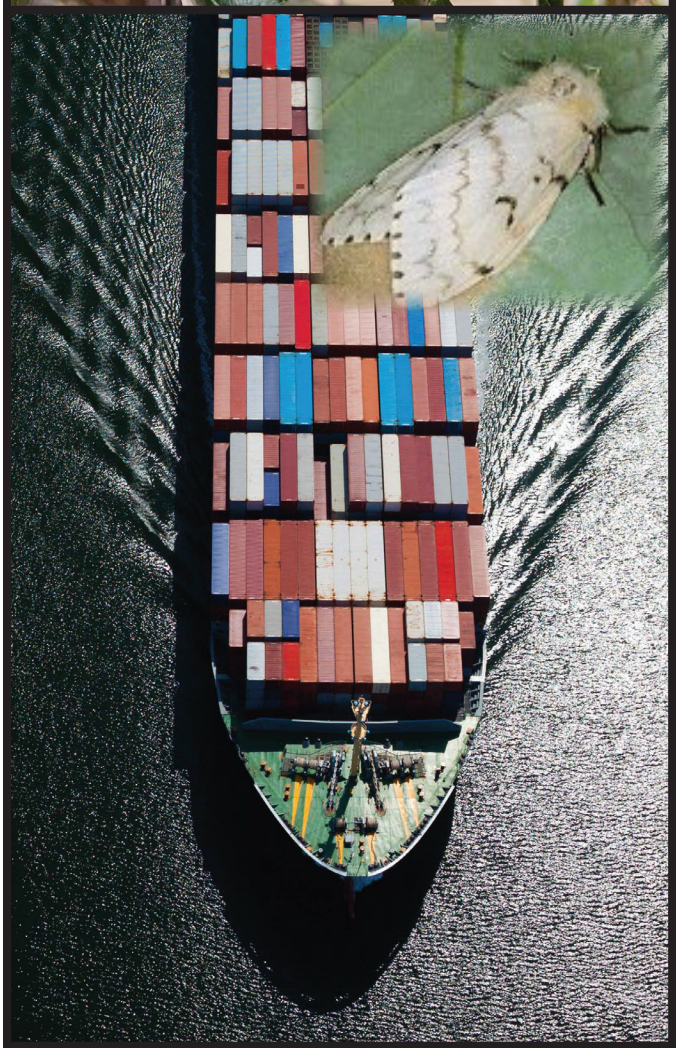
2021 Crop Report

ALAMEDA COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Community Development Agency

The 2021 Alameda County Agricultural Crop Report is dedicated to Chris Bazar and Cora Robles


Chris Bazar

Chris Bazar served Alameda County for 27 years. He began his career in 1995 with the Planning Department and served as the Community Development Agency (CDA) Director since 2008. Under Chris the CDA cultivated innovation and teamwork.

The Agriculture Weights and Measures Department appreciates Chris's immense support of our community-based projects. Chris backed the development of "Ag in the Classroom," a program introducing school age children to the importance of maintaining and protecting the local agriculture unique to our county.

Thank you, Chris, for your dedication and enthusiasm during your time as CDA director and leader of the community.


Cora Robles

Our department has undergone yet another significant changing of the guard. Our beloved office manager of 23 years, Cora Robles elected to move on to greener pastures. Cora, began with our department in 1999, and during her entire tenure here was a stalwart of integrity, responsibility, and care in her work. Cora maintained excellence in the management of our office affairs from the moment she arrived, and never looked back.

Having served under 5 County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealers, Cora saw it all, and was ready to enjoy her golden years traveling and enjoying special time with family and friends. We wish her well in all her future endeavors, and a very long and happy retirement!

Thank you Cora for decades of determination and faithful service to our department and county community at large.

Pest Prevention in Alameda County

The Alameda County Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures works to protect the agricultural commodities of our county, and the agriculture of California. There are multiple levels of pest prevention employed by the county to prevent the introduction of new pests, manage existing pests, and preventing the spread of known pests in the county to other parts of the state, country and world.

