

# Securing Our Agricultural Resources



**2003  
Annual Report**



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

# San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures

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Calendar Year Contributions  
**Jon Fox**  
**Robert Hopkins**                      **John Warrick**

# Robert Hopkins

1954 - 2003



ROBERT HOPKINS' DEDICATION TO AGRICULTURE began in 1972 when he worked on a cotton farm in Tulare County as a pest control operator. He became a pest control advisor in 1977. In 1980 he joined the San Luis Obispo

County Department of Agriculture as an Agricultural Inspector/Biologist. He worked in every agricultural program within the Department and in each office, Paso Robles, Arroyo Grande, and San Luis Obispo until he was licensed and promoted to the position of Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in 1985.

Robert utilized his farming background and experience as an inspector to shape a great career with the department promoting and protecting San Luis Obispo County agriculture. He quickly became a key component of the department in the mid 80s, creating a leadership role in land use planning, resource conservation, emergency planning for agriculture, crop statistics, and crop mapping. He was affectionately known as "The Answer Man" because of his ability to assimilate detailed information and provide it to coworkers, the agricultural community, other agencies, hearing bodies, and citizens.

The best words to describe Robert are trustworthy, credible, respectful, fair, honest, knowledgeable, and hard-working. He served the citizens of the county and the agricultural industry with pride, cooperation, and intelligence. His skill at mastering details, mixing in a high level of common sense and consideration of the bigger picture is admired by all who worked with him. Robert stayed at work until the last customer was helped and the project was completed.

Robert's distinguished career of 23 years with San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture is a model of public service and protection for the county's agricultural resources and industry. He will be missed.



Photography: Cover model – Kyle Mann, holding bok choy  
Aerial Photos courtesy of the County of SLO  
Photos & Maps by Chris Morris

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A Note from Robert Lilley

San Luis Obispo County  
**Agricultural  
Commissioner/Sealer**



Sunset Over Paso photo by Claire Stolver

San Luis Obispo County crop values for 2003 are estimated at \$529,046,000 exceeding the previous all-time high year 2001 by approximately \$40,000,000. Record agricultural receipts were due to increased value of strawberries, vegetables, avocados, and cattle. Commodities which increased in value enjoyed improved prices and good growing conditions throughout the year.

Strawberry values nearly tripled from 2002 due to an increase in acreage and a high level of production per acre. Head lettuce rebounded by over \$10,000,000 from previous levels while new acreage of avocados came into production with continued strong prices. The county's historic cattle industry remained strong with increases in cattle sold and prices.

Wine grape industry values remained stable with new vineyards planted in the late 1990s and 2000 coming into production offset by lower overall prices. Wine grapes continued to rank number one of county crops valued at approximately \$123,454,000 in annual sales. This figure represents the value of wine grapes produced and sold, but does not address the value of the fine wines produced from the county's numerous wineries. In fact, values of total county "agribusiness" far exceed one billion dollars annually in net economic activity in the county.

This year's theme, "Securing our Agricultural Resources," aims to demonstrate the importance of keeping our food and agricultural industry safe from risks of contamination through intentional or unintentional means. The agricultural industry and associated governmental programs have initiated many safeguards since September 11, 2001. The increased level of vigilance and awareness remain critical for a continued safe food supply and prosperous agricultural economy.

We would like to thank the farmers, ranchers, and nurserymen who contributed to this annual crop report.

*Robert Lilley*

## Meet Your Neighbors, The White Family



*Kenny, Clayton and Jerry White - Outstanding in their field in Shandon*

**D**EEPLY ROOTED IN THE NORTH COUNTY, are Kenny (left), his son Clayton (center), and his brother Jerry. They represent two of the four generations who have farmed grain on their ranch in Shandon for over 100 years.

George H. White, a cobbler from Canada, moved to San Luis Obispo County in 1898 and settled 320 acres. He began farming grain and by 1978 the White Ranch was farming 14,500 acres. By the early 1980s the Whites shifted much of their acreage to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a program designed to promote conservation practices for the protection and enhancement of our nation's resources.

Today, three generations, including Kenny and Jerry's mom Vivian, live and work on the ranch where they farm 4,000 acres of barley. Their grain is marketed in the San Joaquin Valley for cattle feed for the dairy industry. They participate with UC Davis and the Cooperative Extension program growing test plots for research on disease resistance using varieties

suited for the weather conditions unique to our coastal climates. Since 1978, they have partnered with the engineering department of the John Deere Corporation in Waterloo, Iowa. The geography and climate on the White Ranch are important challenges for the advances being developed in equipment technology. Uneven rainfall amounts, varying soil depth and texture, and the rolling and sloped terrain create unusual field configurations perfect for studying developments in the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) tractor technology.

