



2013 | Contra Costa County ANNUAL CROP REPORT

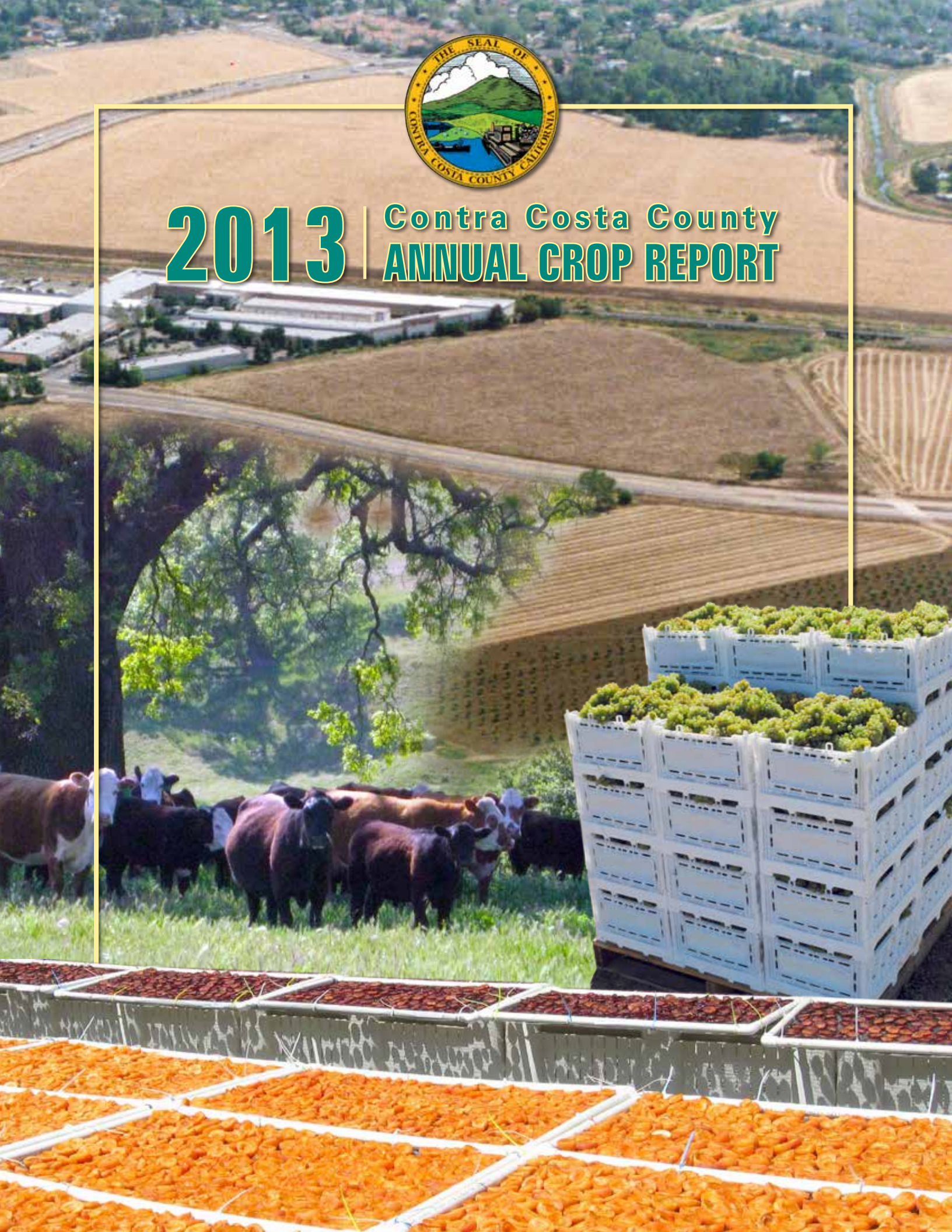


Table of Contents

Mission Statement

Title.....	Page No.
Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer’s Letter....	1
Changing of the Guard.....	2
Department of Agriculture Receives IPM Innovator Award.....	2
Production Summary	3
Vegetable and Seed Crops.....	4
Livestock and Livestock Products	5
Field Crops	5
Fruit and Nut Crops	6
Nursery Production	7
IPM Strategies Used to Protect Agriculture and Trade	7
Million Dollar Crops.....	8
Agricultural Trends Over the Last Decade	8
The Changing Face of Agriculture.....	9
Certified Farmers’ Markets.....	10
Organic Farming.....	10
Pest Exclusion	11
Pest Detection.....	11
Pest Management.....	12
Biological Control.....	12
Weights and Measures	13
Top 15 Crops 50 Years Ago.....	14
University of California Cooperative Extension....	15

The Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture, under the direction of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Pesticide Regulations and Division of Measurement Standards, is responsible for conducting regulatory and service activities pertaining to the agricultural industry and the consumers of our county. The primary goal of this office is to promote and protect agriculture while safeguarding the public and the environment. We work hard to ensure a safe place to live and a fair marketplace for trade.

Agricultural Commissioner

Chad Godoy (current)
Vince Guise (acting in 2013)

Assitant Agricultural Commissioner

Matt Slattengren

Deputy Agricultural Commisioners and Sealers

Gene Mangini
Steve Reymann
Larry Yost

Agricultural Biologists

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Administrative Support

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Information Technology Support

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Retiree Volunteer

Suzanne Maddux

Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Inspectors

Betsy Montgomery
Susie Somers

Pest Detection and Pest Management Staff

Danilo Angcla, Eric Baxter, Lindsay Bloxsom, Christine Buelna, Nancy Dennis, Aaron Francis, Herb Gilmore, Louellen Kelly, Hardy Leopando, Phyllis Lewis, Rick Mata, Christine O’Boyle, Eldren Prieto, Craig Shoener, Lindsay Skidmore, Amanda Snider, Greg Spurlock, Tom Wright, Oscur Zaldua

Pest Quarantine Detector Canines

Bella, handled by Cecilie Siegel
Bart, handled by Mariah deNijs

Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer's Letter

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Contra Costa County



Chad Godoy

Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

I am pleased to submit the 2013 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 also includes information on organic farming and biological control activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2013 was \$96,811,700, which is an increase of 6.4% or \$5,840,000 from 2012. In general, demand and prices have remained strong for agricultural crops in Contra Costa County.

