

ALAMEDA COUNTY | **Community Development Agency**

AGRICULTURE | WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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June 22, 2012

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, California

It is my pleasure to present the 2011 Alameda County Crop Report. In accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code this publication is presented annually and reports statistical information on acreage, yield, and gross value of Alameda County agricultural products.

The 2011 total gross value of Alameda County's agriculture was \$41,180,000. This figure is an increase of 5,884,000 (16.7%) from the 2010 gross production value of \$35,296,000.

Nursery Products, valued at \$12,147,000, which include ornamental trees and shrubs, bedding plants, and indoor decorative plants, led in value and were up by 5.8% compared to 2010. Fruit and Nut Crops, remained near the top in gross production as well, valued at \$12,043,000. This was a slight increase of 0.4% from last year due primarily to an increase in bearing acreage and higher market values of wine grapes. The third highest valued commodity, Livestock and Poultry, at \$10,894,000, was up significantly by 69.0% from the previous year due to an increase in the unit price and number of head sold.

It is important to emphasize that the numbers in this report are gross values only and do not reflect costs related to production, harvesting, marketing or transportation. The overall local economic benefit of our agricultural production is generally thought to be about three times the gross production value.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of the many individuals and organizations that provided the necessary information for this report. Special recognition and thanks goes to all the members of our staff whose hard work and dedication made this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis F. Bray
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures





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ALAMEDA COUNTY
2011 CROP REPORT

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FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Hay, Alfalfa	2011	704	4.62	3,249	Ton	\$220.00	\$715,000
	2010	1072	4.62	4,957	Ton	\$98.00	\$486,000
Hay, Other	2011	4,771	1.5	7,156	Ton	\$155.80	\$1,115,000
	2010	5,214	1.67	8,705	Ton	\$100.87	\$878,000
Range Pasture	2011	182,000			Acre	\$15.20	\$2,766,000
	2010	181,541			Acre	\$16.69	\$3,030,000
Miscellaneous	2011	973	Includes corn, silage, barley, oats, wheat, irrigated pasture, etc.				\$715,000
	2010	220					\$88,000
Total	2011	188,448					\$5,311,000
	2010	188,047					\$4,482,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	House Sq. Ft.	Field Acres	Quantity Sold	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Ornamental Trees and Shrubs	2011	661,555	158	641,172	Plt.	Various	\$10,865,000
	2010	705,150	158	865,545	Plt.	Various	\$10,190,000
Miscellaneous Nursery Products	2011	211,300	68	Includes bedding plants, indoor decoratives, peonies, christmas trees, cut flowers, etc			\$1,282,000
	2010	251,800	66				\$1,286,000
Total	2011	872,855	226				\$12,147,000
	2010	956,950	224				\$11,476,000

VEGETABLE & POULTRY

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Total
Miscellaneous Vegetables	2011	82	\$785,000
	2010	82	\$897,000

Includes broccoli, cabbage, corn, fava beans, leaf lettuce, greens, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, etc.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Ave Per Unit	Total
Grapes (WINE)Red	2011	1,988	3.38	6,719	Ton	\$1,362.91	\$9,157,000
	2010	1,635	5.16	8,434	Ton	\$1,020.28	\$8,605,000
Grapes (WINE)White	2011	658	3.75	2,469	Ton	\$1,117.64	\$2,759,000
	2010	602	6.88	4,143	Ton	\$679.22	\$2,814,000
Misc. Fruit & Nut	2011	321	Includes olives, walnuts, pistachios, strawberry, etc.				\$127,000
	2010	316					\$575,000
Total	2011	2,967					\$12,043,000
	2010	2,553					\$11,994,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Item	Year	No. Of Head	Total Weight	Unit	Ave Per Unit	Total
Cattle & Calves	2011	13,794	88,281	Cwt.	VARIOUS	\$10,329,000
	2010	12,855	66,085	Cwt.	VARIOUS	\$6,231,000
Misc. Poultry and Livestock Products	2011	Includes rabbits, sheep, wool, lambs, hogs, bees and apiary products				\$565,000
	2010					\$216,000
Total	2011					\$10,894,000
	2010					\$6,447,000

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Biological control is the reduction of pest populations through the use of natural enemies such as parasitoids, predators, pathogens, antagonists, or competitors.