Fondly remembered are the old family stories of long trips from their ranch to Paso Robles to shop at the Alliance Warehouse or Paso Mercantile, and the two-day trip to shop in San Luis Obispo. The White family continues to meet the farming evolution with great spirit and open-mindedness, while still taking time to enjoy their families, friends, and the outdoors which they deeply treasure.

## SECURING OUR AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

# Defense of United States Agriculture and Food

## A National and Local Mission



**O**N JANUARY 30, 2004, PRESIDENT BUSH ISSUED HOMELAND SECURITY

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE/HSPD-9.

This important proclamation established a national policy to defend the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

America's agriculture and food system is an extensive, open, interconnected, diverse, and complex structure providing potential targets for terrorist attacks. The policy calls for the best possible protection against a successful attack on the nation's agriculture and food system, to avoid a possible catastrophic effect on health and the economy.

The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security is responsible for coordinating the overall national effort to enhance the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources of the United States. This includes serving as the lead to coordinate implementation efforts among Federal, State and local departments and agencies and the private sector to protect the nation's food system and key agricultural resources.

Locally, growers, shippers, packers, processors and sales outlets have taken steps to protect our food system. This includes increased awareness, assessment of points of vulnerability, accountability and trace-back systems, creation of response, mitigation and recovery strategies, employee training, and public education.

One example of an agricultural operation that is vigilant in accountability and trace-back systems is the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange (POVE). The use of a bar-coding system allows them to have accountability between ranches, shippers, and receivers. This not only ensures high quality and freshness by tracking how long

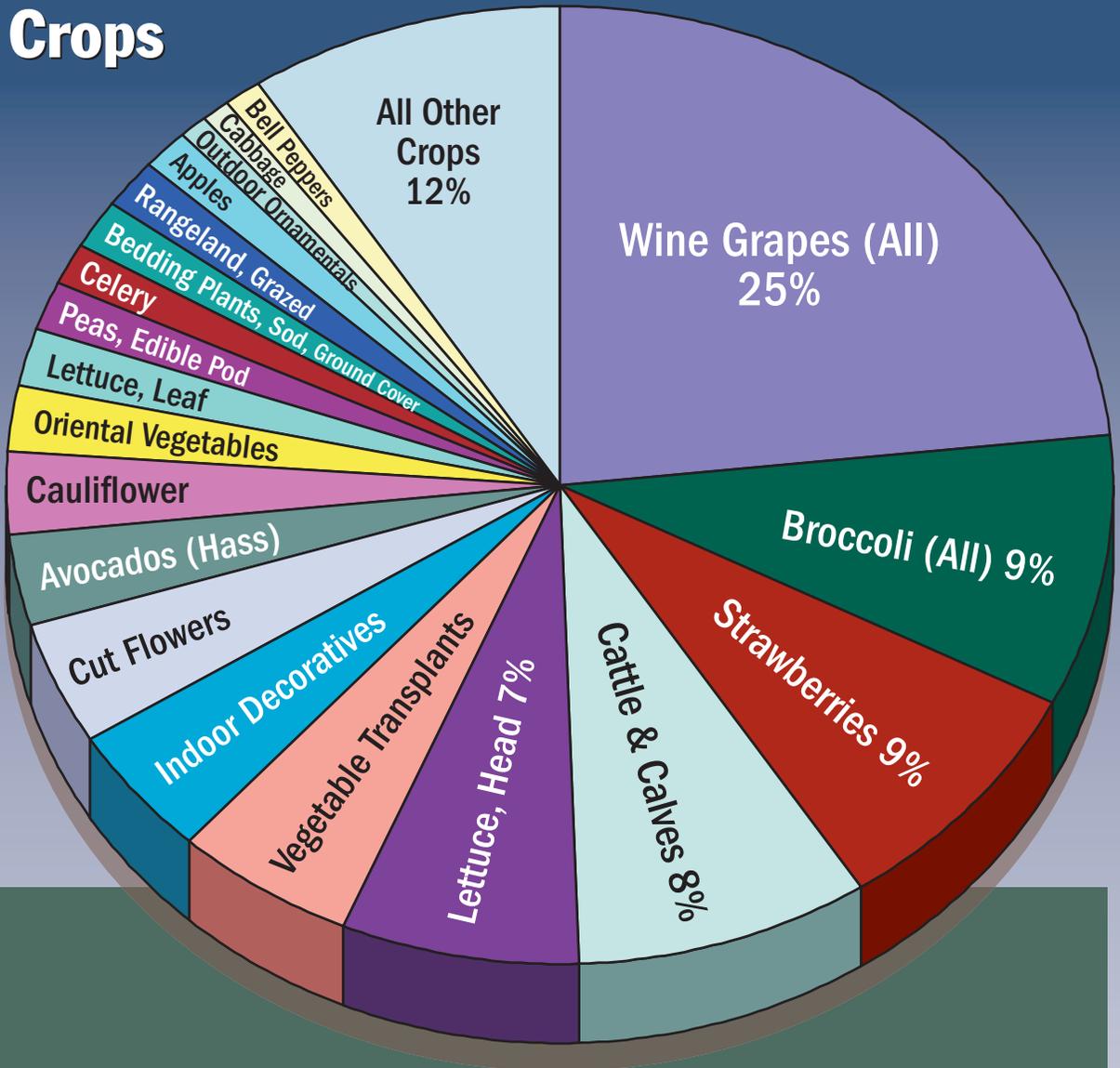
produce is stored in their facility, it also allows a very rapid trace recall on any product in the event of contamination due to a disaster or terrorist attack.

