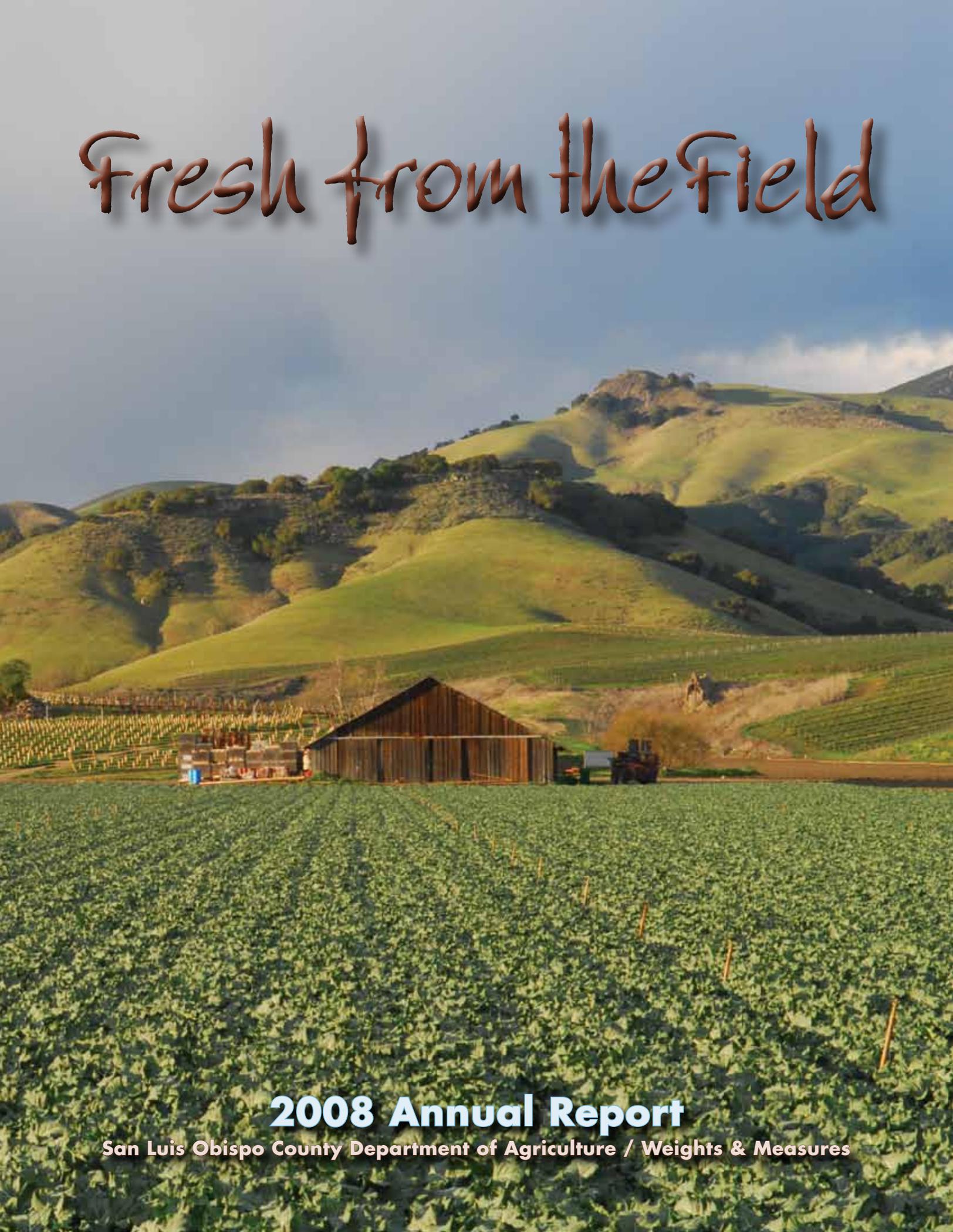


Fresh from the Field



2008 Annual Report

San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture / Weights & Measures

San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805 781-5910

810 W. Branch Street, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
805 473-7090

350 N. Main, Suite A, Templeton, CA 93465
805 437-5950

www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm
AgCommSLO@co.slo.ca.us

Staff and Associates

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures
Robert F. Lilley

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
Brenda W. Ouwkerk

Chief Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures
Brett R. Saum

Administrative Services Officer
Judy Noble

Deputy Agricultural Commissioners
Janice Campbell **Richard Little** **Martin Settevendemie**

Department Automation Specialists
Roger Shipp **Chris Morris**

Mapping Graphics Systems Specialist
Marlene Bartsch

Environmental Resource Specialist
Lynda Auchinachie

Agricultural Resource Specialist
Michael Isensee

Agricultural Inspector/Biologists

Lisa Chadwick	Rusty Hall	Heidi Quiggle
Catherine Darling	Tamara Kleemann	John Schmitz
Kasi Day	Marc Lea	MaryBeth St. Amand
Dale Donaghe	Karen Lowerison	Robert Stockel
Francisco Focha	Tom Morgan	Cara Taylor
Judy Groat	Edwin Moscoso	Jenny Weaver
	Jennifer Welch	

Weights and Measures Inspectors
Curtis Clark **Jan Hendrix** **Robert Lopez**

Agricultural/Weights and Measures Technicians

Laurel Carlisle	Roxy McIntosh	Gail Perez
Nancy David	Manuel Mendoza-Calderon	Johnie Steele
Laura Hebert	James Moore	Julie Walters
Crystal Kirkland	Katherine O'Reilly	

Administrative Services Staff
Nancy Ettetdgue **Debbie Schmitz** **Susan Wells**
 Julia Walters

Mission Statement

The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures is committed to serving the community by protecting agriculture, the environment, and the health and safety of its citizens, and by ensuring equity in the marketplace.

