

# Pest Exclusion Protects Our Local Environment & Agricultural Industry

## **2018 Annual Report**

San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture | Weights & Measures



## Contents

Agricultural Commissioner's Letter	3	Field Crops	14
Department Staff and Retirements	4	Vegetable Crops	15
2017-2018 Financial Report	5	Organic Crops	15
Pest Exclusion Protects Our Local		Fruit & Nut Crops	16
Environment and Agricultural Industry	6	Nursery Products	17
Agricultural Exports	10	Commercial Fishing	17
Top 10 Value Crops	12	Weights & Measures	18
Ten-Year Valuation Comparision	13		
		Sustainable Ag Report	19
Animal Industry	14	Certified Farmers Market	19



Martin Settevendemie Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Karen Ross, Secretary California Department of Food and Agriculture And The Honorable Board of Supervisors San Luis Obispo County

In accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to release the 2018 Annual Crop Report for San Luis Obispo County. It is important to note that the values represented in this report do not reflect net profits for producers, but rather, the gross farm gate value of agricultural commodities produced within the county.

The overall crop value in San Luis Obispo hit a milestone record of \$1,035,499,000 in 2018. This represents an increase of 12 percent over values reported in 2017. With the exception of nursery production, all agricultural categories showed an increase in overall value. Nursery products were down 2 percent on the year. Once again, wine grapes ranked number one with a record value of \$276 million, equating to a 3 percent increase over 2017. Despite an extended summer heat wave, wine grape growers enjoyed an 8 percent increase in production and an all-time record for San Luis Obispo County.

An increase in planted acres and the cultivation of higher yielding cultivars resulted in overall record values for strawberries. Although early season prices were low, strawberries remained in the number two spot ending the year with a value of \$268 million or an 18 percent increase over 2017.

Vegetable crops added 9 percent in overall value ending the year at \$230 million. The acreage for vegetables produced in San Luis Obispo County is back to historical levels with adequate rainfall, a stabilizing labor market and favorable growing conditions as major factors.

Despite the intricacies influencing the animal industry, overall values increased slightly by 1 percent. The number of cattle sold in 2018 increased by 4 percent, while prices per hundredweight (CWT) dropped by 5 percent leaving the value of Cattle and Calves relatively flat at \$44 million. The overall value of the animal industry ended the year at \$48 million.

Please note the theme story for this year's report highlighting the efforts of the department to protect I would like to thank all of the agricultural producers and businesses who provided key information to

agriculture and the environment from the negative impacts of invasive and exotic pests. Our efforts in pest prevention focus highly on excluding invasive and exotic pests that pose significant risk to San Luis Obispo County. We accomplish this by utilizing a thorough and systematic inspection process of incoming plant material. Our inspection staff are highly trained and dedicated to protecting the valuable resources we share. this report. Without their knowledge, expertise and desire to contribute, this report would not be possible. Also, I would like to express gratitude to my staff for their efforts in compiling and analyzing this information and for their continued dedication to our mission of protecting agriculture, the environment, and the health and safety of the community's citizens, and by ensuring equity in the marketplace.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Settevendemie Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

## County of San Luis Obispo **Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures**

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2018 Crop Report Project Managers Lynda Auchinachie Lorraine Clark

Photography Ag Department Staff & as designated

Graphic Design - Joni Hunt **Printer –** Layton Printing Printed on recycled paper with environmentally friendly soy-based inks.

The Department thanks Laurel Carlisle, Brenda Ouwerkerk, Gail Perez for the lasting contributions made during their professional service with the county. We wish them well in their retirement.

Y882.00



**Financial Report** 

County of San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture/ Weights & Measures

Fiscal Year 2017–2018

REVENUE	\$6,364,502		WEIGHTS & MEASURES	\$794,696	
State Funds	1,889,671	30%	State Funds	9,735	1%
Federal Funds	965,376	15%	County Funds	522,751	66%
County Funds	2,879,362	45%	Collected Fees	262,210	33%
Collected Fees	630,093	10%	PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT	\$1,793,457	
EXPENDITURES	\$6,364,502		State Funds	917,894	51%
Salaries & Benefits	5,118,381	80%	County Funds	849,800	47%
Services & Supplies	762,396	12%	Collected Fees	25,763	1.4%
Overhead	483,725	8%	PEST MANAGEMENT	\$491,046	
Equipment	0	0%	State Funds	176,122	36%
			County Funds	314,924	64%
FUNDING DISTRIBUTION BY PRO	OGRAM AREAS:		Collected Fees	0	0%
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES	\$392,734		PRODUCT QUALITY	\$159,836	
State Funds	75,156	19%	State Funds	63,220	40%
County Funds	274,552	70%	County Funds	72,483	45%
Collected Fees	43,026	11%	Collected Fees	24,133	15%
			PEST PREVENTION	\$2,732,734	
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Letter -			Collected Fees	274,962	10%

## Brenda Ouwerkerk, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Retires After an Exemplary Career

**D** renda began her career with **D**the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures in 1983 as a part-time Temporary Pest Detection Trapper using her horticulture degree to find and identify insect pests detrimental to local agricultural production.

Over time, Brenda further honed her skills and was hired as a full-time Agricultural Inspector/ Biologist serving the department in many programs such as Pesticide Use Enforcement, Pest Management, Pest Detection and Apiary, to name a few.