Crop yields and production values vary from year to year due to many factors such as production, weather and market conditions. Some notable changes in values include: vegetable and seed crops increased 17%; cattle and calves increased 16% and nursery products increased 72%. Fresh market green beans continued to show an increase in acreage due to strong demand while providing an ideal companion buffer crop between sweet corn and urban areas. Fresh market tomatoes saw a significant increase in value of 53%. The cherry crop value declined 12% due to lower production acreage and yield.

It should be emphasized that 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.

We wish to thank the individuals, industry and organizations who supplied us with vital information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Karen Adler, Ralph Fonseca, Contra Costa County Cooperative Extension, and all of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Godoy

Changing of the Guard



Vince has been dedicated to the county's noxious weed management program through-out his career. As Commissioner, he strove to continually incorporate IPM practices into the program.

After a 40-year career promoting and protecting the agricultural industry in Contra Costa County, Vince Guise is retiring as the Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Weights & Measures. The County Board of Supervisors has chosen his successor, Chad Godoy, who took the reins in 2014.

Vince was first hired by the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture in 1973. He has served eleven years as a Deputy

Agricultural Commissioner, eight years as the Chief Deputy, and six years as the Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Weights & Measures.

During his career as Commissioner, Vince has seen many changes in both agriculture and government. He has had to deal with invasive pest infestations, natural disasters, budget cuts, advances in technology, and many changes in the laws the Department must enforce.

Department of Agriculture Receives IPM Innovator Award

In 2013, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) awarded the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Innovator Award. The Award, which honors California organizations that use 'greener' pest control methods, is CDPR's highest environmental honor.

CDPR's press release announcing the 2013 IPM Innovator Awards said of Contra Costa, "The Department has been at the forefront of implementing IPM practices for many years and takes an assertive and proactive role in the exclusion and detection of exotic and invasive species in urban and rural environments. It has demonstrated unique and outstanding leadership in the promotion of IPM and the development of various local government programs to protect human health and the environment."

The Contra Costa Agriculture Department received the award for IPM policies and outreach to growers and the public. The Department's work was recognized in four key areas: county government IPM, pesticide use training, plant quarantine and pest management.

Highlights of the department include:

- ◆ Developing and implementing an IPM policy for all Contra Costa County Departments that included a pilot structural IPM program for 13 county buildings and resulted in phasing out 26 of the 34 most hazardous pesticides used in the county and reducing the remaining 8 by 83%
- ◆ Providing pesticide use training for farm workers, pesticide handlers, and the public, which included training over 3,200 workers during annual Spanish

language pesticide safety training classes and providing special classes to help growers and other users pass required exams when diphacinone rodenticide became a federally restricted material

- ◆ Being one of the first two California counties to use plant quarantine detector dog teams at parcel delivery facilities, sharing resources with other Bay Area counties until they could get and train their own teams and being the first county in the state to use plant quarantine detector dog teams at U.S. Postal Centers
- ◆ Managing invasive noxious weeds through monitoring, herbicide treatments, physical removal, and biological control for over 34 years in order to prevent the spread of noxious weeds that degrade open space, riparian areas, crop and grazing land, and wildlife habitat



From right to left: Brian Leahy (Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation), Vince Guise, Bob Case (former Deputy) and Abdoulaye Niang (current agricultural biologist).

Production Summary



In 2013, vegetable and seed crops continued their prominence in the county. Livestock and livestock product values remained strong in Contra Costa. Field, fruit and nut crops declined in value, while nursery product values showed a significant increase.

Category	Gross Value		Change in Gross Value	Total Cultivated Acreage		Change in Cultivated Acreage	Ranking	
	2013	2012		2013	2012		2013	2012
Vegetable & Seed Crops	\$35,616,000	\$30,345,000	+17%	6,422	7,088	-9%	1	1
Livestock & Livestock Products	\$21,509,000	\$18,554,000	+16%	-	-	-	2	4
Field Crops	\$18,526,000	\$20,037,000	-8%	194,390	194,666	-	3	2
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$16,967,000	\$19,607,000	-13%	3,217	3,403	-5%	4	3
Nursery Products	\$4,194,000	\$2,429,000	+72%	30.8	27.3	+13%	5	5
Total	\$96,812,000	\$90,972,000	+6%	204,060	205,184	-1%		

2013 Gross Production Values by Percentage



Vegetable and Seed Crops



Contra Costa County's high quality sweet corn remains in strong demand nationwide. Unfortunately, supplies have been limited due to the lack of available cropland, resulting in the double cropping of sweet corn to meet new market opportunities. Prices for fresh market green beans increased due to strong demand for fresh local products. Processing tomatoes continue to provide strong yields and prices throughout the 2013 season.

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Harvested	Value Per Ton	Total Dollar Value ¹
Beans, Fresh Market	2013	399	4.85	1,940	\$1,732	\$3,360,000
	2012	457	3.58	1,640	\$1,178	\$1,932,000
Squash	2013	36	5.76	207	\$725	\$150,000
	2012	41	3.95	162	\$850	\$138,000
Sweet Corn	2013	3,265	10.03	32,700	\$428	\$13,981,000
	2012	3,420	8.83	30,200	\$452	\$13,650,000
Tomatoes, Total	2013	2,400	-	119,470	-	\$11,888,000
	2012	2,152	-	106,231	-	\$7,801,000
Tomatoes, Fresh	2013	242	22.66	5,470	\$671	\$3,669,000
	2012	32	7.23	231	\$1,190	\$275,000
Tomatoes, Processing	2013	2,159	52.86	114,000	\$72	\$8,219,000
	2012	2,120	50.00	106,000	\$71	\$7,526,000
Miscellaneous ²	2013	322	-	-	-	\$6,237,000
	2012	1,018	-	-	-	\$6,824,000
TOTAL	2013	6,422	-	-	-	\$35,616,000
	2012	7,088	-	-	-	\$30,345,000

¹ Values represent rounded estimates based on data collected from producers, experts and literature

² Includes asparagus, artichokes, beets, cabbage, cardoon, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, ginseng, lettuce, okra, onions, geens, herbs, peas, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, and radishes

Livestock and Livestock Products

Cattle prices have remained strong throughout 2013 due to strong demand for beef products.

