fire Ant		1
	HOUSEHOLD GOODS	
Gypsy Moth		7
Japanese Beetle		2
Eastern Tent Caterpillar		14
	TOTAL SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	
Household Goods	220	23
Mail/UPS/FEDEX	34,659	782
Truck	229	24
A & Q Rated Pests Intercepted		51

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

Crop	No. of Farms	Estimated Acres
Apples	2	63.0
Apricots	3	3.6
Cherries	3	7.7
Citrus (Lemons,Orange,Tangerine)	3	2.6
Figs	3	2.5
Flowers	3	0.2
Fruits, Misc.	4	1.0
Garlic/Leeks	2	0.5
Kiwi	1	0.5
Herbs	4	4.5
Nectarines	3	9.0
Onions	2	0.6
Peaches	2	25.0
Pears	3	6.2
Pistachios	1	36.8
Plums	3	1.6
Salad Green, Lettuce sp.	4	1.1
Squash, Melons	3	1.4
Table Grapes	1	1.0
Tomatoes	3	1.0
Vegetables, Misc.	5	4.7
Walnuts	1	0.8
TOTAL		175.7

Contra Costa County

2001 Crop Report

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Department of Agriculture

2366 A Stanwell Circle
Concord, California 94520-4807
(925) 646-5250
FAX (925) 646-5732

Branch Office
724 - 3rd Street
Brentwood, California 94513-1360
(925) 634-5682
FAX (925) 634-2201

Contra
Costa
County

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner-
Director Of Weights and Measures

To: BILL LYONS, JR., SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
and
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2001 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control Activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2001 was $97,515,400, up $4,917,800 dollars from 2000. Nursery stock sales continued to go up as new nurseries came to Contra Costa County and our existing nurseries increased their production. Alfalfa, wheat, and field corn showed significant improvement in the number of acres planted and value per ton. Poor prices for apples and grapes reduced the Fruit & Nut category by $2,440,400.

Prices per ton were lower for many crops such as safflower, tomatoes, apples, and walnuts due to market competition. In some cases, the lower prices led to decreases in the acreage planted. Bedding plants, herbaceous perennials, vegetable plants, and miscellaneous nursery plants were in high demand to supply both the new housing market and the home gardener.

There were some significant changes in reporting for the 2001 Annual Crop and Livestock Report. Rangeland pasture acreage estimates were increased as new data became available from the California Gap Analysis Project. The low number of producers for milk and cut roses made it necessary to place them in grouped categories. Cut roses were placed with other flowers in a new category called Cut Flowers. Milk was placed in the Miscellaneous Livestock Product category.

Several crop categories exceeded $1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include bedding plants, miscellaneous livestock products, sweet corn, grapes, cattle and calves, rangeland pasture, herbaceous perennials, tomatoes, apples, miscellaneous vegetables, alfalfa, miscellaneous nursery, field corn, vegetable plants, apricots, indoor decoratives, cherries, walnuts, and miscellaneous field crops.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are gross receipts and do not include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Nancy Niemeyer and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward P. Meyer

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures
Edward P. Meyer

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Vince Guise

AGRICULTURE

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Larry Yost — Cathleen M. Roybal — Suzanne Maddux

Agricultural Biologist III

Bob Case — Ann McClure — Patty Whitlock

Agricultural Biologist II

Jorge Vargas — Ralph Fonseca — Laurie Stout
Joe Deviney — Gene Mangini — Nancy Niemeyer
Beth Slate

Agricultural Biologist I

James Chan — Tom Donlon

WEIGHTS and MEASURES

Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures
Patrick J. Roof

Weights & Measures Inspector III
Arthur Mangonon

Weights & Measures Inspector II

Cris Espejo — Gil Rocha — Becky Schwenger

Weights & Measures Inspector I
Cecilie Siegel-Sebolt

CLERICAL

Executive Secretary	**Senior Clerk**	**Experienced Clerk**
Susan Finley	Teri Murphy	Jacqueline Dixon

On the Cover: a glimpse at the poinsettia crop at Colorspot Nursery in Richmond.

FIELD CROPS

CROP		YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Field Corn		2001	6,650	3.72	24,700	Ton	89.70	2,217,000
		2000	7,150	3.33	23,800	Ton	86.70	2,065,000
Hay	Alfalfa	2001	3,610	5.76	20,800	Ton	117.00	2,441,000
		2000	3,290	5.61	18,500	Ton	89.40	1,650,000
	Grain	2001	1,340	2.14	2,860	Ton	86.30	246,000
		2000	1,570	2.68	4,210	Ton	64.60	272,000
Pasture	Irrigated	2001	5,620		Grazed	Acre	150.00	843,000
		2000	5,890		Grazed	Acre	125.00	736,000
Pasture	Rangeland	2001	259,000 *			Acre	17.50	4,533,000
		2000	163,000			Acre	17.40	2,836,000
Safflower		2001	504	1.04	522	Ton	219.00	114,000
		2000	1,570	1.02	1,610	Ton	224.00	361,000
Wheat		2001	3,150	2.16	6,790	Ton	90.70	616,000
		2000	2,150	1.70	3,660	Ton	85.20	312,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops**		2001	2,088					1,130,000
		2000	3,350					930,000
Total		2001	281,962					$12,140,000
		2000	187,970					$9,162,000

*2001 Acreage Value from the California Gap Analysis Project
**Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Rye, Silage, Straw, Sudan Grass

VEGETABLE & SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Beans	2001	263	3.57	937	Ton	1,010.00	950,000
	2000	318	2.87	915	Ton	963.00	881,000
Onions	2001	34	15.4	525	Ton	409.00	215,000
	2000	39	15.4	598	Ton	435.00	260,000
Squash	2001	18	4.01	70	Ton	714.00	50,000
	2000	14	2.09	29	Ton	848.00	24,400
Sweet Corn	2001	2,760	9.61	26,500	Ton	327.00	8,652,000
	2000	2,380	9.62	22,900	Ton	305.00	6,980,000
Tomatoes							
Total	2001	1,662		59,264	Ton		3,518,000
	2000	2,643		102,816	Ton		5,742,000
Fresh	2001	72	13.40	964	Ton	790.00	761,000
	2000	43	18.90	816	Ton	879.00	718,000
Processing	2001	1,590	36.60	58,300	Ton	47.30	2,757,000
	2000	2,600	39.10	102,000	Ton	49.40	5,024,000
Miscellaneous Vegetable and Seed Crops*	2001	1,270					2,670,000
	2000	1,380					3,139,000
Total	2001	6,007					$16,055,000
	2000	6,774					$17,026,400

* Asparagus, Artichokes, Assorted Vegetables, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Lettuce, Okra, Organic Greens, Herbs, Melons, Peas, Peppers, Wheatgrass.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Apples	2001	1,640	4.52	7,420	Ton	440.00	3,270,000
	2000	1,570	4.42	6,920	Ton	590.00	4,086,000
Apricots							
Total	2001	639	6.31	4,030	Ton		1,332,000
	2000	576	5.95	3,430	Ton		1,284,000
Fresh	2001			340	Ton	714.00	243,000
	2000			460	Ton	1,030.00	474,000
Processing	2001			3,690	Ton	295.00	1,089,000
	2000			2,970	Ton	272.00	810,000
Cherries	2001	331	1.71	565	Ton	2,220.00	1,254,000
	2000	322	1.33	429	Ton	2,360.00	1,013,000
Grapes	2001	1,890	4.03	7,610	Ton	946.00	7,201,000
	2000	1,640	5.24	8,570	Ton	1,030.00	8,869,000
Nectarines	2001	31	2.07	64	Ton	1,600.00	103,000
	2000	34	2.21	74	Ton	1,580.00	118,000
Peaches	2001	141	3.51	495	Ton	1,250.00	617,000
	2000	173	2.93	506	Ton	1,260.00	639,000
Pears	2001	49	11.20	551	Ton	215.00	118,000
	2000	77	13.20	1,020	Ton	152.00	155,000
Plums	2001	23	2.24	51	Ton	931.00	47,600
	2000	17	2.21	38	Ton	1,070.00	41,000
Walnuts	2001	1,026	1.12	1,150	Ton	991.00	1,138,000
	2000	1,070	0.95	1,010	Ton	1,160.00	1,175,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut Crops*	2001	127					529,000
	2000	147					670,000
Total	2001	5,897					$15,609,600
	2000	5,626					$18,050,000

*Almonds, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pluots, Pomegranates, Strawberries and other Miscellaneous Tree Crops.

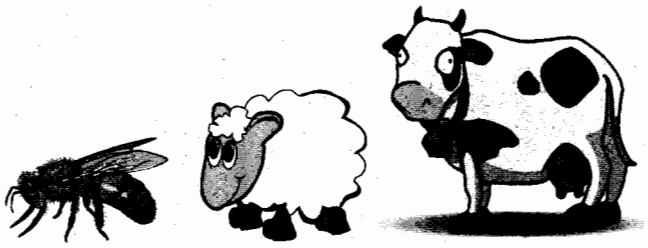
NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION AREA* HOUSE SQ. FT.	PRODUCTION AREA* FIELD ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Nursery Stock							
Bedding	2001	5,955,000	312.00				26,921,000
Plants	2000	5,755,000	301.00				22,675,000
Herbaceous	2001	717,000	15.35				3,842,000
Perennials	2000	612,000	11.50				3,286,000
Indoor	2001	760,000					1,281,000
Decoratives	2000	840,000					1,669,000
Vegetable	2001	110,000	11.30				2,216,000
Plants	2000	110,000	8.30				1,487,000
Christmas	2001		54.00	1,420	Trees	36.40	51,500
Trees	2000		64.00	1,680	Trees	36.10	60,700
Cut Flowers**	2001	330,000	3.00		Blooms		767,000
	2000	507,000	4.15		Blooms		1,216,000
Miscellaneous	2001	135,000	21.70				2,431,000
Nursery Crops***	2000	109,000	18.10				1,711,000
Total	2001	8,007,000	417				37,509,500
	2000	7,933,000	407				32,104,700

*Gross Area

**Alstromeria, Carnations, Gerbera, Lilies, Roses, Misc. Flowers.

***Potted Flowers & Vegetables, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Hanging Baskets Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees.



LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

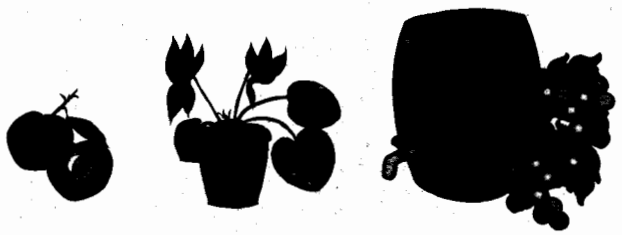
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION NO. OF HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Cattle & Calves	2001	14,400	104,000	cwt.	66.90	6,953,000
	2000	17,300	108,000	cwt.	78.10	8,401,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry*	2001					471,000
	2000					428,000
Total	2001					$7,424,000
	2000					$8,829,000

LIVESTOCK, APIARY & POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Honey	2001	36,000	lbs.	2.55	91,800
	2000	55,500	lbs.	1.50	83,200
Beeswax	2001	200	lbs.	2.50	500
	2000	400	lbs.	2.00	800
Pollination	2001	600	colonies	25.00	15,000
	2000	1,800	colonies	25.00	45,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry Products**	2001				8,670,000
	2000				7,296,000
Total	2001				$8,777,300
	2000				$7,425,000

*Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Fish, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep and Turkeys.
**Milk, Wool, Eggs.

RECAPITULATION



CATEGORY	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS 2001	2000	RANKING 2001	2000
Nursery Products	37.5	32.1	1	1
Vegetable & Seed Crops	17.0	17.0	2	3
Fruit & Nut Crops	15.6	18.1	3	2
Field Crops	12.5	9.2	4	4
Livestock Products	8.8	7.4	5	6
Livestock & Poultry	7.4	8.8	6	5

CATEGORY	GROSS VALUE 2001	2000	CHANGE
Field Crops	12,140,000	9,162,000	2,978,000
Vegetable & Seed Crops	16,055,000	17,026,400	-971,400
Fruit & Nut Crops	15,609,600	18,050,000	-2,440,400
Nursery Crops	37,509,500	32,105,200	5,404,300
Livestock & Poultry	7,424,000	8,829,000	-1,405,000
Livestock, Apiary & Poultry Products	8,777,300	7,425,000	1,352,300
Total	$97,515,400	$92,597,600	4,917,800

Total Acres in County	482,000
Population in County *	972,000
Land in Farms - Acres**	147,859
Harvested Cropland - Acres**	28,391

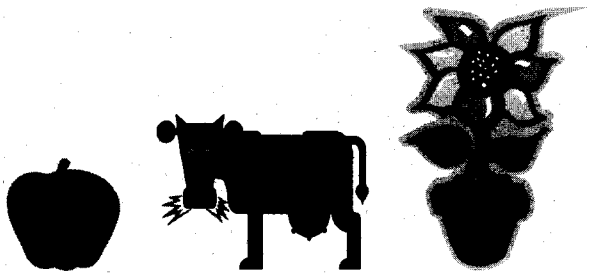
*Jan. 2001
**1997 census

ORGANIC FARMING

	Apples	Apricots	Cherries	Flowers	Garlic/Leeks	Herbs	Nectarines	Onions	Peaches	Pears	Pistachios	Plums	Salad Greens	Squash, Melons	Table Grapes	Tomatoes	Vegetables, Misc.
No. of Farms	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	4
Estimated Acres	1.5	2.0	5.0	0.8	0.3	1.6	1.6	0.1	8.0	6.0	36.8	1.0	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.3	3.5

Total Acres Organically Farmed - 70.1

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS



CROP	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS 2001	2000	RANK 2001	2000
Bedding Plants	$26.9	22.7	1	1
Misc. Livestock Products*	8.7	7.3	2	4
Sweet Corn	8.7	7.0	3	5
Grapes	7.2	8.9	4	2
Cattle & Calves	7.0	8.4	5	3
Rangeland Pasture	4.5	2.8	6	10
Herbaceous Perennials	3.8	3.3	7	8
Tomatoes, all	3.5	5.7	8	6
Apples, all	3.3	4.1	9	7
Miscellaneous Vegetables	2.7	3.1	10	9
Hay - Alfalfa	2.4	1.7	11	14
Miscellaneous Nursery	2.4	2.0	12	12
Field Corn	2.2	2.1	13	11
Vegetable Plants	2.2	1.5	14	15
Apricots	1.3	1.3	15	16
Indoor Decoratives	1.3	1.7	16	13
Cherries	1.3	1.0	17	18
Walnuts	1.1	1.2	18	17
Misc. Field Crops	1.1		19	

*Revised Category

ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea solstitialis	Hairy weevil Eustenopus villosus	Five releases by the Contra Costa County Ag Dept
	YST flower weevil Larinus curtus	Seven releases by the Contra Costa County Ag Dept

PEST EXCLUSION 2001

SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	Rejections	Total Inspected
Household Goods	28	167
Mail/UPS/FEDEX	84	36,135
Truck	6	305
A & Q Rated Pests Intercepted	70	

Rejections from Fed-Ex & UPS Inspections

Cedar-Apple Rust	14
Chestnut Bark, Oak Wilt	1
Citrus Pests	7
Citrus Canker	1
Medfly/CA and Medfly/TX	8
Japanese Beetle	1
Live Pests	
Ants - Hawaii	15
Aphids - Hawaii	4
Mealybugs - Hawaii	3
Scale Insects	4
Whitefly	3
Other Live Pests - Thrips, Planthoppers	4
Nut Tree Pests	2
Plum Curculio	4
Sweet Potato Weevil	1

Rejections from Truck Inspections

Mediterranean Fruit Fly larvae - Clementine Oranges	3
Two Spotted Leafhopper - Nursery Shipments	3
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Egg masses	12
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Nymphs	3
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Adults	3
Quackgrass, Canada Thistle	3

Rejections from Household Goods Inspections

Gypsy Moth	12
Japanese Beetle	1
Eastern Tent Caterpillar	14
Tussock Moth	2
Asiatic Garden Beetle, Other Scarab Beetles	2

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture and Division of Weights and Measures is responsible for operating many statewide programs here in Contra Costa County through a combination of education, outreach, and enforcement. We work under the direction of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the California Division of Measurement Standards. We also work in cooperation with many other federal, state, regional, and local agencies. Our main office is in Concord with a branch office in Brentwood.