Each bar code contains information on the origin of the product, the location of the ranch, field plot and harvest date. They can identify when the product was received at the cooling facility and which harvesting crew picked and packed the product. With all this information, POVE can successfully isolate and track any product in a recall situation in less than twenty minutes.

From field to carton to cooler, POVE can track the identity of their products. With bar code information, a very detailed description of the product shipped is maintained until it reaches its final destination – the grocer's supplier for his store shelf or the restaurant's buyer for its menu.



# Top Twenty Value Crops



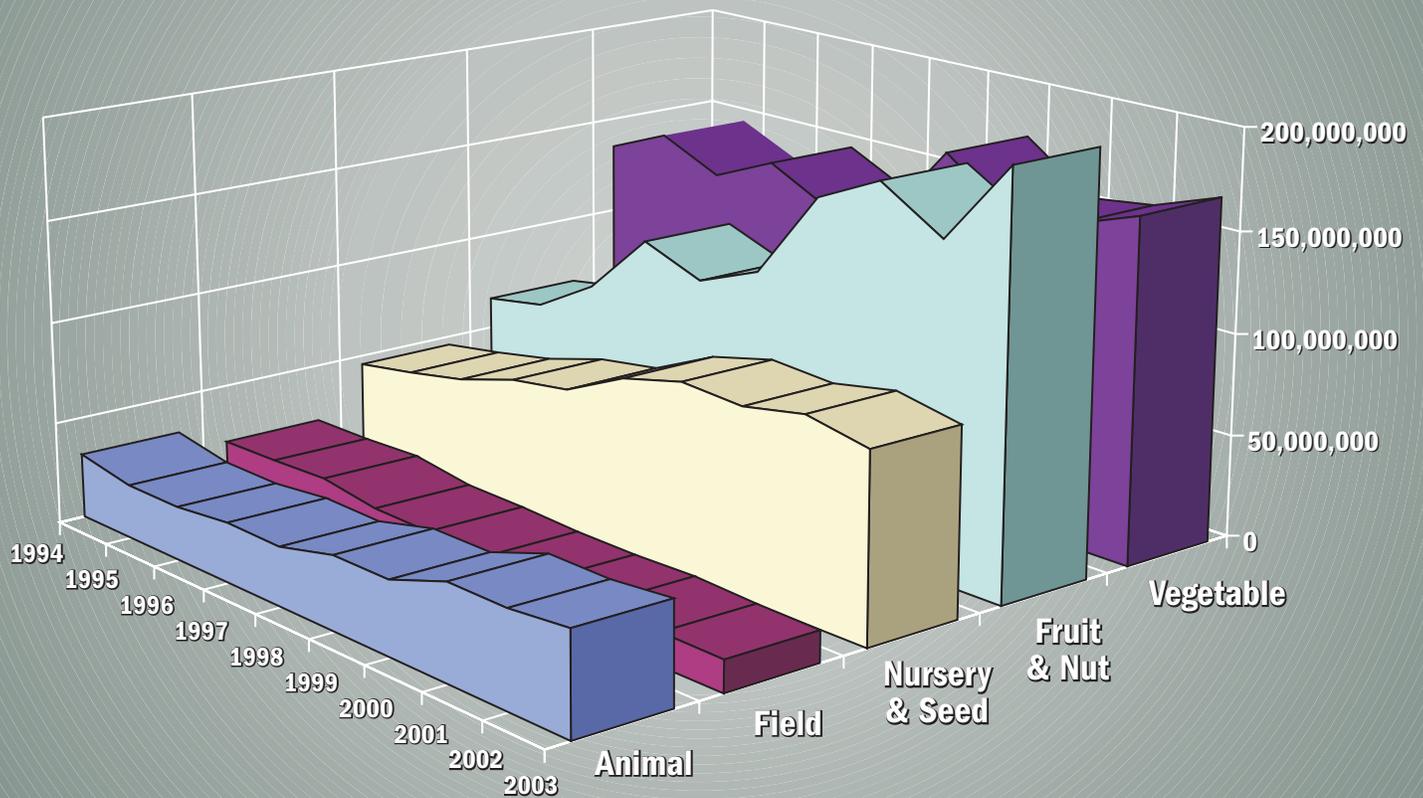
## San Luis Obispo County 2003

Commodity	Valuation	Commodity	Valuation
1. Grapes, Wine (All).....	\$123,454,000	11. Oriental Vegetables.....	\$11,990,000
2. Broccoli (All) .....	\$47,774,000	12. Lettuce, Leaf .....	\$9,482,000
3. Strawberries .....	\$45,190,000	13. Peas, Edible Pod .....	\$8,879,000
4. Cattle and Calves.....	\$44,753,000	14. Celery .....	\$8,615,000
5. Lettuce, Head .....	\$36,878,000	15. Bedding Plants, Sod, & Ground Cover ...	\$8,412,000
6. Vegetable Transplants .....	\$28,251,000	16. Rangeland, Grazed.....	\$8,240,000
7. Indoor Decoratives.....	\$22,973,000	17. Apples .....	\$6,973,000
8. Cut Flowers.....	\$21,840,000	18. Outdoor Ornamentals.....	\$5,338,000
9. Avocados (Hass).....	\$16,206,000	19. Cabbage .....	\$4,866,000
10. Cauliflower.....	\$15,264,000	20. Bell Peppers .....	\$4,705,000

# Comparison of Valuation of Major Groups During the Past Ten Years

YEAR	ANIMAL	FIELD	NURSERY & SEED	FRUIT & NUT	VEGETABLE	TOTAL
1994	31,431,000	21,020,000	45,517,000	65,476,000	134,784,000	298,228,000
1995	26,188,000	21,340,000	50,534,000	70,975,000	147,771,000	316,808,000
1996	26,013,000	22,445,000	56,399,000	89,171,000	134,047,000	328,075,000