Commodity	Year	Number of Head	Total Liveweight	Value Per CWT	Total Dollar Value ¹
Cattle & Calves	2013	19,106	157,382	\$119	\$18,728,000
	2012	19,100	129,000	\$124	\$15,967,000
Apiary Products ²	2013	-	-	-	\$881,000
	2012	-	-	-	\$687,000
Miscellaneous Livestock ³	2013	-	-	-	\$1,900,000
	2012	-	-	-	\$1,900,000
Total	2013	-	-	-	\$21,509,000
	2012	-	-	-	\$18,554,000

Field Crops

Irrigated field crop acreage, yield and prices remained relatively stable in 2013. Non-irrigated field crops experienced decreased yields due to lack of adequate rainfall during the growing season.

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Harvested	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Dollar Value ¹
Field corn	2013	7,928	3.90	30,900	Ton	\$193	\$5,979,000
	2012	8,150	4.21	34,300	Ton	\$220	\$7,546,000
Alfalfa hay	2013	3,351	4.99	16,700	Ton	\$207	\$3,457,000
	2012	3,510	5.24	18,400	Ton	\$205	\$3,772,000
Cereal hay	2013	1,920	2.68	5,150	Ton	\$149	\$769,000
	2012	2,100	2.84	5,960	Ton	\$144	\$858,000
Wheat	2013	4,097	1.44	5,900	Ton	\$221	\$1,304,000
	2012	556	2.36	1,310	Ton	\$208	\$272,000
Irrigated pasture	2013	5,450	-	-	Acre	\$300	\$1,635,000
	2012	5,450	-	-	Acre	\$230	\$1,254,000
Rangeland pasture	2013	169,000	-	-	Acre	\$25	\$4,225,000
	2012	169,000	-	-	Acre	\$23	\$3,904,000
Miscellaneous ⁴	2013	2,644	-	-	-	-	\$1,157,000
	2012	5,900	-	-	-	-	\$2,431,000
Total	2013	194,390	-	-	-	-	\$18,526,000
	2012	194,666	-	-	-	-	\$20,037,000

¹ Values represent rounded estimates based on data collected from producers, experts and literature

² Includes honey, wax, and pollination

³ Includes chickens, ducks, emus, goats, hogs, llamas, ostriches, pigs, rabbits, sheep, turkeys, milk, wool, and eggs

⁴ Includes barley, forage hay, hay (wild), rye, safflower, silage, straw, and sudan grass

Fruit and Nut Crops



Fruit and nut production declined in 2013 due to abnormal weather events throughout the winter and growing season. Lack of winter chill requirements for stone fruit resulted in erratic bloom and fruit set.

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Harvested	Value Per Ton	Total Dollar Value ¹
Apricots	2013	89	3.70	328	\$2,764	\$907,000
	2012	91	4.56	415	\$2,990	\$1,241,000
Cherries	2013	506	1.68	850	\$3,613	\$3,071,000
	2012	561	1.84	1,030	\$3,370	\$3,471,000
Grapes	2013	1,734	4.59	7,960	\$879	\$6,993,000
	2012	1,800	5.36	9,650	\$782	\$7,546,000
Nectarines	2013	33	4.22	137	\$3,326	\$456,000
	2012	36	4.46	161	\$3,930	\$633,000
Olives	2013	179	2.29	410	\$782	\$321,000
	2012	183	2.12	388	\$1,060	\$411,000
Peaches	2013	136	4.20	571	\$2,823	\$1,612,000
	2012	146	4.78	698	\$3,020	\$2,108,000
Plums & Pluots	2013	32	4.62	146	\$3,264	\$477,000
	2012	35	5.88	206	\$3,160	\$651,000
Walnuts	2013	393	2.28	896	\$2,697	\$2,417,000
	2012	390	2.54	991	\$2,180	\$2,160,000
Miscellaneous ²	2013	117	-	-	-	\$713,000
	2012	161	-	-	-	\$1,386,000
TOTAL	2013	3,217	-	-	-	\$16,967,000
	2012	3,403	-	-	-	\$19,607,000

¹ Values represent rounded estimates based on data collected from producers, experts and literature

² Includes almonds, apples, apriums, asian pears, berries, citrus, figs, melons, pears, pecans, persimmons, pistachios, prunes, pomegranates, quinces and strawberries

Nursery Production

Nursery production values rose in 2013, demonstrating both a strong demand by consumers and an ability of the nurseries within the county to tailor their production to the market. The diverse group of nurseries that produce rare and native ornamentals, as well as typical fruits, vegetables and flowers, supply Bay Area residents as well as consumers within other areas of California and beyond.

	Year	Greenhouse Production in Square Feet	Acres in Field Production	Total Dollar Value ¹
Bedding Plants	2013	-	3.9	\$1,275,000
	2012	45,500	1.4	\$504,000
Herbaceous Perennials	2013	71,000	4.0	\$1,970,000
	2012	50,000	3.4	\$921,000
Indoor Decoratives	2013	36,000	0.1	\$23,700
	2012	69,800	0.1	\$51,700
Vegetable Plants	2013	15,000	0.8	\$239,000
	2012	27,300	0.8	\$410,000
Miscellaneous ²	2013	11,600	22.0	\$686,000
	2012	11,600	21.6	\$542,000
TOTAL	2013	133,600	30.8	\$4,193,700
	2012	204,200	27.3	\$2,428,700

¹ Values represent rounded estimates based on data collected from producers, experts and literature

² Includes Christmas trees, cactus, ground covers, propagative materials, ornamental trees & shrubs, fruit trees and cut flowers

IPM Strategies Used to Protect Agriculture and Trade



A pheromone twist tie placed in a nursery to disrupt the male Light Brown Apple Moth's ability to locate and mate with females.

