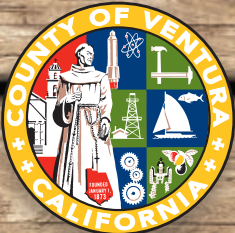




2018
CROP &
LIVESTOCK
REPORT

Organics

COUNTY OF
VENTURA



CONTENTS

- 1 Agricultural Commissioner's Letter
- 2 Recapitulation & Index
- 2 Irrigated Cropland
- 3 Five Year Comparison
- 4 Ten Leading Crops for 2018
- 4 Other Million Dollar Crops
- 5 Fruit & Nut Crops
- 6 Vegetable Crops
- 8 Nursery Stock
- 9 Cut Flowers
- 10 County Crops Map
- 12 Livestock and Poultry
- 12 Field Crops
- 13 Apiary Production
- 13 Sustainable Agriculture
- 14 Organic Farming
- 15 Legacy of Organic Farming
- 17 Certified Farmers' Markets
- 18 Programs

Acknowledgments

The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office would like to thank Linda Bellamy for assisting in data collection and for her photography.

The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office would like to acknowledge the following for providing quotes and allowing our staff to photograph their facilities and/or properties:

Associates Insectary, Ball Horticultural Company, Ventura County Cattlemen's Association, Brokaw Ranches, Buon Gusto Farms, Chas Nakama Ranch, Churchill Orchard, Coultas Farming, Cuyama Orchards, Harry's Berries, Herb Bunch, Irongate Ranch, Joseph and Sons, Laubacher Farms, McGrath Family Farms, Muranaka Farms, Neighbor Produce Organic, Newhall Land and Farming, Normans Nursery, Ojai Certified Farmers Market, Primetime Harvesting, Reiter Affiliated Companies, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, San Miguel Produce, Sunshine Floral, Underwood Family Farms.

The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office extends their sincerest appreciation to the agricultural industry of Ventura County. Without your information, this report would not be possible.

OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
Edmund E. (Ed) Williams

CHIEF DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
Korinne Bell

DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS
John Beall, Andy Calderwood, Ellen Kragh

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
Jason Gray, Francine Kursumis,
Maribel Lemus, Carolina Martinez,
Anthony Ortiz, Leticia Ramirez,
Sara Venegas

SUPERVISING AGRICULTURAL
INSPECTOR/BIOLOGISTS
Lauren Balthazor, Blanca Enriquez-Pratt,
Tim Fritch, Michael Otani, David Wirta

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTOR/BIOLOGISTS
Matthew Aitken, Ameer Atrash,
Angie Broennimann, Rebecca Cano,
David Carrillo, Vanessa Cruz,
Shravan Dasoju, Bridget Daughters,
Jonathan Fausto, Adriana Flores,
Jennifer Le, John Mikesell,
George Mendoza, David Neville,
Jordan Pickles, Loveleen Sandhu,
Brenda Tello, Alec Thille, Greta Varien,
Taylor Wallace, Zane Westmoreland,
Scott Wilson, Tom Yanagihara,
Cristina Zamora, Erika Zapien,
Janette Zaragoza

INSECT DETECTION SPECIALISTS
Magdalena Balderas, Linda Bellamy,
Robin Duffield, Angelo Haynes,
Lance Hermann, Francisco Hernandez,
Kevin Minck, Ruben Ortega, Ingus Richters,
Diana Wing

SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATORS
Alberto Lopez, Sarah Poland

STUDENT WORKER III
Marcelina Garcia, Victor Melgoza

GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING
GSA Business Support/Graphics



Edmund E. Williams
Agricultural Commissioner

July 30, 2019

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food & Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Ventura County
Steve Bennett, 1st District, Chair
Linda Parks, 2nd District
Kelly Long, 3rd District
Robert O. Huber, 4th District
John Zaragoza, 5th District

Pursuant to Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2018 Ventura County Crop and Livestock Report. This report reflects gross values only and does not represent the net return to growers or the multiplier effect on the local economy. From these totals, growers pay their workers, water, fuel and electricity bills, bank loans or land leases, insurance, taxes, equipment, materials and all other farming costs.