Project Manager: Lynda Auchinachie
Creative Collaborator: Judy Groat
Photography: John Busselle
Design and Layout: Peggy Eisen Thayer, Design To Print
Printing: Color Craft Printing



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures

2156 SIERRA WAY, SUITE A, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93401-4556
ROBERT F. LILLEY (805) 781-5910
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER FAX: (805) 781-1035

AgCommSLO@co.slo.ca.us

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

We are pleased to release the 2008 calendar year production crop statistics for San Luis Obispo County. Values reflected in this report represent the "farm sale" value for crops produced in San Luis Obispo County, and do not reflect profit or loss or the value of processed agricultural commodities.

Growing conditions presented significant challenges in 2008 for local farmers and ranchers. Agricultural production was negatively affected by unseasonable weather including a late April frost, a record breaking heat wave throughout the county in June, and the third consecutive year of less than average rainfall. Despite this, total overall values only decreased by approximately 5% from the previous year.

Total harvested acreage in the county remained stable and some commodities enjoyed higher prices. Marketing and distribution was difficult in 2008, mostly related to the spike in fuel prices. A few growers temporarily suspended shipments of produce to the east coast as fuel prices approached \$5.00 per gallon.

Wine grapes continued as the dominant crop in 2008 despite a 12% decrease in value, while a 34% increase in planted strawberries acreage contributed to the largest increase in value, climbing to a record of over \$65 million. Nursery stock sales struggled due to the economic downturn, and the number of cattle sold decreased due to another poor rainfall year that reduced the availability of grass for grazing. The vegetable industry held its own as the diversity and quality of local vegetables remained in high demand.

Our theme for this year's annual report is local marketing. This topic continues to be important because local marketing helps sustain our local economy, connects consumers with producers of fresh and wholesome food, and reduces environmental impacts. Please read more about the innovative ways producers are connecting with local consumers on pages five through seven in this report.

I would like to thank my staff and the local farmers and ranchers for working cooperatively to produce this annual report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Lilley
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Hats Off to Jack and Jane Gibson

This year we acknowledge and thank Jack and Jane Gibson for the important contributions they have made to the development, growth and enhancement of the Cambria Farmers' Market. For over twenty years they have dedicated their lives to enrich the local quality of life in San Luis Obispo County. Through their leadership the Farmers' Market has become a successful business outlet for local farmers, and has raised thousands of dollars for their sponsor, the Cambria Lions Club, which distributes these funds to local non-profit organizations.

Jack and Jane, both from farming families, met in high school and attended the same church in San Fernando, California.

College bound after high school, Jane attended UCLA. After the start of World War II, Jack became an Army/Air Force gunner on a B-29 and flew 52 crossings of the Himalayas. He was shot down over the Straits Johor and became a prisoner of the Emperor of Japan in March of 1945 in Singapore, and was saved from execution by the ending of the war in August of 1945. Jack arrived safely home in early 1946 and in 1949 he and Jane were married. After attending college, Jack began working with the General Telephone Co., first in engineering and then in computer processing. In 1967, Jack and Jane migrated from southern California to Santa Barbara with their two sons, Bruce and Paul. Subsequently, they bought twenty acres of land in Montecito that had burned during the Romero Fire. They cleared the raw property, built a home and planted avocados. However, due to a shortage of water - there was only enough for their residence - they had to abandon their plan for growing avocados.

In 1979, upon Jane's retirement from work in Financial Aid at UC Santa Barbara, they happened into Cambria after a visit to their family in Fresno. During that trip, as luck would have it, they found two properties available for sale. In 1980, they closed escrow on one of those properties, a thirty-two acre parcel in Cambria where they live today, and raise six acres of avocados.



Photos by Richard Little

Because of their enthusiastic participation in the newly developed Farmers' Market program, Jack and Jane were asked to take over full management responsibilities of the Cambria Farmers' Market in 1988 from Shelly Limacher, who started it in 1986. The market

then had fifteen to twenty growers and the Gibsons actively looked for additional interested growers to expand it. With the support of the community, the growers, and strong support from then Agricultural Commissioner, Richard Greek, the Cambria Farmers' Market has grown to nearly forty loyal sellers. It is open every Friday, rain or shine, and missed opening only one day in 1995 due to severe winter flooding. The Cambria Farmers' Market is consistently ranked one of the top three selling Farmers' Markets in the County.

The Cambria Farmers' Market has evolved into a premier shopping destination for visitors and locals alike. It offers a bounty of fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers grown on farms and orchards throughout Central California, and maintains its very own unique atmosphere as a local community meeting place.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Gibsons for allowing us to include their story in our 2008 annual Crop Report and for their twenty year contribution to local agriculture. We expect continued success of the Cambria Farmers' Market thanks to the integrity of the foundation they have laid.



On January 30, 2009, Jack and Jane officially retired their management duties and put the Market in the hands of Michael and Carol Broadhurst, who also live and farm in Cambria and are sellers at the Market.

