

Department of Agriculture

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Contra Costa County



Vincent L. Guise

Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

To: KAREN ROSS, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
and
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2010 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2010 was \$79,603,800, up \$15,180,520 from 2009. The value of the Livestock and Livestock Products category increased sharply as ranchers received record prices for their cattle and rangeland quality improved due to good winter rainfall. Wheat and other grain acreage rebounded to pre-drought levels and prices stayed strong due to export demand and low stockpiles. Olives, which only became a separate category in the 2009 Crop Report, showed a threefold increase in harvested acreage as new orchards came into production. Apricot acreage decreased more than 75% and the average price per ton increased more than tripled when Contra Costa County's last large processing apricot grower went out of production.

Field corn acreage went up due to a strong export market and the demand for biofuel. The Miscellaneous Vegetable & Seed Crop category value more than doubled as a few large growers planted peppers. Bean acreage increased as prices remained high. There were significant decreases in the price of sweet corn and processing tomatoes due to improved water supplies that allowed increased production in other areas of California. Competition from foreign wine imports caused grape prices to decrease. Most of the remaining apple orchards were removed, causing a large drop in the Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut Crop harvested acreage.

Several crop categories exceeded \$1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include cattle and calves, sweet corn, tomatoes, grapes, field corn, rangeland pasture, cherries, alfalfa, beans, walnuts, herbaceous perennials, and irrigated pasture.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are gross receipts and do not include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products. The economic benefit of agricultural production is generally thought to be about three times the gross production value.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Nancy Niemeyer and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent L. Guise".

Vincent L. Guise
Agricultural Commissioner

Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture/ Weights & Measures

Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures

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Information Technology

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Retiree Volunteer

Suzanne Maddux

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Louellen Kelly
Rick Mata
Richard Padfield
Susie Somers
Zsuzsa Vnagy
Oscar Zaldua

K. C. Canario
Herb Gilmore
Hardy Leopando
Betsy Montgomery
Eldren Prieto
Greg Spurlock
James Willson

Plant Quarantine Detector Canines

Bella (handler: Cecilie Siegel)

Bart (handler: Mariah deNijs)

On the Cover: A local plum orchard in bloom.



Plums come in many different varieties and can be used for much more than just desserts, jams, and jellies. The national drink of Serbia is a plum brandy called Slivovitz or Slivovice. India uses plums in a traditional relish called Aloo Bukhara Chutney. In Asia, plums are prepared in many different ways; pickled, salted, dried, in sauces, and made into wine. Plum blossoms are an important symbol in Asian literature and art. In Japan, plum blossoms represent Spring. The Chinese use plum blossoms as a symbol of the new year because plums flower earlier than any other fruit tree.

Plums can be crossed with other fruits to produce hybrids. Pluots, apriums, and plumcots are hybrids of plums and apricots. There are also new hybrids that are crosses of plums with nectarines or peaches.

The United States is the third largest producer of plums in the world behind China and Serbia. In the United States, California is the top producer of plums, prunes, pluots, and other plum hybrids.



Field Crops



Crop	Year	Production		Total	Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre			Per Unit	Total
Field Corn	2010	6,380	4.09	26,100	Ton	174.00	4,541,000
	2009	4,270	4.38	18,700	Ton	182.00	3,403,000
Hay							
Alfalfa	2010	3,240	4.96	16,100	Ton	128.00	2,061,000
	2009	3,400	5.58	19,000	Ton	109.00	2,071,000
Grain	2010	1,610	2.69	4,330	Ton	68.00	294,000
	2009	1,940	2.01	3,900	Ton	69.00	269,000
Pasture							
Irrigated	2010	5,730			Acre	175.00	1,003,000
	2009	5,790			Acre	175.00	1,013,000
Rangeland	2010	169,000			Acre	18.40	3,110,000
	2009	169,000			Acre	19.60	3,312,000
Wheat	2010	2,100	2.19	4,600	Ton	135.00	621,000
	2009	85	1.29	110	Ton	161.00	17,700
Miscellaneous Field Crops*	2010	4,840					1,317,000
	2009	2,490					560,000
Total	2010	193,350					\$12,947,000
	2009	186,975					\$10,645,700

* Barley, Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Rye, Safflower, Silage, Straw, Sudan Grass