The estimated gross value of Ventura County's agriculture for calendar year 2018 is \$2,103,232,000. This represents a 0.2 % increase over 2017. Ventura County growers are innovative, cutting edge leaders in adopting new methods and techniques to produce high quality, wholesome food. This year we chose to feature our robust Organic farming heritage by allowing some of our innovative farmers to tell their stories. Ventura farms produced \$176,140,000 worth of the best Organic produce in the world.

Overall, Strawberries were again the number one crop at \$670,716,000, increasing 2% from 2017. Lemons remained in second place with a value of \$244,173,000, decreasing 6% from 2017. Celery remained third with a value of \$198,680,000, decreasing by 6%. Nursery Stock remained fourth with a value of \$194,495,000, decreasing by 2%. Raspberries remained fifth with a value of \$181,730,000, increasing by 8%. Avocados remained sixth with a value of \$103,252,000, decreasing by 13%. Tomatoes moved up into seventh place with a value of \$48,932,000, increasing by 3%. Cut Flowers moved to eighth place with a value of \$48,442,000, decreasing by 3%. Peppers remained ninth with a value of \$43,519,000, decreasing by 5%. Cabbage remained the number ten crop at \$36,972,000, increasing by 8% from 2017.

Our thanks and gratitude to the agricultural industry for providing the information used to produce this report. Special recognition goes to Agricultural Commissioner's staff, Linda Bellamy, for her photography and interviews; Matthew Kreiger, Graphic Designer with the Ventura County General Services Agency, for the graphic design and layout; and Korinne Bell, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, for the overall production of this report.

Respectfully submitted,


Edmund E. Williams
Agricultural Commissioner

2017-2018

Recapitulation

& INDEX

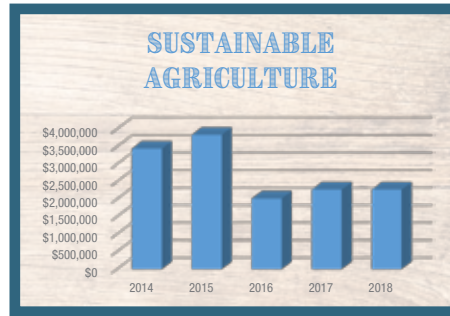
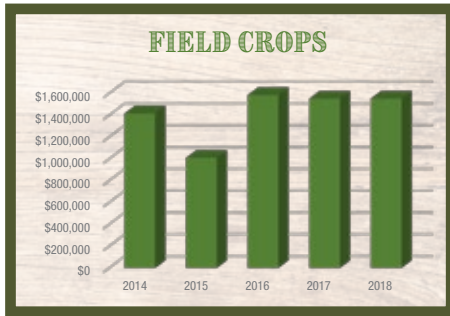
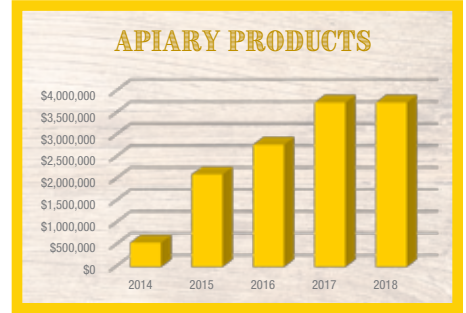
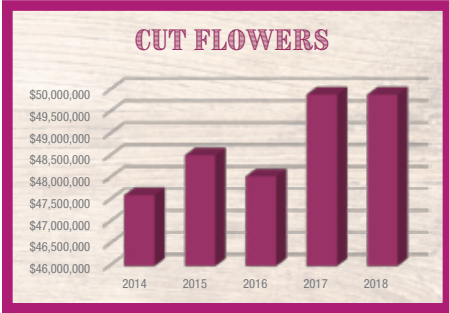
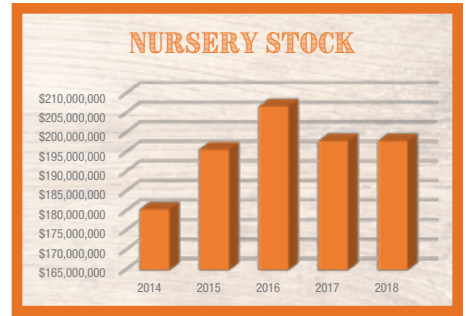
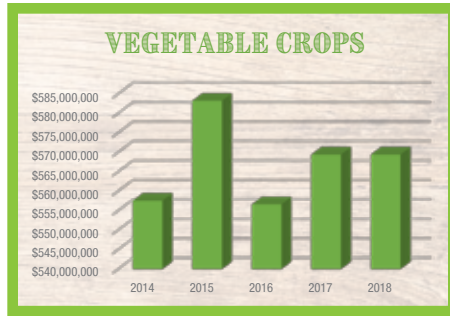
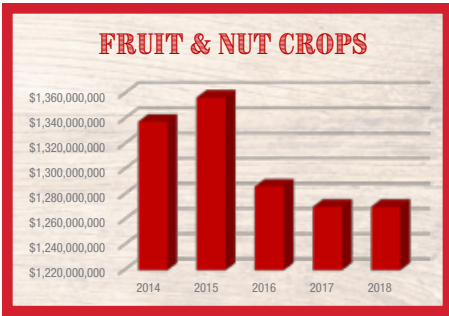