Fresh from the Field - The County's Bounty

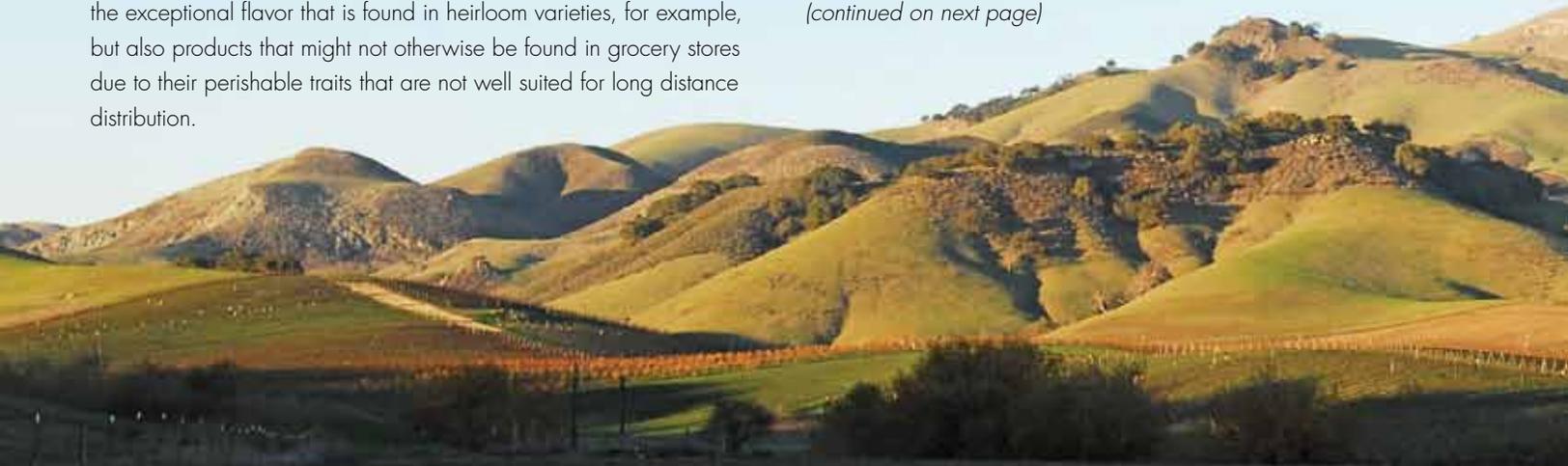
Farmers and ranchers in San Luis Obispo County have created many innovative ways to make locally grown agricultural products available to local consumers. Residents of San Luis Obispo County have many opportunities to find and support local producers, no matter how large or small the farm, and enjoy a remarkable variety of fresh and delicious food grown right here in the County.

Direct marketing is the method by which local agricultural producers sell products directly to local consumers. This means agricultural products produced in San Luis Obispo County are sold right here in San Luis Obispo County.

Local growers provide a broad range of products, chosen not just for the exceptional flavor that is found in heirloom varieties, for example, but also products that might not otherwise be found in grocery stores due to their perishable traits that are not well suited for long distance distribution.

The benefits of direct marketing are many. Keeping agricultural dollars circulating in San Luis Obispo County strengthens the local economy. Creative marketing helps keep agricultural operations in business, which helps preserve the popular rural character of the county. As consumers become increasingly interested and concerned about the nutritional value and freshness of foods, buying local products offers a way to connect consumers to the place where food is grown and the people that grow it.

The most visible way growers sell directly to consumers is at the local Farmers' Markets. Every day of the week, somewhere in San Luis Obispo County, there is a Farmers' Market in operation. The Thursday evening market in downtown San Luis Obispo, which *(continued on next page)*



A sampling of fresh produce available at local Farmers' Markets.



Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members receive a regularly scheduled delivery of assorted seasonal fare.

Photo by Megan Worthington

started out as an experiment in 1979, has grown to become not only a place for locals to gather and purchase fresh products, it has also become a famous tourist destination point! This market and nineteen other Farmers' Markets scattered throughout the county give shoppers an opportunity to meet the producers and, most importantly, provide the producers a place to educate the public about agriculture and offer the fruits of their labor.

Another example of direct marketing is Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. This technique of direct marketing makes the consumer a member of a farm cooperative. Members receive a portion of the weekly harvest of a wide variety of vegetables, fruit, eggs, and other products. In some cases, members even help harvest the crops. This is a great way for consumers to be introduced to a wide variety of produce that they may not otherwise purchase.

The Central Coast Agriculture Network (CCAN) is a local organization whose goal is to help family farms be sustainable by drawing attention to the many benefits family farms bring to our community. CCAN educates consumers about the nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits derived from purchasing locally grown and processed agricultural products, and raises community awareness and commitment to fresh local food.

The Central Coast Agriculture Cooperative (CCAC) was created by a group of family-run farms and ranches spread across San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Monterey Counties, which are firmly dedicated to marketing food products locally. Producers that are members of the Cooperative utilize a unified system of marketing and distribution, which primarily serves the needs of large scale purchasers, such as local restaurants, schools and institutions, for fresh locally grown and processed food products.

In addition to Farmers' Market and CSA's, San Luis Obispo County consumers enjoy many roadside stands, u-pick operations, and farm stores. Local products are regularly featured in local supermarkets. Just look for the predominantly displayed signs that advertise local products.

The key to the success of direct marketing in San Luis Obispo County is the amazing variety of products available year round. It is possible to create a complete seven course meal and a picture perfect holiday feast from locally produced agricultural products. For example, asparagus, avocados, broccoli, carrots, corn, garlic, lettuce, peas, potatoes, berries, cherries, grapes, citrus, melons, and strawberries are seasonally available. Various herbs and spices, such as basil, caraway, chives, dill, mint, and many others can be found. For a main course, besides fruits, vegetables, and cheeses, a variety of





Baywood Farmers' Market provides residents and visitors the opportunity to purchase local agricultural products on Mondays from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, year round. A complete listing of Farmers' Markets throughout the county can be found at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm>.