What exactly do we mean when we talk about integrated pest management (IPM) in an agricultural setting? IPM is a pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a suite of tools that are chosen individually or in tandem to minimize risks to people, property, and the environment.

The Department of Agriculture conducts surveys in nurseries and fields to monitor for the presence of unwanted pests. In order to ship many commodities outside of the county, state, or country, quarantines may require that the department certify the commodity as free from a particular weed, insect or disease pest. Since a positive find could trigger trade restrictions, biological tools such as pheromone disruption and release of predatory species provide an alternative to costly chemical treatment.

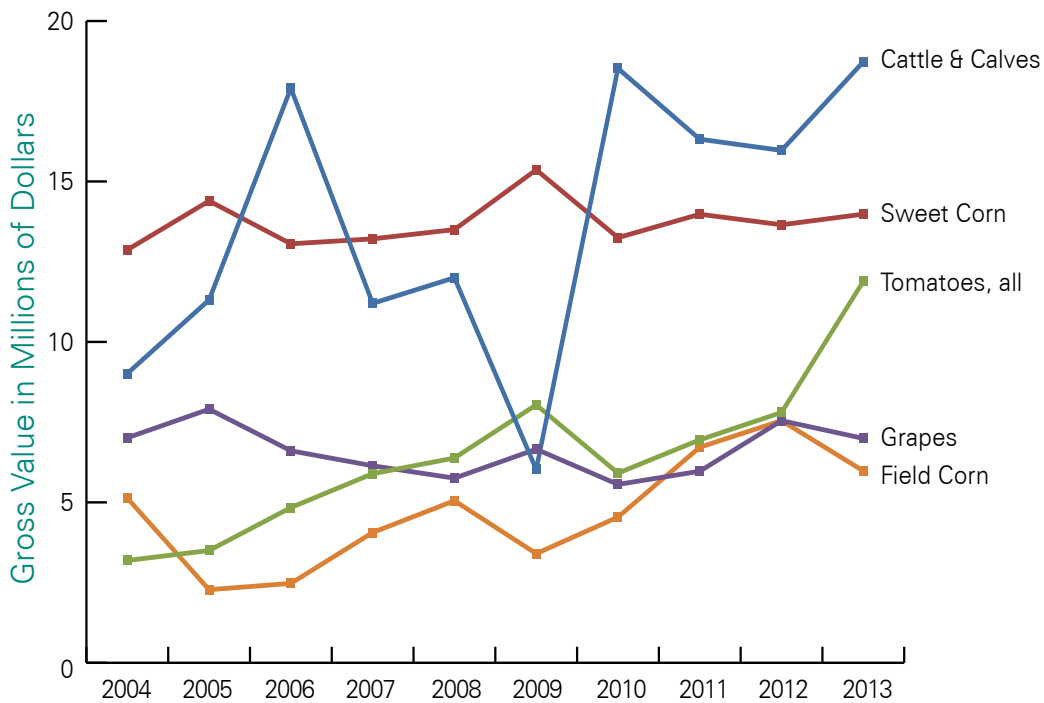
Million Dollar Crops

Category	Gross Value in millions of dollars		Rank	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Cattle & Calves	18.7	16.0	1	1
Sweet Corn	14.0	13.7	2	2
Tomatoes, all	11.9	7.8	3	3
Grapes	7.0	7.5	4	5
Miscellaneous Vegetables	6.2	6.8	5	6
Field Corn	6.0	7.5	6	4
Rangeland Pasture	4.2	3.9	7	7
Hay - Alfalfa	3.5	3.8	8	8
Beans	3.4	1.9	9	13
Cherries	3.1	3.5	10	9
Walnuts	2.4	2.2	11	11
Peaches	1.6	2.1	12	12
Irrigated Pasture	1.6	1.3	13	14
Wheat Grain	1.3		14	
Miscellaneous Field Crops	1.2	2.4	15	10



Agricultural Trends Over the Last Decade

There has been a great deal of fluctuation in crop and livestock values over the past decade. Overall, certain commodities like sweet corn and wine grapes have remained fairly constant. Field corn and tomato values have increased over time due to strong domestic and export demand. The cattle and calf market continues on a cyclic trend due to market supply and demand, as well as drought conditions and other environmental factors.



Total Acres in County: 482,000
 County Population: 1,087,008
 Land in Farms: 127,670
 Harvested Cropland Acres: 33,420

Table based on 2012 census data

The Changing Face of Agriculture

By Gene Mangini



Contra Costa growers and ranchers are constantly faced with new challenges as they attempt to produce crops in an ever-changing environment. Farmers and ranchers have always been at the mercy of mother nature; however, in recent years a wide variety of issues, regulations and environmental concerns have emerged that alter the way farmers do business.

Within the last twenty years the population in the Brentwood, Byron and Oakley areas has exploded. Commercial buildings, residential developments and public schools have been built near or adjacent to agricultural land, creating a whole new set of challenges for local growers and ranchers. This agricultural/urban interface is one of the main priorities that our department currently faces. Complaints from local residents regarding pesticides, noise, dust, and fieldworker issues have become common for the agricultural community. Finding a way to coexist with urban development while ensuring the viability of agriculture has become a significant challenge to the department.

amounts of land out of production, which is currently accomplished at the property operator's expense. In recent times, many local growers have utilized crops that require minimal pest management and can be managed by ground applications near sensitive areas. This, in addition to field monitoring by the agriculture department, has helped minimize the number of acres taken out of agricultural production on land near development areas.



