

ALAMEDA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

2015
Crop
Report



ALAMEDA COUNTY
Community Development Agency



DEDICATION

**The 2015 Alameda County Agricultural Crop Report is dedicated to
Scott Paulsen and Ken Peek.**

Scott Paulsen, Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures – Retired



Mr. Paulsen, an Alameda County native, graduated from Hayward High School and Cal State University, Hayward. Scott joined Alameda County's Weights & Measures Department in 1979 and advanced his career in Weights & Measures and Agriculture as an Inspector in Alameda and Yuba Counties. He became Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in Calaveras County and eventually Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer in Amador, Yolo, and San Francisco Counties before returning to Alameda as the Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer in 2008. Scott became Alameda's 8th Agricultural Commissioner and 9th Sealer of Weights and Measures in 2014. His retirement culminates 37 years dedicated to public service which includes 6 years as the Enforcement Branch Chief for California's Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Ken Peek, Alameda County Agricultural & Standards Investigator III – Retired



An Alameda County native, Ken started his career in the Mediterranean Fruit Fly program in 1982 as an insect detection trapper with the California Department of Food & Agriculture. He joined Alameda County as an insect trapper and was soon supervising the detection trapping operation. He moved into the Pest Management division, affectionately known as 'rodent and weed', working with ranchers and growers to assist them with their pest control issues. Ken became a 'district biologist' covering all aspects of enforcement throughout the county. He performed a variety of inspection services related to pesticide use, pest exclusion, produce and egg quality, nurseries, and other programs. Ken was the lead contact for the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) program, working with nurseries, the waste management industry, and others impacted by SOD regulations. Alameda County has benefited greatly from his nearly 34 years of public service. Ken is a gifted photographer and chronicler of natural phenomena. All photographs in this year's Crop Report are samples of his work. The historical map on page 4 was also contributed by Ken.

The entire Community Development Agency wishes both Scott and Ken congratulations and all the best in their well-deserved retirements.



ALAMEDA COUNTY
Community Development Agency



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES DEPARTMENT

July 28, 2016

Chris Bazar
Agency Director

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
- and -
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, California

A. Humberto Izquierdo
Director
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In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, it is my pleasure to present the 2015 Alameda County Crop Report. This publication is presented annually and reports statistical information on acreage, yield, and gross value of all agricultural products produced in Alameda County.

The 2015 total gross value of Alameda County's agricultural production was \$49,903,000, an increase of 3,591,000 (7.8 %) from the 2014 value of \$46,312,000. This increase in gross production value was due primarily to a second high year in cattle sales due to improving drought conditions, coupled with record-high prices. This boost in sales should not be interpreted as a windfall to cattle producers, as animal replacement costs will be significant in coming seasons, an effect that will be exacerbated by reduced sales prices which have already declined significantly in 2016.

Nevertheless, with the recent increases, Livestock production has now eclipsed Fruit and Nut Crops as the top grossing commodity group in Alameda County in 2015 with an estimated production value of \$21.4 million in sales of cattle and calves.

Fruit and Nut crops remained high in 2015 estimated at \$15.4 million in value, with wine grapes continuing to sustain good quality, but yields were down from the previous growing season. Significant declines were also observed in Miscellaneous Fruit and Nut crops contributing further to a 6.2% decrease in this category overall.

Vegetable Crops increased in 2015 to an estimated value of \$1.3M (+4.4%) and have been steadily increasing in recent years. Conversely, Nursery Products have declined steadily in recent years, estimated at \$6.8M in 2015 (-14%). Field Crops also declined 13% in 2015 to \$4.3M. Production Nursery acreages have declined in recent years due to various factors. High water costs limited Field Crop production on irrigated lands, reducing yields and resulting in conversions to dryland or perennial crops in some locations.

It is important to emphasize that the numbers in this report are gross values only and do not reflect costs related to production, harvesting, marketing or transportation. These production costs and other farm related services have a significant overall local economic benefit generally thought to be about three times the gross production value.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Humberto Izquierdo
Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures



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Vice President

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**ALAMEDA COUNTY
Community Development
Agency**

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Chris Bazar**

**Deputy Director
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and
Measures
A. Humberto Izquierdo**

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GENERAL COUNTY INFORMATION

County Seat, Oakland

County Population (2015) 1,638,215

Land Area (Square Miles) 738

Water Area (Square Miles) 83.8

Persons Per Square Mile (2015) 2,220

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 Value (Local Roll 2015-16) \$245,456,517,353

Total Harvested Crop Acreage 184,511

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 San
Francisco Bay. The eastern portion of the
county is moderately warmer; high
temperatures in the Livermore-Amador Valley
average 90°F in July.