Our Agriculture division's goal is to promote and protect agriculture, the environment, and the people of Contra Costa County. The goal of our Weights and Measures division is to help to ensure the honesty and integrity of everyday business transactions for the people of Contra Costa County. Weights and Measures protects buyers and sellers by promoting fair packaging and by checking commercial weighing, measuring and timing devices for accuracy. After all, businesses don't want to give away products for free any more than consumers want to pay for products they didn't get. Weights and Measures affects everyone. Whenever people buy any kind of goods, property, or service, some type of weights and measures is involved. The following is a summary of the Department's programs.

PEST EXCLUSION

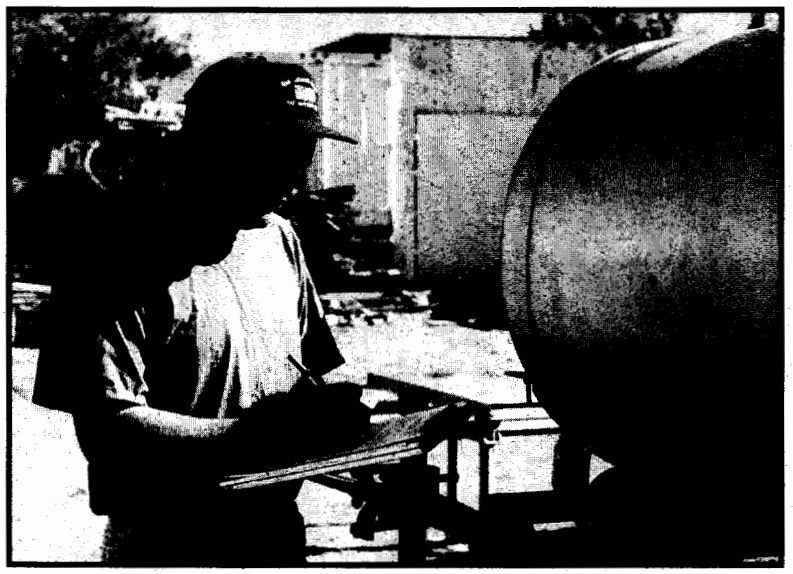
Fruit, vegetables, and other plant material shipped in violation of state quarantines can be infested with exotic pests and diseases. If not intercepted, these pests and diseases could cause huge losses to California agriculture and its export markets. Exotic pests can affect the environment by infesting, preying on, or competing with native species of plants and animals. Most exotic pests come into California because people bring or send them. Contra Costa County Biologists do a wide range of quarantine inspections at package delivery services, markets, and nurseries to keep these pests out. Incoming nursery shipments from infested areas are checked for life stages of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, a serious new insect pest. In 2001, Contra Costa Biologists performed over 36,000 exclusion inspections and wrote 188 rejections.

Quarantine inspection at a produce market

Monitoring for exotic insect pests

PEST DETECTION

Pest Detection Trappers from the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture help find exotic pests before they grow into infestations costing California taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars to eradicate. Insect traps are placed throughout the county and monitored regularly. Many of the traps are baited with pheromones, a chemical perfume that attracts the male insect. Other traps may use a food scented lure. In 2001, Contra Costa County Pest Detection Trappers placed over 5,000 insect traps. An infestation of Oriental Fruit Fly was also detected and treated before it became a major threat to agriculture.



Checking pesticide application equipment

Inspection of a pest control business

PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT

The State of California has the toughest rules on pesticide use in the world. The Department of Agriculture monitors the use of pesticides in Contra Costa County to help ensure a safe food supply and to protect human health and the environment. Growers and production nurseries who have pesticides applied to their crops must get a permit from the County Department of Agriculture. Golf courses, cemeteries, and parks must also get permits if they use pesticides. Even cities and other government agencies that use pesticides on rights of way must get permits. Businesses that apply pesticides for hire must be licensed with the State of California and then registered with the Department of Agriculture in the counties in which they will work. This includes businesses that perform agricultural spraying, structural pest control, and landscape maintenance. All these pesticide applicators must report the amounts of each pesticide they use to their County Department of Agriculture. Contra Costa County Biologists monitor the use of pesticides by growers and by businesses that apply pesticides for hire by inspecting pesticide applications, equipment, records, and storage. We also evaluate and monitor pesticide applications on environmentally sensitive sites and provide training to fieldworkers and pesticide handlers in English and Spanish. In 2001, Contra Costa County Biologists inspected over 340 pesticide applications.

PEST MANAGEMENT

The Department of Agriculture has the responsibility for several pest management programs in Contra Costa County. Department staff control specific exotic noxious weeds such as Artichoke Thistle, Purple Starthistle, and Oblong Spurge on certain public and private lands. We also have a ground squirrel control program. The Department is one of over twenty organizations forming the Alameda-Contra Costa Weed Management Area. The Weed Management Area members work to accomplish an ecological and integrated approach to the management of noxious weeds. This includes mapping, monitoring, research, and the coordination of control efforts to halt the spread of noxious weeds and restore infested lands. Outreach efforts completed in 2001 include a brochure on Integrated Pest Management control options for Yellow Starthistle.

Weed management

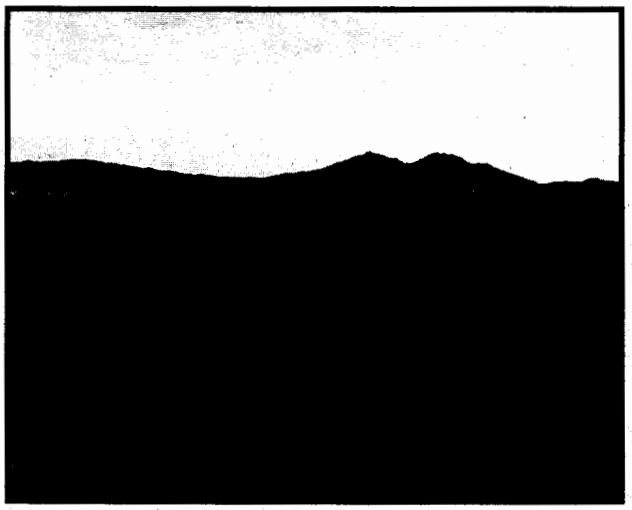
Farmer's market inspection

QUALITY CONTROL

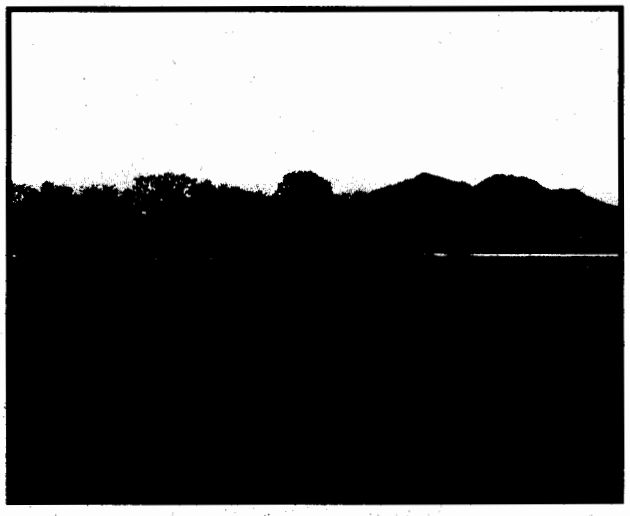
Contra Costa County Biologists inspect various agricultural commodities to ensure they meet established quality standards. Retail eggs are checked for compliance with state and federal requirements. At Certified Farmer's Markets, County Biologists make sure growers are only selling produce they have grown themselves. Nurseries that raise landscape plants, turf, trees, or vines are inspected at least once every two years for diseases, weeds, and pests. Growers producing organic commodities are audited to make sure they follow proper organic practices. Certain apple varieties can only be harvested when Biologists have determined they meet maturity standards.

EXPORT CERTIFICATION

Agriculture has played an important part in the economy of Contra Costa County from the time of the first pioneers up until today. From the nurseries of Richmond in the west end of the county to Oakley's wine vineyards in the east, Contra Costa County growers continue to produce a rich variety of fruits, vegetables, nursery products, and other agricultural commodities. Contra Costa County sweet corn, cherries, nursery stock, apples, and other produce find eager buyers all over the world. When requested, Contra Costa County Biologists help growers and packers by certifying commodities that are free of diseases and pests of concern to the importing state or nation.



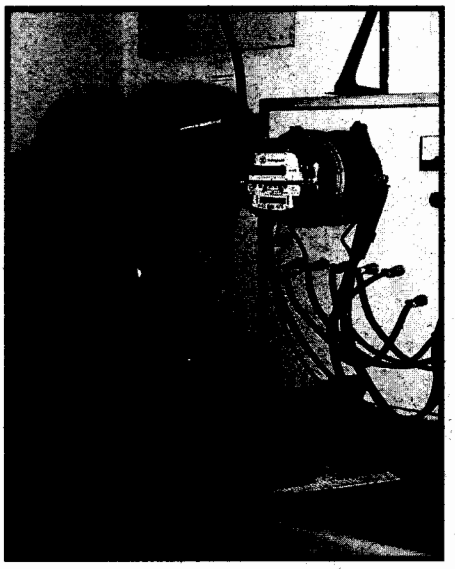
Field bedded for tomatoes



Alfalfa

STATISTICS

The Department of Agriculture compiles many types of information on agriculture in Contra Costa County. Each year, the Department publishes an annual crop and livestock report showing the gross production and value of the county's agricultural commodities. During times when weather damage such as floods, storms, and freezing temperatures cause major losses to crops, the Department helps assess the damage in Contra Costa County. This information is used by state and federal agencies to provide emergency grants and loans to allow growers to get back into production as soon as possible.



Electric meter inspection

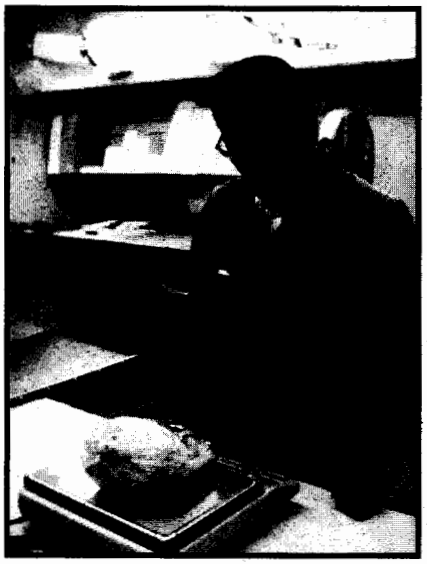
Checking a taxi for accuracy

DEVICE INSPECTION

Contra Costa County Weights and Measures Inspectors test a large variety of devices for accuracy. There are scales ranging from jeweler's scales used for tiny gemstones all the way up to scales that can weigh a fully loaded railroad car. Measuring devices come in a wide variety of types and capacities. There are meters for measuring gases such as propane and for liquids such as gasoline. There are length measuring meters used for purchases of wire or fabric. Taxis have meters that measure time as well as distance. There are even meters used to measure electricity.

You can be sure commercial scales and meters are accurate because a Weights and Measures Inspector has tested them. Before they can be put into commercial use and regularly after that, devices are inspected to make sure they are accurate and are a type approved for that use. After the inspection, the Weights and Measures Inspector seals any adjustable parts that might affect how they perform. Each commercial scale or meter that has been inspected will have a paper County seal attached to the front of it.

Large capacity scale inspection



Package inspection

Store scanner inspection

QUANTITY CONTROL

Weights and Measures Inspectors check that packaged commercial products actually contain the quantity stated on the label. While at a store, they also check store scanners for accuracy and make sure the price charged at the register is the same as the posted or advertised price. If a product comes up short weight or quantity, the Inspectors will investigate more packages of that brand. Over the last several years, the Contra Costa County Division of Weights and Measures has investigated shortages in sales of such diverse products as baked goods, gravel, catsup, and wood. When necessary, we work with the District Attorney in the prosecution of serious violations of state laws involving weights and measures in Contra Costa County.

There are fair packaging regulations that cover many aspects of labeling and packaging so consumers will know clearly just what they are getting. The regulations prohibit deceptive packaging such as false bottoms and sidewalls. The weight of a product's wrappings or container can not be included in the stated weight of the commodity. The fair packaging regulations specify the type of information on a label and even the way the label is written and placed on the package. The regulations also cover signs and advertising. Signs advertising gasoline and other petroleum products must meet certain standards as to content, placement, and legibility. These standards help to eliminate such misleading practices as "bait and switch" advertising, and advertising only the lowest of several fuel prices.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Contra Costa County Division of Weights and Measures investigates consumer complaints. Many times these involve receiving short weight or quantity in a purchased commodity or having an advertised discount not taken off at the register. Other types of complaints we receive regard deceptive packaging or advertising, overcharges by taxi companies, inaccuracies by recycling companies, contamination of petroleum products, etc.


Contra Costa County
2003
Annual
Crop Report

Department of Agriculture
2366 A Stanwell Circle
Concord, California 94520-4807
(925) 646-5250
FAX (925) 646-5732

Branch Office
3020 Second Street
Knightsen, California 94548
(925) 427-8610
FAX (925) 427-8612

Contra
Costa
County

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

To: A. G. KAWAMURA, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
and
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2003 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control Activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2003 was $108,567,500, up $8,413,400 dollars from 2002. Cattle production increased as the average price in 2003 improved dramatically. The miscellaneous vegetable category also went up due to increased production of specialty crops such as lettuce, potatoes, and asparagus.

Many categories had losses resulting from market competition and low prices. Contra Costa County's last dairy closed in the middle of 2003, leading to a large drop in the miscellaneous livestock product category. Apple values went down as many orchards were removed or not harvested. Cut flower values dropped as growers went out of business or reduced their operations. Low prices for sudan and safflower led to fewer acres being planted. In 2003, there were severe losses to wheat harvested both as hay and grain due to the disease wheat stripe rust. However, there was no significant difference from the previous year's values in those commodities due to weather related losses during the 2002 harvest.

Weather conditions in 2003 contributed to changes in several crop categories. Plentiful rain in winter and spring improved the value of rangeland. However, late spring rains hurt yields of crops such as peaches, apricots, and fresh market tomatoes. Extreme heat contributed to reduced pistachio yields.

Several crop categories exceeded $1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include bedding plants, cattle and calves, sweet corn, grapes, miscellaneous vegetables, miscellaneous livestock products, rangeland pasture, tomatoes, herbaceous perennials, miscellaneous nursery, alfalfa, indoor decoratives, field corn, apples, cherries, beans, vegetable plants, and walnuts.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are gross receipts and do not include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Nancy Niemeyer and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures
Edward P. Meyer

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Vince Guise

AGRICULTURE

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Suzanne Maddux — Cathleen M. Roybal — Larry Yost
Bob Case

Agricultural Biologist III

Ann McClure — Patty Whitlock

Agricultural Biologist II

Joe Deviney — Ralph Fonseca — Gene Mangini
Jorge Vargas — Nancy Niemeyer — Beth Slate

Agricultural Biologist I

Matthew Slattengren — Abdoulaye Niang — Jodie Wyles

WEIGHTS and MEASURES

Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures
Patrick J. Roof

Weights & Measures Inspector III
Arthur Mangonon

Weights & Measures Inspector II

Cris Espejo — Gil Rocha — Becky Schwenger
Cecilie Siegel-Sebolt

Weights & Measures Inspector I
Ngozi Egbuna

CLERICAL

Executive Secretary
Susan Finley

Senior Clerk
Teri Murphy

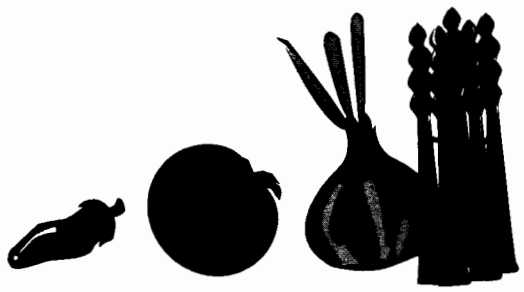
On the Cover: The Concord Certified Farmers Market

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Field Corn	2003	4,780	3.94	18,900	Ton	90.30	1,707,000
	2002	5,230	3.97	20,800	Ton	87.40	1,816,000
Hay Alfalfa	2003	3,950	5.60	22,100	Ton	94.10	2,080,000
	2002	3,610	5.36	19,300	Ton	105.00	2,036,000
Grain	2003	1,940	2.26	4,390	Ton	84.50	371,000
	2002	2,170	2.29	4,990	Ton	64.40	321,000
Pasture Irrigated	2003	6,110		Grazed	Acre	150.00	917,000
	2002	5,550		Grazed	Acre	155.00	860,000
Pasture Rangeland	2003	252,000			Acre	17.00	4,284,000
	2002	258,000			Acre	14.90	3,844,000
Safflower	2003	287	1.18	340	Ton	244.00	83,000
	2002	478	1.15	549	Ton	211.00	116,000
Wheat	2003	1,690	1.93	3,270	Ton	111.00	363,000
	2002	1,430	2.11	3,010	Ton	108.00	325,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops*	2003	3,220					577,000
	2002	3,150					777,000
Total	2003	273,977					$10,382,000
	2002	279,618					$10,095,000