Providing buffer zones between crops and sensitive sites has always been a common method to prevent pesticide drift issues between growers and local residents. Unfortunately, these buffer areas may take sizable

Other issues such as noise and dust are more difficult for farmers to mitigate. The Department of Agriculture understands growers have a right to farm, and we try to convey to complainants that the operations creating noise and dust usually occur for a limited time during the growing season. Many growers feel that people moving into an agricultural area should realize that these types of activities are common agricultural practices. Unfortunately there has been a real disconnect between the public's knowledge of food production and actual commercial farming practices.

As we continue to deal with new and recurring issues within the agricultural/urban interface, one thing is clear: farmers, ranchers, homeowners, city, county and school officials need to work together in a cooperative effort to avoid adversarial roles within the community. Open communication, cooperation and respect for each other along with the role of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office can go a long way toward keeping agriculture viable in the future.

Certified Farmers' Markets



Farmers' markets are popular in Contra Costa County. The focus of our regulatory program within these markets is to ensure that there is a fair and equitable marketplace for the direct exchange of produce and other agricultural products between farmers and consumers. Farmers' markets provide an additional revenue source for many small and medium-sized growers and remove middle players in the supply chain, which can reduce prices for

the consumer. They also provide a way for customers to meet the farmers and learn about how their food is produced.

This year in Contra Costa County, there were 33 different farmers' markets. Of those, 14 markets were open during the entire year while the remainder were seasonal, running from the spring until the autumn. Four of the markets were located at hospitals and one was held at a local high school. These markets were managed by a total of eight farmers' market associations and non-profit groups.

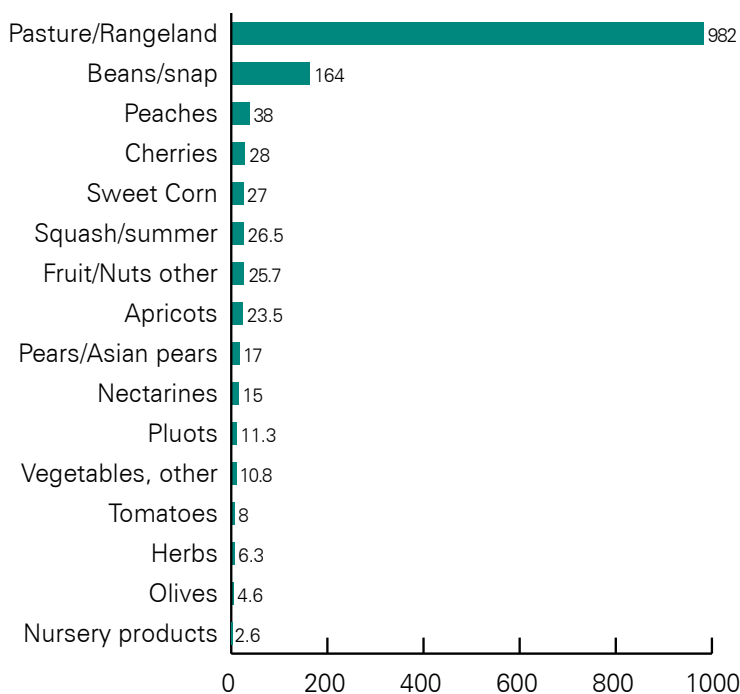
Whether you live in an urban, suburban or rural location, you are close to a farmers' market at least one day a week. The following is a list of the cities where a market operated in 2013.

Antioch (2), Brentwood, Clayton, Concord (3), Danville, Discovery Bay, El Cerrito (2), Kensington, Lafayette, Martinez (4), Moraga, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Point Richmond, Richmond, San Pablo, San Ramon (3), Walnut Creek (5).

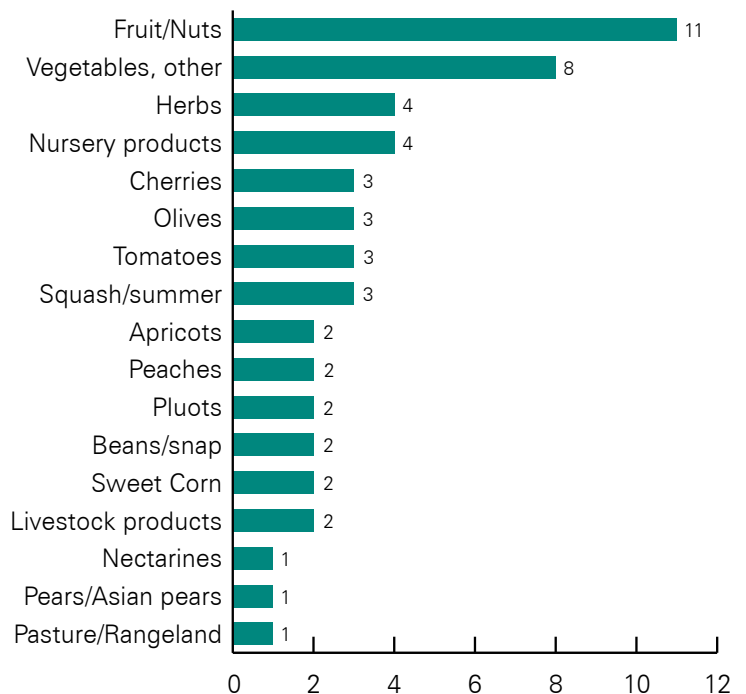
Organic Farming

Organic acreage continues to rise in Contra Costa County. In 2013, organic acreage more than doubled from 2012 levels, totaling 1390 acres. This is mostly due to the conversion of conventional pasture and rangeland to organic production. The number of organic farms registered for organic production increased from 16 farms in 2012 to 17 farms in 2013.