1997	29,223,000	18,056,000	65,486,000	120,912,000	148,129,000	381,806,000
1998	28,665,000	17,614,000	70,296,000	109,351,000	132,895,000	358,821,000
1999	36,031,000	16,296,000	85,353,000	122,450,000	135,393,000	395,523,000
2000	35,881,000	16,180,000	93,171,000	166,779,000	175,643,000	487,654,000
2001	46,517,000	17,025,000	91,295,500	182,415,000	152,531,000	489,783,500
2002	46,161,000	15,595,000	97,377,000	167,555,000*	156,687,000	483,375,000*
2003	49,181,000	15,161,500	91,476,000	204,804,000	168,423,000	529,045,500

\*REVISED



# Securing Our Agriculture



## Ingestion Pathway Zone

*Agricultural Commissioner Programs, such as the Ingestion Pathway Zone Emergency Response Plan for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, provide a planning and emergency response framework for any potential emergency that may effect county agriculture or the local food supply. The Ingestion Pathway Zone plan establishes agricultural areas so any impacts can be isolated and addressed in a targeted manner. This system provides for a high level of protection by targeting an impacted zone, an area contaminated by any type of dangerous foreign matter, so any contaminated area can be quarantined, while non-impacted portions of the county can be certified for continued agricultural marketing.*

# Cultural Resources



## **Agricultural Areas**

*"Agricultural Areas" are predetermined geographic areas to allow for timely and orderly decisions affecting potential quarantine of agricultural products. The areas are determined by crop distribution and logical geographic separation points. Crops in certain areas can be grouped together so they are addressed in a similar manner. Agricultural areas can also assist decision makers on which locations can be authorized for harvest and marketing based upon risk assessment, thus protecting the consumer health and safety.*

# Animal Industry

Cattle production showed steady growth in 2003. Prices and demand remained strong.



