



Alameda County Crop Report

2003

GENERAL ALAMEDA COUNTY INFORMATION

County Seat Oakland

County Population, 2003 1,498,000

Land Area (Square Miles) 737.5

Water Area (Square Miles) 83.8

Persons per Square Mile 2,031

14 Incorporated Cities

Alameda • Albany • Berkeley • Dublin • Emeryville • Fremont • Hayward
Livermore • Newark • Oakland • Piedmont • Pleasanton • San Leandro • Union City

6 Unincorporated Areas

Ashland • Castro Valley • Cherryland • Fairview • San Lorenzo • Sunol

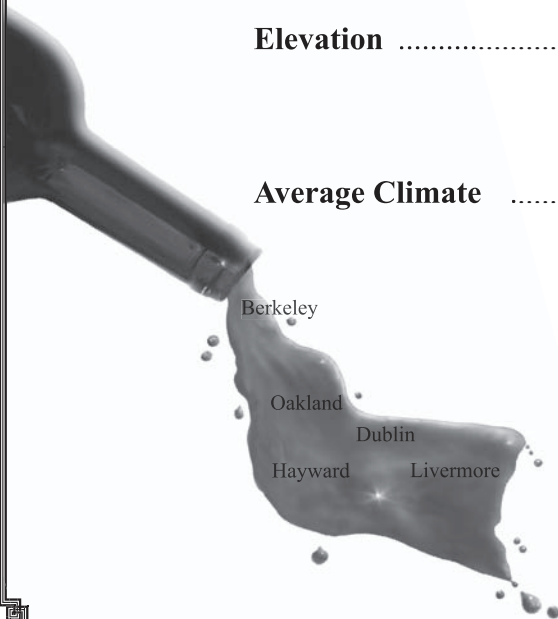
Total Assessed Property (Local Roll – 2003) \$143,195,135,746

Total Harvested Crop Acreage (2003) 199,528

Major Roads Interstate 80, Interstate 580,
Interstate 680, Interstate 880,
Highway 238, Highway 84,
Highway 92, Highway 13

Elevation Sea level to 3,817 ft. at Rose
Peak in the southern part of
the County

Average Climate Mild winters and cool summers
near the Bay. The eastern portion
of the County is moderately
warmer; high temperatures in
the Livermore Amador Valley
average 90°F in July.





James E. Sorensen
Agency Director

**ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT**

DENNIS F. BRAY, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/ SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
224 WEST WINTON AVENUE, ROOM 184, HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA 94544
phone 510.670.5232 fax 510.783.3928 www.acgov.org

Secretary A.G. Kawamura
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, California

June 7, 2004

It is my pleasure to submit the 2003 Alameda County Crop Report. This annual publication presents statistical information on the acreage, yield, and gross value of Alameda County agricultural products in accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code.

The 2003 total gross value of Alameda County's agriculture was \$37,342,000, the highest since 1999. This figure represents an increase of 24.5% from the 2002 gross production value (\$30,013,000).

Nursery Products, which includes ornamental trees and shrubs, bedding plants, and indoor decoratives, was our highest valued commodity and had an increase of \$3,608,000 (+26.5%). Fruit and Nut Crops were the next highest valued commodity and had an increase of \$2,489,000 (+46%). Livestock was our third valued commodity. Stronger market prices during the reporting year contributed to an increase of \$1,539,000 (+29.75%).

By contrast, loss of acreage contributed to the decrease in value of our cut flower production by \$107,000 (-\$17%), and our vegetable crops by \$414,000 (-48%).

Please note that in the crop report Nursery Cut Flower totals have been included in the Nursery Products miscellaneous category. Also, Apiary Products have been included in the Livestock and Poultry miscellaneous category. In both these instances, the numbers were not included in the percentage changes noted in the paragraphs above.

For the first time, preliminary data is being reported in this year's crop report for the equine industry.

I would like to emphasize that the numbers in this report are gross values only and in no way reflect the net income or loss to producers.

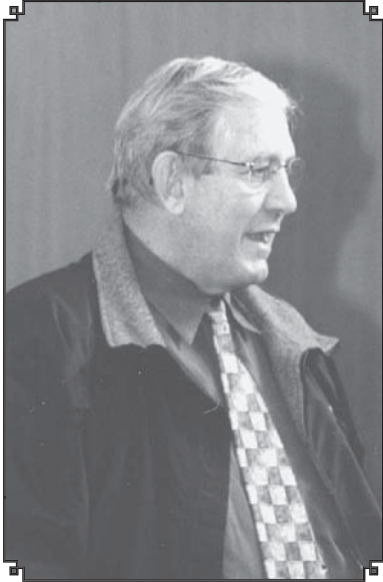
My thanks to Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Gregory Gee, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner John Gouvaia and our staff for compiling the data for this report. I also wish to thank Janie Chambers for her help in preparing this report. Most of all, I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation of all agricultural producers, contributing organizations, and those individuals who provided the necessary information for this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis F. Bray
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