Pest Detection is an early warning system that enables us to detect pest infestations before they reach a critical size. Traps are placed and monitored throughout the entire county for the presence of exotic agricultural pests. These pests can infest a large number of different hosts and once established are difficult and costly to control. Statewide, this program protects the environment by limiting the need for pesticide applications and also helps ensure a supply of fresh produce, native and ornamental plants, turf, and timberland.

Pest Exclusion enforces various quarantines to prevent the introduction of pests which are not commonly present in the county. Packages are inspected at Federal Express, United Parcel Service, US Post Office, and other carriers. The department also inspects and certifies agricultural commodities destined for other states or countries to comply with their local requirements.

The Department manages weed and rodent pests. It produces pest control materials for destructive burrowing rodents that are major pests of rangeland and hosts for vector borne diseases. These products are provided to local farmers and governmental agencies. Eradication activities are conducted to mitigate risks of wildfire, and eliminate established infestations of harmful exotic pests including some weeds that have the potential to crowd out beneficial plants and are considered serious threats to rangeland and delta shores.

Behind every method of prevention are dedicated staff working to ensure the county's producers can provide quality commodities at quantities that contribute to the robust agricultural economy of the area.

ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES DEPARTMENT

Sandra Rivera
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June 26, 2022

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

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, it is my pleasure to present the 2021 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 2021 estimated total gross value of Alameda County's agricultural production was $55,239,000. This figure represents a roughly 25% increase over the 2020 estimated value of $43,895,000.

Fruit and Nut crops are once again the most valued commodity group in Alameda County for 2021. Winegrape production benefitted from favorable growing conditions. Other new permanent crops, planted in previous years, continue to mature into production.

Livestock is our second most valued commodity group, despite a drop in value for 2021. Continued drought and resulting lack of feed and water this year led many ranchers to sell more cattle in an effort to reduce herd sizes.

Field Crops became our third most valued commodity group. While available water becomes scarcer, changes to cropping patterns and new commodities are helping the value of this commodity group.

Nursery products is our fourth most valued commodity group this year. As the county begins to return to a post- pandemic normalcy, landscape plant sales have benefitted from a surge in housing sales in 2021.

Vegetable crops held fairly steady in 2021 and are listed as our fifth most valued commodity group.

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 local economic benefit generally thought to be about three times gross production value.

Respectfully submitted,

CRoache

Cathy Roache,
Agricultural Commissioner /
Sealer of Weights and Measure

PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

FIELD CROPS						
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACERAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	TOTAL PER UNIT	TOTAL
Hay, Alfalfa	2021	95	6	570	$220/ton	$125,400
	2020	340	5.50	1,870	$220/ton	$411,000
Hay, Other	2021	2,440	2	4,280	165	$680,000
	2020	2,790	1.7	4,600	$140/ton	$644,000
Range & Pasture	2021	135,000	-	-	$26/acre	$3,150,000
	2020	135,000	-	-	$21/acre	$3,675,000
Miscellaneous	2021	419	Includes beans, corn, industrial hemp etc.			$4,654,000
	2020	105				$255,000
Total	2021	138,000				$8,609,000
	2020	138,000				$4,986,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS						
CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACERAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	TOTAL PER UNIT	TOTAL
Grapes, Wine Red	2021	1,890	4.9	9,200	$1,540/ton	$14,160,000
	2020	1,800	4.9	8,860	$1,560/ton	$13,846,000
Grapes, Wine White	2021	802	7.4	5,940	$1,340/ton	$7,977,000
	2020	735	5.7	4,160	$1,350/ton	$5,624,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut	2021	1900	Includes olives, walnuts, pistachios, pomegranates, almonds, avocados, etc.			$6,345,000
	2020	1,800				$5,646,000
Total	2021	4,600				$28,482,000
	2020	4,320				$21,624,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS			
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACERAGE	TOTAL
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	2021	54	$4,859,000
	2020	63	$3,851,000
Misc. Nursery Products*	2021	62	$909,000
	2020	60	$732,000
Total	2021	116	$5,768,000
	2020	123	$4,583,000

*Includes bedding plants, cut flowers, indoor decoratives, vegetable starts, Christmas trees, etc.