The experience she gained as an inspector, coupled with her unwavering dedication to agriculture and the department, earned her a promotion

to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in 1989. As a Deputy, Brenda managed many of the programs she worked in as an inspector as well as the Agricultural Resource Protection, Diablo Canyon Emergency Response and Crop Statistics programs.

Ultimately, Brenda's drive for serving the public and her strong ability to manage programs led to her promotion to Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in 2002, where she remained an essential part of the management team until her retirement in 2018.

It is in this latter part of Brenda's career where her skills and abilities were on full display and were instrumental in helping move the department



forward in addressing numerous opportunities and challenges.

We wish Brenda well in her retirement and hope the next chapter in her life will be filled with the same spirit, enthusiasm and drive as was evident throughout her career.

2018 County of San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture/ Weights & Measures

# **Pest Exclusion**

# **Protects Our Local Environment** and Agricultural Industry

An Luis Obispo County's favorable climate and diverse geography draw visitors from around the world, including "visitors" who maybe a hazard to the environment and to local agricultural crops. These "visitors" consist of foreign pests and diseases that may be inadvertently introduced to the area through transported goods. Because of our mild Mediterranean climate, these pests can thrive here without native predators that would control them naturally.

The Pest Exclusion program's mission is to keep exotic agricultural and environmental pests out of San Luis Obispo County and to prevent or limit the spread of newly discovered pests. Pest Exclusion is one of the three components of the Pest Prevention system mandated by the California Food and Agriculture code, a system that was established to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and plant diseases in California. The other two components are Pest Detection and Pest Eradication.

There are many pathways for invasive pests to enter the county, such as through the movement of plants, produce or even vehicles. The Pest Exclusion Inspector/ Biologists perform routine inspections of incoming commercial and private shipments of plant





Micah Lopez, General Manager and owner of Pacific Sun Growers in Nipomo, says inspections help reduce pests and ensure plant quality.



material at parcel delivery facilities, nurseries, farms and landscape businesses in order to prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests and diseases.

With the growth of online marketing, the volume of plant material purchased and delivered through parcel carriers has increased. Often many of these shippers are unaware of California quarantine requirements and inadvertently send unwanted pests into the county. Our staff visit carriers daily to inspect packages before they are delivered to homes or businesses.

To enhance these parcel inspections, we receive assistance from the Santa Barbara Agricultural Inspection Dog team—Chris Tyler and Doomis. Doomis is part of the State Canine Detection Dog Program and has been trained to "alert" on unmarked packages



that contain plant material. Once Doomis scratches at a box to alert his handler, our biologists can then open and inspect the material and take appropriate action.

Local nursery plant growers produce landscape or indoor house plants from cuttings, seedlings and rooted plants imported from around the world. Pest Exclusion staff inspect these imports to ensure unwanted pests and diseases are not introduced into nurseries or the environment.

For Micah Lopez, General Manager and owner of Pacific Sun Growers in Nipomo, these inspections play a very important part in meeting his goal of producing high-quality, indoor tropical plants. According to Lopez, county inspections are helpful because

Far left: Department inspector checks a shipment. Left: Doomis on the job.

pests are intercepted before any plant material enters his greenhouse. As a result, fewer pesticides are needed to keep his facility pest free. "It is hard to compete with large growers, but clean and highquality tropical plants keep us in business," Lopez said.

In 2018 our staff performed approximately 7,600 plant material inspections throughout the county, intercepting 79 instances of quarantine-rated pests. The most frequently intercepted pest was Boxwood scale (Pinnaspi buxi), an armored insect that has the potential to severely affect nursery plants and ornamentals. Another significant pest intercepted was Red wax scale (Ceroplastes rubens), which causes serious damage to citrus, avocados and ornamentals.

# 2018 Pest Species Intercepted in San Luis Obispo County

PEST SPECIES COMMON NAME – SCIENTIFIC NAME	SHIPMENTS REJECTED/DESTROYED	HOST PLANT/ IMPACTED CROPS
Boxwood scale – Pinnaspis buxi	8	Nursery plants and ornamentals
Roufus scale – Selenaspidus articulatus	1	Citrus, ornamentals
Magnolia white scale – Psedaulacaspis cockerelli	2	Nursery plants and ornamentals
Croton mussel scale – Lepidosphes tokionis	1	Ornamental plants
Acuminate scale – Kilifia acuminata	1	Citrus, guava, pear, ornamentals
Elongate hemlock scale – <i>Fiorina externa</i>	2	Forest trees
Lesser snow scale – Pinnaspis strachani	1	Asparagus, avocados, peppers citrus
Pacific Mealybug – Planococcus minor	1	Citrus, grapes, potato, soybean
Red wax scale - Ceroplastes rubens	1	Citrus, avocados, ornamentals
Pyriform scale – Protopulvinaria pyriformis	1	Citrus, ornamentals
Thrips – Franklineilla panamensis	1	Crop and ornamental plants
Light Brown Apple Moth – Ephiphas postvittana	3	Crop and ornamental plants
Thrips – Thrips orientalis	1	Gardenia, Jasminum, white scented flowers
Sorghum head caterpillar - Cryptoblabes adoceta	1	Citrus, grains
Aphis – unknown	3	Unknown
Mealybug – Planococcus sp.	1	Unknown
Mealybug – unknown	13	Unknown
Scale – Coccus sp.	2	Unknown
Thrips – unknown	2	Unknown
Soft scale – unknown	1	Unknown
Armored scale – unknown	6	Unknown
Mites – unknown	4	Unknown
Mites – Tetranychus sp.	4	Unknown
Ant – Technomyrex sp.	1	Unknown
Ant – Tetramorium sp.	1	Grains
Ant, Pheidole sp.	3	Unknown
Fire ant – Solenopsis sp.	1	Unknown
Other, Various	9	Unknown
Other Pathogens: Fungi/Bacteria		
Fungi – Colletotrichum theobromicola	1	Ornamental plants
Fungi – Colletotrichum siamense	1	Ornamental plants
Bacteria, Serratia marcescens	1	Wide range of plants
All shipments are interstate.		