CROP STATISTICS

FIELD CROPS							
Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Hay, Alfalfa	2015	355	2.81	998	Ton	\$190.00	\$190,000
	2014	524	4.71	2,468	Ton	\$238.00	\$587,000
Hay, Other	2015	2,514	1.06	2,664	Ton	\$165.56	\$441,000
	2014	3381	0.89	3,009	Ton	\$182.00	\$548,000
Range & Pasture	2015	177,798	-----		Acre	\$18.73	\$3,330,000
	2014	177,798	-----		Acre	\$17.95	\$3,191,000
Miscellaneous	2015	835	Includes safflower, wheat, sorghum, etc.				\$330,000
	2014	979					\$593,000
Total	2015	181,502					\$4,292,000
	2014	182,682					\$4,919,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS							
Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Grapes, Wine Red	2015	1807	3.9	7,047	Ton	\$1,613.00	\$11,367,000
	2014	1837	4.07	7,477	Ton	\$1,581.00	\$11,820,000
Grapes, Wine White	2015	591	4.89	2,890	Ton	\$1,329.00	\$3,841,000
	2014	583	5.32	3,102	Ton	\$1,269.00	\$3,936,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut	2015	321	Includes olives, walnuts, pistachios, pomegranates, etc.				\$186,000
	2014	319					\$662,000
Total	2015	2,719					\$15,394,000
	2014	2,739					\$16,418,000

VEGETABLE CROPS							
Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage					Total
Miscellaneous	2015	112	Includes broccoli, cabbage, corn, leaf lettuce, greens, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, etc.				\$1,269,000
Vegetables	2014	112					\$1,215,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY						
Item	Year	No. of Head	Total Weight	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle & Calves	2015	18,210	138,530	Cwt	Various	\$21,466,000
	2014	12,611	83,912	Cwt.	Various	\$15,016,000
Misc. Poultry and Livestock Products	2015	Includes sheep, goats, pigs, bee pollination and apiary products				\$629,000
	2014					\$778,000
Total	2015					\$22,095,000
	2014					\$15,794,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS							
Item	Year	House Sq. Ft.	Field Acres	Quantity Sold	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Ornamental Trees and Shrubs	2015	21,555	115	325,678	Plt	Various	\$5,962,000
	2014	21,555	124	342,224	Plt	Various	\$6,988,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Products	2015	110,000	60	Includes bedding plants, cut flowers, indoor decoratives, vegetable starts, Christmas trees, etc.			\$891,000
	2014	95,000	60				\$978,000
Total	2015	131,555	175				\$6,853,000
	2014	116,555	184				\$7,966,000

COMPARISON SUMMARY					
Item	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Field Crops	4,292,000	4,919,000	5,404,000	5,611,000	5,311,000
Vegetable Crops	1,269,000	1,215,000	1,020,000	949,000	785,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	15,394,000	16,418,000	16,124,000	14,259,000	12,043,000
Nursery Products	6,853,000	7,966,000	8,377,000	10,531,000	12,147,000
Livestock & Poultry	22,095,000	15,794,000	11,032,000	8,709,000	10,894,000
Total	49,903,000	46,312,000	41,957,000	40,059,000	41,180,000

PROGRAM REPORTS

PEST DETECTION		
<p>Pest detection is the second line of defense against invasive non-native pests from becoming established in areas so vast that it is not possible to control or eradicate an infestation. Insect traps are placed and monitored throughout the county to detect exotic pests that are known to be detrimental to agriculture and the environment.</p>		
TARGET PEST	INSECT HOSTS	TRAP SERVICINGS
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	79,159
Mexican Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	
Melon Fruit Fly	Vegetable Gardens	
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	
Miscellaneous Fruit Flies	Fruit Trees and Vegetables	
Gypsy Moth	Shade Trees	
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pine Trees	
<i>Trogoderma</i> Beetle	High Hazard Commodities	
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS)	Landscape/Nursery Plants	10,724
Light Brown Apple Moth	Ornamental/Commercial Crops	209
Asian Citrus Psyllid	Citrus/Nursery Plants	1821
European Grapevine Moth	Vineyards	674
<p>In 2015 exotic insect pests detections included A-rated Gypsy Moth in Hayward. The County Agriculture Department deployed a grand total of 8,430 traps to detect the presence of invasive insect pests, and serviced the traps 93.274 times during the year.</p>		

PEST EXCLUSION		
<p>Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent non-native invasive pests and diseases, detrimental to agriculture and the environment, from entering the county. Incoming shipments of plant products and other high-risk articles are inspected daily at various shipping terminals to enforce quarantines that are intended to prevent the introduction of harmful pests.</p>		
TYPE OF SHIPMENT	SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	SHIPMENTS REJECTED
Parcel Carrier	6579	126 (90 pests)
Trucks	143	3 (7 pests)
Household Goods	109	0
Nursery (GWSS Program)	2716	0