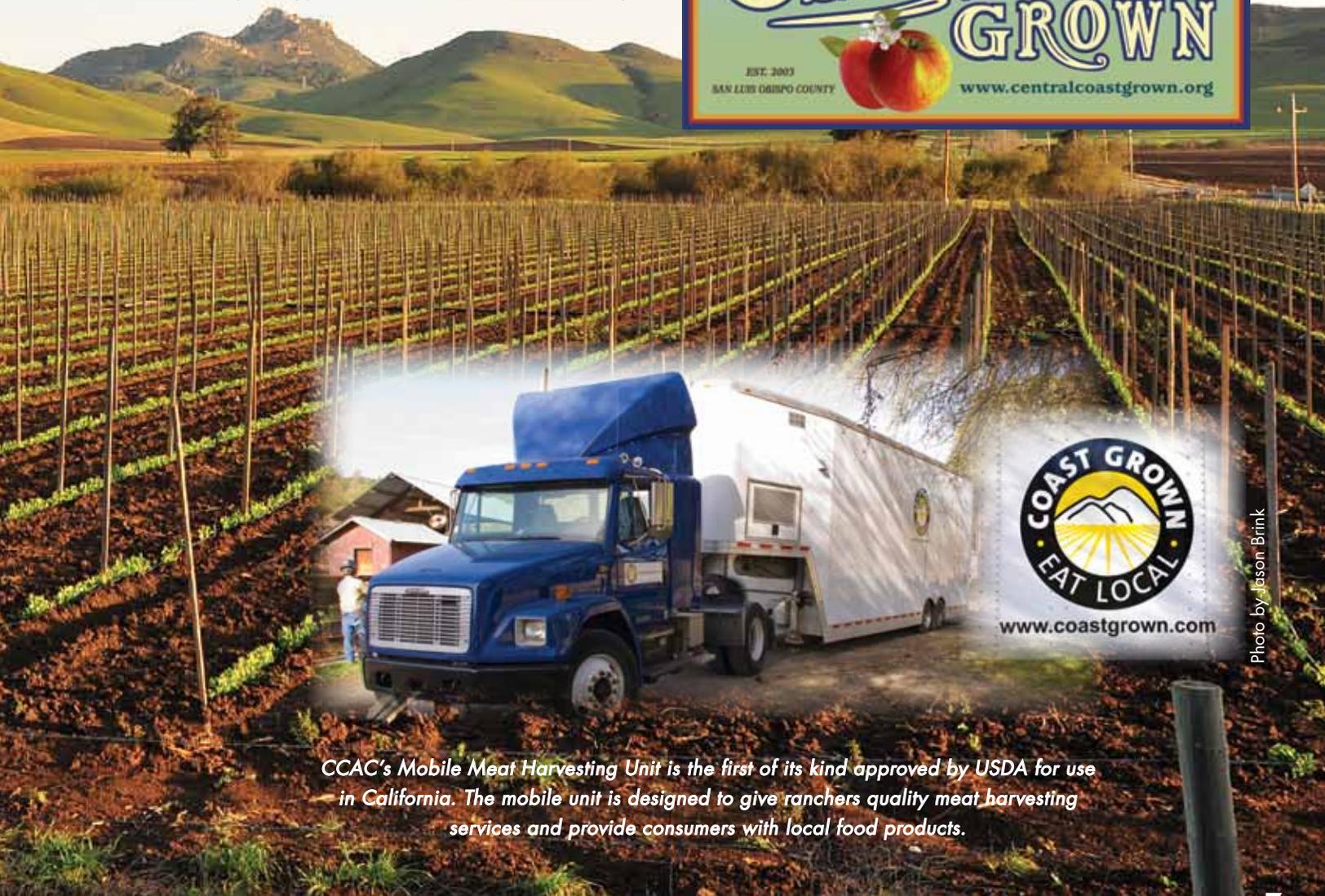


Photo by Michael Isensee

San Luis Obispo County has a long history of direct marketing through roadside stands.

meats, such as beef, chicken, game bird, goat, pork, and lamb are raised locally. To add that special touch, many plants and beautiful cut flowers can decorate any holiday table. For those who like wine with their meals, the vast selection of local varieties should please most any wine consumer. Other locally produced products, such as alpaca wool, can be used to create that special gift to put under the Christmas tree, which was cut from a local Christmas tree farm. One of the best ways to support local farmers and ranchers is to buy

fresh products produced locally and to remember these hard working individuals that practice the art of agriculture here in San Luis Obispo County.

