

Alameda County 2004 Crop Report



Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures

GENERAL ALAMEDA COUNTY INFORMATION

County Seat Oakland

County Population, 2004 1,507,500

Land Area (Square Miles) 737.5

Water Area (Square Miles) 83.8

Persons per Square Mile 2,044

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 – 2004) \$152,906,020,919

Total Harvested Crop Acreage (2004) 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 27, 2005

I am pleased to submit the 2004 Alameda County Crop Report. This publication is presented annually and reports statistical information on 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 2004 total gross value of Alameda County's agriculture was \$40,194,000 the highest since 1999. This figure represents an increase of 7.6% from the 2003 gross production value (\$37,342,000).

Nursery Products was again our highest valued commodity. This category, which includes ornamental trees and shrubs, bedding plants, and indoor decoratives, had a slight decrease of \$239,000 (-1.3%) compared to 2003. Fruit and Nut Crops were the next highest valued commodity and had an increase of \$1,182,000 (+15%). This increase is attributed mainly to higher bearing acreage of wine grapes and olives. Livestock was our third valued commodity. Stronger market prices during the reporting year contributed to an increase of \$1,008,000 (+15%). The value of our vegetable crops increased by \$231,000 (+51%) and field crops totals also showed an increase of \$670,000 (+15%) due to favorable market prices and higher production.

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 Deputy Agricultural Commissioner John Gouvaia, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Gregory Gee, and our staff for collecting and compiling the data for this report. I also wish to thank Janie Chambers for production preparation. As always, 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



Cattle drive, 1st Street, Livermore circa 1940's

Photo courtesy of Livermore-Amador Historical Society

ALAMEDA COUNTY BEEF CATTLE RANCHING

For more than 200 years beef cattle ranching has been a major industry in Alameda County. About 200,000 acres of rangeland, or about 40% of the County's land area, support approximately 28,000 head of cattle. The County's predominant rangeland type is Mediterranean Annual Grassland, a combination of climate, soil types, topography, flora, and fauna that produce some of the highest annual grassland forage values in the state. The ranchers of the County continue a great ranching heritage by protecting and preserving the rangeland and act as the primary caretakers of this resource that is so highly coveted by the growing urban population. Under their stewardship the grasslands and oak woodlands provide habitat for a diverse variety of native species, including several special status species.

Alameda County beef cattle operations have evolved considerably over time. Once many medium sized diversified family operations dominated the Alameda County landscape and were mostly self sufficient. Dry land hay, dry land grain, cow-calf herds and carry-over yearlings were normally included in the operation's business plan. However, increased production costs, stagnant commodity prices, and the economies of scale have forced many local ranchers to pursue off-ranch occupations to supplement their agricultural enterprises.

Alameda County ranchers continue to operate both year round cow/calf herds as well as seasonal grazing of stocker cattle. Whereas in the past many cow/calf herds were made up of specific straight bred English based genetic lines, the utilization of crossbreeding to achieve the advantages of hybrid vigor now predominates. Black-hided Angus based crossbreeds have in recent years provided price advantages and are popular among local ranchers.

Ranching remains largely a family business with over 80% of the operations managing 100 breeding cows or less. A strong work ethic, a commitment to the ranching lifestyle, and a love of the land will continue to enable Alameda County's ranching families to provide valuable stewardship of the working landscape and to continue a great tradition.

ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR YEAR 2004

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Dennis F. Bray
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Scott Haggerty, Vice President..... District 1
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Alice Lai-Bitker..... District 3
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Keith Carson, 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
Beef Cattle Ranching	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 Statistics.....	7
General Alameda County Information.....	Inside Front Cover
Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Staff.....	Inside Back Cover