*Barley, Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Rye, Silage, Straw, Sudan Grass

VEGETABLE & SEED CROPS



CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Beans	2003	303	4.09	1,240	Ton	1,030.00	1,278,000
	2002	283	3.42	965	Ton	1,020.00	986,000
Onions	2003	9	6.98	64	Ton	451.00	28,900
	2002	11	12.60	140	Ton	436.00	61,100
Squash	2003	30	6.49	193	Ton	567.00	109,000
	2002	21	4.38	91	Ton	627.00	57,000
Sweet Corn	2003	3,030	10.40	31,400	Ton	301.00	9,451,000
	2002	2,940	9.68	28,500	Ton	338.00	9,617,000
Tomatoes							
Total	2003	1,299		50,500	Ton		3,822,000
	2002	1,089		42,740	Ton		3,264,000
Fresh	2003	119	10.90	1,300	Ton	1,040.00	1,352,000
	2002	65	16.10	1,040	Ton	1,170.00	1,222,000
Processing	2003	1,180	41.70	49,200	Ton	50.20	2,470,000
	2002	1,024	40.70	41,700	Ton	49.00	2,042,000
Miscellaneous Vegetable and Seed Crops*	2003	1,710					6,253,000
	2002	1,520					3,738,000
Total	2003	6,381					$20,941,900
	2002	5,864					$17,723,100

* Asparagus, Artichokes, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Ginseng, Lettuce, Okra, Greens, Herbs, Melons, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Apples	2003	330	12.40	4,070	Ton	336.00	1,368,000
	2002	582	9.25	5,380	Ton	444.00	2,390,000
Apricots							
Total	2003	550	4.42	2,430	Ton		960,000
	2002	559	4.91	2,750	Ton		1,166,000
Fresh	2003			373	Ton	917.00	342,000
	2002			647	Ton	828.00	536,000
Processing	2003			2,060	Ton	300.00	618,000
	2002			2,100	Ton	300.00	630,000
Cherries	2003	282	1.94	548	Ton	2,460.00	1,348,000
	2002	284	1.30	369	Ton	2,860.00	1,054,000
Grapes	2003	2,030	3.96	8,030	Ton	814.00	6,536,000
	2002	1,960	3.97	7,790	Ton	848.00	6,609,000
Nectarines	2003	33	2.59	85	Ton	1,410.00	120,000
	2002	33	2.33	77	Ton	2,350.00	182,000
Peaches	2003	165	4.01	661	Ton	1,010.00	668,000
	2002	149	4.49	667	Ton	1,580.00	1,057,000
Pears	2003	79	12.30	968	Ton	202.00	196,000
	2002	53	18.20	968	Ton	203.00	197,000
Plums	2003	25	2.34	59	Ton	1,270.00	74,900
	2002	18	2.45	46	Ton	1,400.00	64,300
Walnuts	2003	848	1.39	1,180	Ton	942.00	1,112,000
	2002	856	1.21	1,040	Ton	1,040.00	1,083,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut Crops*	2003	158					643,000
	2002	137					748,000
Total	2003	4,500					$13,025,900
	2002	4,631					$14,550,300

*Almonds, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Olives, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pluots, Prunes, Pomegranates, Quinces, Strawberries and other Miscellaneous Tree Crops.

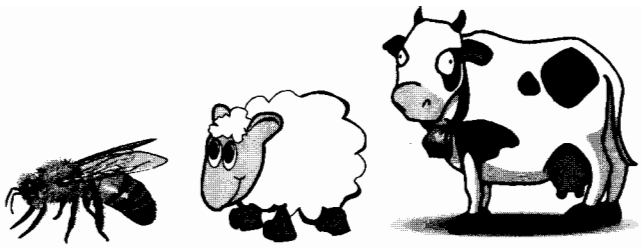
NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION AREA* HOUSE SQ. FT.	PRODUCTION AREA* FIELD ACRES	TOTAL $
Nursery Stock				
Bedding Plants	2003	6,105,000	315.00	25,493,000
	2002	5,030,000	315.00	26,111,000
Herbaceous Perennials	2003	668,000	16.10	2,715,000
	2002	668,000	17.10	2,967,000
Indoor Decoratives	2003	555,000	0.2	1,802,000
	2002	760,000		1,296,000
Vegetable Plants	2003	100,000	11.30	1,236,000
	2002	100,000	11.30	2,227,000
Cut Flowers**	2003	58,400	6.00	124,000
	2002	278,000	0.50	463,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Crops***	2003	18,000	30.90	2,316,000
	2002	18,000	15.60	2,321,000
Total	2003	7,504,400	380	33,686,000
	2002	6,854,000	360	35,385,000

*Gross Area

**Alstromeria, Carnations, Gerbera, Lilies, Roses, Misc. Flowers

***Christmas Trees, Potted Flowers & Vegetables, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Hanging Baskets Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees.



LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION NO.OF HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Cattle & Calves	2003	51,300	340,000	cwt.	74.70	25,400,000
	2002	44,500	320,000	cwt.	59.70	15,109,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry*	2003					500,000
	2002					494,000
Total	2003					$25,900,000
	2002					$15,603,000

LIVESTOCK, APIARY & POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Honey	2003	48,000	lbs.	4.00	192,000
	2002	37,000	lbs.	3.56	131,000
Beeswax	2003	200	lbs.	3.50	700
	2002	200	lbs.	3.50	700
Pollination	2003	600	colonies	50.00	30,000
	2002	600	colonies	45.00	27,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry Products**	2003				4,409,000
	2002				6,639,000
Total	2003				$4,631,700
	2002				$6,797,700

*Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Fish, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep and Turkeys.
**Milk, Wool, Eggs.

RECAPITULATION

CATEGORY	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS 2003	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS 2002	RANKING 2003	RANKING 2002
Nursery Products	33.7	35.4	1	1
Livestock & Poultry	25.9	15.6	2	2
Vegetable & Seed Crops	20.9	17.7	3	3
Fruit & Nut Crops	13.0	14.6	4	4
Field Crops	10.4	10.1	5	5
Livestock Products	4.6	6.8	6	6

CATEGORY	GROSS VALUE 2003	GROSS VALUE 2002	CHANGE
Field Crops	10,382,000	10,095,000	287,000
Vegetable & Seed Crops	20,941,900	17,723,100	3,218,800
Fruit & Nut Crops	13,025,900	14,550,300	-1,524,400
Nursery Crops	33,686,000	35,385,000	-1,699,000
Livestock & Poultry	25,900,000	15,603,000	10,297,000
Livestock, Apiary & Poultry Products	4,631,700	6,797,700	-2,166,000
Total	$108,567,500	$100,154,100	8,413,40

Total Acres in County	482,000
Population in County *	1,033,800
Land in Farms - Acres**	147,859
Harvested Cropland - Acres**	28,391

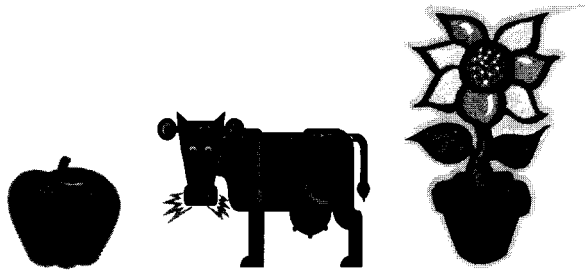
*July 2003
**1997 census

ORGANIC FARMING

	Apples	Apricots	Cherries	Corn	Garlic/Leeks/Onions	Herbs	Legumes: Beans/Peas	Nectarines	Peaches	Pears	Pistachios	Plums	Salad Greens	Squash/Melons/Cucumber	Table Grapes	Tomatoes/Eggplant/Pepper	Vegetables, Leafy	Vegetables, Root
No. of Farms	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Estimated Acres	2.0	2.0	7.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	8.0	24.0	6.0	36.8	1.0	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.3	1.3	0.1

Total Acres Organically Farmed 92.7

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS



CROP	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS 2003	2002	RANKING 2003	2002
Bedding Plants	25.5	$26.1	1	1
Cattle & Calves	25.4	15.1	2	2
Sweet Corn	9.5	9.6	3	3
Grapes	6.5	6.6	4	5
Miscellaneous Vegetables	6.3	3.7	5	7
Misc. Livestock Products	4.6	6.6	6	4
Rangeland Pasture	4.3	3.8	7	6
Tomatoes, all	3.8	3.3	8	8
Herbaceous Perennials	2.7	3.0	9	9
Miscellaneous Nursery	2.3	2.3	10	11
Hay - Alfalfa	2.1	2.0	11	13
Indoor Decoratives	1.8	1.3	13	15
Field Corn	1.7	1.8	12	14
Apples	1.4	2.4	14	10
Cherries	1.3	1.1	15	19
Beans	1.3		16	
Vegetable Plants	1.2	2.2	17	12
Walnuts	1.1	1.1	18	17

ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea solstitialis	Hairy weevil Eustenopus villosus	Ongoing
	YST flower weevil Larinus curtus	Ongoing

PEST EXCLUSION 2003

SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	Rejections	Total Inspected
Household GoodS	12	130
Mail/UPS/FEDEX	414	44,862 profiled 11,876 inspected
Truck	4	161
A & Q Rated Pests Intercepted	112	
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (B rated)		5,384
Rejections from Fed-Ex & UPS Inspections		
Burrowing Nematode	15	
Caribbean Fruit Fly	9	
Cedar-Apple Rust	12	
Cereal Leaf Beetle	1	
Cherry Fruit Fly	2	
Citrus Pests	11	
Citrus Canker	1	
Mexfly/CA and Mexfly/TX	2	
Colorado Potato Beetle	2	
Cotton Pests	1	
European Corn Borer	2	
Fire Ant	1	
Hydrilla	1	
Japanese Beetle	14	
Live Pests		
Ants - Hawaii	26	
Scale - Hawaii	3	
Mealybug - Hawaii	8	
Aphid - Hawaii	9	
Other Live Pests - Hawaii	21	
Live Pests from other states	8	
Nut Tree Pests	1	
Ozonium Root Rot	3	
Peach Mosaic	1	
Pine Shoot Beetle	1	
Plum Curculio	5	
Sugarcane Root Borer	1	
Walnut and Pecan Pests	1	
Rejections from Truck Inspections		
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Egg masses	1	
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Adults Trapped	2	
Apple Maggot, Weeds, Scales (B rated)	17	
Rejections from Household Goods Inspections		
Gypsy Moth, Tussock Moth	5	
Japanese Beetle	2	
Eastern Tent Caterpillar	3	

Direct Marketing

It's hard to beat the taste of tree ripened fruit, picked just hours before being eaten. You don't have to grow up on a farm or be a gourmet cook to know there is a world of difference between fresh fruits and vegetables that are harvested with an emphasis on ripeness and full flavor rather than an emphasis on a longer shelf life for shipping. However, there are many who have yet to discover that the wonderful and healthy flavors of farm fresh produce are readily available to them at reasonable prices.

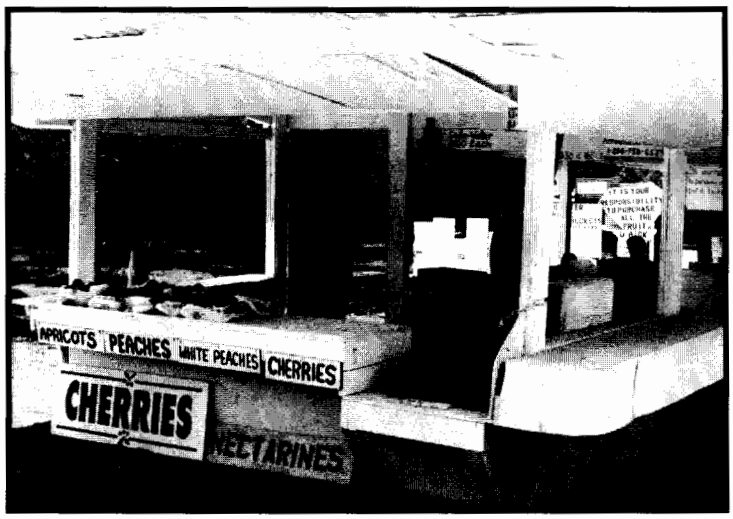
Luckily for Contra Costa and Bay Area residents, our county offers a wide range of Certified Farmers' Markets, grower's roadside stands, and U-Pick farms. These locations provide a great opportunity for consumers to reconnect to the seasons by meeting the growers while getting the freshest, California-grown produce available. There are so many types of produce to taste and try: new and old-fashioned varieties of fruit, specialty crops, ethnic vegetables, organic produce, and fresh herbs.

Certified Farmers' Markets and grower's roadside stands help to reestablish the links between growers and consumers and provide consumers with an opportunity to learn how their food supply is produced. Consumers can get recommendations on which varieties are best for baking, canning, or for eating fresh. They can often get information on how the produce is grown, ways to prepare the food, and other nutritional information. Along the way, the consumer gains a better understanding of the challenges faced by growers in producing the food we eat and often take for granted.

Included in this year's crop report is a listing of East Contra Costa County growers who offer fruit stands and U-Pick operations as part of the "Harvest Time in Brentwood" marketing group. These growers attract families from all over the Bay Area who have already discovered the outstanding quality and wide variety of crops available in our county.

Also included in this crop report is a listing of Certified Farmers' Markets that operate in Contra Costa County. In 1977, California direct marketing regulations were created to allow growers to sell their agricultural products, exempt from packing, sizing, and labeling requirements, at locations other than their roadside stands. These locations are called Certified Farmers' Markets. The intent of the direct marketing regulations was to allow California growers to sell their agricultural products directly to consumers while maintaining enough regulatory control to ensure consumers receive quality products in an honest and fair transaction. The produce sold at these locations must be sold by the grower and must meet the same health and quality standards that apply to roadside locations.

Both grower's stands and Certified Farmers' Markets represent examples of direct marketing by growers to consumers. This allows growers an alternative to large volume distribution marketing, with the ability to sell small amounts of produce as well as varieties that are too tender for large commercial production. Direct marketing eliminates the middleman, providing cost savings to consumers and higher profits to growers. Growers can market their produce without the added expense of shipping containers or commercial packaging.



U-Pick operation

Grower's Fruit Stand

Harvest Time

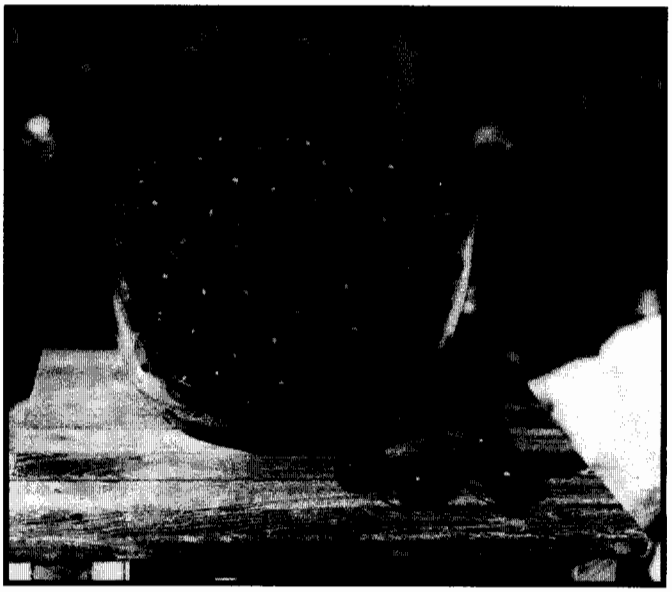
The Harvest Time members operate farms and ranches in eastern Contra Costa County that offers you the freshest, ripest, and tastiest produce found anywhere. Their produce is available as either U-Picked or Picked and provides a unique opportunity to see where the produce you see in the stores originates and take home some of the best produce available. Harvest Time began in 1976 with ten members and has since grown to over 32 members. For more information on Harvest Time, visit www.harvest4u.com, pick up a brochure from one of the member's locations, or send a self-addressed and stamped envelope to: Harvest Time, P.O. Box 810, Brentwood, CA 94513.