Commodity	Year	No. of Head	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	2003	85,000	552,500	Cwt	81.00	\$44,753,000
	2002	82,000	524,800	Cwt	80.00	\$41,984,000
Milk	2003		31,150	Cwt	13.00	405,000
	2002		45,503	Cwt	12.80	582,000
Sheep and Lambs	2003	5,800	5,940	Cwt	105.00	624,000
	2002	8,000	10,400	Cwt	67.00	697,000
Miscellaneous*	2003					3,399,000
	2002					2,898,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2003</b>					<b>\$49,181,000</b>
<b>Animal Industry</b>	<b>2002</b>					<b>\$46,161,000</b>

\*Aquaculture, Bees Wax, Eggs, Game Birds, Goats, Hogs, Honey, Pollen, Pollination, Poultry, Wool



# Fruit and Nut Crops

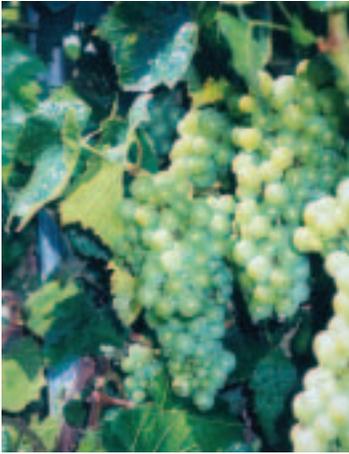


photo by Leaha Magee

Strawberry production and value increased substantially in 2003. Wine grape values remained stable with new acreage coming into production, offset by lower prices.



Walnut Trees photo by Linda Brownson

Crop	Year	Acreage		Production		Unit	Per Unit	Total
		Planted	Bearing	Per Acre	Total			
Apples	2003	1483	1,334	8.800	11,739	Ton	\$594.00	\$6,973,000
	2002 **	1297	1,270	6.500	8,255	Ton	\$364.00	\$3,005,000
Avocados (Hass)	2003	4144	2,196	3.000	6,588	Ton	2,460.00	16,206,000
	2002	2666	1,362	3.200	4,358	Ton	2,110.00	9,196,000
Avocados (Other)	2003	210	189	1.910	361	Ton	331.00	119,000
	2002	231	165	3.840	634	Ton	740.00	469,000
Grapes, Wine (All)	2003	34,199	29,626		115,188			123,454,000
	2002 **	33,224	26,428		99,739			122,399,000
Chardonnay	2003		3,705	4.630	17,154	Ton	1,115.00	19,127,000
	2002 **		3,920	3.636	14,253	Ton	1,384.00	19,726,000
Sauvignon Blanc	2003		888	5.620	4,991	Ton	843.00	4,207,000
	2002		947	5.143	4,870	Ton	916.00	4,461,000
White Wine (Other)	2003		1,255	5.140	6,451	Ton	887.00	5,722,000
	2002 **		1,027	3.473	3,567	Ton	1,012.00	3,610,000
Cabernet Sauvignon	2003		10,472	3.670	38,432	Ton	1,077.00	41,392,000
	2002 **		8,996	3.752	33,753	Ton	1,230.00	41,516,000
Merlot	2003		4,156	4.200	17,455	Ton	1,127.00	19,672,000
	2002		3,776	4.129	15,591	Ton	1,221.00	19,037,000
Pinot Noir	2003		895	1.560	1,396	Ton	2,534.00	3,538,000
	2002 **		895	2.482	2,221	Ton	2,290.00	5,087,000
Syrah	2003		2,338	3.270	7,645	Ton	1,191.00	9,106,000
	2002		1,876	3.720	6,979	Ton	1,369.00	9,554,000
Zinfandel	2003		2,586	3.940	10,189	Ton	785.00	7,998,000
	2002		2,473	3.930	9,719	Ton	867.00	8,426,000
Red Wine (Other)	2003		3,331	3.445	11,475	Ton	1,106.00	12,692,000
	2002 **		2,518	3.489	8,785	Ton	1,250.00	10,982,000
Lemons	2003	1643	1,405	14.370	20,190	Ton	225.55	4,554,000
	2002	1614	1,405	14.080	19,782	Ton	308.00	6,093,000
Strawberries	2003	1186	1,186	37.460	44,428	Ton	1,017.16	45,190,000
	2002	720	720	21.540	15,509	Ton	1,084.30	16,816,000
Valencia Oranges	2003	361	288	10.400	2,995	Ton	100.09	300,000
	2002	402	340	13.400	4,556	Ton	99.00	451,000
English Walnuts	2003	3281	2,727	0.280	764	Ton	479.00	366,000
	2002	2958	2,638	0.370	976	Ton	920.00	898,000
* Miscellaneous	2003	3003	3,003					7,642,000
	2002	2974	2,784					8,228,000
<b>TOTAL Fruit &amp; Nut Crops</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>49,510</b>	<b>41,954</b>					<b>\$204,804,000</b>
	<b>2002 **</b>	<b>46,086</b>	<b>37,112</b>					<b>\$167,555,000</b>