#### On the Cover...

A tiny insect, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), threatens California's citrus industry by vectoring a deadly bacterial disease, Huanglongbing (HLB). Harmless to humans, the disease has no cure once established in a citrus tree. The San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Department continually monitors for and excludes plant material having the potential to transport this plant disease into our county. To date, no HLB has been found in the county. For information on how you can prevent the introduction of ACP and HLB into the county, visit https:// californiacitrusthreat.org, call the statewide pest hotline at (800) 491-1899 or contact the Agricultural Department.



## **Pest Detection Program**

S an Luis Obispo County is host to many varied crops that thrive in the diverse microclimates within the county. Exotic, invasive insects and pathogens threaten agricultural crops, residential gardens and wild-lands. In order to intercept invasive insects, 7,135 residents hosted 3,489 specialized insect traps in 2018.

Residential traps were checked 44,703 times by Pest Detection Trappers from the Agricultural Commissioner's office. The 2018 trapping season intercepted two sterile Mediterranean Fruit Flies, which had been released in Southern California as part of eradication efforts and traveled to San Luis Obispo. Trappers also intercepted both Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) and Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) in established quarantine areas within the county.

Commercial traps were placed in plant nurseries and croplands throughout the county for the detection of Glassy Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS), LBAM, European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) and European Pine Shoot Moth. These 1,860 additional traps were checked 18,079 times throughout the trapping season.

Early detection programs protect local agriculture by intercepting pests at their lowest populations, increasing the likelihood of successful eradication. Community participation is a key element to a successful detection program. By allowing traps to be placed, residents support local agriculture and help protect the environment.

INSECT	HOSTS	# TRAPS	#
Asian citrus psyllid Diaphorina citri	Citrus	2,174	
Glassy-winged sharpshooter Homalodisca vitripensis	Ornamental and commercial crops	369	
European grapevine moth Lobesia botrana	Grapes	1,570	
Mediterranean fruit fly Ceratitis capitata	Fruit trees	182	
Mexican fruit fly Anastrepha ludens	Fruit trees	160	
Oriental fruit fly Bactrocera dorsalis	Fruit trees	182	
Melon fruit fly Bactrocera cucurbitae	Vegetable gardens and fruit trees	96	
Various exotic fruit flies	Fruits and vegetables	118	
Light brown apple moth Epiphyas postvittana	Ornamental and commercial crops	176	
European corn borer Ostrinia nubilalis	Corn and sorghum	19	
European pine shoot moth <i>Rhyacionia buoliana</i>	Pines	3	
Gypsy moth – <i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Shade trees	133	
Japanese beetle Popillia japonica	Turf and flowers	125	
Khapra beetle Trogoderma granarium	Stored grains	34	
Shothole borer Euwallacea spp.	Many tree species, including avocados	8	
TOTALS		5,349	



**# SERVICINGS TYPE OF TRAP** RESULTS 74 adult Psyllids, resulting in treatments and releases of biocontrol 25,568 Yellow panel 4,221 Yellow panel none found 14,640 Red Delta pheromone none found 3.187 2 sterile male, covered with dye Jackson pheromone 5,355 McPhail feeding none found 3,181 Jackson pheromone none found 1,652 Jackson pheromone none found 701 ChamP none found 2,475 Jackson pheromone 4 moths trapped, triggering quarantine expansions 162 Pherocon IC pheromone none found 12 Pherocon IC pheromone none found 745 Green Delta pheromone none found 722 Japanese Beetle none found pheromone 34 Stor-gard wall trap none found 127 Funnel trap none found 62,782

## **Seed Walks**

Tot all crops are grown for food; some are grown specifically to produce seed, which can then be exported all over the world for cultivation. Pest Exclusion staff inspect the 'parent' plants of these seed crops—such as broccoli, cauliflower and onion-at various life-stages during the growing season in order to certify specific lots destined for international export.

The inspections focus on seedborne plant pest and disease requirements of the destination countries. Suspect plants are collected and sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture laboratory to be tested. Based on test results, county inspectors then issue field certificates attesting to freedom from pests and diseases of concern to the receiving countries.