1. Pomeroy Farm: Picked & U-Pick cherries starting mid May to mid June. Picked & U-Pick nectarines, peaches and apricots mid May through June. Walnuts & walnut meats available.
2. Dwelley Farms: Picked apples, berries, cherries, apricots, plums, pluots, peaches, nectarines, squash, onions, beans, corn, black-eyed peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, peppers, eggplant, melons, etc. Open daily in season.
3. Lopez Ranch: Picked and U-Pick cherries, peaches, plums, nectarines, and apples. Open daily in season.
4. Salvador's Cherry Farm: U-Pick cherries starting mid May. Open Friday – Monday.
5. Maggiore Cherry Ranch: Picked & U-Pick cherries. Open daily in season.
7. Tachella Family Farms: Picked & U-Pick apricots, black-eyed peas, and okra. Picked apples, artichokes, asparagus, beans, beets, cherries, citrus, corn, cucumbers, figs, garlic, grapes, honey, melons, nectarines, onions, peaches, pears, peas, persimmons, pistachios, pomegranates, plums, pluots, potatoes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes. Open daily except Mondays.
8. Arata Farms Produce: Picked peaches, fruits, and vegetables.
9. DC's Extraordinary Cherries: U-Pick cherries. Open daily in season.
10. Dell's Retail Nursery: perennials, shrubs, trees, etc. Open daily.

* Numbers can be used to find the ranch location on the harvest time map at the end of this report

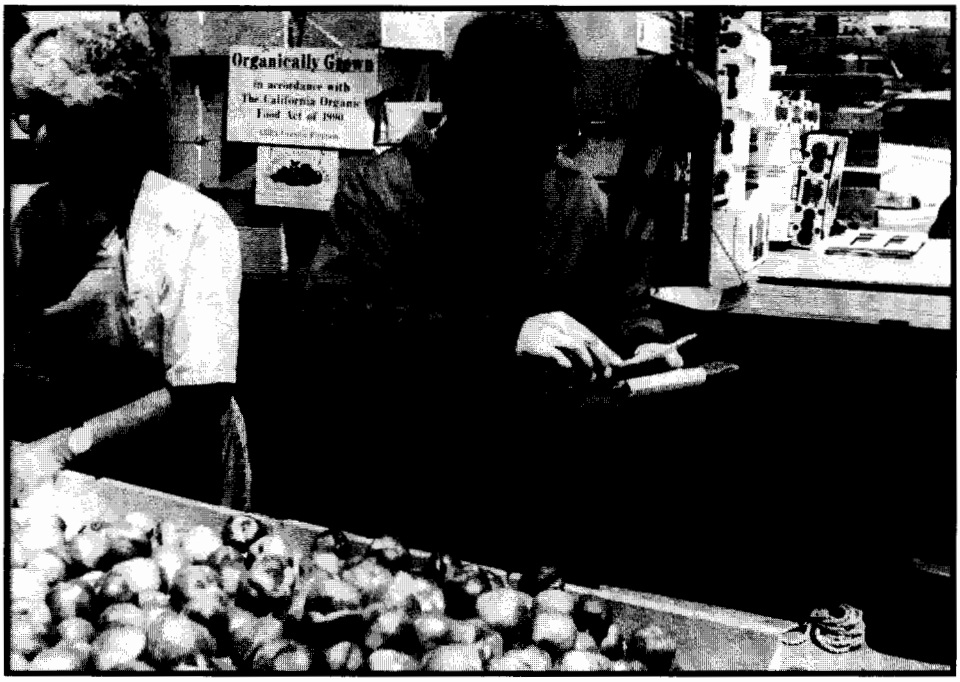
11. Nunn Better Farms: U-Pick cherries on Sellers Ave. 3.5 miles north of Hwy 4. Picked corn and apples. Picked produce sold by the box only. Call for availability.
12. Canciamilla Ranch: Picked & U-Pick peaches, nectarines, and plums. Open daily.
13. Brentwood Olive Oil Company: various olive oil related products Saturdays and Sundays.
14. T.K.'s Best Produce: Picked corn, tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, pluots, onions, cucumbers, green beans, grapes, strawberries, cherries, apricots, peaches, plums, and nectarines. Open daily in season.
15. Bacchini's Fruit Tree: Picked and U-Pick cherries, apricots, plums, and pluots. Open daily in season.
16. Moffatt Ranch: Picked and U-Pick peaches and nectarines. Bring containers. Open daily in season.
16. Papini Farms: Picked and U-Pick cherries, peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums. Open daily in season.
19. Peter Wolfe: Picked apricots, peaches, plums, and wine grapes. Open daily.
20. The Gerrys' Fruit Bowl: Picked and U-Pick peaches, plums, nectarines, apples, and Asian pears. Open daily.
21. The Farmer's Daughter Produce: Picked and U-Pick cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, and plums. Picked corn and other produce.
22. The Gerrys' White Peaches: U-Pick peaches and nectarines. Open daily in season.
23. Wolfe Ranch Cherries: Picked and U-Pick cherries, peaches, loquats, nectarines, and apricots.
24. Tidrick Ranch: Picked and U-Pick cherries. Open daily in season.
25. Sharp Ranch U-Pick Cherries: U-pick cherries. Open Friday through Sunday in season.
26. Seko Ranch Cherries: Picked and U-Pick cherries. Open daily in season.
27. McKinney Farms: Picked and U-Pick peaches, apricots, and nectarines. Picked melons and other produce. Open daily in season.
28. Shelly's Garden: Picked herbs, etc.
29. Lewis Family Farms: Picked tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, peppers, apricots, plums, peaches, persimmons, pomegranates, figs, etc. Open daily in season.
30. Gursky Ranch Country Store: U-pick walnuts. Various dried fruits and nuts. Open daily in season.

U-Pick peaches



U-Pick cherries

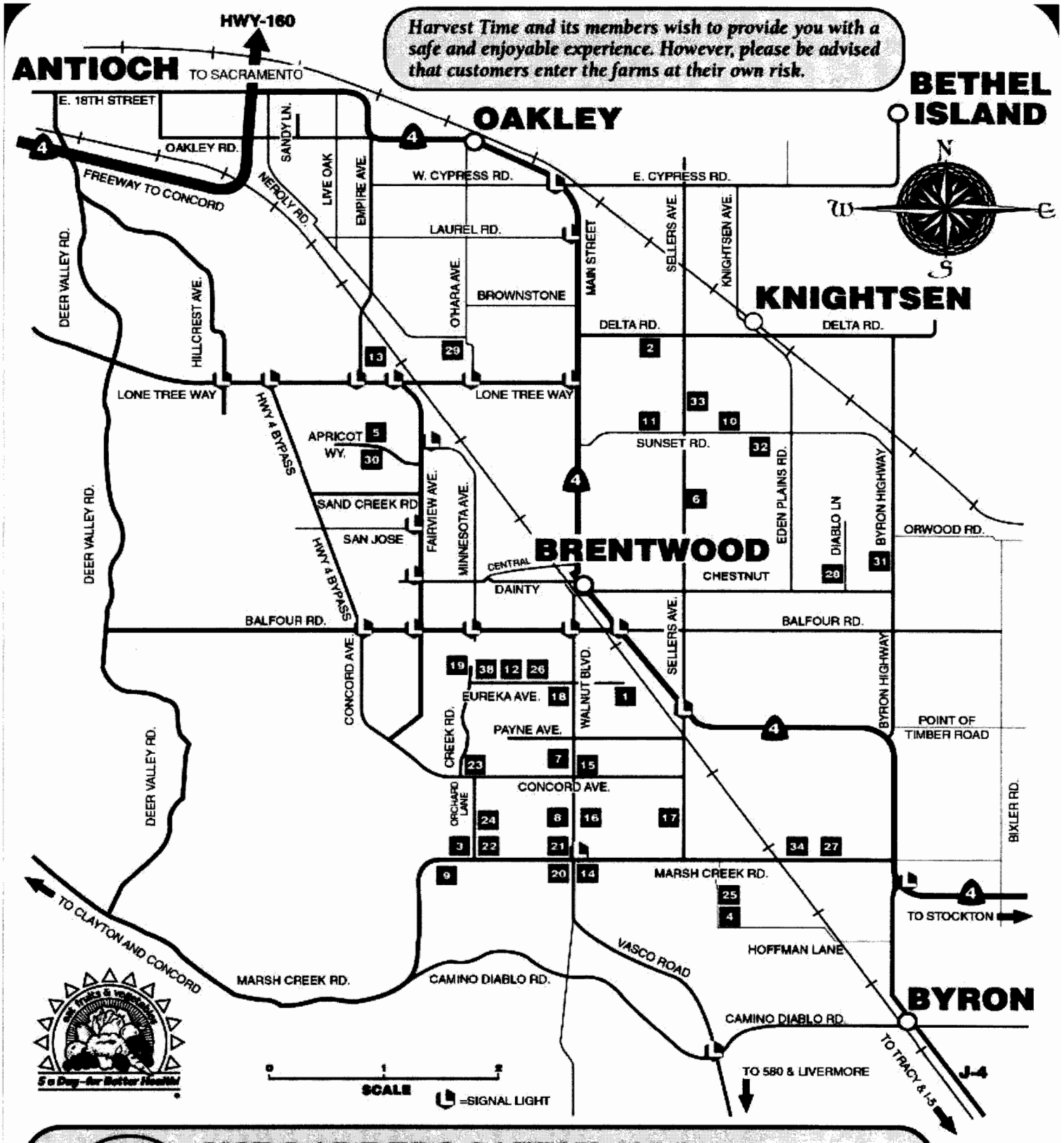
31. Spinola Farm & Nursery: potted nursery stock.
32. Delta Diablo Vineyard: U-Pick grapes.
33. Smith Family Farm: Picked and U-Pick tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, beans. Picked herbs, eggplant, peaches, nectarines, apricots, corn, cherries, melons, onions, apples, and flowers. U-Pick boysenberries.
34. Pease Ranch: Picked and U-Pick cherries and berries. Open daily in season.
38. Fred's Cherries – Brentwood Garden Ranch: U-Pick cherries.



Certified Farmers' Market inspection

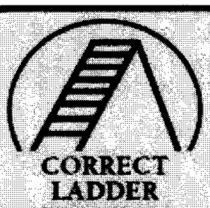
Certified Farmers' Market stand

A produce stand

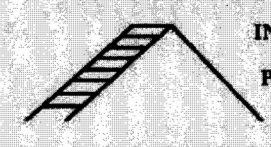


Harvest Time and its members wish to provide you with a safe and enjoyable experience. However, please be advised that customers enter the farms at their own risk.

USE LADDERS SAFELY



CORRECT LADDER POSITION



INCORRECT LADDER POSITIONS

1. Set ladder securely.
2. Do not stand on top 3 steps.
3. Do not rest ladder against any part of tree.
4. Keep your balance when reaching for fruit.
5. Report a broken ladder to the grower.
6. PLEASE no children on ladders.

THE THEFT OF PRODUCE IS A MISDEMEANOR; VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

Contra Costa County Certified Farmers' Markets

There are approximately 368 Certified Farmers' Markets and approximately 2,900 certified producers in California. Of these markets, 51% are year-round markets and the balance is seasonal. In a typical year, the majority of the seasonal markets operate from April through October of each year. Contra Costa County currently has eleven Certified Farmers' Markets listed below.

Concord Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Todos Santos Park, Willow Pass and Grant. Telephone: (925) 825-9090
Hours: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. all year: Thursdays 4 – 8 p.m., June – November

Danville Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Hartz between Diablo and Prospect. Telephone: (925) 825-9090
Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. all year

El Cerrito Certified Farmers' Market
Location: 307 El Cerrito Plaza. Telephone: (510) 528-7992
Hours: Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. all year

Martinez Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Court between Escobar and Main. Telephone: (925) 426-5420
Hours: Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., May – November

Martinez Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Main between Castro and Ferry. Telephone: (925) 431-8361
Hours: Sundays, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., May – October

Orinda Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Orinda at Camino Pablo. Telephone: (925) 431-8361
Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., June – November

Pinole Certified Farmers' Market
Location: City Hall parking lot between Plum and Prune. Telephone: (925) 825-9090
Hours: Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., May – November

Pleasant Hill Certified Farmers' Market
Location: 100 Gregory Ln. Telephone: (925) 431-8361
Hours: Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., May – November

Richmond Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Civic Center Drive, front of library. Telephone: (510) 758-3011
Hours: Fridays, 12 – 6 p.m., May – November

Rossmoor Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Rossmoor Clubhouse parking lot. Telephone: (925) 689-4141
Hours: Fridays, 12 – 6 p.m., May – October

Walnut Creek Certified Farmers' Market
Location: Broadway and Lincoln. Telephone: (925) 431-8361
Hours: Sundays, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. all year

Contra Costa County

2002 Annual Crop Report

Department of Agriculture

2366 A Stanwell Circle
Concord, California 94520-4807
(925) 646-5250
FAX (925) 646-5732

Branch Office
724 - 3rd Street
Brentwood, California 94513-1360
(925) 634-5682
FAX (925) 634-2201

Contra Costa County

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner-
Director Of Weights and Measures

To: BILL LYONS, JR., SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
and
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2002 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control Activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2002 was $100,154,100, up $2,638,700 dollars from 2001. Despite this increase in gross value, most major crop categories had reductions in value.

Nursery Product values dropped as some growers went out of business or reduced their operations. Grain Hay prices dropped due to a combination of overproduction and bad weather during harvest. Apple acreage dropped as growers removed varieties that tended to have lower yields and/or prices. Walnut acreage was reduced due to development.

Market competition held prices per ton low for many crops such as field corn, processing tomatoes, and processing apricots. In some cases, the lower prices led to decreases in the acreage planted. The price of wine grapes continued to decrease due to overproduction. Prices per ton went up for peaches, cherries, fresh market tomatoes, and other fresh market fruits and vegetables, as more growers sold commodities directly to consumers.

There were some significant changes in the 2002 Annual Crop and Livestock Report. The number of head of Cattle & Calves reported increased as new data became available. The Miscellaneous Livestock Product category decreased as Contra Costa County's largest dairy closed during 2002.

Several crop categories exceeded $1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include bedding plants, cattle and calves, sweet corn, miscellaneous livestock products, grapes, rangeland pasture, miscellaneous vegetables, tomatoes, herbaceous perennials, apples, miscellaneous nursery, vegetable plants, alfalfa, field corn, indoor decoratives, apricots, walnuts, peaches, and cherries.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are gross receipts and do not include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Nancy Niemeyer and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures
Edward P. Meyer

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Vince Guise

AGRICULTURE

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
Suzanne Maddux
Cathleen M. Roybal
Bob Case
Larry Yost

Agricultural Biologist III
Ann McClure
Patty Whitlock

Agricultural Biologist II
Joe Deviney
Ralph Fonseca
Gene Mangini
Jorge Vargas
Nancy Niemeyer
Beth Slate

Agricultural Biologist I
Matthew Slattengren
Abdoulaye Niang
Jodie Snowbarger

WEIGHTS and MEASURES

Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures
Patrick J. Roof

Weights & Measures Inspector III
Arthur Mangonon

Weights & Measures Inspector II
Cris Espejo
Gil Rocha
Cecilie Siegel-Sebolt
Becky Schwenger

Weights & Measures Trainee
Ngozi Egbuna

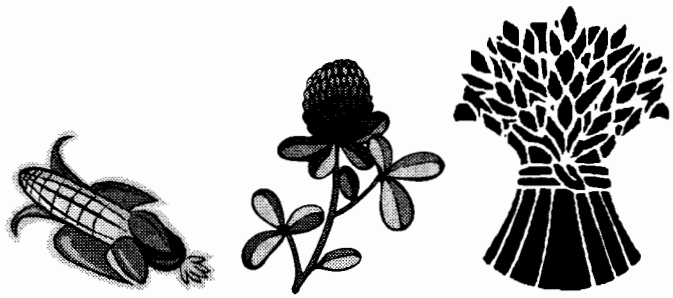
CLERICAL

Executive Secretary
Susan Finley

Senior Clerk
Teri Murphy

On the Cover: various Contra Costa County fruit crate labels from the mid 20th century.

