



## Agricultural Resources

The county's rich agricultural resources are protected and quantified, and response to emergencies and disasters affecting agriculture are addressed through the following programs:

### Ag Statistics and Mapping

- Accurate reporting of the production and economic value of the agricultural industry
- Compiles statistics for emergency disaster declarations for weather related natural disasters
- Ensures documentation of the contribution of the agricultural industry to the economic health of the county
- Preserves the historic record of trends and changes to local agriculture
- Maps agricultural resources and production areas

### Land Use Planning/Resource Protection

- Protects agricultural resources and farming operation for the future
- Provides technical agricultural information to decision makers
- Identifies potential negative impacts of changes in zoning, land use and subdivision of agricultural property and recommends appropriate mitigation to decision makers
- Reduces conflict between farmers and their neighbors through Right to Farm ordinance mediation and buffers

### Emergency Preparedness Planning

- Plans for a potential nuclear power plant emergency affecting agriculture and the public's safety
- Assists agriculture during disasters
- Protects the public and agriculture through educational outreach about bioterrorism and bio-security measures



## Weights and Measures

The Weights and Measures program serves the community by assuring confidence and integrity in the marketplace by safeguarding measurement accuracy. Both the buyer and seller are protected when store scales, checkout scanners, packages, taxi meters and gasoline pumps are inspected for accuracy.

### Weight Verification

- Tests scales in stores at the checkout counter
- Tests Farmers' Market and swap meet scales
- Tests truck scales
- Audits businesses that certify weight or measurement of commodities when the buyer or seller is not present

### Measurement Verification

- Tests gasoline pumps for accuracy
- Tests electronic, natural gas and water meters at mobile home parks
- Tests meters used for sale of propane gas

### Transaction and Product Verification

- Assures correct scanned prices at the cash register
- Tests prepackaged goods for accurate weight, measure or county-quantity statements
- Checks signs and labels and tests petroleum products for quality
- Tests accuracy of quantities determined at time of sale



For more information about the County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures contact the office nearest you:

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A  
**San Luis Obispo**  
**805.781.5910**

350 North Main Street  
**Templeton**  
**805.434.5950**

810 West Branch Street  
**Arroyo Grande**  
**805.473.7090**

**Toll Free Pesticide Complaint Hotline**  
(Spanish and English)  
**1.800.528.9333**

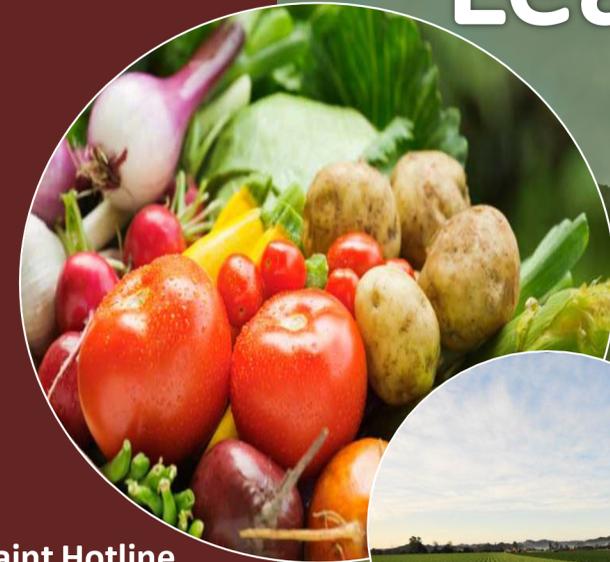


**Online:**  
[www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm)



County of San Luis Obispo  
Department of Agriculture  
Weights and Measures

# Leading the Way



# to a better tomorrow... *today*





## The County Department of Agriculture

*Weights and Measures is committed to leading and serving the community by protecting agriculture, the environment, and the health and safety of its citizens, and by ensuring equity in the market place.*

*The following descriptions of activities help lead the way to a better tomorrow:*

## Environmental Protection

The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures conducts a comprehensive program in pesticide use enforcement to protect the health and safety of workers, the public, and the environment. Pesticides are registered and regulated by federal and state government codes, with the County Agricultural Commissioner being the primary local regulator.

### Pesticide Use Enforcement

- Promotes food safety
- Protect agricultural workers
- Protects the environment
- Permits and monitors the safe use of pesticides
- Collects and reviews data
- Investigates misuse and accidents
- Enforces laws and regulations
- Educates and assists agriculturalists, homeowners and maintenance gardeners



## Pest Prevention

The Pest Prevention program is mandated by the California Food and Agricultural Code to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of exotic pests and plant diseases in California. This protects agriculture, cities, suburbs and native habitat from pests foreign to California.

### Pest Exclusion

- Stops the introduction of exotic pests
- Inspects and monitors shipments for pests and diseases
- Assists exporters of agricultural products

### Pest Detection

- Searches for and traps exotic pests throughout the county
- Educates the public about the risk of new pest infestations

### Pest Eradication

- Eliminates newly introduced pests from a limited area
- Regulates infested properties to prevent further spread of pests

### Foreign Animal Diseases

- Assists other agencies in prevention and response



## Pest Management

The Pest Management program is committed to protecting agriculture, the local environment, and the economic health of the community from the spread of detrimental pests. This is accomplished by early detection then managing or eradicating infestations through partnerships, education, and the promotion of integrated pest management strategies.

### Integrated Pest Management

- Reduces use of pesticides
- Distributes and collects biological agents such as beneficial insects
- Coordinates research and educational resources
- Provides alternative approaches to pest control problems
- Assists other agencies in pest monitoring, prevention and control to protect the public's health

### Weed Pest Control

- Protects local agriculture and native habitats from the negative impacts of invasive, non-native noxious weeds
- Focuses invasive weed control activities on prevention and eradication of small "pioneer" infestations prior to widespread establishment and spread
- Provides expertise on invasive weed control management to local agriculturalists and land managers.



## Inspection Programs

The consumer is assured a quality agricultural product through inspections and compliance with applicable laws. Agricultural businesses are afforded a fair and equitable opportunity to market their products.

### Farmers' Markets

- Assures consumers are only offered products produced by the seller
- Allows agricultural producers the opportunity to market their products locally and directly to the consumer

### Nursery Inspection

- Reduces pest movement on plants for sale
- Provide consumers with nursery stock that meets cleanliness standards
- Monitors shipments of plants for exotic pests

### Seed Inspection

- Ensures quality and weed-free seeds

### Organic

- Registers organic growers
- Inspects growing sites to assure compliance with the National Organic Program
- Investigates unlawful organic production practices
- Investigates complaints about false organic advertising

### Apiary

- Regulates beekeepers
- Protects public health and safety through apiary ordinance requirements

leading the way