Dorin Ciocotisan inspecting a European Grape Vine Moth trap

PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE CONTINUED

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY						
ITEM	YEAR	# OF HEAD	TOTAL WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle & Calves	2021	13,400	100,400	Cwt	Various	$11,454,000
	2020	14,000	104,500	Cwt	Various	$12,183,000
Misc. Livestock & Poultry Products	2021	Includes sheep, goats, pigs, bee pollination, apiary products etc.				$608,000
	2020					$520,000
Total	2021					$12,062,000
	2020					$12,703,000

VEGETABLE CROPS			
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACERAGE	TOTAL
Miscellaneous Vegetables*	2021	150	$317,600
	2020	40	$316,000

*Includes broccoli, cabbage, leaf lettuce, greens, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, etc.

Beef Cattle. Photo by Gabrielle Palmer

Almond tree *(Prunus sp.)*

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	REGISTERED PRODUCERS	ESTIMATED ACERAGE
Miscellaneous	11	283

URBAN FARMING		
TYPE	NUMBER	ESTIMATED ACREAGE
Community Gardens	36	52 acres
School Gardens	269	92 acres
Certified Farmers Markets	27	893 stalls
Certified Producers	27	150 acres

Angel's Trumpet *(Brugmansia)*

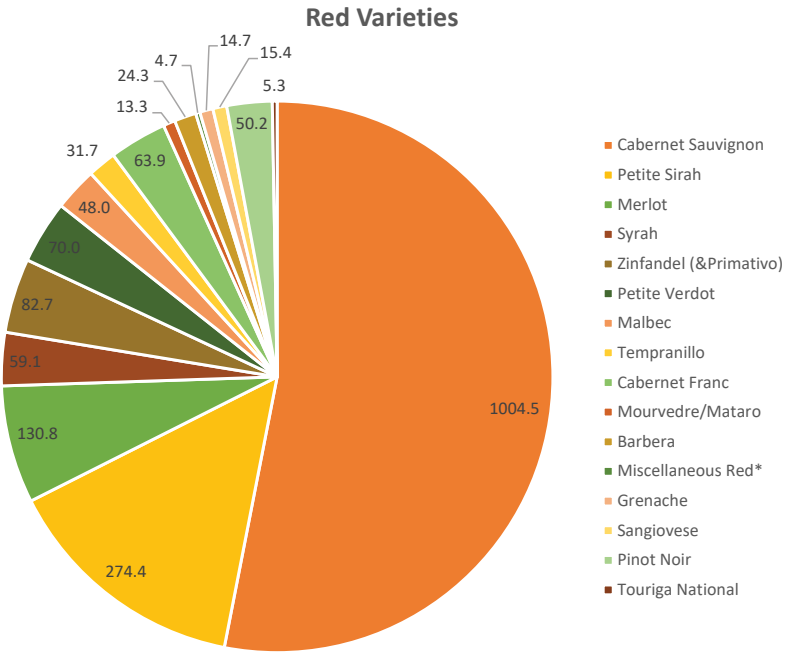
COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	AGENTS	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Yellow Star-Thistle Centaurea Solstitalis	Bud Weevil Bangasternus orientalis	Found countywide
	Seed-head Gall Fly Urophora sirunaseva	
	Seed-head Fly Chaetorellia spp.	
	Hairy Weevil Eustenopus villosus	
	Rust Fungus Puccinia jaceae var. solstitalis	