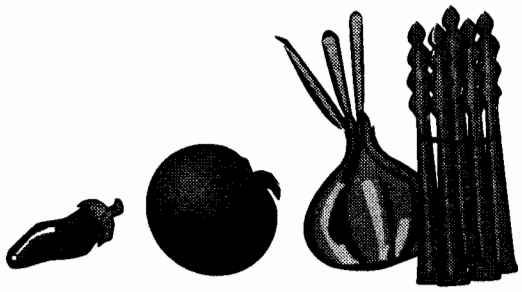
FIELD CROPS



CROP		YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Field Corn		2002	5,230	3.97	20,800	Ton	87.40	1,816,000
		2001	6,650	3.72	24,700	Ton	89.70	2,217,000
Hay	Alfalfa	2002	3,610	5.36	19,300	Ton	105.00	2,036,000
		2001	3,610	5.76	20,800	Ton	117.00	2,441,000
	Grain	2002	2,170	2.29	4,990	Ton	64.40	321,000
		2001	1,340	2.14	2,860	Ton	86.30	246,000
Pasture	Irrigated	2002	5,550		Grazed	Acre	155.00	860,000
		2001	5,620		Grazed	Acre	150.00	843,000
Pasture	Rangeland	2002	258,000			Acre	14.90	3,844,000
		2001	259,000			Acre	17.50	4,533,000
Safflower		2002	478	1.15	549	Ton	211.00	116,000
		2001	504	1.04	522	Ton	219.00	114,000
Wheat		2002	1,430	2.11	3,010	Ton	108.00	325,000
		2001	3,150	2.16	6,790	Ton	90.70	616,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops*		2002	3,150					777,000
		2001	2,088					1,130,000
Total		2002	279,618					$10,095,000
		2001	281,962					$12,140,000

*Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Rye, Silage, Straw, Sudan Grass

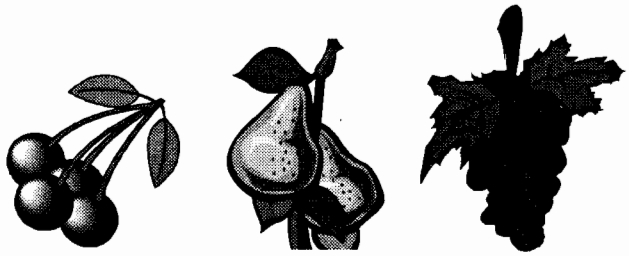
VEGETABLE & SEED CROPS



CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Beans	2002	283	3.42	965	Ton	1,020.00	986,000
	2001	263	3.57	937	Ton	1,010.00	950,000
Onions	2002	11	12.6	140	Ton	436.00	61,100
	2001	34	15.4	525	Ton	409.00	215,000
Squash	2002	21	4.38	91	Ton	627.00	57,000
	2001	18	4.01	70	Ton	714.00	50,000
Sweet Corn	2002	2,940	9.68	28,500	Ton	338.00	9,617,000
	2001	2,760	9.61	26,500	Ton	327.00	8,652,000
Tomatoes							
Total	2002	1,089		42,740	Ton		3,264,000
	2001	1,662		59,264	Ton		3,518,000
Fresh	2002	65	16.10	1,040	Ton	1,170.00	1,222,000
	2001	72	13.40	964	Ton	790.00	761,000
Processing	2002	1,024	40.70	41,700	Ton	49.00	2,042,000
	2001	1,590	36.60	58,300	Ton	47.30	2,757,000
Miscellaneous Vegetable and Seed Crops*	2002	1,520					3,738,000
	2001	1,270					2,670,000
Total	2002	5,864					$17,723,100
	2001	6,007					$16,055,000

* Asparagus, Artichokes, Assorted Vegetables, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic Lettuce, Okra, Organic Greens, Herbs, Melons, Peas, Peppers, Wheatgrass.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS



CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Apples	2002	582	9.25	5,380	Ton	444.00	2,390,000
	2001	1,640	4.52	7,420	Ton	440.00	3,270,000
Apricots							
Total	2002	559	4.91	2,750	Ton		1,166,000
	2001	639	6.31	4,030	Ton		1,332,000
Fresh	2002			647	Ton	828.00	536,000
	2001			340	Ton	714.00	243,000
Processing	2002			2,100	Ton	300.00	630,000
	2001			3,690	Ton	295.00	1,089,000
Cherries	2002	284	1.30	369	Ton	2,860.00	1,054,000
	2001	331	1.71	565	Ton	2,220.00	1,254,000
Grapes	2002	1,960	3.97	7,790	Ton	848.00	6,609,000
	2001	1,890	4.03	7,610	Ton	946.00	7,201,000
Nectarines	2002	33	2.33	77	Ton	2,350.00	182,000
	2001	31	2.07	64	Ton	1,600.00	103,000
Peaches	2002	149	4.49	667	Ton	1,580.00	1,057,000
	2001	141	3.51	495	Ton	1,250.00	617,000
Pears	2002	53	18.20	968	Ton	203.00	197,000
	2001	49	11.20	551	Ton	215.00	118,000
Plums	2002	18	2.45	46	Ton	1,400.00	64,300
	2001	23	2.24	51	Ton	931.00	47,600
Walnuts	2002	856	1.21	1,040	Ton	1,040.00	1,083,000
	2001	1,026	1.12	1,150	Ton	991.00	1,138,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut Crops*	2002	137					748,000
	2001	127					529,000
Total	2002	4,631					$14,550,300
	2001	5,897					$15,609,600

*Almonds, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pluots, Pomegranates, Strawberries and other Miscellaneous Tree Crops.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

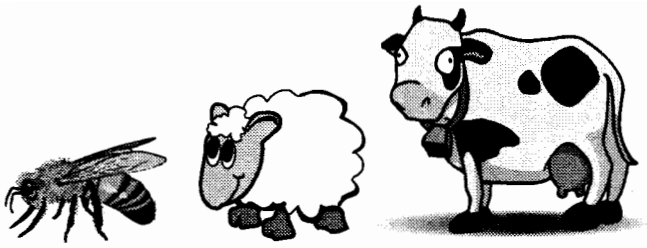
CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION AREA* HOUSE SQ. FT.	PRODUCTION AREA* FIELD ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Nursery Stock							
Bedding Plants	2002	5,030,000	315.00				26,111,000
	2001	5,955,000	312.00				26,921,000
Herbaceous Perennials	2002	668,000	17.10				2,967,000
	2001	717,000	15.35				3,842,000
Indoor Decoratives	2002	760,000					1,296,000
	2001	760,000					1,281,000
Vegetable Plants	2002	100,000	11.30				2,227,000
	2001	110,000	11.30				2,216,000
Christmas Trees	2002		32.00	1,120	Trees	37.70	42,000
	2001		54.00	1,420	Trees	36.40	51,500
Cut Flowers**	2002	278,000	0.50		Blooms		463,000
	2001	330,000	3.00		Blooms		767,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Crops***	2002	18,000	15.60				2,279,000
	2001	135,000	21.70				2,431,000
Total	2002	6,854,000	392				35,385,000
	2001	8,007,000	417				37,509,500

*Gross Area

**Alstromeria, Carnations, Gerbera, Lilies, Roses, Misc. Flowers

***Potted Flowers & Vegetables, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Hanging Baskets Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY



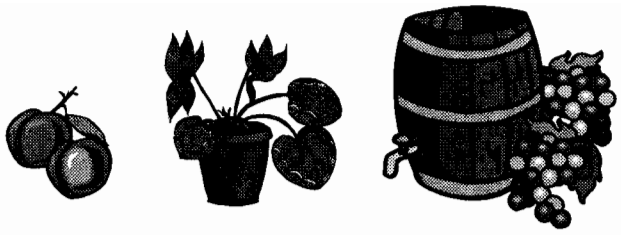
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION NO. OF HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Cattle & Calves	2002	44,500	320,000	cwt.	59.70	15,109,000
	2001	14,400	104,000	cwt.	66.90	6,953,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry*	2002					494,000
	2001					471,000
Total	2002					$15,603,000
	2001					$7,424,000

LIVESTOCK, APIARY & POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL $
Honey	2002	37,000	lbs.	3.56	131,000
	2001	36,000	lbs.	2.55	91,800
Beeswax	2002	200	lbs.	3.50	700
	2001	200	lbs.	2.50	500
Pollination	2002	600	colonies	45.00	27,000
	2001	600	colonies	25.00	15,000
Miscellaneous Livestock & Poultry Products**	2002				6,639,000
	2001				8,670,000
Total	2002				$6,797,700
	2001				$8,777,300

*Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Fish, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep and Turkeys.
**Milk, Wool, Eggs

RECAPITULATION



CATEGORY	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS 2002	2001	RANKING 2002	2001
Nursery Products	35.4	37.5	1	1
Vegetable & Seed Crops	17.7	17.0	2	2
Livestock & Poultry	15.6	7.4	3	6
Fruit & Nut Crops	14.6	15.6	4	3
Field Crops	10.1	12.5	5	4
Livestock Products	6.8	8.8	6	5

CATEGORY	GROSS VALUE 2002	2001	CHANGE
Field Crops	10,095,000	12,140,000	-2,045,000
Vegetable & Seed Crops	17,723,100	16,055,000	1,668,100
Fruit & Nut Crops	14,550,300	15,609,600	-1,059,300
Nursery Crops	35,385,000	37,509,500	-2,124,500
Livestock & Poultry	15,603,000	7,424,000	8,179,000
Livestock, Apiary & Poultry Products	6,797,700	8,777,300	-1,979,600
Total	$100,154,100	$97,515,400	2,638,700

Total Acres in County	482,000
Population in County *	982,000
Land in Farms - Acres**	147,859
Harvested Cropland - Acres**	28,391

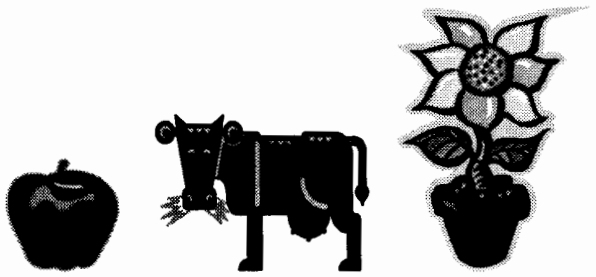
*Jan. 2002
**1997 census

ORGANIC FARMING

	Apples	Apricots	Berries	Cherries	Citrus	Corn	Flowers	Fruit Misc.	Garlic/Leeks/Onions	Herbs	Legumes: Beans/Peas	Nectarines	Nuts/Walnuts	Peaches	Pears	Persimmon	Pistachios	Plums	Salad Greens	Squash, Melons	Table Grapes	Tomatoes/Eggplant/Pepper	Vegetables, Leafy	Vegetables, Root
No. of Farms	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	4	1	4	3	3
Estimated Acres	0.2	2.5	0.1	7.5	1.0	0.1	1.4	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.1	2.5	0.5	25.0	6.1	0.3	36.8	1.5	0.8	0.9	2.0	1.3	0.4	0.3

Total Acres Organically Farmed 93.8

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS



CROP	GROSS VALUE/MILLION DOLLARS		RANK	
	2002	2001	2002	2001
Bedding Plants	$26.1	$26.9	1	1
Cattle & Calves	15.1	7.0	2	5
Sweet Corn	9.6	8.7	3	3
Misc. Livestock Products	6.6	8.7	4	2
Grapes	6.6	7.2	5	4
Rangeland Pasture	3.8	4.5	6	6
Miscellaneous Vegetables	3.7	2.7	7	10
Tomatoes, all	3.3	3.5	8	8
Herbaceous Perennials	3.0	3.8	9	7
Apples	2.4	3.3	10	9
Miscellaneous Nursery	2.3	2.4	11	12
Vegetable Plants	2.2	2.2	12	14
Hay - Alfalfa	2.0	2.4	13	11
Field Corn	1.8	2.2	14	13
Indoor Decoratives	1.3	1.3	15	16
Apricots	1.2	1.3	16	15
Walnuts	1.1	1.1	17	18
Peaches	1.1		18	
Cherries	1.1	1.3	19	17

ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

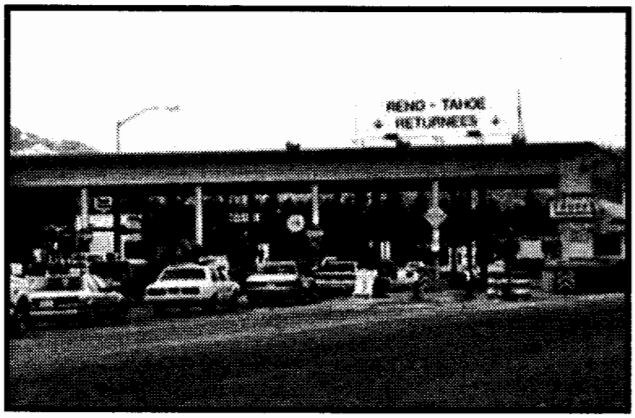
Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea solstitialis	Hairy weevil Eustenopus villosus	Six releases by the Contra Costa County Ag Dept.
	YST flower weevil Larinus curtus	Six releases by the Contra Costa County Ag Dept.

Quarantine and Pest Exclusion

The last page of this crop report presents a summary of Pest Exclusion activity performed by our Department's staff in 2002. On that page, we list the results of over 46,000 shipments that were profiled or inspected. But what does this information represent and why is it important?

Our exclusion inspection activities are part of a larger statewide safety net designed to protect California's agriculture and native environment from the introduction of new exotic pests. This safety net involves Federal, State, and County agencies working cooperatively to enforce quarantines against exotic pests and diseases.

You may already be familiar with the inspection stations at airports, state border stations, and shipping ports where commodities and packages are checked for infested items. Our County Biologists perform a wide range of quarantine inspections at locations throughout Contra Costa County. They inspect shipments of nursery plants from out of state and infested areas within California. Plant material is inspected daily at parcel delivery services. During holiday seasons such as Christmas or on special occasions such as Valentines Day and Mother's Day, these facilities process hundreds of shipments of wreaths, flowers, fruit, and plants from all over the world. County Biologists also check shipments of seed for noxious weed seeds. Even moving vans are inspected for Gypsy Moth and other pests when they carry household goods from other states.



Border inspection station

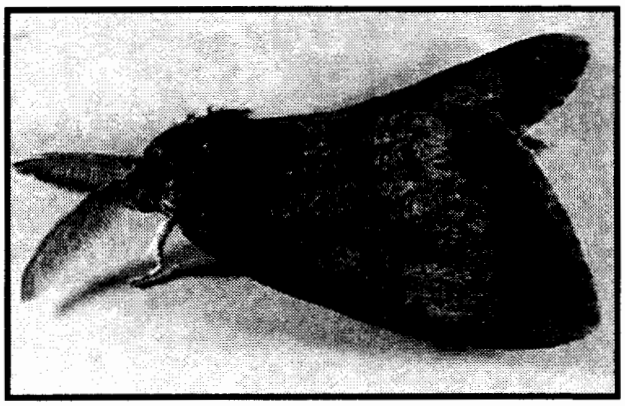
Quarantine inspection

The fact is, most exotic pests come into California because people bring or send them. California has a higher risk from the introduction of exotic pests and diseases than any other state and in many ways we have the most to lose! California's major shipping ports, airports, and border with Mexico provides many opportunities for the introduction of exotic pests. Besides being the most populated state, we are also one of the nation's most diverse, with 32% being Hispanic or Latino, and 12% of Asian descent. The number of products that are imported by family members who visit relatives or send gifts from their native countries, along with the items brought by millions of foreign visitors who come to California every year, increases the potential for an occasional shipment to be contaminated with unwanted exotic pests.

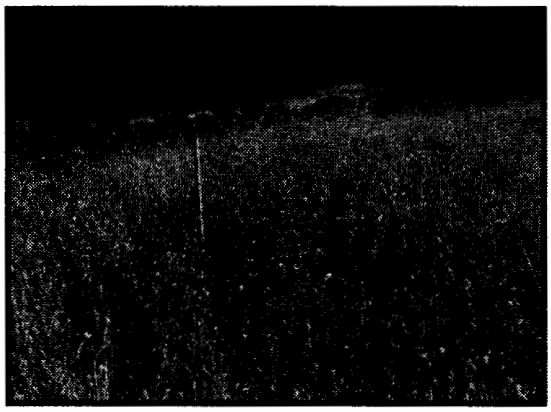
What are exotic pests? These pests can be plants, insects, snails, weeds, diseases, nematodes, vertebrates, or other organisms. They are exotic in the sense that they are new to our State and/or the United States. Since they are new, the natural enemies that keep their populations under control in their native countries may not be present here. The result can lead to explosive populations that cause widespread damage to agricultural products or displace native species of plants, animals and insects. Likewise, exotic animal or plant diseases can have a dramatic impact when introduced into new areas. Local plant and animal populations haven't had the time to develop resistance to these new diseases so the results are often catastrophic.

Exotic pests can hide in produce, nursery plants, flowers, bulbs, soil, wood, meat, animals, equipment, clothing, and vehicles that originate outside of California. This is why the County Agricultural Commissioner offices throughout the state inspect shipments of potential host material being delivered to California. One contaminated item can be enough to lead to disaster. A single papaya could hold fifty Medfly maggots. One Gypsy Moth egg mass carried on someone's camper could hatch into hundreds of hungry caterpillars. An infected bay laurel leaf could contain thousands of Sudden Oak Death spores.