PEST	AGENTS	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
YELLOW STARTHISTLE (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	Bud Weevil (<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>)	Countywide
	Seedhead Gall Fly (<i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>)	Countywide
	Seedhead Fly (<i>Chaetorellia</i> spp.)	Countywide
	Hairy Weevil (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>)	Countywide
	Rust Fungus (<i>Puccinia jaceae</i> var. <i>solstitialis</i>)	Released in 3 Sites

PEST MANAGEMENT & ERADICATION

WEEDS (Common Name/Scientific Name)		CONTROL METHOD	SCOPE OF PROGRAM (No. Sites/Net Treated Acres)
Puna Grass	<i>Stipa brachychaeta</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	1 Site - 0.001 acres
Golden Thistle	<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Monitoring	720 acres
Iberian Thistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	Monitoring	Regional, no recent finds
Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>	Mechanical Removal	1 Site – 0.1 acres
Japanese Dodder	<i>Cuscuta japonica</i>	Mechanical Removal	3 Sites- 0.02 acres
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	Various, 28.15 net acres
Purple Starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>		
Pampas Grass	<i>Corederia seloana</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	1 site, 2 acres
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria spp.</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	4 sites, 3.5 acres
White Horsenettle	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	4 sites, 0.75 acres
Skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	2 sites, 0.5 acre
Invasive Spartina	<i>Spartina spp.</i>	Chemical	Regional, 7.04 acres
Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	3 sites, 2 acres
Kangaroo Thorn	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Chemical/Mechanical	3 sites, 0.5 acres

PEST EXCLUSION

Pest exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent detrimental, non-native pests from entering the county. The County Agriculture Department inspects shipments of plant products and other high-risk articles daily at various shipping terminals to enforce quarantines intended to prevent the introduction of harmful pests.

TYPE OF SHIPMENT	SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	SHIPMENTS REJECTED
PARCEL CARRIER	8740	171 (73 pests found)
TRUCKS	365	25 (5 pests found)
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	197	2 (no viable GM found)
NURSERY (GWSS Program)	3,653	2 (egg masses)

CANINE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Canine Inspection Team works at various parcel terminals to detect and inspect unmarked parcels containing unprocessed agricultural commodities to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases. Agriculture detector dogs have been shown to be highly effective in finding pests in parcels and are being used throughout the state to help protect California agriculture.

TYPE OF SHIPMENT	SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	SHIPMENTS REJECTED
PARCEL CARRIER	1,309	156 (38 pests found)
'A' and 'Q' rated pest interceptions	14	16

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS	789
TRAPS IN NURSERIES/CROPS	51 (No female adults found)
BUSINESSES UNDER COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT	
CROP PRODUCERS	7
COMMUNITY GARDENS/DIRECT MARKETS	8
RETAIL AND PRODUCTION NURSERIES	160
GREENWASTE FACILITIES	30

PEST DETECTION

Pest detection is the second line of defense to prevent detrimental, non-native pests from becoming established within a large area of the county or state. Insect traps are placed and monitored to detect whether a pest is present in a particular location.

TARGET PEST	HOSTS	# OF TRAP SERVICINGS
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit trees	93,078
Mexican Fruit Fly	Fruit trees	
Melon Fruit Fly	Vegetable gardens	
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit trees	
Other Fruit Flies	Fruit trees and vegetables	
Gypsy Moth	Shade trees	
Japanese Beetle	Turf and Roses	
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pine trees	
Trogoderma Beetle	High-hazard articles	
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter	Landscape and nursery plants	
Light Brown Apple Moth	Ornamental and commercial plants	821
Asian Citruc Psyllid	Ornamental and nursery plants	3,150
European Grapevine Moth	Vineyards	3,963

Finds of targeted pests in 2011 included two Oriental fruit flies found in Pleasanton. The County Agriculture Department deployed a total of 6,884 traps to detect the presence of non-native insect pests, and serviced the traps 116,799 times during the year.