\* Almonds, Apricots, Asian Pears, Black Walnuts, Bushberries, Cherries, Feijoas, Grapefruit, Horned Melons, Kiwis, Limes, Navel Oranges, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Pepinos, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Quince, Table Grapes, Tangelos

\*\*Revised

# Vegetable Crops

2003 was a good year overall for the vegetable industry. Nearly all commodities showed increases in per unit value. Sugar peas, however, in both harvested acreage and price per unit, have shown a steady decline during recent years. Lettuce production rebounded over 2002.



Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Beans (Green)	2003*						
	2002	149	399.0	59,451	30#	\$11.09	\$659,000
Bell Peppers	2003	837	1,041.0	871,317	30#	5.40	4,705,000
	2002	870	925.0	804,750	30#	6.31	5,078,000
Broccoli (All)	2003	10,906	624.0	6,805,344	23#	7.02	47,774,000
	2002	10,988	660.0	7,252,080	23#	6.18	44,818,000
Cabbage	2003	1,174	711.0	834,714	45#	5.83	4,866,000
	2002	1,269	816.0	1,035,504	45#	6.67	6,907,000
Cauliflower	2003	2,712	730.0	1,979,760	25#	7.71	15,264,000
	2002	2,421	685.0	1,658,385	25#	6.47	10,730,000
Celery	2003	1,110	1,143.0	1,268,730	60#	6.79	8,615,000
	2002	1,074	1,154.0	1,239,396	60#	6.04	7,486,000
Lettuce, Head	2003	6,539	673.0	4,400,747	50#	8.38	36,878,000
	2002	6,831	696.0	4,754,376	50#	5.57	26,482,000
Lettuce, Leaf	2003	1,735	698.0	1,211,030	25#	7.83	9,482,000
	2002	2,466	820.0	2,022,120	25#	7.42	15,004,000
Oriental Vegetables	2003	1,938	654.0	1,267,452	80#	9.46	11,990,000
	2002	1,543	806.0	1,243,658	80#	8.59	10,683,000
Peas, Edible Pod	2003	1,883	614.0	1,156,162	10#	7.68	8,879,000
	2002	1,906	590.0	1,124,540	10#	9.09	10,222,000
Spinach	2003	373	805.0	300,265	20#	6.38	1,916,000
	2002	335	837.0	280,395	20#	6.34	1,778,000
Squash	2003	260	867.0	225,420	30#	5.73	1,292,000
	2002	323	958.0	309,434	30#	6.02	1,863,000
Tomato**	2003	33	2,125.0	70,125	20#	15.83	1,110,000
	2002	27	2,595.0	70,065	20#	15.30	1,072,000
Miscellaneous*	2003	3,377					15,652,000
	2002	3,000					13,905,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>32,877</b>					<b>168,423,000</b>
<b>Vegetable Crops</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>33,202</b>					<b>156,687,000</b>

\* Anise, Artichokes, Arugula, Beans, Beets, Brussel Sprouts, Carrots, Chard, Chili Peppers, Cilantro, Collards, Cucumbers, Daikon, Dandelion, Dill, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Herbs, Kale, Leeks, Mushrooms, Mustard, Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes, Sweet Corn, Tomatillos, Turnips, Watermelons

\*\*Includes Greenhouse grown tomatoes

# Nursery Products



Nursery production saw a slight decline in value over 2002. Increased fuel costs and strong competition from foreign producers were contributing factors. The reduction in value breaks a long standing period of growth for the nursery industry.