# **Exports**

Then growers export commodities outside of California or the United States, phytosanitary inspections and certification are required. Prior to export, commodities are inspected for any pests and diseases that are not allowed into the importing country. Pest Exclusion staff are licensed and authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to perform inspections and issue certificates for shipments that pass inspection. Phytosanitary certificates assure that the commodities do not harbor any regulated pests and diseases that are of concern to the importing country. In 2018, inspectors issued 3,700 federal phytosanitary certificates to 48 different countries and 99 state phytosanitary certificates throughout the United States. Canada, Japan, Taiwan, European Union and Mexico were the top five

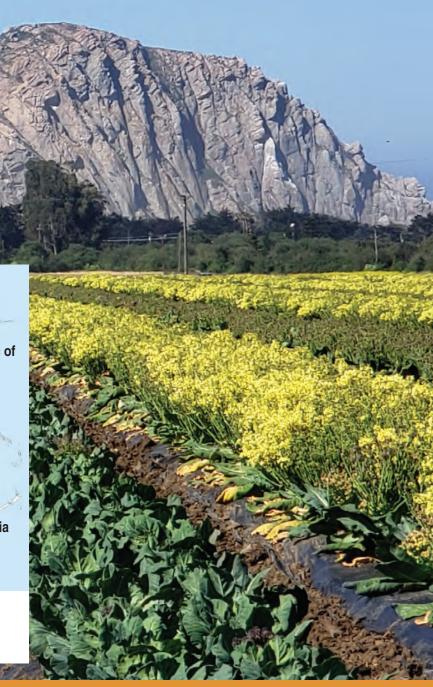
importers of agricultural products from San Luis Obispo County.

Brazil #1 Canada Chile Colombia Costa Rica Ecuador El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Jamaica #5 Mexico Panama	European Union Belgium Greece Hungary Italy Netherlands Spain United Kingdom	<b>#10 Egypt</b> Israel Jordan Kenya Lebanon Morocco Oman Saudi Arabia <b>#8 South Africa</b> Syrian Arab Republic Turkey	#9 #3 #7	China India Japan Korea, Republic Philippines Sri Lanka Taiwan Thailand Australia French Polynesia
		Syrian Arab Republic Turkey United Arab Emirates		Australia French Polynesia New Zealand
	205m	Uzbekistan		2

In 2018, the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office inspected and certified 3,700 shipments of agricultural products shipped to these 47 countries.



Inspector examines cucumber seeds for export.



# Value Comparision of Major Groups During the Past 10 Years



**#1** Wine Grapes all 26.65%

## **PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS\***

### SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

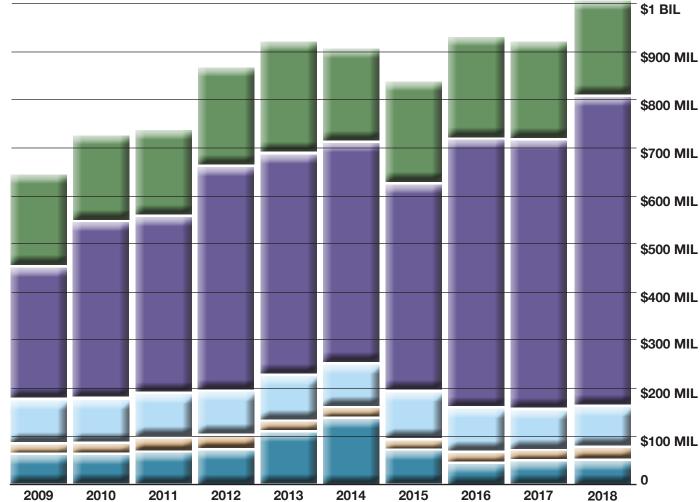
- Of 58 California counties,
- Broccoli, Cauliflower and Strawberry production ranked fourth
- Avocado and Flower production ranked fifth
- For the first year ever, our total agricultural production reached more than one billion dollars!

### CALIFORNIA

- Ranks #1 in the U.S. for agricultural production, with just under double the production of #2, Iowa
- Accounts for **13.4 percent of ALL** the U.S. agricultural production
- Produces one-third of ALL the U.S. vegetables
- Produces two-thirds of ALL the U.S. fruits and nuts

\*CDFA Statistics Review 2017–2018

							CROP	V	ALUE	%	
<b>#2</b> Stra 25.	awberrie 92%	S		_		-	#1 Wine Grapes all	\$	276,002,000	) 26.65	5
							#2 Strawberries	\$	268,356,00	25.92	2
							#3 Broccoli	\$	48,348,00	) 4.67	7
							#4 Avocados	\$	46,145,000	) 4.46	3
#0					.		#5 Cattle & Calves	\$	43,761,00	) 4.23	3
<b>#3</b> Broccoli 4.67%		vocados 46%	N				#6 Vegetable Transplants	\$	35,245,00	) 3.40	)
							#7 Cauliflower	\$	30,122,00	) 2.91	I
#5 Cattle	<b>#7</b> Cauli-	<b>#8</b> Cut		V			#8 Cut Flowers	\$	26,538,00	) 2.56	3
& Calves 4.23%	flower	Flowers					#9 Head Lettuce	\$	25,734,00	) 2.49	3
	2.91%	2.56%					#10 Lemons	\$	24,548,00	) 2.37	7
#6 Veggie	<b>#9</b> Head	<b>#10</b>					All Other Crops	\$	172,508,00	16.66	3
Transplants	Lettuce 2.49%	Lemons 2.37%					TOTAL	\$1	,035,499,0	00	