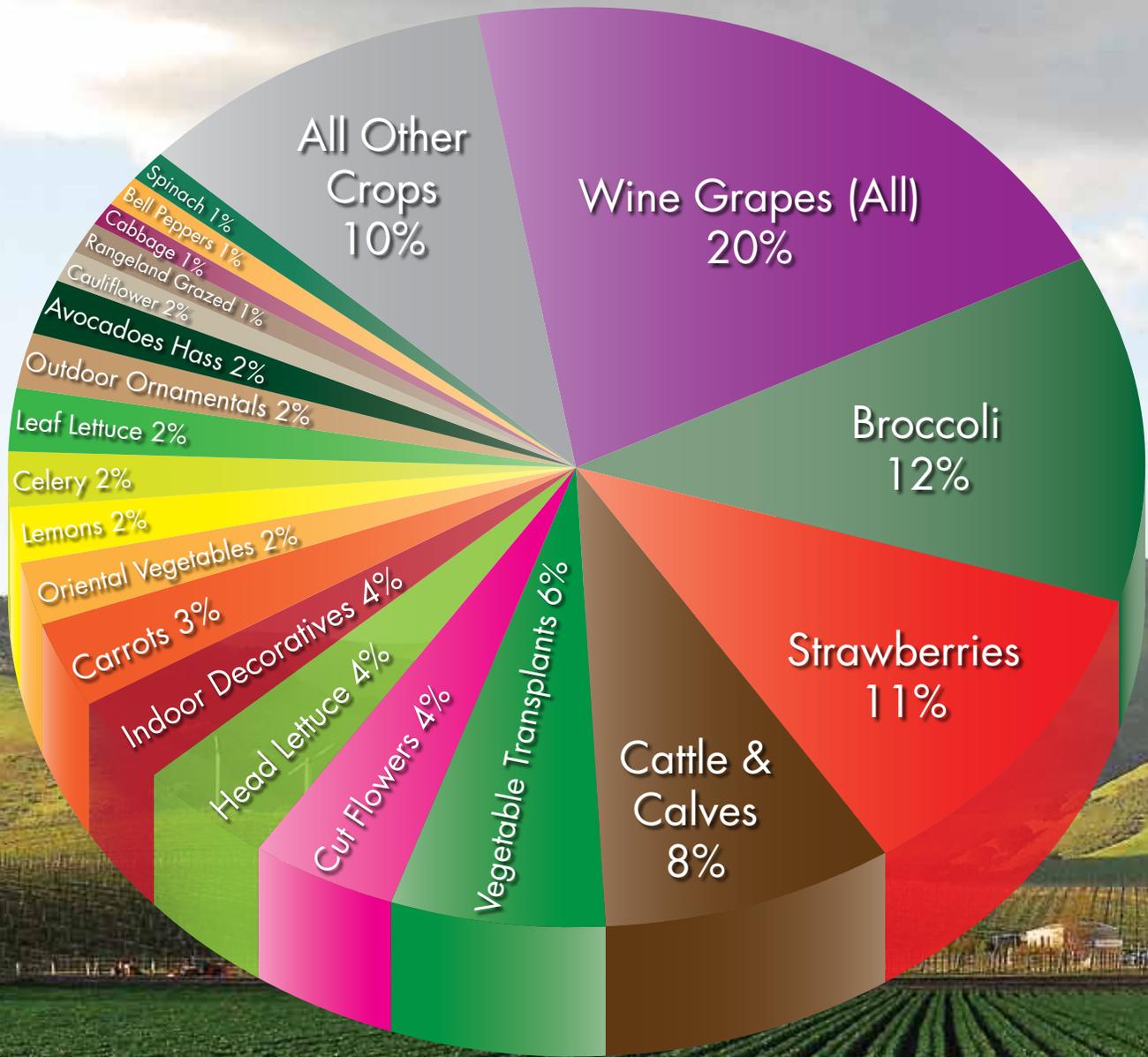


CCAC's Mobile Meat Harvesting Unit is the first of its kind approved by USDA for use in California. The mobile unit is designed to give ranchers quality meat harvesting services and provide consumers with local food products.



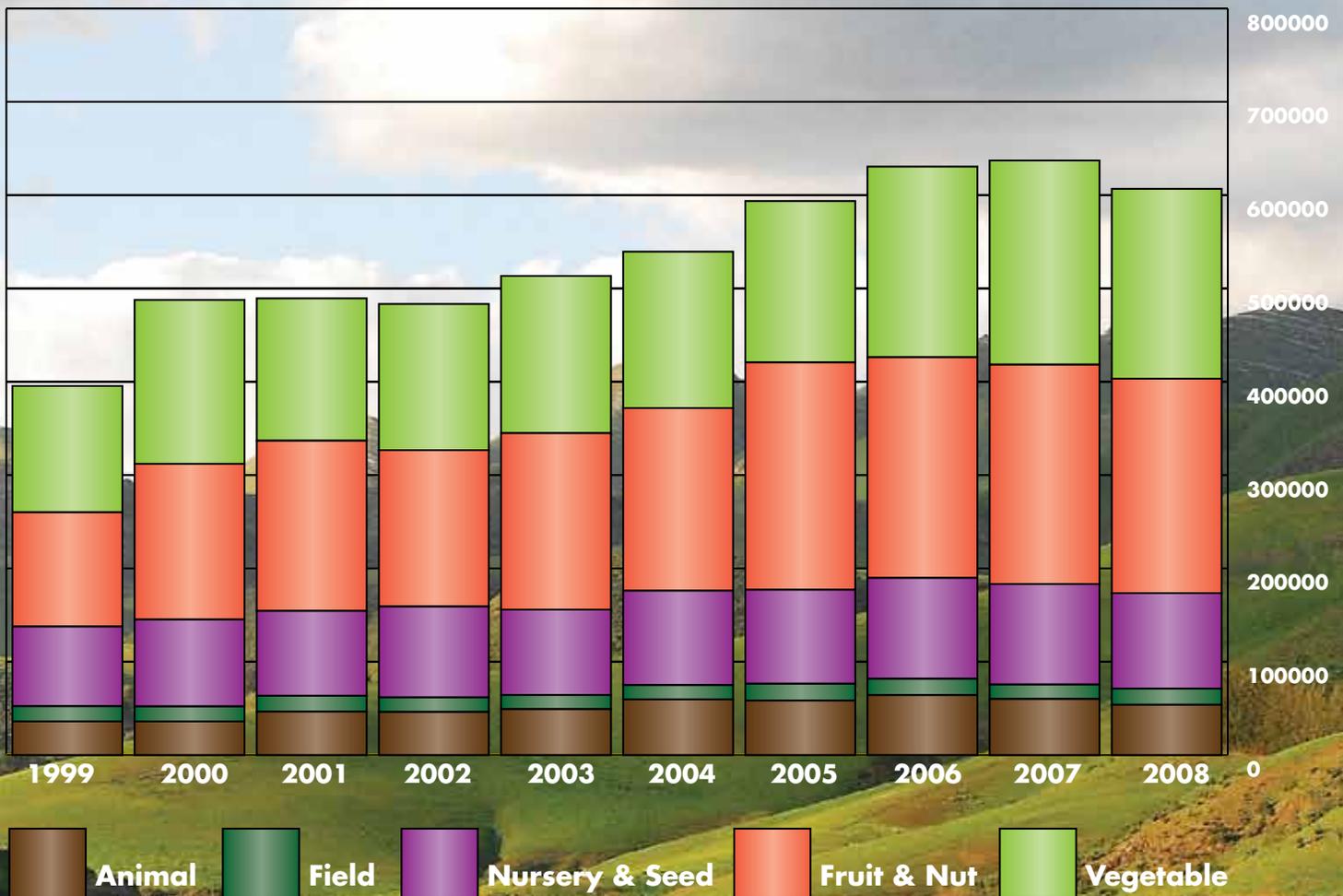
Photo by Jason Brink

Top Twenty Value Crops



1. Wine Grapes (all)	\$124,126,000	11. Lemons.....	\$ 13,089,000
2. Broccoli	\$ 70,914,000	12. Celery	\$ 11,858,000
3. Strawberries	\$ 65,481,000	13. Leaf Lettuce	\$ 11,686,000
4. Cattle and Calves.....	\$ 50,050,000	14. Outdoor Ornamentals.....	\$ 11,417,000
5. Vegetable Transplants	\$ 35,682,000	15. Avocados hass.....	\$ 10,951,000
6. Cut Flowers	\$ 25,203,000	16. Cauliflower.....	\$ 9,080,000
7. Head lettuce	\$ 24,591,000	17. Rangeland grazed	\$ 8,200,000
8. Indoor Decoratives	\$ 21,011,000	18. Cabbage	\$ 7,268,000
9. Carrots	\$ 19,623,000	19. Bell peppers	\$ 7,138,000
10. Oriental Vegetables	\$ 13,090,000	20. Spinach	\$ 6,860,000