CROP GROUPING	YEAR	VALUE*
■ 1. Fruit & Nut Crops	2018	\$1,272,715,000
	2017	\$1,270,397,000
■ 2. Vegetable Crops	2018	\$572,631,000
	2017	\$569,471,000
■ 3. Nursery Stock	2018	\$194,495,000
	2017	\$197,969,000
■ 4. Cut Flowers	2018	\$48,442,000
	2017	\$49,904,000
■ 5. Livestock & Poultry	2018	\$5,564,000
	2017	\$4,578,000
■ 6. Apiary Products	2018	\$3,972,000
	2017	\$3,746,000
■ 7. Field Crops	2018	\$3,566,000
	2017	\$1,552,000
■ 8. Sustainable Agriculture	2018	\$1,847,000
	2017	\$2,272,000
GRAND TOTAL	2018	\$2,103,232,000
	2017	\$2,099,889,000

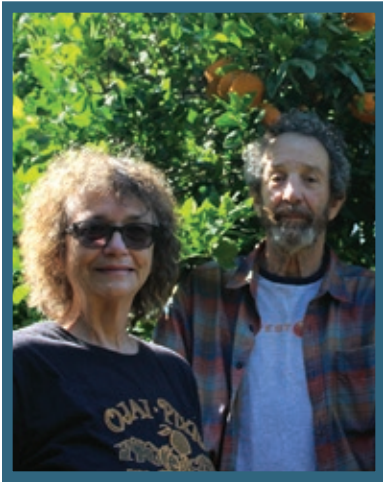
* Figures are rounded off to nearest \$1,000.

IRRIGATED CROPLAND

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
93,376 acres	95,802 acres	96,625 acres	95,850 acres	91,350 acres