Crop	Year	Field Production (acres)	Greenhouse Production (sq ft)	Value
Bedding Plants, Sod, & Ground Cover	2003	84	74,600	\$8,412,000
	2002	62	192,000	\$12,340,000
Christmas Trees, Cut*	2003			
	2002	20		286,000
Cut Flowers and Greens†	2003	113	2,500,000	21,840,000
	2002	318	3,000,000	23,965,000
Fruit-Nut Trees & Vines	2003	21	21,160	2,428,000
	2002	21	22,500	2,800,000
Indoor Decoratives	2003		2,694,609	22,973,000
	2002		2,774,000	26,000,000
Outdoor Ornamentals	2003	44	39,000	5,338,000
	2002	57	22,000	4,140,000
Vegetable Transplants	2003	25	1,653,095	28,251,000
	2002	24	1,605,000	25,330,000
Miscellaneous*	2003	937	47,306	2,234,000
	2002	500	397,000	2,516,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>7,029,770</b>	<b>\$91,476,000</b>
<b>Nursery Stock</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>8,012,500</b>	<b>\$97,377,000</b>

\*Bulbs, Cacti, Christmas Trees, Herbs, Propagative plants, Scion wood, Seed, Specialty plants, Succulents,

†Includes cut flowers grown in greenhouse and field

# Field Crops



## Total Agricultural Acreage in San Luis Obispo County

2003 1,182,740 acres

2002\* 1,184,671 acres

\*REVISED

High yields and abundant production of hay crops were offset by low prices. Safflower doubled in value due to increased overseas market demands for safflower oil.



Crop	Year	Acreage		Production		Unit	Per Unit	Total
		Planted	Harvested	Per Acre	Total			
Alfalfa Hay	2003	2,460	2,460	6.62	16,285	Ton	\$115.00	\$1,873,000
	2002	3,000	2,900	6.80	19,720	Ton	\$125.00	\$2,465,000
Barley	2003	18,600	17,000	1.00	17,000	Ton	113.00	1,921,000
	2002	24,000	15,600	1.10	17,160	Ton	97.00	1,665,000
Garbanzo Beans	2003*							
	2002	400	400	12.00	4,800	Cwt	22.00	106,000
Grain Hay ++	2003	12,800	11,000	2.70	29,700	Ton	80.00	2,376,000
	2002	25,000	18,750	2.30	43,125	Ton	90.00	3,881,000
Grain Stubble (Grazed)	2003		35,000			Acre	5.00	175,000
	2002		40,000			Acre	5.00	200,000
Irrigated Pasture	2003*							
	2002		2,500			Acre	170.00	425,000
Rangeland, Grazed	2003		1,030,000			Acre	8.00	8,240,000
	2002		1,020,000			Acre	6.50	6,630,000
Safflower	2003	1,300	1,300	0.40	520	Ton	300.00	156,000
	2002	750	700	0.37	259	Ton	150.00	39,000
Miscellaneous*	2003	4700	4,300					420,500
	2002	3000	1,600					184,000
<b>TOTAL Field Crops</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>39,860</b>	<b>1,101,060</b>					<b>\$15,161,500</b>
	<b>2002</b>	<b>56,150</b>	<b>1,102,450</b>					<b>15,595,000</b>

\*Irrigated Pasture, Garbanzo Beans, Oats, Straw, Sudangrass, Wheat

++Includes winter forage

# San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Revenue	<b>\$3,997,750</b>	
General Funds	1,719,596	43%
State Funds	1,652,506	41%
Collected Fees	260,977	7%
Overhead	364,671	9%