Insects most often come to mind when discussing exotic pests. This is because many of us have heard of new infestations of Mediterranean fruit fly, Africanized Honey Bees, Boll Weevil, Gypsy Moth, and Red Imported Fire Ant. For each of these exotic insects you've heard about, there are countless others worldwide that could also be devastating to California's agriculture and environment.



Gypsy Moth



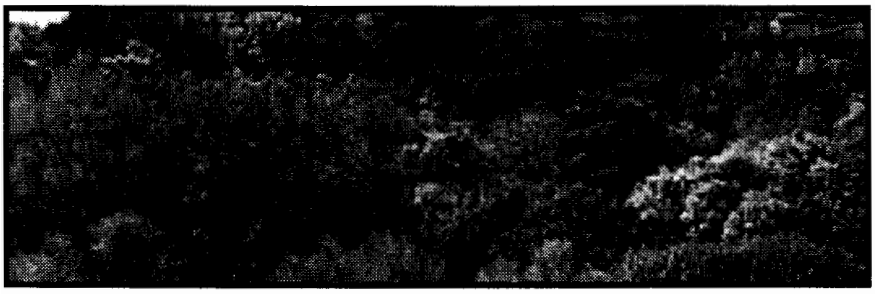
Yellow Starthistle

Weeds are another common type of exotic pest. Many of our worst exotic weeds came to California as seed in animal feed or in contaminated crop seed. Others were brought in as ornamental plants that escaped into the wild. Exotic weeds can displace native plants. Most don't have the predators or natural diseases that have kept them under control in their native lands. Yellow Starthistle, for example, already infests more than 8 million acres statewide resulting in a dramatic loss in the productivity of grazing land. It has also made many recreational areas less accessible as it has choked out desired vegetation. Yet in its native land, Yellow Starthistle is a minor weed pest. Water hyacinth, an aquatic weed, grows so densely and quickly that it destroys habitat and ruins the recreational use of rivers, lakes and ponds. These and other exotic weeds threaten to infest an ever-increasing area of California.

Diseases that can affect plants, animals, or even humans are another type of exotic pest. Currently, Exotic Newcastle Disease, a highly contagious virus that affects all species of birds, has been found in Southern California. Exotic Newcastle Disease is one of the most infectious diseases of poultry in the world. It is so virulent that a fatality rate of nearly 100 percent can occur. This new infestation has led to an eradication effort consisting of quarantines, door-to-door surveys, and the destruction of millions of birds infected with or exposed to the disease. The eradication effort will likely cost taxpayers over $100 million.

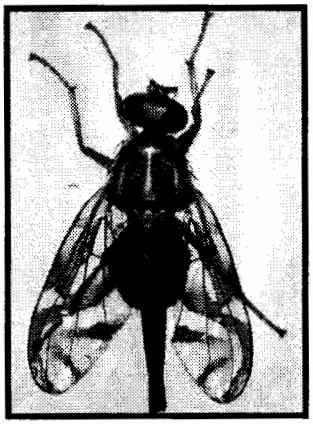
The Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak illustrates how devastating new diseases can be to livestock, poultry, and to our economy. Other diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Anthrax, and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy can pose a threat to people as well as livestock and native animals. Animal products as well as live animals can introduce exotic diseases. Clearly, the smuggling of animal or animal products, whether as pets or livestock, can have serious consequences to California and are subject to strict regulation.

Some diseases can threaten both agricultural and native plants. Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is an example of how an exotic plant disease can threaten entire ecosystems. It was discovered in 1995 in the coastal areas of central California. SOD attacks many native plants such as oaks, toyon, buckeye, manzanita, bay laurel, madrone, and rhododendron, with even more new hosts being identified as research on the disease continues. SOD has already killed tanoaks, black oaks, and coast live oaks in large numbers along California's north central coast and it seems to be spreading. As of the end of 2002, twelve counties including Contra Costa County have been declared infested.



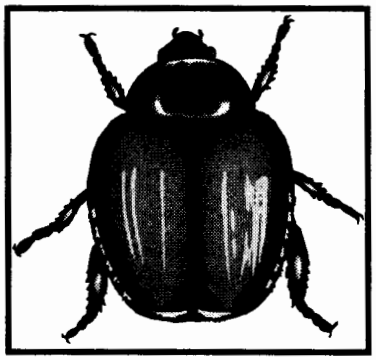
Sudden Oak Death

We don't always fully appreciate the potential impact of new exotic pests when they are first detected. The Glassy-winged Sharpshooter did not attract much attention when it first became established in Southern California. However, it has now been recognized as a very efficient transmitter of diseases from one plant to another. Much of the wine industry in the Temecula region of Southern California faced disaster when the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter started a Pierce's disease epidemic in their vineyards. Pierce's disease is a lethal and untreatable disease of grapes. The disease itself is common in California but our native vectors had a limited ability to transmit the disease. The Glassy-winged Sharpshooter is now recognized as a significant threat to California's $33 billion wine industry because it can efficiently spread the disease over large areas. Glassy-winged Sharpshooter is also recognized as a threat to other types of plants, as it is capable of spreading many other diseases to agricultural, landscape, and native plants.



Mexican Fruit Fly

Glassywinged Sharpshooter

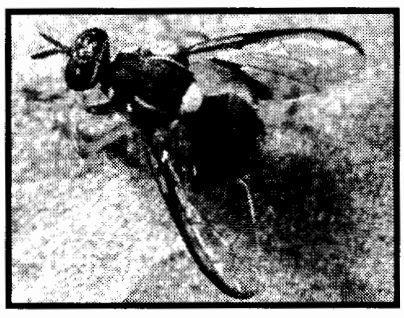


Japanese Beetle

Inspections to enforce Federal and State quarantines are not the only ways exotic pests and diseases are found and controlled. California has a pest detection program deploying over 63,000 detection traps statewide just for exotic fruit flies. Contra Costa County has over 5,000 of these traps. Special surveys are conducted for other serious plant and animal diseases. Early detection of infestations is vitally important in any control program. When an infestation or outbreak is found, an aggressive eradication program begins. Eradication begins with intensive trapping or surveys to determine the size of the infestation. Quarantines may be established to prevent pests or diseases from moving out of the area. Finally, there is treatment of the infested area using sterile releases, pesticides or the destruction of infected animals or plants.

Once an exotic pest infestation has started, it may be difficult and expensive to eradicate. However, in many cases the long-term economic impacts make it even more expensive not to eradicate the pest. For example, Mediterranean fruit fly infests up to 260 types of produce grown in California. In Greece, where it comes from, up to 50% of the citrus crop is lost due to Medfly damage. If the Medfly became established in California there would be lower yields and reduced quality of both backyard and commercial crops. Pesticide use would increase greatly and there would be a loss of markets for California produce due to domestic and foreign quarantines. In 1980, it cost over one hundred million dollars to eradicate Medfly infestations in California. Nevertheless, the economic impacts of not eradicating this exotic pest would have far exceeded this cost.

Med Fly

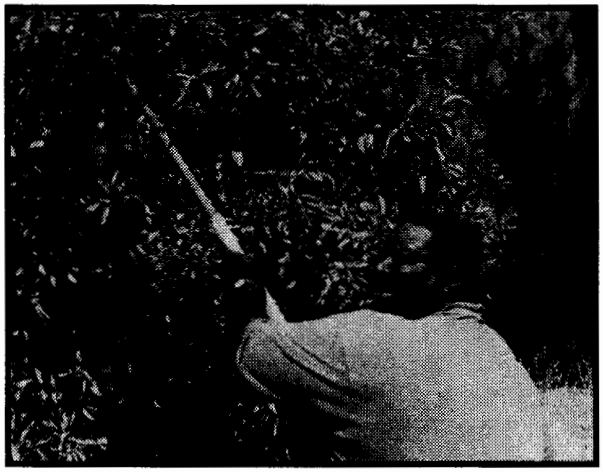


Oriental Fruit Fly

Caribbean Fruit Fly

Other states and countries are concerned about exotic pests and impose quarantines for the same reasons we do. If a serious exotic pest or disease became established in California, other governments would protect their own environment and economies by banning California agricultural commodities. California produces more than 350 crop and livestock commodities, many of which go to the export market. A large part of California's economy is based on agriculture, with the statewide economic impact estimated at 100 billion dollars.

In the aftermath of September 11, people have come to think about the possibility that terrorists could try to introduce an exotic pest or disease into California as a simple way to cause our nation economic harm. While most people's concerns have centered on diseases affecting humans, pests that attack our food supply, environment, and economy also deserve consideration. However, the safety net of quarantine and detection procedures already established to prevent and control the accidental introduction of pests into our State will also help to protect us from intentional introductions.



Monitoring for exotic insect pests

Release of sterile flies

Each interception listed on the last page of this report represents an aborted opportunity for a new pest to be introduced into our State and County. Having an effective inspection program is one of our Department's highest priorities because it is the most cost effective way to protect both the agricultural industry and our native flora and fauna. Preserving both helps to protect our quality of life and our economy.

Everyone can help in this effort. Check quarantine and inspection requirements before bringing or mailing any produce, animal, or plant into California. If you are bringing food, plants, or animal products from a foreign county, declare them at your port of entry so they can be properly inspected. If you find a new pest (insect, weed, animal or disease) contact the County Department of Agriculture to receive help in identification. Your efforts may prevent an infestation that could cost California taxpayers millions of dollars and put our quality of life at serious risk.

PEST EXCLUSION 2002

SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	Rejections	Total Inspected
Household Goods	18	158
Mail/UPS/FEDEX	84	36,944 profiled 9,140 inspected
Truck	6	269
A & Q Rated Pests Intercepted	59	

Rejections from Fed-Ex & UPS Inspections

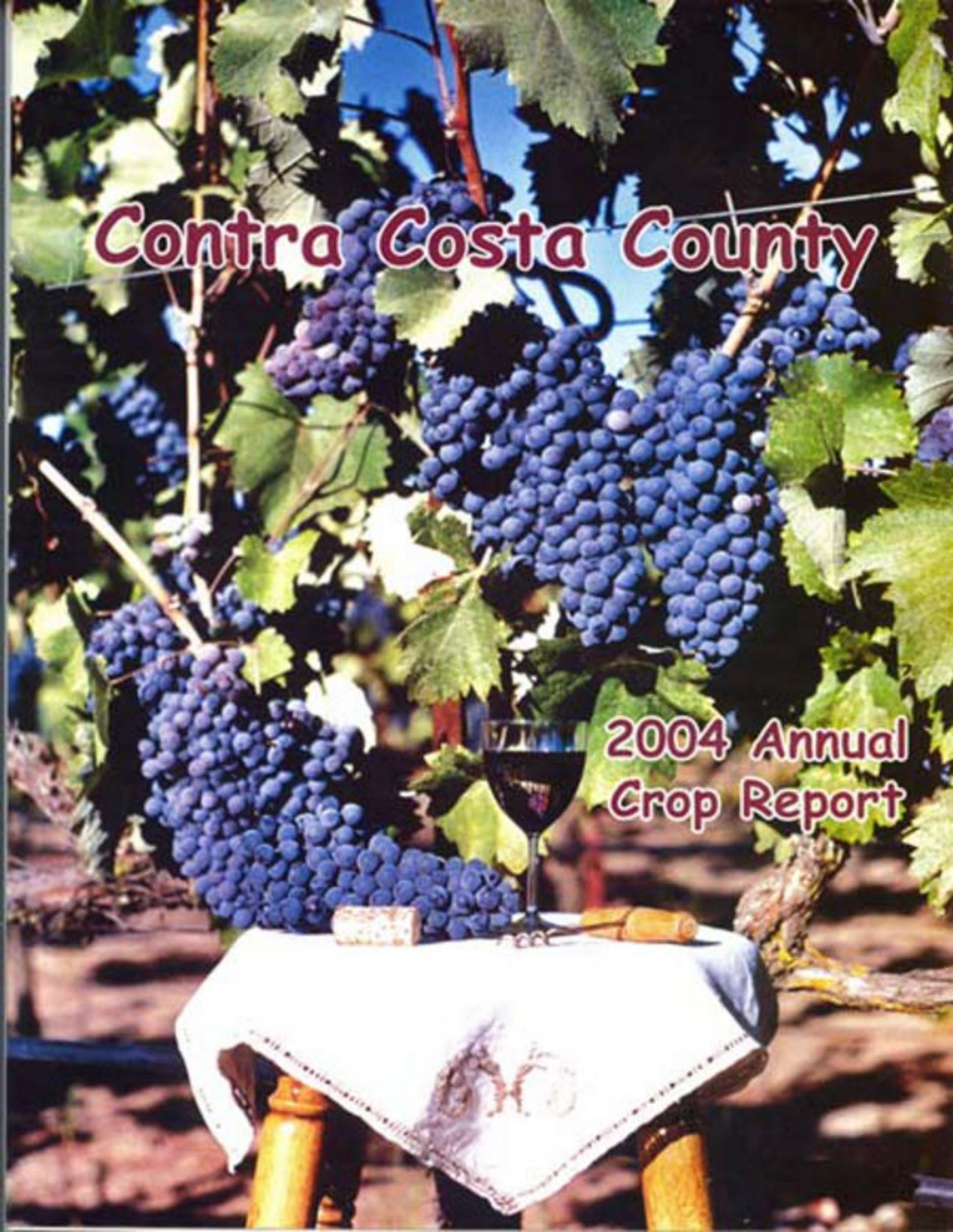
Burrowing Nematode	10
Caribbean Fruit Fly	4
Cedar-Apple Rust	24
Cereal Leaf Beetle	3
Cherry Fruit Fly	1
Citrus Pests	29
Citrus Canker	1
Mexfly/CA and Mexfly/TX	2
Colorado Potato Beetle	2
Cornstalk Borer	2
Cotton Pests	1
European Corn Borer	3
Fire Ant	2
Golden Nematode	1
Japanese Beetle	21
Live Pests	
Ants - Hawaii	14
Scale - Hawaii	3
Hibiscus Mealybug - Hawaii	1
Snails and Slugs	3
Other Live Pests - Hawaii	18
Live Pests from other states	13
Nut Tree Pests	1
Ozonium Root Rot	7
Plum Curculio	19
Sweet Potato Weevil	1
Walnut and Pecan Pests	6

Rejections from Truck Inspections

Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Egg masses	5
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Adults Trapped	2
Quackgrass, Canada Thistle	8

Rejections from Household Goods Inspections

Gypsy Moth	4
Japanese Beetle	4
Eastern Tent Caterpillar	9
Scarab Beetles	1


Contra Costa County
2004 Annual
Crop Report

Department of Agriculture
2366 A Stanwell Circle
Concord, California 94520-4807
(925) 646-5250
FAX (925) 646-5732

Branch Office
Knightsen Farm Center
Delta Road @ Second Street
P.O. Box 241
Knightsen, CA 94548
(925) 427-8610
FAX (925) 427-8612

Contra Costa County

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

To: A. G. KAWAMURA, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
and
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2004 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control Activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2004 was $94,753,220, down $13,814,280 dollars from 2003. The Nursery Product values declined in all crop categories as some growers went out of business or reduced their operations. However, many crops such as field corn, sweet corn, apples, alfalfa, and fresh market apricots had significant increases in prices from those in 2003.

Field corn values increased sharply due to higher acreage, yield, and prices. Rangeland value per acre also went up significantly as beef prices improved. Good weather during spring and early summer helped yields for many crops including field corn, apricots, and processing tomatoes. Brentwood sweet corn did especially well in 2004 due to a steady market and good prices. Demand for fresh produce marketed directly to consumers improved prices for nectarines, peaches, cherries, and apricots. Some categories, such as safflower and beans, had losses resulting from market competition and low prices. Fresh market tomato prices started out low then radically improved late in the season when crops on the east coast failed due to bad weather.

The two previous categories of Livestock and Livestock Products were combined into a single category in the 2004 Annual Crop and Livestock Report. Miscellaneous Livestock Products, which includes milk, represented over 90% of the value of the Livestock Product category in 2003. When the only remaining dairy in Contra Costa County finally closed in the middle of 2003, we decided to combine the Livestock Products category with Livestock in 2004.