Doing Our Part, Organically

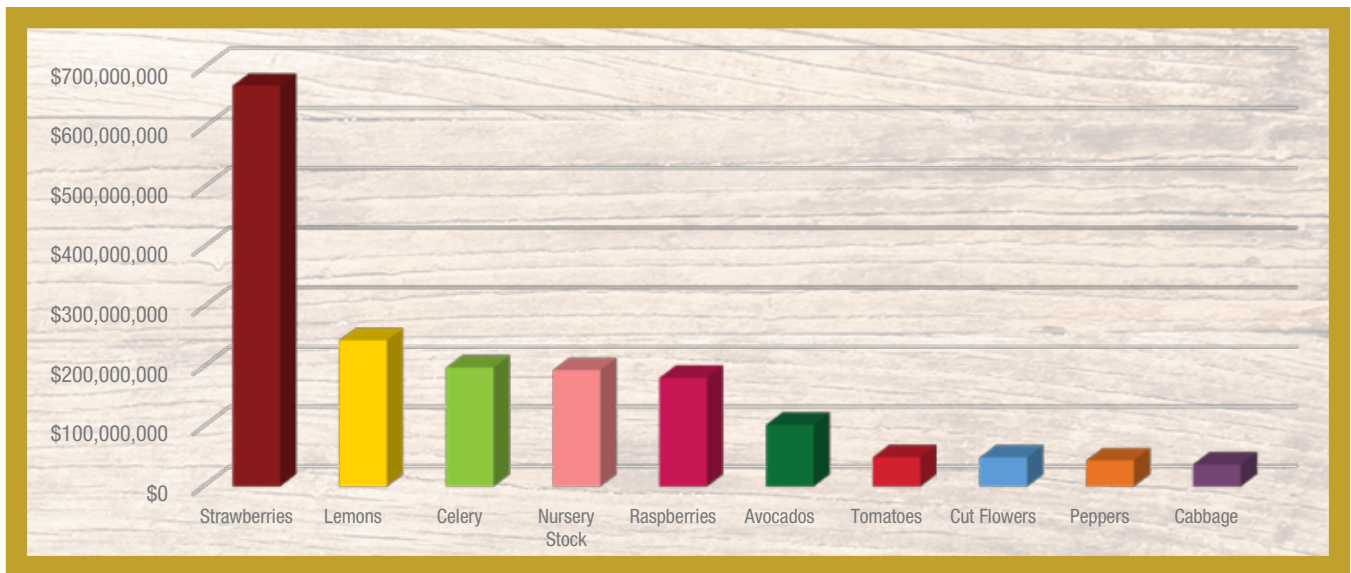


We grow Ojai Pixie tangerines, Seedless Kishu tangerines, Page tangerines, various avocado varieties, and small quantities of assorted other citrus. We sell everything we grow ourselves, through wholesale, direct mail, and farmers' markets. We've been doing this since 1978. We started farming Organically because we saw Cuties and Halos coming down the pike about fifteen years ago and realized that we were going to want special market channels if we were going to survive. That said, we hadn't used any herbicides or pesticides in the previous 15-20 years, just Urea. It is very satisfying to farm the way we farm. We are totally involved every step of the way from planting the trees through growing and protecting the crop and bringing it in each season, and selling it, arranging for the harvest, packing and shipping. The web of people we have the privilege of working with to get it done each season is the best part of the deal. We have been mulching for eighteen years and it's a wonderful thing to put our hands in the soil, or to pull up a weed and see a bundle of giant worms. I like what we're doing for the microbial and insect life in the soil and resident vegetation. I'm sure it is not enough, but at a time of plunging insect populations worldwide, it is satisfying to be offering one small refuge for insect life. We're holding our breaths about climate change and water supplies. The whole thing could go down in a couple of years if it doesn't rain. We're also just as impacted by the Asian Citrus Psyllid as all other citrus growers. We participate in the Asian Citrus Psyllid Task Force Psyllid monitoring program so we get bi-weekly reports on Psyllid populations. So far our populations have been fairly low, possibly because of high populations of native predators. We treat when required with Organic approved materials. We don't really have any other pest issues except gophers and ants.

Lisa Brenneis & Jim Churchill
Churchill Orchard



RANK	CROP	VALUE
1st	Strawberries	\$670,716,000
2nd	Lemons	\$244,173,000
3rd	Celery	\$198,680,000
4th	Nursery Stock	\$194,495,000
5th	Raspberries	\$181,730,000
6th	Avocados	\$103,252,000
7th	Tomatoes	\$48,932,000
8th	Cut Flowers	\$48,442,000
9th	Peppers	\$43,519,000
10th	Cabbage	\$36,972,000



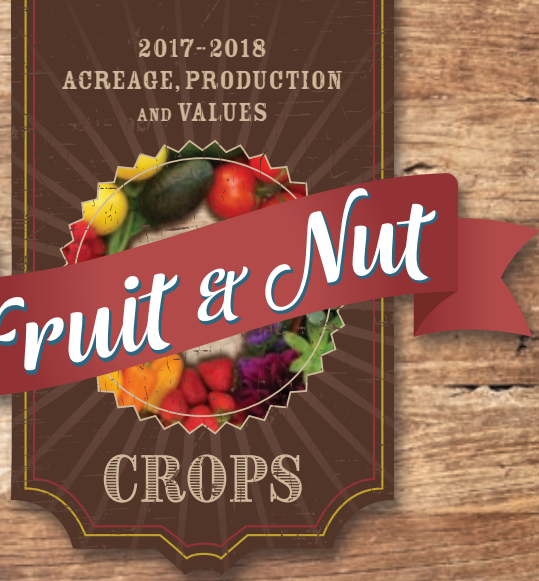
OTHER MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