CANINE INSPECTION PROGRAM		
<p>Our Canine Inspection Team works at various parcel terminals to detect and inspect unmarked parcels containing unprocessed agricultural commodities to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases. Agriculture detector dogs have been shown to be highly effective in finding pests in parcels and are being used throughout the state to help protect California agriculture.</p>		
TYPE OF SHIPMENT	SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	SHIPMENTS REJECTED
Parcel Carrier	1231	501 (210 pests found)
'A' and 'Q' Rated Pest Interceptions	51	88

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH PROGRAM	
Compliance Inspections	248
Traps in Nurseries/Crops	29 (No female adults found)
Businesses Under Compliance Agreement	
Crop Producers	6
Community Gardens/Direct Markets	0
Retail and Production Nurseries	15
Green Waste Facilities	14

SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) PROGRAM	
Compliance Inspections	78
Sudden Oak Death Positives	0
Businesses Under Compliance Agreement	
Shipping Nurseries	14
Green-waste Facilities	14
Wood Products/Wreaths/Greenery	41

PEST MANAGEMENT AND ERADICATION			
WEEDS (Common Name/Scientific Name)		CONTROL METHOD	SCOPE OF PROGRAM (No. Sites/Treated Acres)
Puna Grass	<i>Stipa brachychaeta</i>	Mechanical Removal	1 site - 0.1 acre
Golden Thistle	<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Monitoring	720 acres
Iberian Starthistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	Chemical & Mechanical	1 site - 0.1 acre
Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>	Mechanical Removal	1 site - 0.1 acre
Japanese Dodder	<i>Cuscuta japonica</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	16 sites
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	Various, 45 net acres
Purple Starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	Various, 18 net acres

State agriculture funding to counties for terrestrial weed management was cut in 2011. Some additional support funding has been obtained intermittently for specific pests such as Japanese Dodder. Our department maintains long-standing weed management activities to the extent possible through collaborative partnerships with public and private land managers for the control of state-listed noxious weeds of regional and regulatory concern. The table above describes work performed by our department in the past year through these sources and partnerships. Other weeds of concern in our region include; Barb Goatgrass, Medusahead, Pampas Grass, Hoary Cresses, Rush Skeletonweed, White Horsenettle, and other invasive noxious weed detections as they arise.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	REGISTERED PRODUCERS	ESTIMATED ACREAGE
Miscellaneous	9	122

URBAN FARMING		
TYPE	NUMBER	ESTIMATED ACREAGE
Community Gardens	36	52
School Gardens	269	92
Certified Farmers Markets	35	728 stalls
Certified Producers	22	149 acres

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
Biological control (biocontrol) involves the reduction of pest populations through the use of natural enemies such as parasitoids, predators, pathogens, antagonists, or competitors.		
PEST	AGENTS	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Yellow Star-thistle <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Bud Weevil <i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>	Found in most areas of the County
	Seed-head Gall Fly <i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>	Found in most areas of the County
	Seed-head Fly <i>Chaetorellia</i> spp.	Found in most areas of the County
	Hairy Weevil <i>Eustenopus villosus</i>	Found in most areas of the County
	Rust Fungus <i>Puccinia jaceae</i> var. <i>solstitialis</i>	Released at 3 sites

EQUINE STATISTICS	
Commercial use of horses is now considered as an agricultural use for purposes of the Williamson Act. This category includes the breeding and training of race horses, competition horses, and ranch horses for the purpose of commercial sale.	
TYPE	NUMBER
Race Horses	2000
Competition Horses	1000
Ranch Horses	1500
Recreation/Pleasure*	5000
*Ineligible for Williamson Act as economic benefit to agriculture; however, this category of horses is recognized for its ancillary benefit.	



A sampling of artistic and technical photography by Ken Peek that has enriched our professional publications and helped preserve agriculture in Alameda County over the years.





AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES



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Mission

To enrich the lives of Alameda County residents through visionary policies and accessible, responsive and effective services.

Vision

Alameda County is recognized as one of the best counties in which to live, work, and do business.

Values

- Integrity, honesty, and respect fostering mutual trust.
- Transparency and accountability achieved through open communications and involvement of diverse community voices.
- Fiscal Stewardship reflecting the responsible management of resources.
- Customer service built on commitment, accessibility, and responsiveness.
- Excellence in performance based on strong leadership, teamwork and a willingness to take risks.
- Diversity recognizing the unique qualities of every individual and his or her perspective.
- Environmental stewardship to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources.
- Social responsibility promoting self-sufficiency, economic independence and an interdependent system of care and support.
- Compassion ensuring all people are treated with respect, dignity and fairness.