Organic Crop Acreage



Number of Organic Farms



Pest Exclusion

Infestations of non-native pests present a serious concern to California agriculture and the environment. Exotic plant pests that become established in California can cause enormous market losses as a result of quarantines established by other nations that wish to exclude the problematic pest from their environment and industries. These quarantines can restrict or eliminate the ability of California growers to market and ship their agricultural commodities. Many of these pests and diseases would

also be devastating to parks, forests and residential gardens. For this reason, our biologists and canine detection dogs inspect shipments of plant and other host materials at package delivery services, nurseries and in certain cases, even at people's homes. Biologists will reject plant material when there is evidence that an exotic pest is found.



Conan, one of our detection dogs receives a food reward for alerting on this shipment of limes.

Post Office/UPS/FedEx Package Inspections	52,376
Truck Shipment Inspections from Within California	1,863
Truck Shipment Inspections from Other States	222
Household Goods Inspections	142
Non-native Pest Interceptions	48
Canine Detection Rejections	17
Quarantine Pest or Certification Rejections	108
Markings & Reasonable Cause Rejections	195

Pest Detection

The Department of Agriculture wants to ensure that new quarantine pests do not find a pathway into our county. Left unchecked, new invasive pests can trigger quarantines costing agriculture millions of dollars in lost revenue while necessitating large increases in pesticide use to control the pest. Contra Costa County

pest detection trappers monitor insect traps throughout the county, using pheromone and other attractant lures to detect insects of quarantine significance. At the first sign of an invasive pest, steps are taken to eradicate the pest by disrupting its lifecycle so that the established population doesn't grow into an infestation.

Pest	Traps	Trap Services	Pest	Traps	Trap Services
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	859	9795	Japanese Beetle	567	815
Oriental Fruit Fly	865	9680	Pine Shoot Moth	2	18
Melon Fly	806	7116	Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	1	27
Fruit flies (McPhail)	792	19501	Apple Maggot	8	48
Fruit flies (Champ)	35	181	Asian Citrus Psyllid	604	1047
Glassywinged Sharpshooter	980	5684	Vine Mealybug	112	259
Light Brown Apple Moth	20	227	European Grapevine Moth	147	391
Gypsy Moth	680	1002	Khapra Beetle	16	18

Pest Management

Invasive weeds can harm agriculture and the environment by choking out both crops and native plants, degrading natural habitat, and increasing the risk of wildfires. Contra Costa County staff use integrated pest management methods including surveying, monitoring, release of biological control agents, and directed chemical applications to eradicate or control certain exotic weed pests on public and private lands.

Weed Species	Net Acres/ Plants Treated	Gross Acres Surveyed	Method of Control
Artichoke Thistle	179.13 acres	181,566	Chemical
Purple Starthistle	91.21 acres	29,902	Chemical
Oblong Spurge	2.41 acres	512	Chemical
Heart, Lens & Globe-Podded Hoary Cress	5.46 acres	157	Chemical
Barb Goatgrass	5.92 acres	654	Chemical/ Mechanical
Perennial Pepperweed	32.03 acres	4,415	Chemical
Kangaroo Thorn	0.05 acres	6	Mechanical
Pampas Grass	0.16 acres	70	Chemical
White Horsenettle	0.70 acres	135	Chemical
Russian Knapweed	4.56 acres	755	Chemical
Purple Loosestrife	0.08 acres	550	Chemical
Japanese Knotweed	0.03 acres	5.7	Chemical
Smooth Distaff Thistle	0.25 acres	21	Mechanical
Woolly Distaff Thistle	0 plants	2	Mechanical
Red Sesbania	2,206 plants	105	Mechanical
Japanese Dodder	0 plants	5	Mechanical
Totals	322.74 acres		



Hairy Weevil

Biological Control

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Yellow Starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	Hairy Weevil (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>)	Widely Distributed
	YST Flower Weevil (<i>Larinus curtus</i>)	Widely Distributed
	Rust Pathogen (<i>Puccinia jaceae</i> var. <i>solstitialis</i>)	Not Established
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>)	Encyrtid Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i>)	Widely Distributed

Weights and Measures

The Contra Costa County Division of Weights & Measures protects buyers and sellers by promoting fair packaging and inspecting commercial weighing, measuring, and timing devices for accuracy. Accurate devices help ensure that the sale of harvested crops, livestock, animal feed, vehicle fuel, and other business commodities are based on an honest weight or measure.

Measuring Devices	Devices Registered	Devices Inspected	Weighing Devices	Devices Registered	Devices Inspected
Vehicle Fuel Station Meters	7614	6374	Light Capacity Retail Scales	2064	1859
Electric Submeters	7435	687	Heavy Capacity Retail Scales	280	231
Water Meters	5958	425	Vehicle/Railway Scales	103	105
Vapor/LPG Meters	4350	425	Prescription/Jewelers Scales	66	35
Taxi Meters	286	476	Livestock/Animal Scales	18	28
Other Measuring Devices	225	171	Other Weighing Devices	41	37

Advertisement & Transaction Verification	Locations Registered	Inspections Conducted	Quality Assurance	Registered	Audited
Petroleum Gas Stations	283	277	Weighmaster Locations	80	30
Price Verifying Scanner	1183	291	Service Agent Devices	-	1396



In this picture, you can see a typical violation found at a retail store. In this case, products were marked with two different prices. The customer must be charged the lowest advertised price.

Price verification through quality control inspections is an important program in the Weights & Measures Division. Inspectors regularly register and inspect price look-up scanner systems in order to determine that the scanner system is giving the customer the lowest price that is quoted, advertised, or displayed for that item when they pay at the register. In 2013, 47 Notices of Proposed Action were issued when violations occurred. The fines for these enforcement actions totalled \$43,275 and included a number of repeat violations.