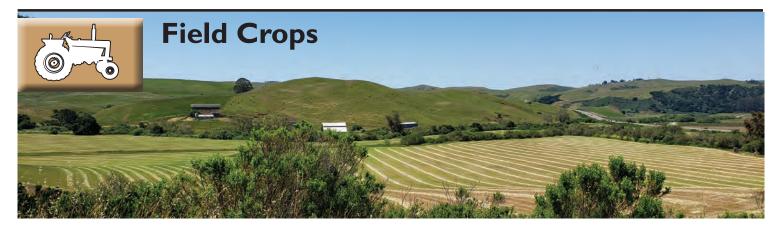
YEAR	ANIMAL	FIELD	NURSERY	FRUIT & NUT	VEGETABLE	TOTAL
2018	\$48,596,000	18,777,000	81,190,000	656,609,000	230,327,000	1,035,499,000
2017	47,909,000	16,679,000	82,802,000	566,592,000	210,716,000	924,698,000
2016	45,350,000	16,784,000	86,933,000	568,129,000	212,734,000	929,930,000
2015	70,659,000	15,600,000	99,511,000	428,344,000	214,059,000	828,173,000
2014	135,017,000	16,812,000	84,394,000	468,518,000	195,329,000	900,070,000
2013	100,865,000	16,365,000	97,651,000	468,355,000	237,896,000	921,132,000
2012	73,857,000	24,612,000	95,155,000	463,296,000	204,900,000	861,820,000
2011	71,479,000	22,929,000	96,454,000	366,570,000	174,981,000	732,413,000
2010	57,139,000	18,545,000	94,708,000	365,750,000	176,666,000	712,808,000
2009	55,375,000	15,178,000	93,759,000	271,474,000	187,309,000	623,095,000



The cattle industry is complex. The **I** industry is affected by unpredictable changes in weather, consumer demand and the futures market, and also by the impact of rising tariffs on meat exports. San Luis Obispo County cattle producers sold slightly more head of cattle compared with the previous year, with total value remaining flat.

COMMODITY	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL GROSS VALUE
Cattle & Calves	2018 2017	44,900 43,100	334,056 313,337	Cwt Cwt	\$131.00 \$138.00	\$43,761,000 \$43,241,000
*Miscellaneous	2018 2017					4,835,000 4,668,000
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY	2018 2017					\$48,596,000 \$47,909,000

\* Aquaculture, Eggs, Goats, Lambs, Sheep, Pigs, Bees, Honey, Milk



CROP	YEAR	ACF	REAGE	PRODUCTION			GROS	S VALUE
		PLANTED	HARVESTED	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa Hay	2018 2017	1,562 1,548	1,562 1,548	5.95 6.95	9,294 10,759	Ton Ton	\$252.00 \$225.00	\$2,342,000 \$2,421,000
Barley	2018 2017	10,132 9,482	10,111 9,482	0.79 1.08	7,988 10,241	Ton Ton	181.00 172.00	1,446,000 1,761,000
++Grain Hay	2018 2017	9,955 7,493	9,672 7,333	1.77 2.01	17,119 14,739	Ton Ton	203.00 166.00	3,475,000 2,447,000
Grain Stubble (Grazed)	2018 2017		7,128 6,253			Acre Acre	23.00 10.00	164,000 63,000
Rangeland, Grazed	2018 2017		1,012,000 1,012,000			Acre Acre	8.00 8.00	8,096,000 8,096,000
*Miscella- neous	2018 2017	2,590 3,767	2,580 3,677					3,254,000 1,891,000
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	2018 2017	24,239 22,290	1,043,053 1,040,293					\$18,777,000 \$16,679,000

\* Irrigated Pasture, Oats, Safflower, Sudan Hay, Wheat, Seed ++ Includes winter forage

 $F_{
m conditions\ resulted}^{
m avorable\ weather}$ in growers planting and harvesting increased acreage of dry farmed hay and grain crops. Because of continuing, although somewhat lessened drought conditions, price per ton of all crops increased substantially. Grain stubble for cattle was in high demand and price per acre doubled. The overall value for field crops increased 13 percent.

**Vegetable Crops** 

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODU PER ACRE	JCTION TOTAL	UNIT	GROS PER UNIT	S VALUE TOTAL
Broccoli	2018	6,894	5.828	40,178	Ton	\$1,203.34	\$48,348,000
	2017	5,855	5.856	34,287	Ton	\$1,254.02	\$42,996,000
Cauliflower	2018	3,269	14.736	48,172	Ton	625.31	30,122,000
	2017	2,940	8.842	25,995	Ton	894.49	23,253,000
Celery	2018	748	29.396	21,988	Ton	430.16	9,458,000
	2017	711	21.471	15,266	Ton	550.55	8,405,000
Kale	2018 2017**	128	18.307	2,343	Ton	1,082.16	2,536,000
Lettuce, Head	2018	3,215	18.546	59,625	Ton	431.59	25,734,000
	2017	2,420	15.380	37,220	Ton	469.57	17,477,000
Peas	2018	152	1.213	184	Ton	2,399.99	443,000
Edible Pod	2017	141	1.760	248	Ton	2,142.86	532,000
Squash	2018	128	13.158	1,684	Ton	720.00	1,213,000
	2017	143	10.099	1,444	Ton	711.17	1,027.00
*Miscellaneous	2018 2017	11,446 12,539					112,473,000 117,026,000
TOTAL VEGTABLE CROPS	2018 2017	25,980 24,749					\$230,327,000 \$210,716,000

\* Anise, Artichokes, Arugula, Basil, Beans, Beets, Bell Peppers, Bok Choy, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Chard, Chili Peppers, Cilantro, Collards, Cucumbers, Daikon, Dandelion, Dill, Endive, Escarole, Fennel, Garlic, Green Onions, Herbs, Leaf Lettuce, Leeks, Melons, Mizuna, Mushrooms, Mustard Greens, Napa Cabbage, Onions, Parsley, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes, Spinach, Sweet Corn, Tomatos, Tomatillos \*\* Not available



19,000 acres of registered organic

rangeland.