Vegetable & Seed Crops



Crop	Year	Production		Total	Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre			Per Unit	Total
Beans	2010	423	3.78	1,600	Ton	1,120.00	1,792,000
	2009	302	4.07	1,230	Ton	1,070.00	1,316,000
Squash	2010	16	4.05	65	Ton	958.00	62,300
	2009	15	4.81	72	Ton	937.00	67,500
Sweet Corn	2010	3,800	9.64	36,600	Ton	362.00	13,249,000
	2009	3,470	10.20	35,400	Ton	434.00	15,364,000
Tomatoes							
Total	2010	1,660		80,557	Ton		5,911,000
	2009	1,746		94,651	Ton		8,038,000
Fresh	2010	30	11.90	357	Ton	1,280.00	457,000
	2009	36	15.30	551	Ton	925.00	510,000
Processing	2010	1,630	49.20	80,200	Ton	68.00	5,454,000
	2009	1,710	55.00	94,100	Ton	80.00	7,528,000
Miscellaneous Vegetable & Seed Crops*	2010	1,120					10,546,000
	2009**	1,015					4,449,000
Total	2010	7,019					\$31,560,300
	2009	6,548					\$29,234,500

* Asparagus, Artichokes, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Ginseng, Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Greens, Herbs, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes

** Revised to include onions

Fruit & Nut Crops



Crop	Year	Production		Total	Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre			Per Unit	Total
Apricots	2010	109	3.12	340	Ton	2,450.00	833,000
	2009	470	4.62	2,170	Ton	677.00	1,470,000
Cherries	2010	389	2.40	934	Ton	2,870.00	2,681,000
	2009	369	2.46	908	Ton	2,940.00	2,670,000
Grapes	2010	1,930	4.81	9,280	Ton	599.00	5,559,000
	2009	1,930	4.61	8,900	Ton	748.00	6,657,000
Nectarines	2010	32	2.71	87	Ton	3,430.00	298,000
	2009	36	2.17	78	Ton	3,260.00	254,000
Olives	2010	255	0.47	120	Ton	1,360.00	163,000
	2009	86	0.89	77	Ton	1,550.00	119,000
Peaches	2010	134	2.96	397	Ton	1,860.00	738,000
	2009	134	2.75	369	Ton	1,770.00	653,000
Plums and Pluots	2010	36	3.47	125	Ton	2,920.00	365,000
	2009	34	3.56	121	Ton	2,760.00	334,000
Walnuts	2010	399	2.36	942	Ton	1,540.00	1,451,000
	2009	390	2.14	835	Ton	1,460.00	1,219,000
Miscellaneous	2010	175					1,154,000
Fruit & Nut Crops*	2009	282					1,948,000
Total	2010	3,459					\$13,242,000
	2009	3,731					\$15,324,000

* Almonds, Apples, Apriums, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Melons, Pears, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Prunes, Pomegranates, Quinces, Strawberries

A photograph showing a long row of greenhouses with gabled roofs, situated behind a large field of colorful flowers, likely tulips, in various colors including red, pink, and yellow. The scene is set in a rural area under a clear blue sky.

* Christmas Trees, Cactus, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees, Cut Flowers.

Organic Farming																
	Apricots	Cherries	Nectarines	Peaches	Pears	Pistachios	Plums	Fruit, other	Herbs	Peas/Beans	Sweet Corn	Vegetables, leafy	Vegetables, root	Vegetables, other	Nursery products	Livestock products
No. of Farms	3	5	3	3	2	1	3	5	4	3	2	2	2	3	3	2
Estimated Acres	12.5	51	17.2	40.2	8	36.8	5.6	7.5	2.7	220	28	0.5	2.6	1.8	0.6	
Total Acres Organically Farmed				438.6				Number of Organic Farms				13				

Livestock and Livestock Products



Item	Year	Production		Unit	Value	
		No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Per Unit	Total
Cattle & Calves	2010	27,000	196,000	Cwt	94.50	18,522,000
	2009	10,100	74,200	Cwt	81.20	6,025,000
Apiary Products*	2010					326,000
	2009					233,080
Miscellaneous Livestock and Livestock Products**	2010					400,000
	2009					500,000
Total	2010					\$19,248,000
	2009					\$6,758,080