Several crop categories exceeded $1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include bedding plants, cattle and calves, sweet corn, grapes, rangeland pasture, field corn, miscellaneous vegetables, tomatoes, herbaceous perennials, alfalfa, apples, miscellaneous nursery, cherries, indoor decoratives, walnuts, apricots, beans, peaches, and vegetable plants.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are gross receipts and do not include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products. The economic benefit of agricultural production is generally thought to be about three times the gross production value.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Nancy Niemeyer and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward P Meyer

Edward P. Meyer
Agricultural Commissioner

Contra Costa County
Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures
Edward P. Meyer

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Vince Guise

Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Cathleen M. Roybal	Larry Yost	Joe Deviney

Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures
Patrick J. Roof

Weights & Measures Inspector III
Arthur Mangonon

Agricultural Biologist/Weights & Measures Inspector III

Ann McClure	Patty Whitlock	Ralph Fonseca
Gil Rocha	Nancy Niemeyer	Beth Slate

Agricultural Biologist II

Gene Mangini	Jorge Vargas	Jodie Wyles
	Matthew Slattengren	

Weights & Measures Inspector II
Cecilie Siegel-Sebolt
Steve Reymann

Agricultural Biologist I
Abdoulaye Niang

Weights & Measures Inspector I
Ngozi Egbuna

Administrative Support

Executive Secretary
Susan Finley

Senior Clerk
Teri Murphy

A History of Vineyards and Wineries in Contra Costa County

Contra Costa County has been producing award winning wine and grapes for well over 100 years. Our grape growing areas are located between the hot, San Joaquin valley and the cool, foggy coast which allows them to benefit from warm days and cool nights. This helps give the grapes a fine acid/pH ratio. The older vines, many of which were planted at the turn of the century, produce more sophisticated flavors, perfect for making fine wine.

One of the first vineyards in Contra Costa County was planted in Pinole in the first half of the 19th century when Don Ignacio Martinez was given a land grant reaching from Pinole to Martinez. By the late 1800's, vineyards producing many varieties of both table grapes and wine grapes were planted in the Alhambra valley south of the city of Martinez as well as in the areas near Clayton and Oakley. Major grape growers near Martinez included John Muir, Sturgis & Eddy, C. G. Merrill, and John Swett. In Clayton, Joel Clayton, Ernest Kohler, and Paul DeMartini were major growers.

Courtesy of the John Muir Historical Site

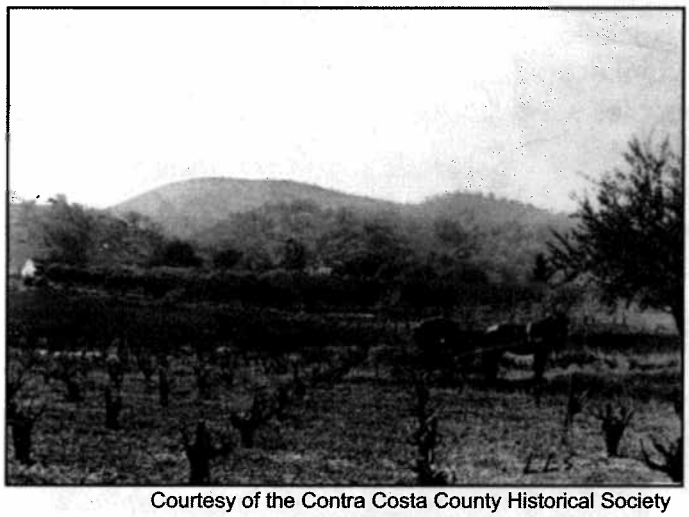
John Muir's house in Martinez 1910's

Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

DeMartini Winery & Vineyards in Clayton

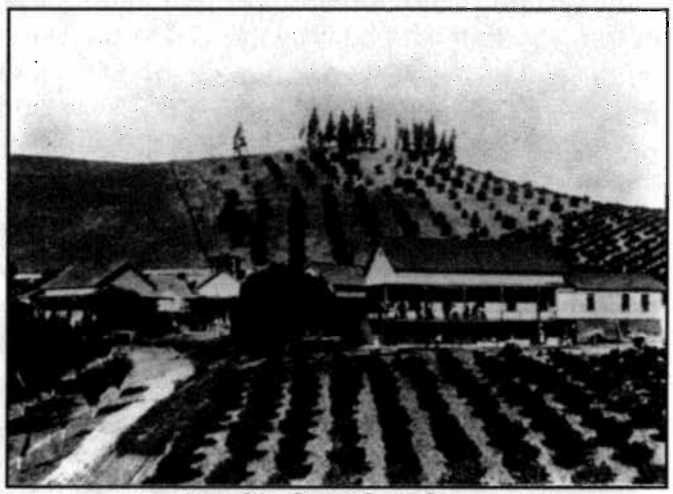
At one time, Contra Costa County had 6,000 acres of vineyards and some fifty wineries. The State Viticulture Report listed the county as having 300 acres in grapes in 1881, then 3,141 acres in 1891, and finally 6,000 acres in 1897. By 1919, forty percent of agricultural land in the county was devoted to grape growing. In 1900, a ton of wine grapes cost $18 (compared with over $800 today) and farmland cost $20-50 an acre. Currently, there are about 2,000 acres of vines in Contra Costa County, specializing in red wine varietals such as Zinfandel, Carignane, and Mouvedre. The majority of Contra Costa County's oldest surviving vineyards are located in the sandy soils of the eastern part of Contra Costa County. Many were planted around Oakley in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The same families have operated many of our local vineyards for generations.

Grape Phylloxera, a serious pest of grapes, first became a threat to Contra Costa County vineyards near the end of the 19th century. Grape Phylloxera, a type of aphid, feeds on grape roots and is native to the American Mississippi River valley. Around 1860 it was introduced into and soon devastated vineyards all over Europe. The first plant quarantine laws in California were adopted as a result of attempts to deal with this pest. Since the American grape is resistant to Grape Phylloxera, European grapes had to be grafted to American rootstocks in infested areas. The damage



Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

Hutchinson vineyard in Clayton



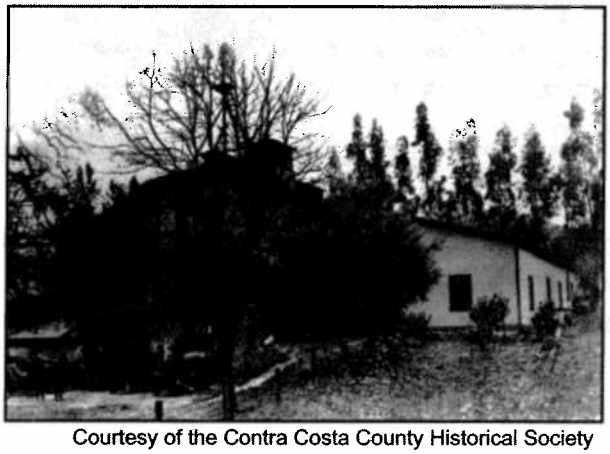
Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

Upham vineyard in Martinez

to vineyards in Contra Costa County forced many growers to remove entire mature vineyards and replace them with grafted vines.

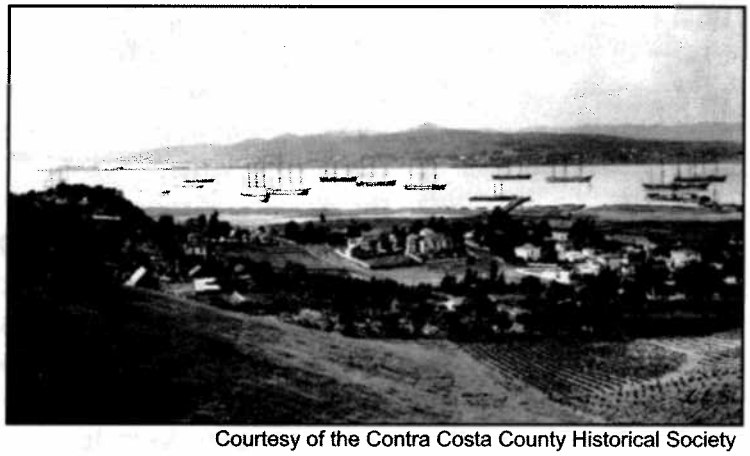
Grape Phylloxera is still present today in many parts of California, including Contra Costa County. These days it is controlled mostly through the use of improved, resistant rootstocks and by plant quarantine laws. Grape Phylloxera may limit the areas where grapes can be successfully planted. Certain types of soil can help vines resist infestation. Since Grape Phylloxera can reach roots through cracks in drying soil, the sandy soils in many parts of Contra Costa County have allowed its vines to survive attack while those planted in loamy or clay soils were destroyed.

The Clayton Sherry House, built in 1870 by Joel Clayton, was one of Contra Costa County's first wineries. It was bought by Paul DeMartini in 1876 and the DeMartini Winery was built at the site in 1885. Also located in Clayton was the Mt. Diablo Vineyards & Winery, the largest winery in Contra Costa County by the turn of the 20th century. At the same time, Martinez was home to many wineries such as the Mont Alhambra Vineyard Company, J. E. Colton Winery, Christian Brothers, and John Swett & Sons Winery. Martinez was a natural location for the wine industry due to its location on a main Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroad line as well as on an important shipping route down the Sacramento River.



Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

DeMartini Winery 1908



Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

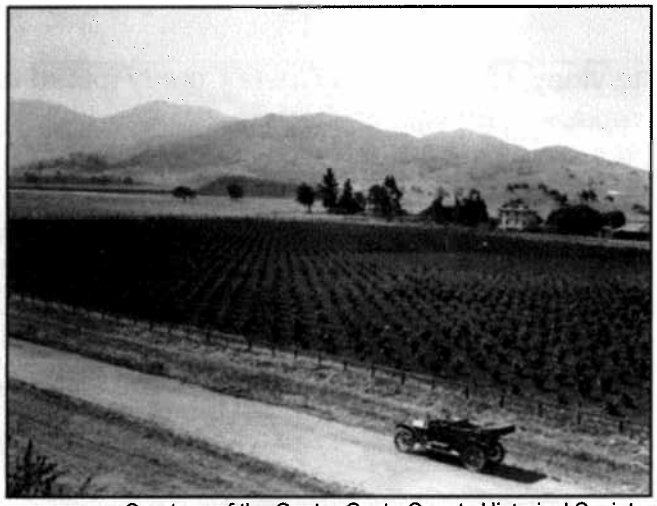
Martinez harbor 1885

Winehaven, located at Point Molate in Richmond, was once considered the largest winery in the world. It was built by the California Wine Association after their San Francisco location was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire. Large tanker ships were able to load cargo at its 1,800 foot dock. At its peak, it employed over 1,000 people, used grapes from all over California, and produced champagne, brandy and 67 varieties of wine.

In the middle of the 19th century, there was a growing public concern about the effects of alcohol consumption on society. Alcohol was believed to be linked to gambling, prostitution, poverty, crime, and violence. In 1851, Maine was the first state to pass laws restricting alcohol manufacture and sales and soon other states followed suit. By the beginning of World War I, thirty three states had enacted prohibition laws. Wineries in states such as California that had not enacted "dry" laws were affected as the market for wine, beer, and liquor became more limited.

Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

Winehaven in Richmond 1914



Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

Vineyard in Clayton 1910's

The Volstead Act, which became the 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution, was passed by Congress in 1920. Also known as Prohibition, the Volstead Act prohibited the sale, manufacture, possession, and transportation of intoxicating liquors including beer, wine, and any other beverages which contained more than one half of one percent alcohol by volume. It was also unlawful to possess any machines, tools, or recipes used to make intoxicating liquors. Exemptions to Prohibition included liquor used as medicine or for religious purposes as well as an exemption allowing individuals to make up to 200 gallons of cider and juice per year for their own use. This exemption led many people to become home wine makers.

Prohibition led to the closure of more than 95% of American wineries. Virtually all of Contra Costa County's wineries went out of business by 1920. A notable exception was Christian Brothers Winery in Martinez. Christian Brothers was operated by a lay teaching order of the Roman Catholic Church and survived by making and selling both sacramental and medicinal wine. Wine grape growers were also hard hit by Prohibition. Many Contra Costa County grape growers survived this period by selling to individual home wine makers in Canada and the eastern United States, as well as locally. Many other local vineyards were torn out.

Fruit crate labels for juice grapes from the Antioch, Oakley, and Brentwood area

After Prohibition was repealed in 1933, few of our local wineries were able to reopen. Some that did go back into business in the Martinez area included J. E. Digardi Winery, Viano Vineyards, and the J. Gonsalves Winery. California had over 700 bonded wineries before Prohibition. About fifty years would pass after Prohibition ended before that number of wineries were operating in California again. Only Viano Vineyards winery has remained in operation in Contra Costa County in the past twenty years. However, several new wineries are in the planning stages in the Brentwood area and elsewhere.

In the 1940's, wineries outside of Contra Costa County began to discover and appreciate the distinct character and quality of our grapes. However, cities replaced farmland at an increased rate during the 1950's and 1960's. Between 1940 and 1970, more than half of our farmland was lost to development, with grape acreage declining more than 80% from 1940 levels.

Wine labels from Martinez area wineries 1930's - 1950's

As consumer appreciation for fine wines grew during the 1990's, the market for wine grapes increased. Contra Costa County growers began to plant more vineyards to supply the need for high quality, specialty grapes. Even though 45% of our remaining farmland was lost to development between 1970 and 2000, grape acreage has increased. During the 1990's, the amount of land planted to grapes more than doubled from 771 acres to 1,640. In 2004, there were about 2,000 acres of wine grapes in Contra Costa County.

Much has changed since 100 years ago. One of the biggest changes is the conversion of farmland in urban housing. Growers, as well as homeowners, have many adjustments to make when new housing developments move in next door to agriculture. Growers face the problems of trespassers, vandalism, theft, trash, increased traffic, and the general public's lack of knowledge about farming practices. Our local growers are aware of their urban neighbors and try to operate with as much courtesy as possible. Contra Costa County has a Right to Farm Ordinance. This means the County recognizes that growers have the right to follow normal farming practices in order to produce their crops.

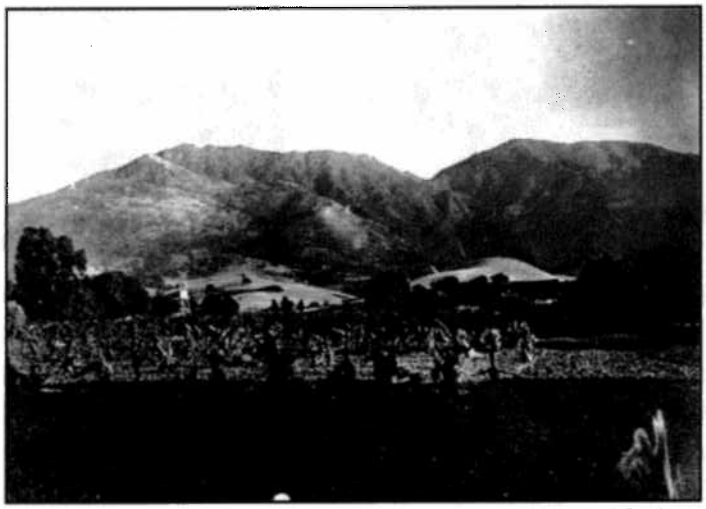
Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

John Swett booth at Mechanics Fair 1899

Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

Pleasant Hill farmer's market 1921

Homeowners can help cooperate with the farmers by doing the following: Don't take short cuts through vineyards. They are private property. By entering a vineyard you may damage the vines or put yourself at risk from pesticides that could have been applied there. Don't allow children to play in vineyards. Damage that children do to the vines affects not only the current crop but also future ones. Destroying a grower's crop destroys his or her livelihood. Be patient with slow moving farm vehicles. Try to understand that normal farming practices may generate unpleasant odors, noise, and dust.



Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

Mt. Diablo vineyards 1911

Courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society

Mt. Diablo Winery 1911

A Year in the Life of a Vineyard

The year begins after the leaves have fallen and the vines become dormant. Winter is the time when farmers prune and fertilize. Prunings may be removed or burned to destroy insects and diseases in the wood. Weeds can become a problem due to winter rains and are controlled with herbicide sprays, cover crops, or by discing. Since mature wine grape vines need little or no irrigation, weed sprays are done mainly in winter. Herbicide sprays represented 27% of the pesticide applications made to grapes in Contra Costa County in 2004.