**Organic Crops** 

2018

Year

$oldsymbol{C}$ an Luis Obispo County ranked 11th	2018
Sout of 58 California counties for the	2017
number of organic registrants in 2018.	2016
One hundred sixteen growers registered with the San Luis Obispo	2015
County Agricultural Commissioner as	2014
their primary county for organic crop	2013
and rangeland production. In addition, 14 registered producers were based	2012
in other counties with production	2011
sites located within San Luis Obispo County. A significant increase in	2010
organic acreage occurred over the	2009
course of 2018 with an additional	** 2017 data is an

<sup>+</sup> 2017 data is an approximation; commodity data reporting was restructured as a result of regulation changes.



Vegetable acreage, **V** though not at the level it was three years ago, has rebounded to come back in line with historical levels. The rebound was attributed to increased rain over the last couple of years, a more stable labor market, and a favorable vegetable growing climate.

Despite a 9 percent increase in overall vegetable value, growers indicated that regulations, increased imported product, and high operating costs continue to create challenges in making vegetable production a profitable endeavor.

#### Acres Registered as Organic Acres

73,894
54,936**
54,448
50,899
50,636
13,128
14,127
14,114
11,784
10,124



Top 5 Organic Commodities					
Rank	Crop	Registered Acres			
1	Rangeland	64,843			
2	Grain	2,122			
3	Carrots	1,890			
4	Wine Grapes	1,320			
5	Walnuts	830			



CROP YEAR		ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		GROSS VALUE		
		PLANTED	BEARING/ HARVESTED	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Avocados	2018 2017	4,272 4,197	4,157 4,076	4.608 2.348	19,155 9,570	Ton Ton	\$2,409.00 \$2,852.00	\$46,145,000 \$27,295,000
Grapes, Wine (All)	2018 2017	48,456 46,818	42,855 42,249		177,002 164,393	Ton Ton		276,002,000 267,662,000
Chardonnay	2018 2017		3,326 3,269	4.604 4.708	15,313 15,390	Ton Ton	1,493.00 1,482.00	22,862,000 22,809,000
Sauvignon Blanc	2018 2017		634 586	11.685 10.439	7,408 6,117	Ton Ton	1,457.00 1,437.00	10,793,000 8,790,000
White Wine (Other)	2018 2017		1,872 1,805	3.357 3.437	6,284 6,204	Ton Ton	1,500.00 1,487.00	9,426,000 9,225,000
Cabernet Sauvignon	2018 2017		18,394 17,784	4.607 4.209	84,741 74,853	Ton Ton	1,530.00 1,666.00	129,654,000 124,705,000
Merlot	2018 2017		4,297 4,597	3.839 3.734	16,496 17,165	Ton Ton	1,077.00 1,156.00	17,766,000 19,843,000
Pinot Noir	2018 2017		2,469 2,404	2.725 2.378	6,728 5,717	Ton Ton	2,863.00 3,028.00	19,262,000 17,311,000
Syrah	2018 2017		3,113 2,982	3.493 3.392	10,874 10,115	Ton Ton	1,641.00 1,625.00	17,844,000 16,437,000
Zinfandel	2018 2017		2,556 2,639	2.669 2.985	6,822 7,877	Ton Ton	1,515.00 1,382.00	10,335,000 10,887,000
Red Wine (Other)	2018 2017		6,194 6,183	3.606 3.389	22,336 20,954	Ton Ton	1,704.00 1,797.00	38,060,000 37,655,000
Lemons	2018 2017	1,910 1,786	1,697 1,596	13.790 10.015	23,402 15,984	Ton Ton	1,049.00 1,002.00	24,548,000 16,016,000
Strawberries (All)	2018 2017		4,165 3,881		201,894 166,045	Ton Ton		268,356,000 228,169,000
Fresh	2018 2017			35.952 32.820	149,740 127,374	Ton Ton	1,525.00 1,570.00	228,354,000 199,978,000
Processed	2018 2017			12.522 9.964	52,154 38,670	Ton Ton	767.00 729.00	40,002,000 28,191,000
English Walnuts	2018 2017	1,646 1,852	1,484 1,852	0.248 0.214	368 396	Ton Ton	3,217.00 3,189.00	1,184,000 1,264,000
*Miscellaneous	2018 2017	3,059 2,759	2,781 2,709					40,374,000 26,186,000
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	2018 2017	59,343 57,412	57,139 56,363					\$656,609,000 \$566,592,000

\* Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Blueberries, Blackberries, Feijoas, Gooseberries, Grapefruit, Kiwis, Mandarin Oranges, Navel Oranges, Olives, Passion Fruit, Peaches, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Raspberries, Specialty Citrus, Table Grapes, Tangerines, Valencia Oranges

Despite an extended summer heat wave, wine grape growers had a good growing season in 2018 with an 8 percent increase in production and a modest overall price increase of 3 percent. Total wine grape value was a record high of just under \$276 million.

Fresh and processed strawberry production skyrocketed due to increased acreage and the planting of higheryielding varietals. Prices plummeted early in the season because of an oversupply of strawberries following a statewide freeze that prevented growing regions from the typical phasing in of product. Despite the price drop, overall strawberry value was up 18 percent to more than \$268 million.