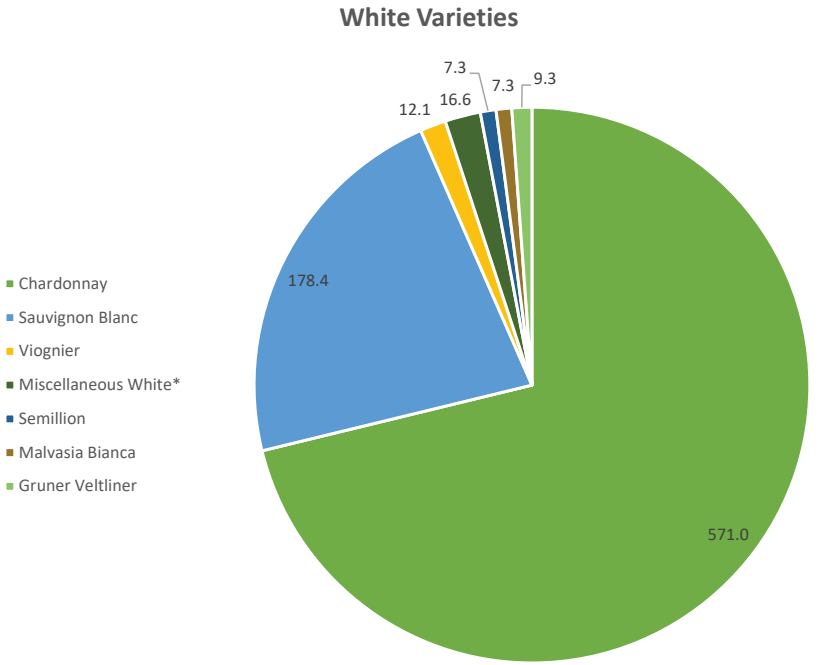
2021 ALAMEDA COUNTY WINEGRAPE VARIETIES

At the request of our local industry, our department has gathered crop production information on winegrape varieties. We thank our Alameda County Grape Producers and the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association for their support in this effort. Ongoing support and participation from all grape growers is greatly appreciated.

A total of 33 grape varieties were reported. 20 red varieties were reported, 15 with over 5 planted acres and 5 with fewer than 5 planted acres. 13 white varieties were reported, 6 of those with over 5 planted acres and 7 with under 5 planted acres.

Red Variety	Acres	Est. Tons
Cabernet Sauvignon	1004.5	5147.2
Petite Sirah	274.4	1276.4
Touriga National	5.3	26.1
Merlot	130.8	530.5
Malbec	48.0	338.6
Miscellanous Red*	4.7	15.5
Pinot Noir	50.2	242.0
Syrah	59.1	255.1
Zinfandel (&Primativo)	82.7	264.7
Petite Verdot	70.0	303.8
Cabernet Franc	63.9	285.7
Tempranillo	31.7	123.2
Barbera	24.3	115.5
Mourvedre/Mataro	13.3	73.7
Grenache	14.7	91.4
Sangiovese	15.4	111.1





White Variety	Acres	Est. Tons
Chardonnay	571.0	4681.9
Sauvignon Blanc	178.4	1027.7
Miscellaneous White*	16.6	59.7
Gruner Veltiner	9.3	18.50
Malvasia Bianca	7.3	20.52
Semillion	7.3	74.2
Viognier	12.1	54.4

*Miscellaneous varieties are varieties with fewer than 5 reported acres. Miscellaneous Reds include: Counoise, Graciano, Souzao, Tinta Amarela, Tinta Cao. Miscellaneous Whites include: Albarino, Muscat Orange, Pinot Blanc, Rousanne, Verdehlo, Pinot Grigio, Muscat Canelli.