DEDICATION

The 2003 Alameda County Agricultural Crop Report is dedicated to Earl Whitaker and Adolph Martinelli

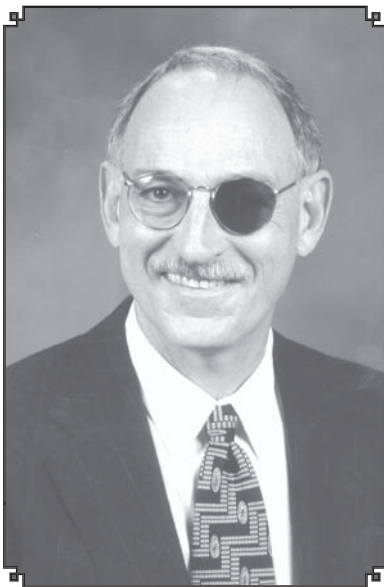


Earl Whitaker

**Alameda County
Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights & Measures
Retired**

Mr. Whitaker began his career with Alameda County's Department of Agriculture in 1971. Working through such responsibilities as Urban Grid survey work, Gypsy Moth trapping and squirrel control. In the early 1980's Mr. Whitaker was responsible for supervising the County's effort to control Medfly. For these efforts, Earl was promoted to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. In 1996 he was appointed Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer by the Board of Supervisors. In 1997 the Agriculture Department combined with the Planning Department to create the Community Development Agency.

Earl had to respond to agricultural issues such as water, weed management, glassy-winged sharpshooter, as well as other exotic pests. In retirement, Earl will be able to respond to the need for fencing, horse responsibilities, and managing his many grandchildren on his ranch in southern Utah. The entire Community Development Agency wishes Earl and his family congratulations and all the best in his well deserved retirement.



Adolph Martinelli

**Alameda County
Community Development Agency
Director – Retired**

Mr. Martinelli served as Director of the Alameda County's Community Development Agency from 1996 until his retirement in 2003. Prior to his appointment as Director, he was Planning Director since 1990, Chief of Development Planning from 1984, and held various planning positions with the County since his graduation from UC Berkeley in 1965 with a degree in Landscape Architecture. He also held the positions of Manager, Surplus Property Authority of Alameda County, and Executive Director of the Alameda County Redevelopment Agency.

As Community Development Director, Mr. Martinelli expanded and restructured the department into a multi-faceted community development organization, including responsibility for the office of the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures. He presided over the completion and enactment of the comprehensive East County General Plan and other targeted area plans to develop solutions to regional issues of economic development, jobs-housing balance, neighborhood preservation and improvement, and preservation and enhancement of key agricultural areas. Mr. Martinelli also provided leadership over the past 20 years in an aggressive program to maximize value of Alameda County's real estate assets, including his vision of developing a new agricultural services facility in the Livermore Valley which will soon be a reality.

ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR YEAR 2003

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Dennis F. Bray
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Scott Haggerty..... District 1
Gail Steele, President..... District 2
Alice Lai-Bitker..... District 3
Nate Miley..... District 4
Keith Carson, Vice President..... District 5

DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

James E. Sorensen

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

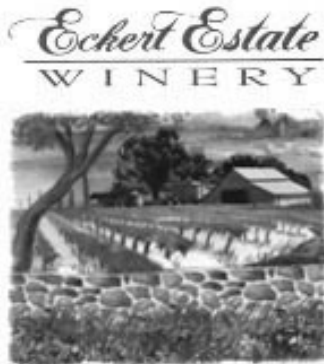
Susan Muranishi

Table of Contents

Letter to the Secretary/Board of Supervisors.....	1
Dedication	2
Comparison Summary.....	4
Field Crops.....	4
Fruit and Nut Crops.....	5
Livestock and Poultry	5
Nursery Products.....	6
Vegetable Crops	6
Sustainable Agriculture Reporting.....	7
Equine	7
Alameda County Agriculture Resource Center.....	8
General Alameda County Information.....	Inside Front Cover
Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Staff.....	Inside Back Cover

COMPARISON SUMMARY

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Field Crops	4,417,000	4,232,000	4,485,000	4,019,000	4,354,000
Vegetable Crops	451,000	865,000	975,000	958,000	947,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	7,902,000	5,413,000	10,104,000	6,517,000	8,547,000
Nursery Products	17,730,000	13,599,000	14,008,000	12,460,000	17,828,000
Nursery Cut Flowers	Included in Nursery Products	630,000	1,100,000	1,589,000	1,230,000
Livestock & Poultry	6,842,000	5,175,000	5,758,000	6,305,000	6,899,000
Apiary Products	Included in	99,000	74,000	65,100	67,000
TOTALS	37,342,000	30,013,000	36,504,000	31,913,100	39,872,000



FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Hay, Alfalfa	2003	775	5.69	4,410	Ton	\$99.00	\$437,000
	2002	871	5.10	4,442	Ton	\$100.00	\$444,000
Hay, Other	2003	3,554	2.00	7,108	Ton	\$85.00	\$604,000
	2002	3,800	2.20	8,360	Ton	\$70.00	\$585,000
Range Pasture	2003	191,000			Acre	\$16.00	\$3,056,000
	2002	195,000			Acre	\$14.50	\$2,828,000
Miscellaneous	2003	1,450	Includes sugar beets, safflower, corn silage, barley, oats, wheat, beans, irrigated pasture, etc				\$320,000
	2002	1,850					\$375,000
TOTAL	2003	196,779					\$4,417,000
	2002	201,521					\$4,232,000

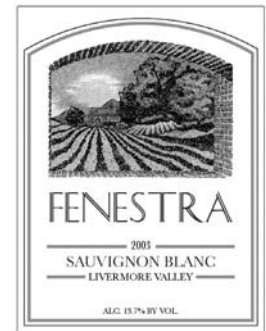
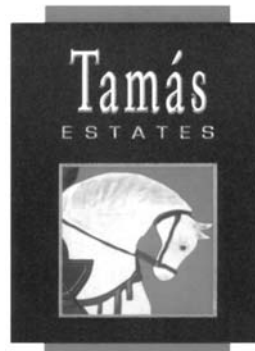
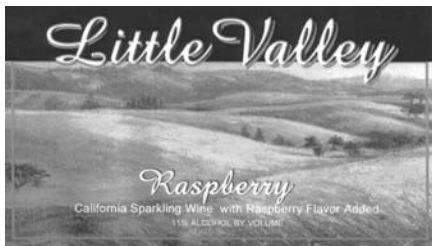
FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Grapes (Wine)							
Red	2003	1,689	3.28	5,540	Ton	Various	\$5,978,000
	2002	1,184	2.42	2,865	Ton	Various	\$3,240,000
White	2003	595	3.00	1,785	Ton	Various	\$1,914,000
	2002	1,071	1.80	1,928	Ton	Various	\$2,158,000
Misc. Fruit		2003	115	Includes olives, walnuts, etc.			\$10,000
	2002	115	\$15,000				
TOTAL		2003	2,399				\$7,902,000
	2002	2,370					\$ 5,413,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Item	Year	No. of Head	Total Weight	Unit	Per Unit	Total	
Cattle and Calves		2003	12,371	76,329	Cwt.	Var.	\$6,639,000
	2002	14,751	87,763	Cwt.	Var.	\$5,090,000	
Misc. Poultry and Livestock Products		2003				\$203,000	
		2002				\$85,000	
TOTAL		2003				\$6,842,000	
	2002					\$5,175,000	

Miscellaneous includes rabbits, wool, sheep, lambs, hogs, bees and apiary products.



NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	House Sq. Ft.	Field Acres	Quantity Sold	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Ornamental Trees and Shrubs	2003	505,000	195	1,160,227	Plt.	Var.	\$14,951,000
	2002	145,000	185	990,289	Plt.	Var.	\$11,546,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Products	2003	264,350	60	Includes Bedding Plants and			\$2,779,000
	2002	321,255	6	Indoor Decoratives			\$2,052,990
TOTAL	2003	769,350	255				\$17,730,000
	2002	466,000	191				\$13,598,990

Miscellaneous includes narcissus, peonies, christmas trees, cut flowers, etc.

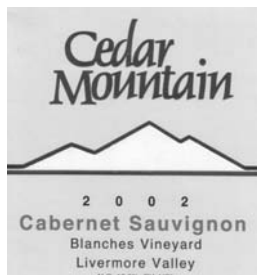
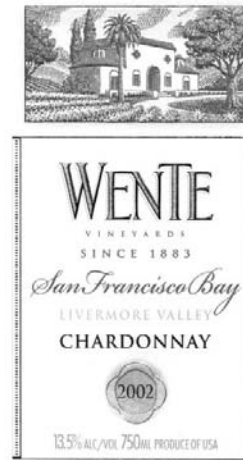
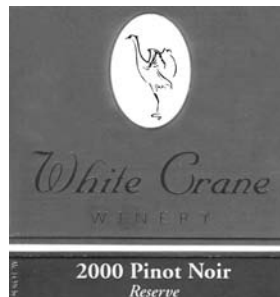
VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Total
Miscellaneous Vegetables	2003	95	\$451,000
	2002	109	\$865,000

Miscellaneous includes broccoli, cabbage, corn, fava beans, leaf lettuce, greens, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, etc.