Top 15 Crops 50 Years Ago



Crop	Value in 1963	1963 Value Adjusted for Inflation ¹	Value in 2013
Cattle	7,220,000	54,511,000	18,728,000
Lettuce	3,744,000	28,267,200	Miscellaneous ²
Walnuts	2,854,000	21,547,700	2,417,000
Almonds	2,433,000	18,369,150	Miscellaneous ²
Asparagus	2,196,000	16,579,800	Miscellaneous ²
Apricots	2,072,200	15,645,110	907,000
Milk	1,497,000	11,302,350	Miscellaneous ²
Cut Flowers	1,320,000	9,966,000	Miscellaneous ²
Rangeland Pasture	1,200,000	9,060,000	4,225,000
Barley	757,000	5,715,350	Miscellaneous ²
Field Corn	470,000	3,548,500	5,979,000
Cherries	410,200	3,097,010	3,071,000
Pears	347,093	2,620,552	Miscellaneous ²
Tomatoes	309,900	2,339,745	11,888,000
Irrigated Pasture	296,000	2,234,800	1,635,000

¹ \$1.00 in 1963 = \$7.55 in 2013

² 2013 crop values not represented due to small production or few producers



The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) was established in Contra Costa County in 1917 and has been serving this county for almost 100 years. As the public outreach arm of the University of California their mission is to bring practical science to the county to address issues of local concern. Over the years our Cooperative Extension Advisors have built strong research and education programs in agriculture, horticulture, nutrition, and youth development. They have worked collaboratively with local farmers, ranchers, pest managers, landscape professionals, and residents to promote healthy and sustainable food systems as well as healthy environments in our county. While the range of programs offered by Cooperative Extension is quite diverse, two key themes that cross many of their programs are environmental stewardship and educating the next generation about food and agriculture.

Environmental Stewardship:



UCCE Farm Advisors work with farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural professionals to help them adopt sustainable practices that assure a safe, productive, and environmentally friendly food system. They conduct local research and provide scientifically based information to help new producers get started and existing producers address new challenges. Recent efforts have included the development and adoption of:

- ◆ Comprehensive stewardship strategies for local ranchers and rangeland managers to protect watersheds, control invasive species, support recreation, reduce fire hazards, and enhance wildlife habitat
- ◆ Reduced risk pest management practices that are safer for the environment such as mating disruption, biological control, organic production, low toxicity baits and sprays, pest resistant varieties and rootstocks, habitat for bees and beneficial insects, and pest monitoring programs. The Tree Pest Update newsletter provides growers with specific information on best timing and management practices for local orchard pests
- ◆ Practices that conserve water and protect local waterways such as more efficient drip and micro-sprinkler irrigation systems, improved irrigation scheduling, and the use of cover crops to reduce erosion. The Crop Currents newsletter addresses these and other topics of concern to local growers
- ◆ Appropriate crops and practices that help protect the delicate ecosystem of the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta



For more information about Agriculture Programs:

- ◆ Sheila Barry, Farm Advisor- Livestock & Natural Resources, (408) 282-3106, sbarry@ucanr.edu
- ◆ Janet Caprile, Farm Advisor – Agricultural Crops, (925) 646-6129, jlcaprile@ucanr.edu
- ◆ Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Farm Advisor – Delta Crops & Resources, (209) 953-6120, mmleinfeldermiles@ucanr.edu

The **UCCE Horticulture Program** focuses on promoting healthy urban and suburban environments. Advisors deliver programs to landscape and urban pest management professionals so that they in turn can provide environmentally responsible services to county residents. They have helped clientele adopt a variety of sustainable practices including water conservation, improved irrigation systems and management, the use of recycled water, the selection of drought tolerant plants, and reducing green waste. They have been instrumental in finding and limiting the spread of new pests and promote the use of integrated pest management in both landscapes and structures to control pests most effectively with the least environmental impact.



UCCE Master Gardeners (MG) are trained volunteers who provide science based horticulture information directly to county residents. They staff information booths at farmers markets and fairs, support the development of school and community gardens, present public workshops, and operate a gardening “hotline”. They developed “Our Garden”, a ½ acre, edibles demonstration garden in Walnut Creek where they hold weekly workshops from April through October. The workshops cover a variety of topics on sustainable gardening and summaries appear every Saturday in the

Home & Garden section of the Contra Costa Times, their partner in the venture. Excess produce from the garden (12,000 pounds in 2013) is donated to the Monument Crisis Center.



In 2013, MGs sponsored two special educational events that focused specifically on environmental stewardship. In January the first “In Your Own Backyard” workshop was attended by 130 county residents who learned what our farmers are doing to grow sustainably. In October they held the 1st annual Contra Costa County Sustainability Fair which was attended by over 850 participants.

For more information about Horticulture and Urban Pest Management Programs:

- ◆ Master Gardener Hotline, Monday-Thursday, 9 am – noon, (925) 646-6586
- ◆ Emma Connery, Master Gardener Coordinator, (925) 646-6130, edconnery@ucanr.edu
- ◆ Igor Lacan, Urban Forestry Advisor, (650) 726-9059 x 105, ilacan@ucanr.edu
- ◆ Andrew Sutherland, Urban Integrated Pest Management Advisor, (510) 777-2481, amsutherland@ucanr.edu

Educating the next generation about food and agriculture:

With only a small percentage of our population involved in agriculture, it becomes increasingly important to educate our future farmers and consumers about the importance of agriculture and where food comes from.

The **4-H Program** is the foundation of the UCCE youth education effort whose focus is to help raise the next generation of productive farmers, ranchers, and citizens in rural, suburban and urban areas. Contra Costa County has an active program with 234 adult volunteers and 494 participating youth. There are 9 clubs located throughout the county from El Cerrito to Brentwood, and Martinez to Tassajara. The Knightsen club, which started in 1914,

was the first in the county and one of the oldest in California.

4H is open to all youth ages 9 to 19 and offers an array of learn-by-doing or “hands-on” projects. The program gives both youth and adult leaders the opportunity to learn about agriculture, environmental stewardship, and a variety of other interests that help them build citizenship, leadership and life skills that will last them a lifetime.