Comparison of Valuation of Major Groups During the Past Ten Years



YEAR	ANIMAL	FIELD	NURSERY & SEED	FRUIT & NUT	VEGETABLE	TOTAL VALUE
1999	36,031,000	16,296,000	85,353,000	122,450,000	135,393,000	395,523,000
2000	36,012,000	16,053,000	93,171,000	166,779,000	175,643,000	487,658,000
2001	46,517,000	17,025,000	90,908,000	182,415,000	152,531,000	489,396,000
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	189,144,000	168,423,000	513,385,500
2004	59,620,000	15,342,100	101,156,000	195,712,000	167,606,000	539,436,100
2005	58,380,000	18,055,000	100,697,000	243,604,000	172,896,000	593,632,000
2006	64,244,000	17,477,000	108,066,000	236,491,000	204,336,000	630,614,000
2007	60,078,000	15,462,000	107,674,000	235,135,000*	219,746,000*	638,095,000*
2008	53,848,000	17,335,000	102,300,000	229,835,000	203,427,000	606,745,000

*Revised

Animal Industry

Three consecutive years of below average rainfall reduced forage plants and grass available for grazing, causing an overall reduction of 10% in the value of the local animal industry. Approximately 7,000 fewer cattle were sold.

Commodity	Year	Number Of Head	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	2008	91,000	568,750	Cwt	\$88.00	\$50,050,000
	2007	98,000	588,000	Cwt	\$94.00	\$55,272,000
Sheep and Lambs	2008	5,550	5,535	Cwt	102.00	565,000
	2007	5,187	7,076	Cwt	100.00	708,000
Miscellaneous*	2008					3,233,000
	2007					4,098,000
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY	2008					\$53,848,000
	2007					\$60,078,000

*Aquaculture, Bees Wax, Eggs, Goats, Hogs, Honey, Milk, Pollen & Pollination, Wool

Field Crops

Despite unusual weather patterns, which reduced production levels, high prices and strong demand for alfalfa and grain hay caused an increase of 12% in value overall for field crops.



Crop	Year	Acreage		Production		Unit	Value	
		Planted	Harvested	Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Alfalfa Hay	2008	2,119	2,119	6.42	13,604	Ton	\$237.00	\$3,224,000
	2007	2,800	2,800	7.00	19,600	Ton	\$175.00	\$3,430,000
Barley	2008	8,288	6,015	0.91	5,474	Ton	214.00	1,171,000
	2007	12,457	1,503	1.40	2,104	Ton	170.00	358,000
Grain Hay**	2008	12,355	11,275	1.62	18,266	Ton	205.00	3,744,000
	2007	10,375	4,610	1.20	5,532	Ton	178.00	985,000
Grain Stubble (Grazed)	2008		9,910			Acre	10.00	99,000
	2007		6,115			Acre	8.00	49,000
Rangeland, Grazed	2008		1,025,000			Acre	8.00	8,200,000
	2007		1,025,000			Acre	10.00	10,250,000
Miscellaneous*	2008	5,263	3,845					897,000
	2007	3,000	3,000					390,000
Total Field Crops	2008	28,025	1,058,164					\$17,335,000
	2007	28,632	1,043,028					\$15,462,000

*Irrigated Pasture, Garbanzo Beans, Oats, Safflower, Wheat

**Includes Winter Forage

Fruit & Nut Crops

Wine grapes represent 20% of the combined value of the County's entire agricultural industry, despite 12% lower yields due to adverse weather conditions.

Detrimental weather conditions included a late spring frost, dry and windy conditions, and extremely high temperatures in June, which combined to negatively affect production levels of several fruit and nut crops. The result was an overall decrease of 2% in value.

Strawberry prices remained strong; increasing value by 18% with acreage increasing by 34%. The rebound of avocado production from the freeze of 2007 resulted in an overall yield increase of 79%.



Crop	Year	Acreage		Production		Unit	Per Unit	Total
		Planted	Bearing/Harvested	Per Acre	Total			
Avocados (Hass)	2008	4,590	3,709	1.434	5,319	Ton	\$2,059.00	\$10,951,000
	2007	4,546	3,709	0.770	2,856	Ton	\$2,141.02	\$6,115,000
Avocados (Other)	2008	210	210	0.740	155	Ton	993.00	154,000
	2007	210	210	0.950	200	Ton	646.01	129,000
Grapes, Wine (All)	2008	36,845	34,622		103,507	Ton		124,126,000
	2007	36,435	34,408		136,276	Ton		141,674,000
Chardonnay	2008		3,109	5.516	17,149	Ton	1,445.00	24,781,000
	2007		3,392	5.201	17,642	Ton	1,274.00	22,476,000
Sauvignon Blanc	2008		1,147	3.660	4,198	Ton	962.00	4,038,000
	2007		1,086	5.141	5,583	Ton	902.00	5,036,000
White Wine (Other)	2008		2,053	3.221	6,613	Ton	1,373.00	9,079,000
	2007		1,452	4.892	7,103	Ton	1,203.00	8,545,000
Cabernet Sauvignon	2008		11,377	2.408	27,396	Ton	1,005.00	27,533,000
	2007		11,497	3.752	43,137	Ton	912.00	39,341,000
Merlot	2008		4,934	3.081	15,202	Ton	898.00	13,651,000
	2007		5,165	4.413	22,793	Ton	815.00	18,576,000
Pinot Noir	2008		1,548	1.866	2,889	Ton	3,107.00	8,975,000
	2007		1,609	1.557	2,505	Ton	2,933.00	7,348,000
Syrah	2008		3,550	2.517	8,935	Ton	1,261.00	11,267,000
	2007		3,641	3.049	11,101	Ton	1,164.00	12,922,000
Zinfandel	2008		3,253	3.025	9,840	Ton	1,064.00	10,470,000
	2007		3,079	3.818	11,756	Ton	957.00	11,250,000
Red Wine (Other)	2008		3,651	3.091	11,285	Ton	1,270.00	14,332,000
	2007		3,487	4.203	14,656	Ton	1,104.00	16,180,000
Lemons	2008	1,634	1,542	14.171	21,852	Ton	599.00	13,089,000
	2007	1,634	1,532	15.330	23,486	Ton	457.55	10,746,000
Strawberries (All)	2008		1,523		45,660	Ton		65,481,000
	2007		1,138		39,113	Ton		55,446,000
Fresh	2008			21.610	32,912	Ton	1,708.00	56,214,000
	2007**			25.116	28,582	Ton	1,690.00	48,304,000
Processed	2008			8.370	12,748	Ton	727.00	9,267,000
	2007			9.254	7,142	Ton	678.20	7,142,000
Valencia Oranges	2008	304	304	21.262	6,464	Ton	137.00	886,000
	2007	304	304	13.920	4,232	Ton	328.26	1,389,000
English Walnuts	2008	3,107	2,330	0.233	543	Ton	2,413.00	1,310,000
	2007	3,107	2,330	0.330	769	Ton	1,762.27	1,355,000
Miscellaneous*	2008	3,173	2,083					13,838,000
	2007	3,442	2,130					18,281,000
Total Fruit & Nut Crops	2008	49,863	46,323					\$229,835,000
	2007**	49,678	45,761					\$235,135,000