* Honey, Wax, Pollination,

**Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep, Turkeys, Milk, Wool, Eggs

Biological Control

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle (<u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>)	Hairy Weevil (<u>Eustenopus villosus</u>)	Ongoing
	YST Flower Weevil (<u>Larinus curtus</u>)	Ongoing
	Rust Pathogen (<u>Puccinia jaceae</u> var. <u>solstitialis</u>)	Ongoing
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<u>Glycaspis brimblecombei</u>)	Encyrtid Parasitoid Wasp (<u>Psyllaephagus bliteus</u>)	Ongoing

Recapitulation



Category	<u>Gross Value/Million Dollars</u>		<u>Ranking</u>	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Vegetable & Seed Crops	31.6	29.2	1	1
Livestock & Livestock Products	19.2	6.8	2	4
Fruit & Nut Crops	13.2	15.3	3	2
Field Crops	12.9	10.6	4	3
Nursery Products	2.6	2.5	5	5

Category	<u>Gross Value</u>		<u>Change</u>
	2010	2009	
Field Crops	12,947,000	10,645,700	2,281,300
Vegetable & Seed Crops	31,560,300	29,234,500	2,325,800
Fruit & Nut Crops	13,242,000	15,324,000	-2,082,000
Nursery Crops	2,626,500	2,461,000	165,500
Livestock & Livestock Products	19,248,000	6,758,080	12,489,920
Total	\$79,603,800	\$64,423,280	15,180,520

Total Acres in County	482,000
Population in County January 2010	1,049,025
Land in Farms - Acres (2007 Census)	146,993
Harvested Cropland - Acres (2007 Census)	23,876

Certified Farmers' Markets

Tuesday	Concord	El Cerrito	Walnut Creek Kaiser		
Wednesday	Point Richmond				
Thursday	Antioch Kaiser Martinez Kaiser	Concord	Danville	Lafayette	Martinez
Friday	Richmond	Walnut Creek	Rossmoor	Walnut Creek	Tice Valley
Saturday	Brentwood Hercules San Ramon	Clayton Orinda	Danville Pinole	Diablo Valley Pittsburg	El Cerrito Pleasant Hill
Sunday	Antioch	Kensington	Martinez	Moraga	Walnut Creek

For more information about the Certified Farmers' Markets in Contra Costa County, visit our website at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us and click on Departments, then Agriculture/Weights & Measures.

Million Dollar Crops



Category	<u>Gross Value/Million Dollars</u>		<u>Ranking</u>	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Cattle & Calves	18.5	6.0	1	4
Sweet Corn	13.2	15.4	2	1
Tomatoes, All	5.9	8.0	3	2
Grapes	5.6	6.7	4	3
Field Corn	4.5	3.4	5	5
Rangeland Pasture	3.1	3.3	6	6
Cherries	2.7	2.7	7	7
Hay - Alfalfa	2.1	2.1	8	8
Beans	1.8	1.3	9	10
Walnuts	1.5	1.2	10	11
Herbaceous Perennials	1.1	1.1	11	12
Irrigated Pasture	1.0	1.0	12	13

Top 15 Crops 50 Years Ago

Crop	Value in 1960	Value in 2010 Dollars	Current Value
Asparagus	4,624,000	33,986,400	*Misc.
Walnuts	3,364,000	24,725,400	1,451,000
Cattle	2,592,000	19,051,200	18,522,000
Lettuce	2,577,000	18,940,950	*Misc.
Almonds	1,586,000	11,657,100	*Misc.
Milk	1,393,000	10,238,550	*Misc.
Apricots	1,265,000	9,297,750	833,000
Cut Flowers	1,198,810	8,811,254	*Misc.
Rangeland Pasture	683,000	5,020,050	3,110,000
Pears	658,140	4,837,329	*Misc.
Barley	637,000	4,681,950	*Misc.
Tomatoes	600,000	4,410,000	5,911,000
Sweet Corn	557,000	4,093,950	13,249,000
Alfalfa	375,000	2,756,250	2,061,000
Sugar Beets	324,000	2,381,400	None

* Combined in a Miscellaneous category due to small production or few producers.