Pest Detection

6,309 detection traps were deployed for exotic insects pests, with 99,198 servicings during the year. There were 949 yellow panel traps deployed for Glassywing-Sharpshooter with 8,925 servicings for this specific insect. The following economically significant pests were the main targets of this effort: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Mexican Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Melon Fly, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, and Khapra Beetle.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING

County Biological Control

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Star Thistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i> <i>Eustenopus villosus</i> <i>Urophora sinunaseva</i> <i>Chaetorellia succinea</i>	6 sites

Organic Farming Statistics

	Number of Registered Organic Producers	Est. Acreage
Miscellaneous Crops	5	90

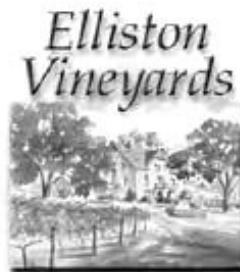
Pest Management and Eradication

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Puna Grass (<i>Stipa brachychaeta</i>)	Mechanical	One site/2 acres
Golden Thistle (<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>)	Chemical	720 acres

Pest Exclusion

Inspection of incoming shipments of plant products and other high risk articles to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases harmful to California's agricultural industry. 567 Glassy-winged sharpshooter traps were deployed in various nurseries, with 9,213 servicings for the year.

Type of Shipment	Number Inspected	Number Rejected
Parcel Carriers (Post Office, UPS, Federal Express, Etc.)	21,497	96
Trucks	922	13
Household Goods (for Gypsy Moth)	99	1



Equine*

Acres	Covered Arenas	Horse Totals	*These numbers are not included in the livestock and poultry totals.
25,300	68 (597,320 sq.ft.)	13,634	

The equine industry is a significant part of agriculture and important to the economic viability of Alameda County. This preliminary chart is designed to begin to provide information regarding the number of animals and acreage dedicated to horses. Horses are used in Alameda County in a number of ways: pleasure, breeding, racing, ranching, competition/sport, and uses such as carriage rides, teaching and other work.

Alameda County Agricultural Resource Center

The Alameda County Community Development Agency and the Alameda County Surplus Property Authority are proud to introduce the new Alameda County Agricultural Resource Center to serve the agricultural needs of the east County. Located at 3585 Greenville Rd. in the foothills east of Livermore, the new facility houses offices of the Planning Department which provides planning, permitting, and advisory services to the agricultural community. Additionally, the Center also provides space for the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, and the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program. On the same property at 3575 Greenville Rd. the previously constructed field office of the Alameda County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures provides pest management services to the County's growers and ranchers.

Perched on a bluff overlooking the Livermore Valley, the Center enjoys stunning views in all directions. Built in the mission style the architecturally rich facility boasts a tower, a paved courtyard with fountain, specimen trees, lawns, trellises, a gazebo, and an outdoor fireplace. An event center can accommodate 250 people with lecture style seating or 200 for banquets. The main room can be partitioned into three smaller rooms for breakouts or smaller events.

By providing many streamlined services to growers and ranchers at a single location, the state-of-the-art 13,000 square foot Center promises to become the focal point for the development and promotion of the County's agricultural industry.



**ALAMEDA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER**

 **STAFF** 

**Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures**

Dennis F. Bray

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

James D. Newey

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Gregory Gee

Chief Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures

Joseph Ayres

Deputy Agricultural Commissioners

Ronnie Eaton

John Gouvaia

Pest Detection Supervisor

Cheryl Mailho

Agricultural Biologists

Robert Blumenthal

Edwin De Villa

Edmund Duarte

Patricia Hunt

Blane Manchester

Kenneth Peek

Tadeusz Pieslak

Alcides Reyes

Cathy Roache

Raghubinder Sahota

Sharon Seslowe

Kim Simmons

James Smith

Ashenafi Tadesse

Rene Vega

Weights and Measures Inspectors

Brent Faria

Estella Harris

Ronald Hasemeyer

Frank Jensen

Pest Detection Specialists

Mohamed Elhashash

Carmen Franke

Jonathan Gomes

Joanne Greer

Michelle Trudeau

Insect Trappers/Seasonal

Michael Dooha

Sean Eckert

Michael Lung

Leslie Morra

Jeffrey Nelson

Annie Pattee

Anand Shankar

Luke Turner

Justin Watkins

Griffin Wright

Kurt Yamauchi

Clerical Support

Oscar Magtibay

Cora Robles, Secretary II

Sabina Munoz

Clarice Walker