“The law required that fruit trees infested with injurious insects or germs should be cleaned or disinfected before April 1, 1885, and on or before that month every year thereafter. It was a misdemeanor to fail in this duty.”

“Early in December the county board ordained that ground squirrels” infesting the lands in the County of Alameda” were a public nuisance and required all owners and occupants of lands within this county to exterminate and destroy them within ninety days after the ordinance should take effect and thereafter keep the lands free from the pests.”



“In 1913 1,556 acres were planted in sugar beets, which yielded about ten tons per acre. In the county are from 300 to 500 sugar beet growers. The Alvarado factory has a daily capacity of 900 tons.”

“The tomato crop occupied 1,400 acres; product 16,800 tons, worth from \$7 to \$8.50 per ton. In the Livermore district wine grapes occupied 4,232 acres.”

ORGANIC FARMING

CROP	REGISTERED PRODUCERS	ESTIMATED ACREAGE
Miscellaneous	10	240

URBAN FARMING

TYPE	NUMBER	UNITS
Community Gardens	19	46 acres
School Gardens	215	66 acres
Certified Farmers Markets	32	599 stalls
Certified Producers	25	147 acres

EQUINE STATISTICS

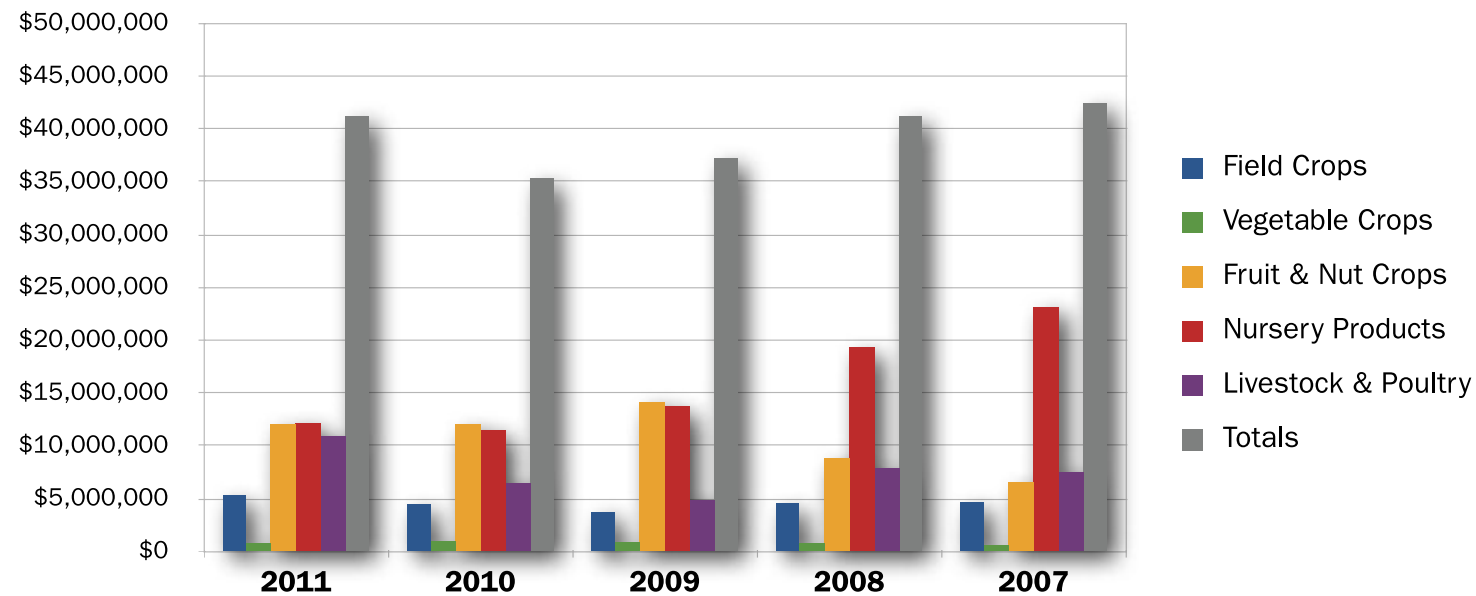
Commercial use of horses is considered an agricultural use for the purposes of the Williamson Act. This category includes the breeding and training of race horses, competition horses and ranch horses for commercial sale.