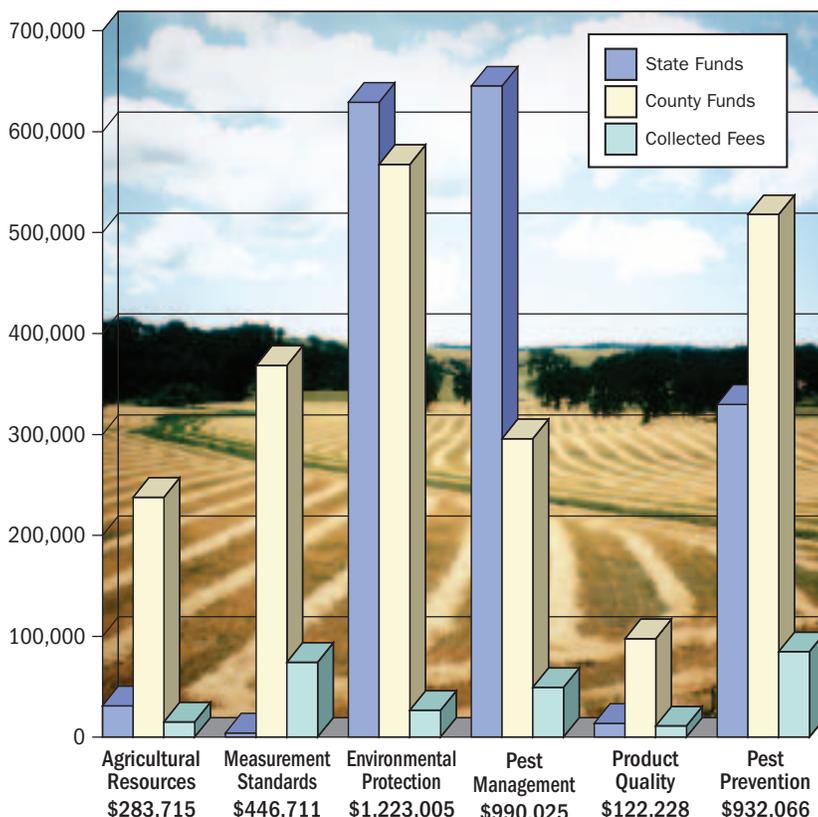


Expenditures	<b>\$3,997,750</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	3,086,175	77%
Services & Supplies	531,651	13%
Overhead	364,671	9%
Equipment	15,253	<1%

## Funding Sources

**\$3,997,750**

Agricultural Resources	<b>\$283,715</b>	
State Funds	31,000	11%
County Funds	237,645	84%
Collected Fees	15,070	5%
Measurement Standards	<b>\$446,711</b>	
State Funds	4,227	1%
County Funds	368,252	82%
Collected Fees	74,232	17%
Environmental Protection	<b>\$1,223,005</b>	
State Funds	628,907	51%
County Funds	567,498	46%
Collected Fees	26,600	2%
Pest Management	<b>\$990,025</b>	
State Funds	645,121	65%
County Funds	295,609	30%
Collected Fees	49,295	5%
Product Quality	<b>\$122,228</b>	
State Funds	13,647	11%
County Funds	97,532	80%
Collected Fees	11,049	9%
Pest Prevention	<b>\$932,066</b>	
State Funds	329,605	35%
County Funds	517,728	56%
Collected Fees	84,733	9%



Field of Yield photo by Betty Ann Hayhoe

## Organic Program Summary

National standards for organic production developed by USDA went into effect in 2002. Organic production is not defined simply by the materials applied to the soil, crop or during processing, or the way livestock is raised. It is a complete production system that involves using naturally-occurring organisms, crop rotation, water quality management, and farming in an environment-friendly manner.

Anyone who sells products as "organic" must register with the California Department of Food and Agriculture through the local County Agricultural Commissioner's office. Anyone who sells organic products valued at more than \$5,000 must also be certified by a USDA accredited certifying agency.

In 2003, San Luis Obispo County had approximately 50 organic registrants representing 1,981 acres, with crop production valued at \$4,254,321. Crops registered as organic were diverse: from apples to cactus pads, fruit trees to herbs, nuts to mushrooms, and much more.

The recent trend has been for more vineyards to register as organic, and the sizes of individual organic operations in San Luis Obispo County are increasing.



# Security Questions and Areas of Concern to Help Agriculture Develop Security Plans & Crisis Response

## RESPONSIBILITY:

*Has responsibility for security been assigned to qualified individual(s) in your organization?*

Emergency Contact Information Listed:

- Emergency/after hours telephone numbers for key employees, suppliers, truckers
- After hour contact numbers for major customers
- Emergency numbers posted for easy access in the workplace

## RECORDS & DATA:

- Records of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals used
- Security of general company data, processes and formulas
- Who has access to these records?
- Records on who is applying chemicals at your operation
- Emergency phone numbers for applicators – their backgrounds?

## SECURITY:

- Do you conduct employee background checks? If not on all, then key employees.
- Secure hazardous materials and tools
- Do you allow tours of your operation? If so, who escorts visitors? Do visitors have access to all areas?
- Do you have any perimeter fencing, or fencing of specific areas of concern?
- Do you have emergency security lighting?
- Security for water systems, storage tanks, electrical systems
- Inventory of toxic materials, and system for reporting missing/stolen materials
- What measures do you have in place for mail security?

## RESPONSE:

- Do your employees know where emergency information is posted?
- Have your employees been encouraged to be alert to potential problems and report them?
- When was the last time you reviewed/updated your crisis plan?
- Does your response plan have a media response component?
- Have you conducted training and practiced your plan?



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