PROGRAM REPORTS

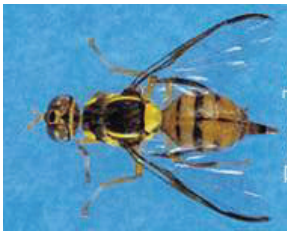
PEST DETECTION		
Pest Detection is the second line of defense against invasive non-native pests becoming established in areas so vast that it is impossible to control or eradicate infestation. Insect traps are placed and monitored throughout the county to detect exotic pests that are known to be detrimental to agriculture and the environment.		
TARGET PEST	**INSECT HOSTS**	**TRAP SERVICINGS**
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	94,500
Mexican Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	
Melon Fruit Fly	Vegetable Gardens	
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	
Miscellaneous Fruit Flies	Fruit Trees and Vegetables	
Spongy Moth	Shade Trees	
Japanese Beetle	Turf/Roses	
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pine Trees	
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter	Landscape/Nursery Plants	12,100
Asian Citrus Psyllid	Citrus/Nursery Plants	5,900
European Grapevine Moth	Vineyards	392
Emerald Ash Borer	Ash Trees/Olive Trees	226
The County Agriculture Department deployed a grand total of 6,254 traps to detect the presence of non-native insect pests and serviced the traps 113,082 times during the year.		

The **Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis* or OFF)** is a highly invasive pest that feeds on a broad range of tropical fruit. The larval stage of their life cycle is the most damaging because of larval feeding on the soft flesh of fruits. The Oriental fruit fly is constantly being introduced into California through the movement of infested fruit and vegetables across international and domestic borders. Although introductions have occasionally been found in California, these have all been successfully eradicated.

In 2021, three Oriental fruit flies were found in Fremont during routine inspections of traps in residential fruit trees. The first OFF was found on October 7th by Robert Sloan in a fig tree. On October 12th another was found by Alan Sanders in a persimmon tree roughly seven miles from the first, and on October 15 the last was discovered in Fremont by Kathleen Ahern in a fig tree roughly half a mile away from the first find. The county has been following delimitation inspection protocols. No additional OFF's have been detected and affected areas will be monitored until July of 2022.

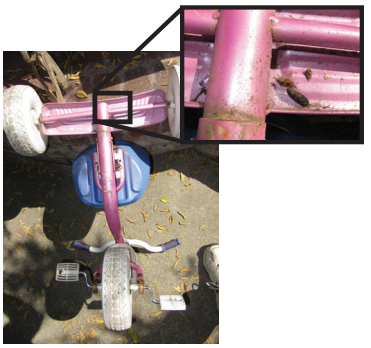
The California Department of Food and Agriculture began chemical control treatment plans to eliminate all sexually mature male OFFs known by using the Male Attractant Technique (MAT). MAT applies small bait stations using a pre-mixed solution containing the attractant methyl eugenol and an organically registered pesticide Spinosad, mixed into a waxy time-release matrix (SPLAT®). The methyl eugenol lures male OFFs to the bait stations, where the flies ingest the insecticide as they feed and die. The specialized treatments ended in February 2022.


Julio Reyes placing a McPhail Trap


Oriental Fruit Fly
Photo by CDFA

CDFA conducting fruit fly treatment

PEST EXCLUSION			
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 intended to prevent the introduction of harmful pests.			
TYPE OF SHIPMENT	**SHIPMENTS INSPECTED**	**SHIPMENTS REJECTED**	**PESTS FOUND**
Parcel Carrier	7,020	708	194
Trucks	479	2	1
Household Goods	58	1	1
Nursery	2,900	1	2
Airfreight	217	11	10



Tricycle with Spongy Moth pupa

Working in collaboration with CDFA's boarder stations, the county is alerted to incoming shipments of household goods for people moving from infested areas of the country. Upon arrival at its destination inspectors go out and inspect all household items that were previously stored outside. Inspectors search every surface of these items looking for adults, larvae, and egg masses of the **Spongy Moth (Lymantria dispar)** and **Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula)**. Egg masses of both species look like a smear of dried mud, and can be difficult to spot. When found the masses are removed from the surface, and sent to the CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostic Center to confirm identification.

On July 23, 2021 Agriculture and Standards Investigator Sean Eckert found suspect pests inside a children's outdoor Tonka truck. A sample was collected and submitted to the CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostics Center where it was identified as Spongy Moth (Lymantria dispar). The shipment was reconditioned and released to the homeowner, and a Spongy Moth trap was placed on the property and will be monitored over the next three years.