Pest Exclusion



Asian Citrus Psyllid



Plum Curculio



Colorado Potato Beetle

Shipments Inspected

Mail/UPS/Fed Ex/Express Carriers	63,775
Truck shipments from within California	4,075
Truck shipments from other states	249
Household Goods	190

Total A & Q Rated Pests Found

<i>Quarantine Rejections</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Canine Program*</i>
Live Pests	24	
Nursery Stock Certificate	8	
Citrus Pests	7	1
Live Animals	6	2
Japanese Beetle	5	
Plum Curculio	4	2
Cedar-Apple Rust	4	
Colorado Potato Beetle	4	
Glassywinged Sharpshooter	4	
Reasonable Cause	4	
Burrowing Nematode	3	
Asian Citrus Psyllid	2	2
European Corn Borer	2	
Hawaii Certification	2	
Caribbean Fruit Fly	1	
Origin/Markings	164	27
<i>Total</i>	<i>244</i>	<i>34</i>

* Contra Costa County has two canine detection teams that work in the Bay Area. The canine program values represent finds not marked as containing plant material in Contra Costa County only.

“A” and “Q” Rated Pests

Pests vary as to the level of potential harm they can do, so it is necessary to have a rating system to represent the statewide importance of the pest. Of special interest are pests that are rated “A” or “Q”. These organisms have the potential to cause serious harm and require enforcement action when they are found. “A” rated pests, such as the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, are known to cause serious harm. “Q” rated pests are those that are suspected to cause serious harm but their status is uncertain because of incomplete information about the species.



European Frogbit



Cycad Wax Scale



White-footed Ant



Magnolia White Scale



European Pepper Moth

A & Q Pest Interceptions

	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Rejections</i>
ANTS		
Technomyrmex albipes / White-footed Ant	Q	4
Pheidole sp. / Ant	Q	2
SCALES		
Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli / Magnolia White Scale	A	4
Pinnaspis buxi / Boxwood Scale	A	1
Pseudaulacaspis brimblecombei / Macadamia White Scale	Q	3
Aulacaspis yasumatsui / Cycad Wax Scale	Q	2
Hemiberlesia sp. / Scale	Q	1
OTHER INSECTS, MITES, & MOLLUSCS		
Dreissena bugensis / Quagga Mussel	A	3
Dreissena polymorpha / Zebra Mussel	A	2
Duponchelia fovealis / European Pepper Moth	A	1
Dysmicoccus grassii / Mealybug	A	1
Delottococcus confusus / Bougainvillea Caterpillar	Q	2
Xylosandrus sp. / Scolytid Beetle	Q	1
Ferrisia sp. / Mealybug	Q	1
Cerataphis sp. / Aphid	Q	1
PLANT DISEASES		
Phytophthora ramorum / Sudden Oak Death	Q	1
WEEDS		
Limnobia laevigatum / South American Spongeplant	A	1

Pest Eradication/ Management



Pest	Scientific Name	Control Method	#Sites/Treated Acres
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Chemical	Many sites/143.34 ac.
Purple Starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Chemical	Many sites/90.92 ac.
Oblong Spurge	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	Chemical	5 sites/0.72 ac.
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria</i> spp.	Chemical	3 sites/1.18 ac.
Barb Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	4 sites/4.00 ac.
Kangaroo Thorn	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Mechanical	1 site/0.05 ac.
White Horsenettle	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Chemical	12 sites/2.44 ac.
Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Chemical	1 site/0.02 ac.
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Chemical	1 watershed/0.1 ac.
Smooth Distaff Thistle	<i>Carthamus baeticus</i>	Chemical	1 site/0.09 ac.
Red Sesbania	<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	Mechanical	6 sites/1899 plants
Japanese Dodder	<i>Cuscuta japonica</i>	Mechanical	1 site/0.15 ac.
Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Chemical	Many sites/20.47 ac. (Satellite infestations)

Pest Detection



Pest	Trap Type	# Traps	# Servicings
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Jackson	961	10,265
Various	McPhail	886	19,753
Oriental Fruit Fly	Jackson	946	10,039
Melon Fly	Jackson	941	7,882
Glassywinged Sharpshooter	Yellow Panel	1,247	14,664
Light Brown Apple Moth	Jackson	142	2,696
Gypsy Moth	Delta	785	4,069
Japanese Beetle	Funnel	467	2,660
Pine Shoot Moth	Wing	19	102
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Wing	19	120
Various	Champ	67	152
Apple Maggot	Yellow Panel	16	100
Asian Citrus Psyllid	Yellow Panel	41	124
Vine Mealybug	Delta	63	235
European Grapevine Moth	Delta	217	2,105
Oriental Fruit Moth	Wing	15	837
Khapra Beetle	Trogo	20	13