Dry farmed walnuts that suffered during the drought continue to be removed and replaced by vineyards. New lemon orchards are being planted in South County, while pistachio orchards are replacing alfalfa in North County.

Avocados saw an increase in yields and overall value as a result of favorable weather conditions and because it was an alternate bearing year.



CROP	YEAR	FIELD PRODUCTION (acres)	GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION (sq. ft.)	TOTAL GROSS VALUE
Cut Flowers	^2018	64	6,311,909	\$26,538,000
and Greens	^2017	64	6,319,284	\$27,165,000
Outdoor	2018	55	56,980	7,999,000
Ornamentals	2017	70	55,580	9,320,000
Vegetable and	2018	34	1,747,330	35,245,000
Ornamental Transplants	2017	33	1,766,260	33,119,000
*Miscellaneous	2018	36	1,050,945	11,408,000
	2017	51	1,148,445	13,198,000
TOTAL NURSERY	2018	189	9,167,164	\$81,190,000
STOCK	2017	218	9,289,569	\$82,802,000

\* Aquatic, Bedding plants, Bulbs, Cacti, Christmas trees, Fruit-Nut trees, Ground cover, Herbs, Indoor decorative, Propagative plants, Scion wood, Flower seed, Sod, Specialty ^ Includes cut flowers grown in greenhouse and field plants, Succulents



## **Commercial Fishing**

Mary Silveira

	2017 C			
	SPEC			
	Crab, Dunge			
	Squid, marke			
	Sablefish			
	Hagfishes			
	Prawn, spot			
	Rockfish, go			
	Thornyhead,			
	Salmon, Chir			
-	Rockfish, bro			
	Shrimp, ocea			
-	Other Specie			
	TOTALS			
*	Other species i			

The nursery industry is in a state I of transition with indoor cannabis production starting to replace nursery stock. Local greenhouse facilities are being leased or purchased for cannabis production, resulting in decreased indoor decorative and ornamental plant production during 2018. Ironically, the cut flower market stabilized because of less competition due to a significant number of cut flower growers in neighboring counties switching to cannabis production. Despite the conversion of some local growing area to cannabis, the nursery stock industry remained relatively stable with overall values declining just 2 percent.

ommercial Fishing Landings					
IES	POUNDS	VALUE			
ness	687,505	\$3,000,277			
et	2,296,956	\$1,129,561			
	361,502	\$1,009,280			
	663,888	\$721,569			
	18,941	\$332,493			
pher	42,906	\$328,777			
shortspine	54,545	\$323,826			
look	27,963	\$297,573			
own	27,575	\$194,507			
ın (pink)	195,805	\$160,582			
s*	496,010	\$1,331,930			
	4,873,596	\$8,830,375			

**T**n 2017, commercial **I** fishing operations working from Port San Luis, Morro Bay and San Simeon landed 117 different species of fish, valued at almost \$9 million.

The most recent data is provided by the Calfornia Department of Fish and Wildlife Report. (Commercial fishing value represents 2017 data and is not included in overall agricultural values).

includes 107 species.



The Weights and Measures program serves the community **L** by assuring the accuracy of measuring and weighing devices used in marketplace transactions involving weight, measure, count or time. Device inspections certify that businesses compete equally and that consumers receive what they pay for. Some inspection results are visible, such as retail fuel dispensers with a county seal showing the pump passed inspection. Other consumer protections are not as apparent, such as annual checks of packaging and price accuracy, petroleum signage, fuel and lubricant quality, and weighmaster/junk dealer and recycler operations.

In 2018, Weights and Measures officials completed 5,514 annual, mandatory inspections on weighing and measuring devices, an increase of 12 percent from 2017, and with an overall compliance rate of 88.4 percent.

Price accuracy inspections were completed at 400 retail establishments, checking nearly 7,000 transactions while making 25 undisclosed purchases for net content, pricing and labeling requirements, including indirect sales of online grocery delivery services. Sixty consumer complaints were initially investigated within 24 hours of receipt. Inspectors examined more than 600 card reading devices at retail fuel dispensers for credit card skimmers at 84 fuel stations. In 2018, no credit card skimming devices were discovered during these inspections.

Inspectors examined 99 fueling locations, enforcing state laws in labeling, advertising and quality standards of petroleum-based products (all fuels and lubricants) sold to customers. Locations operating as weighmasters, junk dealers and recyclers were inspected to ensure protection of sellers and buyers in transactions involving weight, measure or count.

#### **2018 Quality Control Inspections**

Price Verification Inspections					
Retail Locations Inspected	Packages Inspected for Price Accuracy	Overall Compliance for All Locations			
400	400 6,960				
Test Purchases and Test Sale Inspections					
Retail Locations Inspected	Packages Inspected for Price Accuracy	Overall Compliance for All Locations			
11	25	56.0%			
Consumer Complaints					
Price Accuracy	Complaints Response	Response Time			
Complaints	in 24 Hours	by Percentage			