COMPARISON SUMMARY

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Field Crops	\$ 5,087,000	\$ 4,417,000	\$ 4,232,000	\$ 4,485,000	\$ 4,019,000
Vegetable Crops	682,000	451,000	865,000	975,000	958,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	9,084,000	7,902,000	5,413,000	10,104,000	6,517,000
Nursery Products	17,491,000	17,730,000	13,599,000	14,008,000	12,460,000
Nursery Cut Flowers	Included in Nursery Products	Included in Nursery Products	630,000	1,100,000	1,589,000
Livestock & Poultry	7,850,000	6,842,000	5,175,000	5,758,000	6,305,000
Apiary Products	Included in Livestock & Poultry	Included in Livestock & Poultry	99,000	74,000	65,100
TOTALS	\$ 40,194,000	\$ 37,342,000	\$ 30,013,000	\$ 36,504,000	\$ 31,913,100



Photos: Kenneth Peek

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Hay, Alfalfa	2004	830	7.7	6,430	Ton	\$130.00	\$ 836,000
	2003	775	5.7	4,410	Ton	\$99.00	437,000
Hay, Other	2004	3,624	2.8	9,966	Ton	\$85.00	847,000
	2003	3,554	2.0	7,108	Ton	\$85.00	604,000
Range Pasture	2004	189,000			Acre	\$16.37	3,094,000
	2003	191,000			Acre	\$16.00	3,056,000
Miscellaneous	2004	1,250	Includes sugar beets, safflower, corn silage, barley, oats, wheat, beans, irrigated pasture, etc.				310,000
	2003	1,450					320,000
TOTAL	2004	194,704					5,087,000
	2003	196,779					\$4,417,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Grapes (Wine)							
Red	2004	1,814	3.18	5,769	Ton	Various	\$5,735,000
	2003	1,689	3.28	5,540	Ton	Various	5,978,000
White	2004	712	4.67	3,325	Ton	Various	3,317,000
	2003	595	3.00	1,785	Ton	Various	1,914,000
Misc. Fruit	2004	165	Includes olives, walnuts, etc.				32,000
	2003	115					10,000
TOTAL	2004	2,691					9,084,000
	2003	2,399					\$7,902,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Item	Year	No. of Head	Total Weight	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	2004	12,436	80,025	Cwt.	Var.	\$7,682,000
	2003	12,371	76,329	Cwt.	Var.	6,639,000
Misc. Poultry and Livestock Products	2004	Includes rabbits, sheep, wool, lambs, hogs, bees and apiary products.				168,000
	2003					203,000
TOTAL	2004					7,850,000
	2003					\$6,842,000



Photo: Damien Gossett



Photo: Kenneth Peek

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	House Sq. Ft.	Field Acres	Quantity Sold	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Ornamental Trees and Shrubs	2004	645,150	198	1,407,352	Plt.	Various	\$14,839,000
	2003	505,000	195	1,160,227	Plt.	Various	14,951,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Products	2004	286,860	64	Includes bedding plants, indoor decoratives, narcissus, peonies, christmas trees, cut flowers, etc.			2,652,000
	2003	264,350	60				2,779,000
TOTAL	2004	932,010	262				17,491,000
	2003	769,350	255				\$17,730,000

VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Total
Miscellaneous Vegetables	2004	165	\$682,000
	2003	95	\$451,000

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



Photos: Kenneth Peek

Pest Detection

7,231 insect detection traps were deployed for exotic insect pests, and serviced 94,797 times during the year. There were 945 yellow panel traps deployed in urban areas for detection of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, with 10,141 servicings for the year. Exotic insect pest finds included 3 Japanese Beetles, 2 Oriental Fruit Flies, and 1 Guava Fruit Fly. 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 Starthistle (<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	4	85

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. 488 Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) traps were deployed in various nurseries, with 6,489 servicings for the year.

Type of Shipment	Number Inspected	Number Rejected
Parcel Carriers (Post Office, UPS, Federal Express, Etc.)	20,959	145
Trucks	751	10
Household Goods (for Gypsy Moth)	118	2
	Shipments Incoming	Number Rejected
GWSS	5,485	11

Equine Statistics*

Equine information reporting remains in a preliminary stage. Our project is an on going process of designing a system to accurately gather data. Presently we can account for approximately 8,000 horses in Alameda County. Horses are used in a number of categories including: recreation, non-racing competition, working, racing, breeding and other uses. Future reporting will contain this information along with arena, stall and acreage information. Most importantly, we hope to illustrate the economic benefit the equine industry contributes to the entire county.