CROP/PRODUCT	VALUE
Woody Ornamentals*	\$80,475,000
Bedding Plants, Ground Cover & Turf*	\$44,793,000
Kale	\$31,717,000
Lettuce (Leaf)	\$27,769,000
Cilantro	\$25,852,000
Lilies & Irises**	\$22,802,000
Fruit & Nut Trees*	\$20,375,000
Blueberries	\$20,130,000
Vegetable Transplants*	\$20,118,000
Oranges (Valencia)	\$19,997,000

CROP/PRODUCT	VALUE
Asian Vegetables	\$18,025,000
Mandarins & Tangelos	\$17,398,000
Cucumbers	\$15,054,000
Parsley	\$15,037,000
Spinach	\$14,586,000
Radishes	\$12,350,000
Herbaceous Perennials*	\$10,705,000
Potted Plants*	\$10,076,000
Greens	\$9,005,000
Delphinium, Larkspur, Stock, & Snapdragons**	\$7,115,000

* Included in Nursery Stock total above

** Included in Cut Flower total above



Crop	Year	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Avocados	2018	17,116	3.08	52,663	tons	\$1,960.62	\$103,252,000
	2017	17,387	3.12	54,250	tons	\$2,187.65	\$118,680,000
Blueberries	2018	620	2.72	1,685	tons	\$11,946.59	\$20,130,000
	2017	559	3.63	2,030	tons	\$10,223.15	\$20,753,000
Lemons	2018	14,201	18.38	261,050	tons	\$935.35	\$244,173,000
	2017	14,517	20.19	293,177	tons	\$882.07	\$258,602,000
Mandarins & Tangelos	2018	1,658	6.24	10,339	tons	\$1,682.75	\$17,398,000
	2017	1,663	4.82	8,015	tons	\$1,839.55	\$14,744,000
Oranges (Navel)	2018	379	8.46	3,206	tons	\$412.66	\$1,323,000
	2017	420	6.36	2,673	tons	\$426.49	\$1,140,000
Oranges (Valencia)	2018	2,209	12.40	27,402	tons	\$729.76	\$19,997,000
	2017	2,361	12.96	30,591	tons	\$618.35	\$18,916,000
Raspberries	2018	4,008	16.15	64,736	tons	\$2,807.25	\$181,730,000
	2017	4,132	15.51	64,095	tons	\$2,601.22	\$166,725,000
Strawberries - Total	2018	9,109	39.48	359,623	tons	\$1,865.05	\$670,716,000
	2017	10,216	34.58	353,269	tons	\$1,852.16	\$654,312,000
Fresh	2018	---	---	213,154	tons	\$2,618.35	\$558,112,000
	2017	---	---	237,646	tons	\$2,470.14	\$587,019,000
Processed	2018	---	---	146,469	tons	\$768.79	\$112,604,000
	2017	---	---	115,623	tons	\$582.00	\$67,293,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts*	2018	1,104	---	---	tons	---	\$13,996,000
	2017	1,021	---	---	tons	---	\$15,905,000
TOTAL	2018	50,404					\$1,272,715,000
	2017	52,359					\$1,270,397,000

* MISC. FRUITS AND NUTS include Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Bushberries, Cherimoya, Grapefruit, Grapes, Guavas, Kiwi, Limes, Macadamias, Olives, Persimmons, Walnuts; and miscellaneous citrus, deciduous, and subtropical fruit.