2018 Weights & Measures Inspections

Measuring Device	Inspections	Weighing Device Inspections		
Device Type	Inspections Completed	Device Type	Inspections Completed	
Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers	2,416	Retail Computing Scales	304	
Propane Meters	49	Counter Scales	393	
Taximeters	4	Hanging Scales	63	
Vehicle Tank/ Wholesale Meters	44	Crane Scales	6	
Water Vending Machines	116	Hopper Scales	20	
Electric Submeters	807	Livestock Scales	84	
Gas Vapor Submeters	317	Animal Scale (Single Head)	1	
Water Submeters	437	Platform Scales	314	
Wire/Rope/ Cordage Meters	44	Vehicle Scales	74	
Miscellaneous Measuring Devices	7	Monorail/ Meatbeam Scales	7	
Compressed Natural Gas (Motor Fuel)	6	Class II, Low- Capacity Scales	1	
TOTAL	4,247		1,267	

Overall Commercial Device Compliance Rate 88.4%

## Card Skimmer Inspections at Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers

84

99

lumbe	er of I	Inspections	Completed	
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#### 2018 Petroleum Signs & Labeling Inspections

Number of Inspections Completed



### Noxious/Invasive Weed Control

Can Luis Obispo County's Invasive **D**Weed program protects agriculture, sensitive habitats and native wildlife by controlling noxious and invasive weeds. The County Weed Management Area (WMA) is a cooperative effort composed of county departments, state agencies and nonprofit groups concerned with the spread of invasive weeds and the protection of local environments.

Roadside treatment programs performed along county roads and right-of -ways enhance safety by improving visibility and clearance, reducing fire risk and improving access to pull-out areas. Treating roadside weeds also reduces potential spread of invasive weed seeds to new areas by eliminating seeds that can be picked up in tires and carried to new places.

Residents and visitors to San Luis Obispo County can help reduce the spread of invasive weeds by cleaning

their boots or tires after hiking or biking, paying attention for unusual plants, and informing the Agricultural Department if they suspect an invasive plant in the county.

More information can be found on the California Invasive Plant Council website at http://cal-ipc.org/ and the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Enclycloweedia page at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ipc/ encycloweedia/encycloweedia\_hp.html.

#### **Biological Control**

Tn August 2018, San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Department released 75,200 live Tamarixia radiata wasps in order to help suppress the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) found in Nipomo and Grover Beach through the county's pest detection program. This harmless predatory wasp feeds exclusively on the nymph stage of ACP, controlling them naturally.

## San Luis Obispo County Certified Farmers Markets

#### MONDAY **Arroyo Grande**

Baywood/Los Osos Santa Maria St. between 2nd & 3rd Sts. 2 to 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY Paso Robles 11th St. & Spring St.

3 to 6 p.m. San Luis Obispo 2880 Broad St. at Mitsushito St.

3 to 6 p.m. San Luis Obispo/

#### **Cal Poly Campus** Mustang Way 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (May-November)

#### **Avila Beach** Avila Promenade Front St. 4 to 8 p.m.

Cambria 1000 Main St. 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. (summer) 2:30 to 5 p.m. (winter)

Cayucos Ocean Av. & D St. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (June-August)

San Luis Obispo Higuera Street between Chorro St. & Osos St. 6 to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

1464 East Grand Ave.

(Smart & Final lot)

Atascadero Sunken

THURSDAY

Gardens East Mall

8:30 to 11 a.m.

Atascadero

Avenue

3 to 6 p.m.

Morro Bay

2650 Main Street

(Spencer's lot)

2:30 to 5 p.m.

#### Weeds of Concern in San Luis Obispo County

Artichoke Thistle, Cynara cardunculus Barbed Goatgrass, Aegilops triuncialis Canada Thistle, Cirsium arvense Castor Bean, Ricinus communis Devil's Thorn, Emex spinosa Foxtail Restharrow, Ononis alopecuroides French Broom, Genista monspessulana Giant Reed, Arundo donax Hairy Whitetop, Cardaria pubescens Hoary Cress, Lepidium draba Japanese Dodder, Cuscuta japonica Jubatagrass, Cortaderia jubata Meduasahead, Elymus caput-medusae Mexican Pokeweed, Phytolacca heterotepala Oblong Spurge, Euphorbia oblongata Perennial Pepperweed, Lepidium latifolium Purple Star Thistle, Centaurea calcitrapa Russian Knapweed, Rhaponticum repens Russian Thistle, Salsola Sahara Mustard, Brassica tournefortii Saltcedar, Tamarix ramosissima Scotch Broom, Cytisus scoparius Skeleton Weed, Chondrilla juncea Smooth Distaff Thistle, Carthamus baeticus Stinkwort, Dittrichia graveolens Wooly Distaff Thistle, Carthamus lanatus Yellowstar Thistle, Centaurea solstitialis

#### Weed Activities Summary

Gross Acres Surveyed	1,217.61
Gross Acres Treated	557.87
Net Acres Treated	187.48
Properties Surveyed	95
Properties Treated	77

# FRIDAY

(March–September)

#### SATURDAY

**Arroyo Grande** 214 East Branch St. between Short & Mason Sts Noon to 2:30 p.m

Morro Bay Main St. & Morro Bay Bl. 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Paso Robles 11th St. & Spring St. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

San Luis Obispo 325 Madonna Rd. (World Market lot) 8 to 10:45 a.m.

Templeton City Park-6th St. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

These markets provide yearround access to fresh fruit, vegetables, nuts, meats, cheeses and flowers. The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures verifies that fresh products sold in the certified markets are indeed produced by the grower. In addition, farmers' markets offer a venue for consumers to interact personally with many of the county's 105 certified producers.





County of San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture/ Weights & Measures 2156 Sierra Way, Suite A San Luis Obispo, California 93401-4556