*Almonds, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Blueberries, Bushberries, Cherries, Feijoas, Grapefruit, Kiwis, Mandarin Oranges, Navel Oranges, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Quince, Table Grapes, Tangerines

**Revised

Vegetable Crops



Broccoli continued to dominate the vegetable category representing nearly 35% of the County's total value of vegetable commodities.

Carrot acreage expanded in Cuyama Valley and North County. Spinach continued to bounce back with a 32% increase in acreage. After many years of steady decline, acreage planted in edible pod peas increased by 253% and the price remained strong. Consecutive days of warm temperatures in June reduced yields of most vegetable crops overall by 7%.

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Bell Peppers	2008	977	1,097.0	1,071,769	30#	\$6.66	\$7,138,000
	2007	981	997.0	978,057	30#	\$8.47	\$8,284,000
Broccoli (All)	2008	15,077	566.0	8,533,582	23#	8.31	70,914,000
	2007 **	14,838	585.0	8,680,230	23#	8.16	70,831,000
Cabbage	2008	1,092	783.0	855,036	45#	8.50	7,268,000
	2007	1,190	789.0	938,910	45#	8.34	7,831,000
Carrots (All)	2008	3,340	765.0	2,555,100	50#	7.68	19,623,000
	2007	3,280	976.0	3,201,280	50#	7.03	22,505,000
Cauliflower	2008	1,567	666.0	1,043,622	25#	8.70	9,080,000
	2007 **	1,986	814.0	1,616,604	25#	7.97	12,884,000
Celery	2008	1,023	1,195.0	1,222,485	60#	9.70	11,858,000
	2007 **	1,232	1,112.0	1,369,984	60#	7.94	10,878,000
Lettuce, Head	2008	5,256	684.0	3,595,104	50#	6.84	24,591,000
	2007 **	5,648	697.0	3,936,656	50#	7.34	28,895,000
Lettuce, Leaf	2008	2,332	580.0	1,352,560	25#	8.64	11,686,000
	2007	3,159	588.0	1,857,492	25#	7.53	13,987,000
Oriental Vegetables	2008	1,415	826.0	1,168,790	80#	11.20	13,090,000
	2007	1,331	736.0	979,616	80#	13.88	13,597,000
Peas	2008	547	332.0	181,604	10#	10.40	1,889,000
Edible Pod	2007	155	323.0	50,065	10#	11.06	554,000
Spinach	2008	1,132	558.0	631,656	20#	10.86	6,860,000
	2007	859	467.0	401,153	20#	12.19	4,890,000
Squash	2008	278	771.0	214,338	30#	5.86	1,256,000
	2007	213	776.0	165,288	30#	5.31	878,000
Miscellaneous*	2008	2,871					18,174,000
	2007	2,215					23,732,000
TOTAL Vegetable Crops	2008	36,907					\$203,427,000
	2007 **	37,087					\$219,746,000

*Anise, Artichokes, Arugula, Beans, Beets, Brussel Sprouts, Chard, Chili Peppers, Cilantro, Collards, Cucumbers, Daikon, Dandelion, Dill, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Green Garbanzo Beans, Herbs, Kale, Leeks, Melons, Mushrooms, Mustard, Onions, Parsley, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radicchio, Radishes, Rutabagas, Sweet Corn, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Turnips

**Revised

Nursery Products



Photo by Crystal Kirkland

The total overall value of the nursery industry decreased by 5% due to reduced consumer demand. Higher fuel prices and increases in the cost of production also impacted the industry.

Crop	Year	Field Production (acres)	Greenhouse Production (sq ft)	Value
Bedding Plants, Sod, & Ground Cover	2008	130	107,990	\$5,978,000
	2007	77	107,698	\$6,262,000
Cut Flowers and Greens	^2008	193	2,796,154	25,203,000
	^2007	135	2,788,973	28,555,000
Indoor Decoratives	2008	2	2,843,694	21,011,000
	2007	2	2,824,694	24,340,000
Outdoor Ornamentals	2008	89	599,958	11,417,000
	2007	66	361,138	10,236,000
Vegetable and Ornamental Transplants	2008	33	2,077,560	35,682,000
	2007	35	2,119,160	34,679,000
Miscellaneous*	2008	2,458	140,996	3,009,000
	2007	594	140,644	3,602,000
TOTAL NURSERY STOCK	2008	2,905	8,566,352	\$102,300,000
	2007	909	8,342,307	\$107,674,000

* Aquatic, Bulbs, Cacti, Christmas Trees, Fruit+Nut trees, Herbs, Propagative plants, Scion wood, Flower seed, Field crop seed, Specialty plants, Succulents

^ Includes cut flowers grown in greenhouse and field

Sustainable Agriculture Report

Biological Control Program:

In 2008, the Department's Biological Control Program continued to work with the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) to monitor for the presence and effect of beneficial biological insects on the pest Giant Whitefly.