TYPE	NUMBER
Race Horses	2,000
Competition Horses	1,000
Ranch Horses	1,500
Recreation/Pleasure *	5,000

**Ineligible for Williamson Act as being of economic benefit to agriculture. This category of horses however, is recognized for its ancillary benefit.*

FIVE YEAR COMPARISON SUMMARY

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Field Crops	\$5,311,000	\$4,482,000	\$3,731,000	\$4,538,000	\$4,674,000
Vegetable Crops	\$785,000	\$897,000	\$838,000	\$745,000	\$601,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$12,043,000	\$11,994,000	\$14,144,000	\$8,772,000	\$6,516,000
Nursery Products	\$12,147,000	\$11,476,000	\$13,679,000	\$19,317,000	\$23,130,000
Livestock & Poultry	\$10,894,000	\$6,447,000	\$4,775,000	\$7,813,000	\$7,520,000
Totals	\$41,180,000	\$35,296,000	\$37,167,000	\$41,185,000	\$42,441,000



Agricultural History

“By 1900 it was well recognized that the county was divided by soil, water and other surroundings into three natural districts: cherry, apricot and grape. The stretch of country from Oakland to Haywards is the home of the cherry; the tract from Haywards south and east to the county line with Niles as a center is the region devoted to apricot growing, and the Livermore valley is the natural habitat of the grape. At this date the annual county cherry crop was worth about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The apricots of the Niles region are famous for their size, color and flavor, and good apricot land is worth from \$500 to \$1,000 per acre. As a matter of fact cherries and apricots are the king and the queen of Alameda county fruits.”

Alameda County General Information

County Seat	Oakland
County Population, 2010.....	1,521,157
Land Area (Square Miles).....	737.5
Water Area (Square Miles).....	83.8
Persons per Square Mile.....	2,062

14 Incorporated Cities

Alameda • Albany • Berkeley • Dublin • Emeryville • Fremont • Hayward
Livermore • Newark • Oakland • Piedmont • Pleasanton • San Leandro • Union City

6 Unincorporated Areas

Ashland • Castro Valley • Cherryland • Fairview • San Lorenzo • Sunol

Facts

Total Assessed Property (Local Roll – 2010)	\$199,686,160,435
Total Harvested Crop Acreage (2010)	191,723
Major Roads	Interstate 80, Interstate 580, Interstate 680, Interstate 880, Highway 238, Highway 84, Highway 92, Highway 13
Elevation	Sea level to 3,817 ft. at Rose Peak in the southern part of the County
Average Climate	Mild winters and cool summers near the Bay. The eastern portion of the County is moderately warmer; high temperatures in the Livermore Amador Valley average 90°F in July.

Agricultural History

In 1868 J. Lusk, who owned a ranch about four miles from Oakland, cultivated fifty acres of raspberries. He sent to market ninety tons of fresh berries and received therefor 10 cents per pound or a total of \$18,000. He manufactured twenty tons into jams, jellies, and pie-fruit and realized therefrom about ten thousand dollars. He made 15,000 gallons of wine worth 25 cents per gallon and 10,000 gallons of vinegar worth 20 cents per gallon. The total crop returned him \$36,250. The cost of cultivating, picking, canning, barrelling and putting the crop in market was estimated by him at \$20,000.



1887 Ruby Hill Wine Cellars

Livermore valley was represented by thirty-one samples of different blends of wine of the 1884 vintage. All the samples showed a perfect fermentation, fine color and an excellent fruity and mellow taste. By the last of December, 1884, the valley had 1,975 acres in vines, owned by fifty-eight different persons, thirty-six of whom were newcomers in the valley and twenty-eight of whom built houses and barns and otherwise improved their plantations. Eight lived in San Francisco and hired residents to attend their vineyards.