Currently, there are 170 local 4-H projects covering a range of interests including raising livestock (i.e., swine, beef, goat, poultry, sheep, etc.), vegetable gardens and crops, farm machinery, entomology, and food preparation (i.e., cooking, nutrition, preservation, table setting, etc.). While proudly based in agriculture, 4-H also offers projects in science, engineering, technology, rocketry, sports, money management, drama, arts, woodworking, etc.

For more information about 4-H Programs:

- ◆ Charles Go, Youth Development Advisor, (510) 567-6812, cggo@ucanr.edu



The **UCCE Nutrition Education Program** offers a variety of educational opportunities for local youth and adults to learn about food and agriculture.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) targets limited-income youth between the ages of 5 and 18 and is offered through local schools and community organizations. It provides teachers with a “Farm to Fork” curricula and ongoing support to help them educate their students about where food comes from, how to make healthy food choices, and ways to consume more fruits and vegetables. Family newsletters are offered in both Spanish and English.

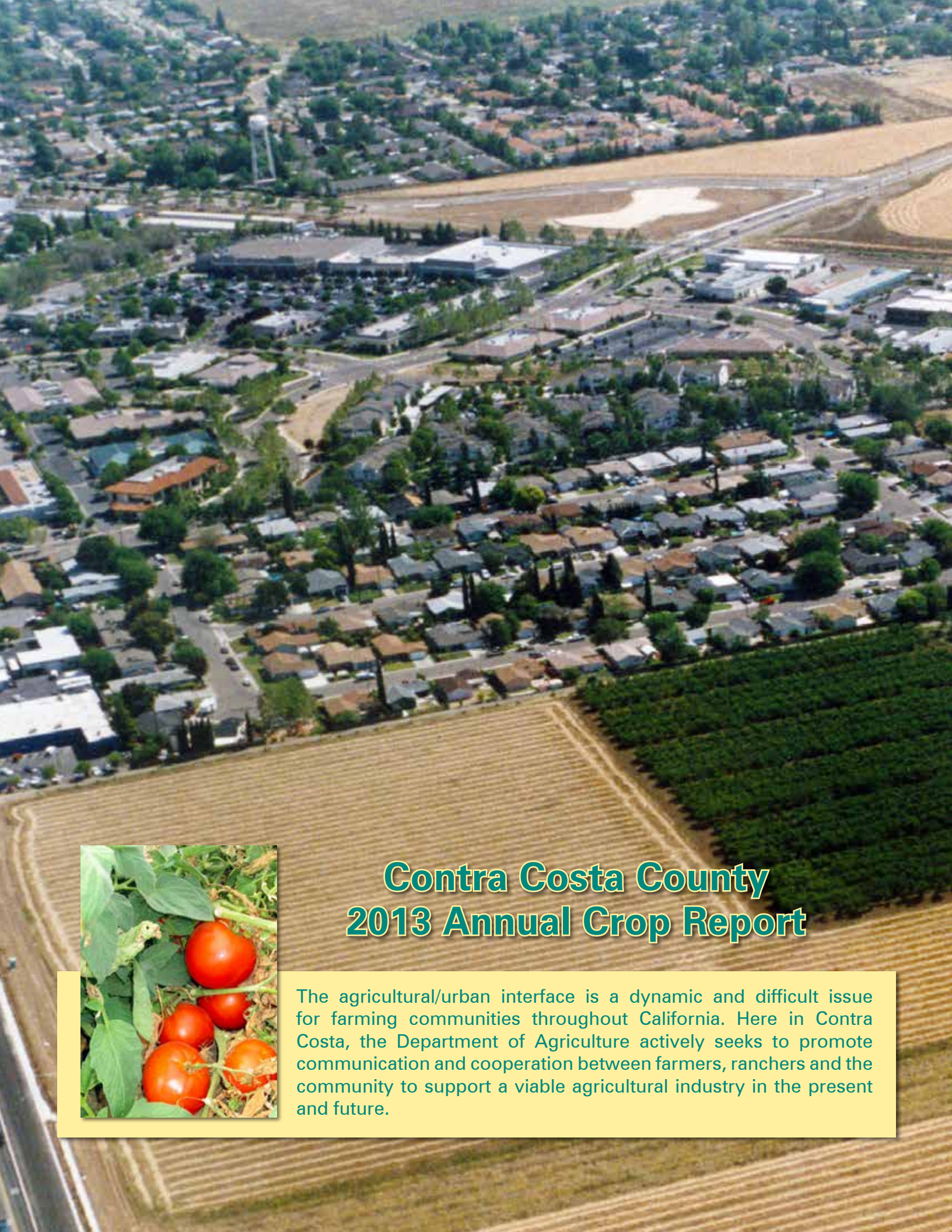
The California Sustainable Community project is an afterschool program offered in two affordable housing communities in Pittsburg and Brentwood. The project utilizes both teens and adults to mentor and educate K-5th graders through cooking, food related games, and edible gardening.

The “Ag Days” and “Seed to Table” school field trip programs for pre-K to 6th grade students operate cooperatively with the Contra Costa County Farm Bureau’s “Ag-in-the-Classroom” program. Instruction takes place at the Contra Costa County Fair’s Mangini Agricultural Museum and Garden located in Antioch. The Garden was designed, built, and is managed by UCCE Master Gardeners to support the program’s experiential learning activities that educate students about the origin of food, the path food takes to get to the table, and how food nourishes us.

For more information about Nutrition Programs:

- ◆ Marisa Neelon, Family, Nutrition, & Consumer Sciences Advisor, (925) 646-6128, mqneelon@ucanr.edu





Contra Costa County 2013 Annual Crop Report



The agricultural/urban interface is a dynamic and difficult issue for farming communities throughout California. Here in Contra Costa, the Department of Agriculture actively seeks to promote communication and cooperation between farmers, ranchers and the community to support a viable agricultural industry in the present and future.