Giant Whitefly has become established in the coastal region of the County and infests numerous ornamental and landscape plants, and can also become a citrus pest. Giant Whitefly was collected at six different locations for five consecutive months, and the beneficial wasp, *Idioporus affinis*, was detected at each site. CDFA is studying these collections for changes in the population of the beneficial wasps throughout the season, which will help determine if additional releases of this biocontrol agent are needed.

Staff also surveyed numerous salt cedar infestations in anticipation of a biological control release in 2009. Salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp.) is an invasive shrub that infests rivers and other riparian areas, crowding out native plants and consuming high amounts of water. The salt cedar beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*) has been released in many locations throughout the Western United States, and is providing excellent salt cedar control by defoliating the shrubs and starving them of required resources.



"Giant Whitefly deposits unique spirals of wax"

Integrated Pest Management Program for County Facilities:

The Department's County Facility Integrated Pest Management Program, established in 1997, continued to educate and train county employees to solve common workplace insect and rodent pest problems using least toxic means, resulting in a safer environment for county workers and the public that use county facilities. In 2008, staff responded to 206 requests for assistance at 41 county facilities for pest problems, including ants, spiders, flies, rodents, wasps, cockroaches, hornets and scorpions.

Pest Detection Program:

Over three thousand insect traps were deployed throughout the county covering over 384 square miles to detect insects that are detrimental to agriculture. This included 308 traps specifically designed to detect the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). Early detection of insects may prevent them from becoming established in the county. In 2008 almost 32,000 total visits were made to traps. Examples of the pests staff are looking for include Asian Citrus Psyllid, Red Imported Fire Ant, Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle and a variety of exotic fruit flies. During 2008 none of these insects were detected in traps, thus enabling us to continue to declare our county free from these quarantine pests.

Pest Exclusion Program:

Throughout 2008, staff intercepted, inspected, quarantined, excluded and destroyed plant shipments infested with various types of pests arriving into San Luis Obispo County from across the United States and around the world. Out of a total of 21,273 shipments arriving into San Luis Obispo County, 7,755 were visually inspected. Seventy four shipments were rejected for significant pest finds or otherwise failing to meet California's high quarantine standards, thus protecting local agriculture and the environment from the introduction of pests that do not currently exist in San Luis Obispo County.

In addition to the inspection of incoming plant material, staff certified 1,404 outgoing shipments of plants and fresh produce leaving local farms for destinations throughout the United States and around the world.

Staff also searched for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter through inspection of 4,660 nursery plant shipments originating from outside the county. Nineteen shipments were rejected due to the presence of live Sharpshooters and were either sent back to origin, treated or destroyed. This strict and thorough inspection program has been successful in keeping the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter out of the county, protecting the grape, citrus, and plant nursery industries from the devastating effects of this insect and the disease they cause.

Organic Crop Statistics:

In 2008, San Luis Obispo County had 87 registered organic producers, a 13% increase over 2007. New organic registrations represented a wide variety of commodities: avocados, blueberries, olives, strawberries, vegetable seeds, walnuts and wine grapes. Many of the newly registered growers were large scale growers with multiple growing locations scattered throughout the county.



The total registered organic acres in 2008 were 11,037, representing a 54% increase over 2007. This acreage consists primarily of rangeland, carrots, walnuts, leafy greens, almonds and grapes, along with a wide variety of other crops.

Year	Harvested Acres	
2008	11,037	(4,700 acres of rangeland: organic livestock & wild mushrooms)
2007	7,167	(1,800 acres of rangeland: organic beef)
2006	6,126	(1,800 acres of rangeland: organic beef)
2005	4,493	
2004	2,947	

*Includes rangeland.

San Luis Obispo County Ranks in the top 10 Counties for Number of Organic Registrants!

According to the California Department of Food & Agriculture Organic Program, for the time period ending 6/30/08, San Luis Obispo County ranked #9 out of 55 counties in number of organic registrants.

Rank	County	# Organic Registrants (as of June 30, 2008)
1	San Diego	362
2	Fresno	148
3	Sonoma	147
4	Monterey	128
5	Humbolt	122
6	Mendocino	118
7	Riverside	116
8	Santa Cruz	109
9	San Luis Obispo	86
10	Santa Barbara	85

San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures

Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2007-08

Revenue	\$5,617,965	
County Funds	2,968,563	53%
State Funds	2,306,224	41%
Collected Fees	343,178	6%

Expenditures	\$5,617,965	
Salaries And Benefits	4,493,610	80%
Services & Supplies	720,638	13%
Overhead	387,418	7%
Equipment	16,299	0%

FUNDING SOURCES \$5,617,965

Agricultural Resources \$476,035

State Funds	42,368	9%
County Funds	383,006	80%
Collected Fees	50,661	11%

Weights and Measures \$622,545

State Funds	8,116	1%
County Funds	485,485	78%
Collected Fees	128,944	21%

Environmental Protection \$1,615,621

State Funds	818,737	51%
County Funds	755,803	47%
Collected Fees	41,081	3%

Pest Management \$1,200,204

State Funds	384,574	32%
County Funds	780,483	65%
Collected Fees	35,147	3%

Product Quality \$163,147

State Funds	54,601	33%
County Funds	83,814	51%
Collected Fees	24,732	15%

Pest Prevention \$1,540,413

State Funds	997,828	65%
County Funds	479,972	31%
Collected Fees	62,613	4%