At Sunol in December herds of cattle were sold at an average of \$21.50 per head; they were fattened on the grass of the foothills.

The California Nursery Company was organized in 1884 by John Rock, R. D. Fox, James Hutchison, Thomas Mehshiro, W. J. Landers and J. Henri and a tract of about five hundred acres near Niles was purchased and divided into 100-acre sections. The first act was to set out on one of the sections 700,000 stock plants for budding purposes. Over \$30,000 was expended before there were any financial returns. Hundreds of orchards in this part of the state were supplied from this nursery.

In 1902 there were five large canneries in operation: Hunt Brothers at Haywards; Oakland Preserving Company of Oakland; Hickmot cannery; San Leandro cannery, and Hood cannery of Emeryville. At this time the five packed nearly five hundred thousand cases per annum. The pack consisted largely of cherries, peaches, apricots, pears, plums, tomatoes, peas and many small fruits, berries, etc.

The Olivina vineyard in Livermore valley was the largest in the county in 1890-91. It comprised 660 acres of vines, of which 475 acres were bearing. The crop of 1890 was 1,300 tons. In 1885 this vineyard comprised 400 acres and produced 100 tons.

Excerpts for 'AGRICULTURAL HISTORY' are taken from the **California Genealogy & History Archives** <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cagha/index.htm> **PAST AND PRESENT OF ALAMEDA COUNTY CALIFORNIA**, Joseph Baker, Editor, Volume I, Illustrated - Chicago, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company 1914 CHAPTER XI FARMING, FRUIT-GROWING, STOCK-RAISING, ETC.



Oakland Tribune Map of Alameda County, 1880

FROM THE COLLECTION OF MUSEUM ON MAIN, PLEASANTON

This full-color map, based on the latest land surveys available at the time, shows the distribution of land ownership in Alameda County in 1880.

Note that the locations of the old Mexican ranchos are marked, even where they had been broken up into smaller properties and sold (or lost to squatters).

MAP DONATED TO THE MUSEUM BY EVELYN MOLLER.

Alameda County Agriculture circa 1890

The following excerpts are taken from the **California Genealogy & History Archives** <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cagha/index.htm>

A MEMORIAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - Chicago, Lewis, Publ. Co., 1891

“Alameda derives its name from the Spanish term “alameda,” signifying a “grove of poplars,” many trees of that kind having by the original settlers been found growing along the streams.”

“Alameda County has made a marvelous growth, being helped in that by the fertility of her soil not less than by her proximity to San Francisco and her position on the bay. She ranks as one of the most productive agricultural counties on the coast, more of her surface, proportionately to area, being cultivated than that of any other. The produce of her grain and hay fields is very large, but larger yet are the returns from the gardens, orchards and vineyards with which she is covered. Certain parts are noted for their cherries, apricots peaches, etc., as about San Fernando

and Haywards and the bay side of the county generally. About the Mission San Jose are immense vineyards and wineries, and the vegetable and small fruit gardens of the same parts, and especially of the lower lands, are noted far and wide. At the Mission San Jose is the winery of Juan Gollegos, one of the largest in the State. Of late, the Livermore Valley has become noted also for its wines, being reckoned hardly second to the Sonoma Valley or to Napa County. Its orchards of almost every variety of fruit are also now become very prominent.”



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Alameda County

MISSION

To enrich the lives of Alameda County residents through visionary policies and accessible, responsive, and effective services

VISION

Alameda County is recognized as one of the best counties in which to live, work and do business.

VALUES

Integrity, honesty and respect fostering mutual trust.

Transparency and accountability achieved through open communications and involvement of diverse community voices.

Fiscal stewardship reflecting the responsible management of resources.

Customer service built on commitment, accessibility and responsiveness.

Excellence in performance based on strong leadership, teamwork and a willingness to take risks.

Diversity recognizing the unique qualities of every individual and his or her perspective.

Environmental stewardship to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources.

Social responsibility promoting self-sufficiency, economic independence and an interdependent system of care and support.

Compassion ensuring all people are treated with respect, dignity and fairness.