Alameda County Cattle Production Values 1943 - 2003

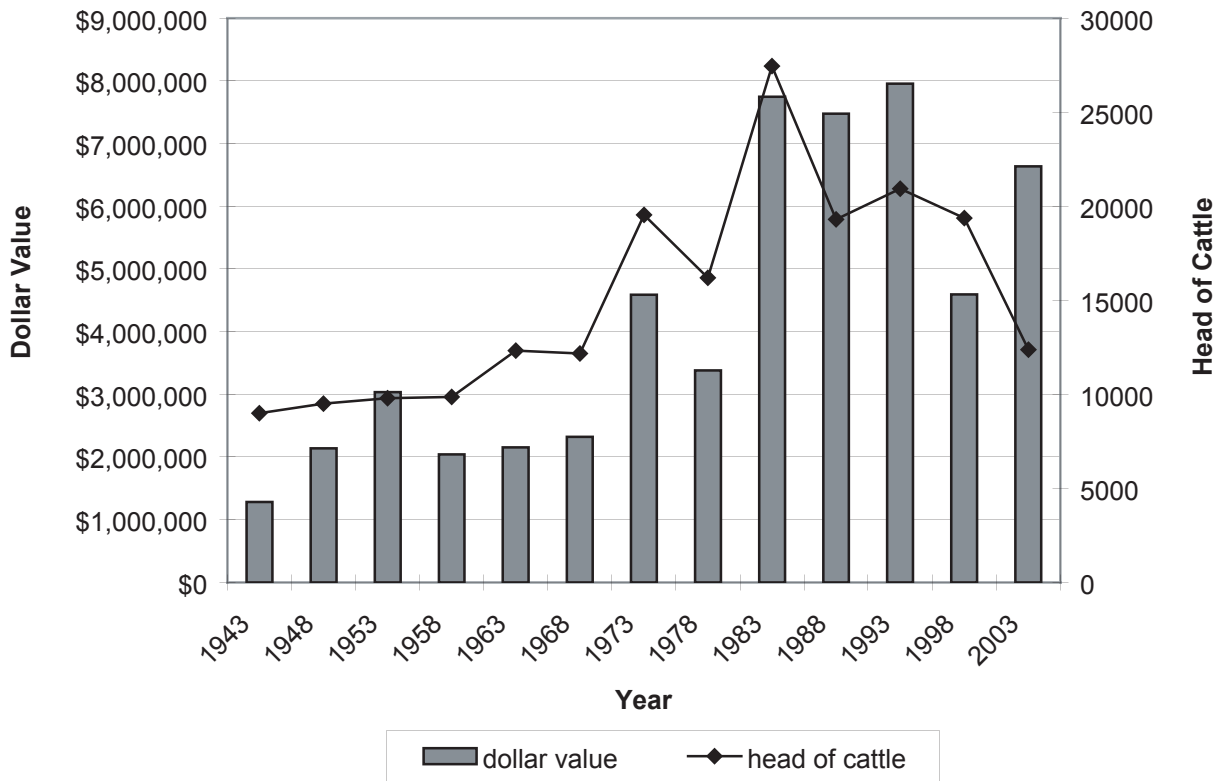


Photo: Damien Gossett

**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

Kim Simmons

James Smith

Ashenafi Tadesse

Rene Vega

Weights and Measures Inspectors

William Alejandro

Brent Faria

Estella Harris

Ronald Hasemeyer

Frank Jensen

Pest Detection Specialists

Mohamed Elhashash

Carmen Franke

Jonathan Gomes

Joanne Greer

Michelle Trudeau

Insect Trappers/Seasonal

Lisa Centoni

Mikael Dooha

Sean Eckert

Eric Forsberg

Sandra Frost

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Anni Pattee

Rodolfo Raras

Justin Riggs

Anand Shankar

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