Spotted Lanternfly
Photo by Stephen Ausmus

Spongy Moth
Photo by Ken Peek

Black Fig Fly (*Silba adipate* or BFF) is an invasive pest that has been recently found in many counties of Southern California. Female adult BFF lay eggs inside unripe fig through an opening known as the ostiole. Larva hatch from the eggs and feed internally on the fruit causing damage usually resulting in the fruit prematurely dropping from the tree. Larvae continue to develop and exit the damaged fruit to pupate in the soil through the winter. Adults emerge in the spring to mate and may have four to six generations in a year.

On September 20, 2021, Agriculture and Standards Investigator Alejandro Regalado-Talavera reconditioned an incoming shipment of fig trees from Ventura County by removing the fruit off the trees in response to a Pest Alert from the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) for the Black Fig Fly (*Silba adipata*). ASI Regalado -Talavera confiscated 100 figs, which he inspected for pests. Suspect Black Fig Fly larva were found and sent to the CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostics Center for identification. It was confirmed that the larvae's DNA is consistent with Quarantined-rated *Silba adipata* (Black Fig Fly). All remaining fruit was destroyed.

Figs confiscated from nursery stock

Black fig fly larva

Asian Citrus Psyllid (*Diaphorina citri* or ACP) is a tiny insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. ACP can infect trees with bacteria that cause a disease known as Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease. HLB has no cure and will ultimately kill any tree infected. Alameda County Department of Agriculture places traps across the county to detect the presence of ACP and works with the CDFA's California Citrus Program to remove any potentially infected trees to prevent the introduction and spread of HLB. On December 31, 2021 an ACP was found in a trap in Fremont. Treatment was conducted by CDFA.

The Alameda County Department of Agriculture was contacted by a resident about a citrus tree with a possible HLB infection. The citrus tree had been brought by the resident from an infected area of California without proper agricultural certification. After outreach from inspectors in our department the tree was surrendered by the owner, removed, and destroyed.

Orange tree (*Citrus sp.*)

Alejandro Regalado Talavera with a surrendered citrus tree

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH PROGRAM	
Compliance Inspections	170
Moths Detected in Regulatory Inspections	0
Businesses Under Compliance Agreement	
Crop Producers	0
Community Gardens/Direct Markets	0
Retail and Production Nurseries	9
Green Waste Facilities	16

SUDDEN OAK DEATH	
Compliance Inspections	75
Sudden Oak Death Positives	0
Businesses Under Compliance Agreement	
Shipping Nurseries	5
Green Waste Facilities	16

Dorin Ciocotisan placing an EAB trap

Adult emerald ash borer. Photo by USDA.

The **Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis* or EAB)** is a metallic green beetle first seen in Michigan in 2002. Its population has since spread to more than half of U.S. states and parts of Canada. The larval stage feeds on the inner bark of ash trees. Damage to the inner bark prevents the tree from moving water and nutrients ultimately killing the tree. Since its introduction the EAB has decimated millions of ash trees in North America. Agriculture and Standards Aides in Alameda County are now deploying traps to be sure we detect the first signs of EAB in our county. Knowing if the EAB is in Alameda County allows for our department to take measures toward containment and eradication, while avoiding unnecessary treatments.

CANINE INSPECTION PROGRAM		
TYPE OF SHIPMENT	**SHIPMENTS REJECTED**	**ACTIONABLE PEST FINDS (AQW)**
Parcel Carrier	669	159

Handler Lisa Sampson and Zenna

Saron Debessai and Zenna

Canine Handler Lisa Sampson and her canine partner, Zenna, work with the Agriculture and Standards Investigators to intercept, inspect, and confiscate infested parcels. Pest finds are confirmed with the CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostic Center, and both shippers and receivers of the parcels are notified about the disposition of the parcel and educated on shipping protocols for future shipments.

Agricultural products grown in California are a billion-dollar export industry. Containers of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and other agricultural commodities are exported out of the state from the Port of Oakland to countries all over the world.