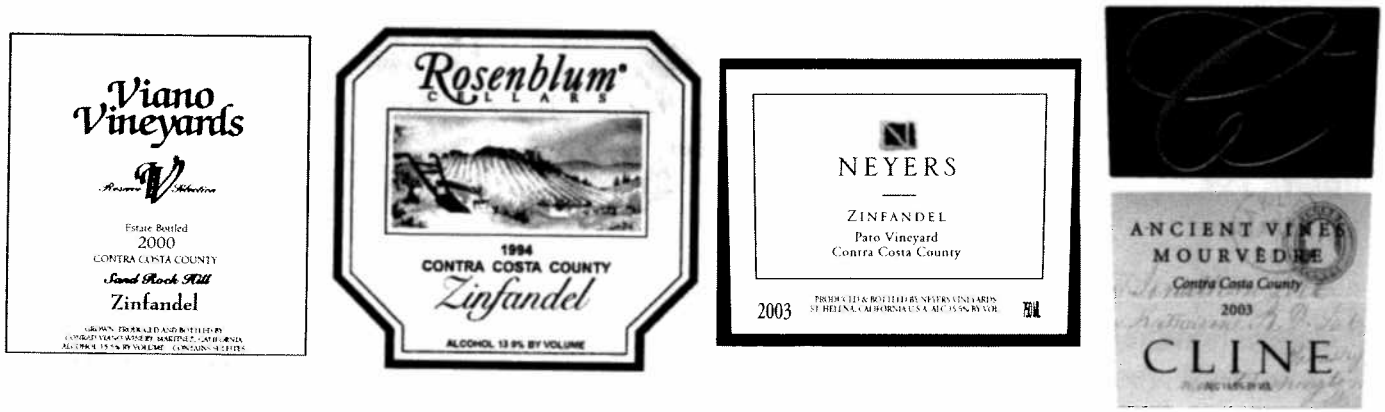
When the buds burst in the spring, the new shoots are susceptible to fungal diseases such as powdery mildew and bunch rot. Fungicide sprays are often needed and will continue regularly throughout the growing season. Spraying is usually done at night or early in the morning to take advantage of calm winds and cool temperatures. Sulfur, a naturally occurring mineral, is the most commonly used fungicide on grapes. Fungicide sprays represented 61% of the pesticide applications made to grapes in Contra Costa County in 2004, with sulfur representing 62% of those applications.

Rodents, such as ground squirrels, gophers, and mice, come out from hibernation in spring. Their chewing can cause considerable damage to roots, vines, and fruit. Rodents are usually controlled using traps, poison bait, or fumigants.

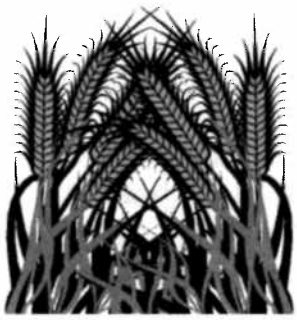
In late spring, the vines flower and produce young grape berries that will develop throughout the summer. Occasionally, pests such as caterpillars, leafhoppers, and mites become enough of a problem to require spraying. Insecticide sprays represented only 10% of the pesticide applications made to grapes in Contra Costa County in 2004.

As summer ends and grape berries mature and sweeten, birds become a serious pest. Flocks of birds can strip a ripening vineyard in less than a week. Control methods must begin well before the grapes ripen so birds do not become established in the vineyard. Farmers will generally start with flags or foil strips to frighten away the flocks of birds. Devices that make loud explosive noises or play tape recorded distress calls from other birds may be used later when bird damage threatens to become severe.

Harvest season in Contra Costa County begins in late summer or early fall. When the sugar content of the grapes is just right, picking crews fill bins and trailers that will be taken to wineries throughout California.



Recent wine labels for wine produced from Contra Costa County grapes



Field Crops

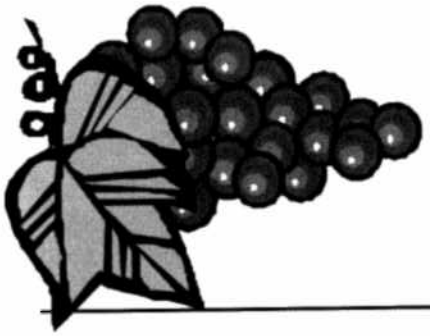
Crop	Year	Production				Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Field Corn	2004	5,880	8.56	50,300	Ton	102.00	5,131,000
	2003	4,780	3.94	18,900	Ton	90.30	1,707,000
Hay							
Alfalfa	2004	3,490	5.60	19,500	Ton	107.00	2,087,000
	2003	3,950	5.60	22,100	Ton	94.10	2,080,000
Grain	2004	1,850	2.00	3,700	Ton	80.20	297,000
	2003	1,940	2.26	4,390	Ton	84.50	371,000
Pasture							
Irrigated	2004	5,060			Acre	100.00	506,000
	2003	6,110			Acre	150.00	917,000
Rangeland	2004	251,000			Acre	22.60	5,673,000
	2003	252,000			Acre	17.00	4,284,000
Safflower	2004	115	0.95	109	Ton	209.00	22,800
	2003	287	1.18	340	Ton	244.00	83,000
Wheat	2004	1,900	1.96	3,720	Ton	117.00	435,000
	2003	1,690	1.93	3,270	Ton	111.00	363,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops*	2004	1,590					491,000
	2003	3,220					577,000
Total	2004	270,885					$14,642,800
	2003	273,977					$10,382,000

* Barley, Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Rye, Silage, Straw, Sudan Grass

Vegetable & Seed Crops

Crop	Year	Production				Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Beans	2004	320	4.07	1,300	Ton	976.00	1,269,000
	2003	303	4.09	1,240	Ton	1,030.00	1,278,000
Onions	2004	7	13.00	91	Ton	534.00	48,600
	2003	9	6.98	64	Ton	451.00	28,900
Squash	2004	18	3.00	54	Ton	756.00	40,800
	2003	30	6.49	193	Ton	567.00	109,000
Sweet Corn	2004	3,750	10.70	40,100	Ton	321.00	12,870,000
	2003	3,030	10.40	31,400	Ton	301.00	9,451,000
Tomatoes							
Total	2004	1,165		52,130	Ton		3,189,000
	2003	1,299		50,500	Ton		3,822,000
Fresh	2004	105	10.80	1,130	Ton	656.00	741,000
	2003	119	10.90	1,300	Ton	1,040.00	1,352,000
Processing	2004	1,060	48.10	51,000	Ton	48.00	2,448,000
	2003	1,180	41.70	49,200	Ton	50.20	2,470,000
Miscellaneous Vegetable & Seed Crops*	2004	1,540					3,942,000
	2003	1,710					6,253,000
Total	2004	6,800					$21,359,400
	2003	6,381					$20,941,900

* Asparagus, Artichokes, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Ginseng, Lettuce, Okra, Greens, Herbs, Melons, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins



Fruit & Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Production				Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Apples	2004	575	9.71	5,580	Ton	357.00	1,992,000
	2003	330	12.40	4,070	Ton	336.00	1,368,000
Apricots							
Total	2004	534	7.06	3,770	Ton		1,354,000
	2003	550	4.42	2,430	Ton		960,000
Fresh	2004			310	Ton	1,020.00	316,000
	2003			373	Ton	917.00	342,000
Processing	2004			3,460	Ton	300.00	1,038,000
	2003			2,060	Ton	300.00	618,000
Cherries	2004	319	1.84	587	Ton	2,690.00	1,579,000
	2003	282	1.94	548	Ton	2,460.00	1,348,000
Grapes	2004	1,980	4.16	8,240	Ton	851.00	7,012,000
	2003	2,030	3.96	8,030	Ton	814.00	6,536,000
Nectarines	2004	37	3.50	130	Ton	2,330.00	303,000
	2003	33	2.59	85	Ton	1,410.00	120,000
Peaches	2004	177	4.21	745	Ton	1,550.00	1,155,000
	2003	165	4.01	661	Ton	1,010.00	668,000
Pears	2004	82	9.67	793	Ton	336.00	266,000
	2003	79	12.30	968	Ton	202.00	196,000
Plums	2004	29	2.46	71	Ton	1,400.00	99,400
	2003	25	2.34	59	Ton	1,270.00	74,900
Walnuts	2004	802	1.67	1,340	Ton	1,060.00	1,420,000
	2003	848	1.39	1,180	Ton	942.00	1,112,000
Miscellaneous	2004	140					727,000
Fruit & Nut Crops*	2003	158					643,000
Total	2004	4,675					$15,907,400
	2003	4,500					$13,025,900

* Almonds, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Olives, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pluots, Prunes, Pomegranates, Quinces, Strawberries, and other Miscellaneous Tree Crops

Nursery Products

Crop	Year	Production Area * House Sq. Ft.	Production Area * Field Acres	Value Total
Bedding Plants	2004	6,170,000	316.00	21,470,000
	2003	6,105,000	315.00	25,493,000
Herbaceous Perennials	2004	597,000	14.60	2,394,000
	2003	668,000	16.10	2,715,000
Indoor Decoratives	2004	479,000	0.20	1,454,000
	2003	555,000	0.20	1,802,000
Vegetable Plants	2004	100,000	11.30	1,115,000
	2003	100,000	11.30	1,236,000
Cut Flowers **	2004	52,800	4.30	58,400
	2003	58,400	6.00	124,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Crops ***	2004	8,000	25.50	1,850,000
	2003	18,000	30.90	2,316,000
Total	2004	7,406,800	371.90	$28,341,400
	2003	7,504,400	380.00	$33,686,000

* Gross Area

** Alstromeria, Carnations, Gerbera, Lilies, Roses, Misc. Flowers

*** Christmas Trees, Potted Flowers & Vegetables, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Hanging Baskets, Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees

Livestock*

Item	Year	Production		Unit	Value	
		No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Per Unit	Total
Cattle & Calves	2004	21,200	145,000	Cwt	95.20	13,804,000
	2003	51,300	340,000	Cwt	74.70	25,400,000

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
				Per Unit	Total
Honey	2004	40,000	Lbs.	4.00	160,000
	2003	48,000	Lbs.	4.00	192,000
Beeswax	2004	180	Lbs.	4.00	720
	2003	200	Lbs.	3.50	700
Pollination	2004	500	Colonies	75.00	37,500
	2003	600	Colonies	50.00	30,000
Miscellaneous Livestock and Livestock Products**	2004				500,000
	2003				4,909,000
Total	2004				$14,502,220
	2003				$30,531,700

* Livestock and Livestock Product Categories combined

** Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep, Turkeys, Milk, Wool, Eggs, Pollen

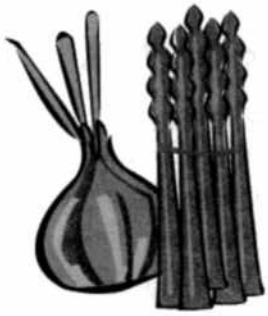
Recapitulation

Category	Gross Value/Million Dollars 2004	2003	Ranking 2004	2003
Nursery Products	28.3	33.7	1	1
Vegetable & Seed Crops	21.3	17.7	2	3
Fruit & Nut Crops	15.9	14.6	3	4
Field Crops	14.6	10.4	4	5
Livestock*	14.5	30.5	5	2

Category	Gross Value 2004	2003	Change
Field Crops	14,642,800	10,382,000	4,260,800
Vegetable & Seed Crops	21,359,400	20,941,900	417,500
Fruit & Nut Crops	15,907,400	13,025,900	2,881,500
Nursery Crops	28,341,400	33,686,000	-5,344,600
Livestock*	14,502,220	30,531,700	-16,029,480
Total	$94,753,220	$108,567,500	-13,814,280

Total Acres in County	482,000
Population in County **	1,003,909
Land in Farms - Acres ***	126,338
Harvested Cropland - Acres ***	26,018

* Livestock and Livestock Product Categories combined
** January 2004
*** 2002 Census



Organic Farming

	Apricots	Cherries	Figs	Fruit, other	Grapes	Herbs	Nectarines	Nursery Stock/Flowers	Onions/Garlic/Leeks	Peaches	Pears	Pistachios, other Nuts	Plums	Vegetables, leafy	Vegetables, root	Vegetables, other
No. of Farms	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	1
Estimated Acres	11.3	15.0	1.3	0.1	0.5	0.2	17.0	1.5	0.3	40.0	8.0	36.8	5.3	0.2	0.1	0.3

Total Acres Organically Farmed 137.9

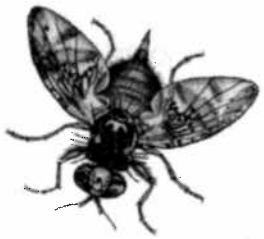
Million Dollar Crops

Category	Gross Value/Million Dollars 2004	2003	Ranking 2004	2003
Bedding Plants	21.5	25.5	1	1
Cattle & Calves	13.8	25.4	2	2
Sweet Corn	12.9	9.5	3	3
Grapes	7.0	6.5	4	4
Rangeland Pasture	5.7	4.3	5	7
Field Corn	5.1	1.7	6	13
Miscellaneous Vegetables	3.9	6.5	7	5
Tomatoes, All	3.2	3.8	8	8
Herbaceous Perennials	2.4	2.7	9	9
Hay - Alfalfa	2.1	2.1	10	11
Apples	2.0	1.4	11	14
Miscellaneous Nursery	1.9	2.3	12	10
Cherries	1.6	1.3	13	15
Indoor Decoratives	1.5	1.8	14	12
Walnuts	1.4	1.1	15	18
Apricots, All	1.4		16	
Beans	1.3	1.3	17	16
Peaches	1.2		18	
Vegetable Plants	1.1	1.2	19	17

Biological Control

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis)	Hairy Weevil (Eustenopus villosus)	Ongoing
	YST Flower Weevil (Larinus curtus)	Ongoing
	Rust Pathogen (Puccinia jaceae var. solstitialis)	One release
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (Glycaspis brimblecombei)	Encytrid Parasitoid Wasp (Psyllaephagus bliteus)	Ongoing

Pest Exclusion



Shipments Inspected	***Total Inspected***	***Rejections***
Mail/UPS/Fed Ex	55,037	373
Truck shipments from within California	5,466	3
Truck shipments from other states	239	17
Household Goods	170	5

Quarantine Rejections	***Rejections***
Burrowing Nematode	8
Caribbean Fruit Fly	7
Cedar-Apple Rust	18
Cherry Fruit Fly	2
Citrus Pests	25
Colorado Potato Beetle	1
Red Imported Fire Ant	1
Golden Nematode	2
Japanese Beetle	15
Oriental Fruit Fly	4
Ozonium Root Rot	2
Peach Mosaic	1
Pine Shoot Beetle	1
Plum Curculio	10
Walnut and Pecan Pests	1
Origin/Markings	244

Live Pests	
A & Q rated pests	142
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter	3
Weed pests	6
Other pests	4

"A" and "Q" Rated Pests

Pests vary as to the level of potential harm they can do, so it is necessary to have a rating system to represent the statewide importance of the pest to the agricultural, horticultural, forestry, environmental, and public health interests of California. The rating of a pest also determines what action is taken when it is found, such as: quarantines, eradication, rejection, control, cleanliness standards, holding, inspection, and the establishment of control districts. Of special interest are pests that are rated "A" or "Q". These organisms have the potential to cause serious harm and require enforcement action when they are found. "A" rated pests, such as the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, are known to cause serious harm. "Q" rated pests are those that are suspected to cause serious harm but their status is uncertain because of incomplete information about the species.

Contra Costa County regularly intercepts many of these types of pests in quarantine inspections. The following were intercepted during inspections in 2004.

	Rating	*Rejections*
ANTS		
Technomyrmex albipes / White-footed Ant	Q	32
Pheidole megacephala / Bigheaded Ant	Q	10
Anoplolepis longipes / Longlegged Ant	Q	4
Other ant species	Q	4
SCALES		
Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli / Magnolia White Scale	A	17
Cocus viridis / Green Scale	A	3
Pseudaulacospis pentagona / White Peach Scale	A	3
Pinnaspis buxi / Boxwood Scale	A	2
Milviscutulus mangiferae / Mango Shield Scale	Q	6
Other scale species	Q	4
MEALYBUGS		
Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi/ Jack Beardsley Mealybug	A	3
Maconellicoccus hirsutus / Pink Hibiscus Mealybug	A	3
Dysmicoccus boninsis/ Sugarcane Mealybug	Q	1
Other mealybug species	Q	5
WHITEFLIES		
Aleurodicus dispersus / Spiraling Whitefly	Q	3
Aleurotulus sp. / Anthurium Whitefly	Q	1
Other whitefly species	Q	4
THRIPS		
Thrips florum / Banana Flower Thrip	A	1
Selenothrips rubrocinctus/Red Banded Thrip	A	1
OTHER INSECTS, MITES & MOLLUSCS		
Lymantria dispar/Gypsy Moth	A	2
Popillia japonica/ Japanese Beetle	A	1
Kallitaxila granulata / Planthopper	Q	9
Grasshopper / Katydid species	Q	2
Leafminer species	Q	2
Other Homoptera species	Q	2
Other Lepidoptera species	Q	1
Mite species	Q	1
Mollusc species	Q	1
PLANT DISEASES		
Phytophthora ramorum / Sudden Oak Death	Q	13
Coleosporium plumierae / Plumeria Rust	Q	1