A phytosanitary export certificate is used to certify that domestic plants or plant products have been inspected according to appropriate procedures, and they are considered to be free from quarantine pests. Alameda County Agricultural inspectors perform inspections and write export certificates for agricultural products being exported from California. County inspectors are trained to be Authorized Certification Officials (ACO) under USDA training protocols and after undergoing training are able to assist applicants in meeting the quarantine requirements of foreign countries. The USDA program provides information for entry requirements for agricultural commodities for countries throughout the world. If the applicant is able to meet the foreign countries import requirements the county inspector issues a phytosanitary certificate.

Benjamin Wong and USDA's Nicole Abalde inspecting coffee beans

PEST MANAGEMENT & ERADICATION		
This regulatory noxious weed control work is conducted in partnership with regional land management agencies and other Alameda-Contra Costa WMA partner organizations. Other weeds of concern in this region include Hoary Cresses, Rush Skeletonweed, White Horsenettle, Golden Thistle, Puna Grass and new invasive noxious weeds.		
WEEDS COMMON NAME	**SCIENTIFIC NAME**	**CONTROL METHOD**
Japanese Dodder	Cuscuta japonica	Chemical & Mechanical
Iberian Thistle	Centaurea iberica	
Purple Star Thistle	Centaurea calcitrapa	
Artichoke Thistle	Cynara cardunculus	
Stinkwort	Dittrichia graveolens	
Barb Goatgrass	Aegilops triuncialis	
Medusahead	Taeniatherum caput-medusae	

Joanne Greer removing Japanese Dodder

Noxious weeds are a problem on rangelands, wetlands, and urban areas of Alameda county. The impact can be extensive and if unmanaged the damage can be irreversible.

Rangeland weeds have a major impact on grazing land, lowering the quality of forage available, increasing the cost of raising livestock, and can be poisonous to grazing livestock. Noxious invasive weeds impact people using recreational hiking areas especially when covered in thorns, prickles, or irritating hairs. Weed abatement is a crucial tool in fire prevention, and protection of local properties and businesses. Purple star thistle and Yellow star thistle are two noxious weed species that the Agriculture Department manages in Alameda County.

Japanese Dodder, a parasitic vine that requires a host to survive, occurs in urban areas of Alameda County. In the warmer areas of California it can grow year-round. Japanese Dodder has a wide range of hosts including the heritage oak trees and can kill these spectacular trees.

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Darin Hoagland | Julio Reyes | Vacant

Canine Inspection Team
Lisa Sampson | Zenna

Supervising Secretary II
Cora Robles

Administrative/Clerical Support
Suzette Morgado | Beni Sanchez | Clarice Walker

Cover Photos
Top left: Oriental Fruit Fly, Plum, Tree
Top Right: Asian Citrus Psyllid, Orange Tree
Bottom Right: Black Fig Fly, Unripe Figs
Bottom Left: Female Spongy Moth, Container Ship (photo credit dedola.com)

COMPARISON SUMMARY					
ITEM	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
Field Crops	$8,609,000	$4,986,000	$3,349,000	$4,736,000	$4,030,000
Vegtable Crops	$317,600	$316,000	$896,000	$899,000	$1,084,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	$28,482,000	$21,624,000	$22,499,000	$29,215,000	$18,284,000
Nursery products	$5,768,000	$4,583,000	$4,484,000	$4,686,000	$7,256,000
Livestock & Poultry	$12,062,000	$12,703,000	$12,427,000	$15,314,000	$17,048,000
Total	$55,239,000	$43,895,000	$43,655,000	$54,850,000	$47,702,000

GENERAL ALAMEDA COUNTY INFORMATION

County Seat.....Oakland
County Population, 2021.....1,682,353
Land Area (Square Miles).....739
Water Area (Square Miles).....105
Persons per Square Mile, 2021.....2,046

Total Assessed Property (Local Roll 2020-21)
$333 Billion

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.

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 Harvested Crop Acreage (2017)
183,300

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.