2017-2018
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION
AND VALUES

Vegetable

CROPS



Crop	Year	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Asian Vegetables	2018	733	16.76	12,283	tons	\$1,467.48	\$18,025,000
	2017	763	21.46	16,377	tons	\$1,265.07	\$20,718,000
Beans Green Limas, Green Snap	2018	1,820	1.43	2,602	tons	\$1,378.17	\$3,586,000
	2017	2,068	1.85	3,826	tons	\$1,358.34	\$5,197,000
Beets	2018	206	19.63	4,043	tons	\$1,228.54	\$4,967,000
	2017	147	18.33	2,695	tons	\$1,007.05	\$2,714,000
Broccoli Fresh & Processed	2018	92	12.16	1,119	tons	\$1,492.40	\$1,670,000
	2017	100	12.30	1,230	tons	\$1,508.94	\$1,856,000
Cabbage	2018	3,795	25.12	95,343	tons	\$387.78	\$36,972,000
	2017	3,547	25.60	90,803	tons	\$373.54	\$33,919,000
Carrots	2018	211	46.66	9,845	tons	\$184.36	\$1,815,000
	2017	168	38.73	6,507	tons	\$173.20	\$1,127,000
Celery	2018	12,151	36.28	440,865	tons	\$450.66	\$198,680,000
	2017	13,208	33.48	442,192	tons	\$475.83	\$210,408,000
Cilantro	2018	4,126	8.39	34,629	tons	\$746.54	\$25,852,000
	2017	3,588	9.02	32,364	tons	\$775.52	\$25,099,000
Cucumbers	2018	73	82.04	5,989	tons	\$2,513.61	\$15,054,000
	2017	70	80.71	5,650	tons	\$2,467.08	\$13,939,000
Greens	2018	916	10.26	9,395	tons	\$958.49	\$9,005,000
	2017	985	9.17	9,034	tons	\$1,038.30	\$9,380,000
Kale	2018	1,437	4.06	5,828	tons	\$5,442.18	\$31,717,000
	2017	1,562	4.15	6,476	tons	\$4,882.95	\$31,622,000
Lettuce - Leaf	2018	594	22.97	13,642	tons	\$2,035.55	\$27,769,000
	2017	550	20.00	11,002	tons	\$2,103.34	\$23,141,000
Romaine	2018	1,036	20.22	20,953	tons	\$195.20	\$4,090,000
	2017	1,091	17.62	19,223	tons	\$312.85	\$6,014,000

(CONTINUED) **VEGETABLE CROPS**

Crop	Year	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Onions Green & Dry	2018	130	19.37	2,518	tons	\$464.65	\$1,170,000
	2017	126	19.03	2,398	tons	\$451.63	\$1,083,000
Parsley	2018	746	19.65	14,660	tons	\$1,025.72	\$15,037,000
	2017	697	15.35	10,701	tons	\$1,072.70	\$11,479,000
Peppers Bell & Chili	2018	3,065	42.18	129,296	tons	\$336.58	\$43,519,000
	2017	2,976	43.88	130,602	tons	\$350.75	\$45,809,000
Pumpkin	2018	257	15.04	3,864	tons	\$379.40	\$1,466,000
	2017	245	14.74	3,611	tons	\$372.47	\$1,345,000
Radishes	2018	888	17.78	15,788	tons	\$782.24	\$12,350,000
	2017	846	17.12	14,484	tons	\$716.52	\$10,378,000
Spinach	2018	1,427	9.08	12,956	tons	\$1,125.81	\$14,586,000
	2017	1,309	9.08	11,886	tons	\$1,157.75	\$13,761,000
Sweet Corn	2018	367	7.81	2,866	tons	\$628.05	\$1,800,000
	2017	375	7.35	2,756	tons	\$616.11	\$1,698,000
Tomatoes	2018	381	67.15	25,583	tons	\$1,912.68	\$48,932,000
	2017	401	70.11	28,113	tons	\$1,689.86	\$47,507,000
Vegetables, Misc.* Field, Indoor & Processed	2018	3,794	---	---	---	---	\$54,569,000
	2017	3,449	---	---	---	---	\$50,527,000
TOTAL	2018	38,245					\$572,631,000
	2017	38,373					\$569,471,000

* Includes: artichokes, arugula, asparagus, baby vegetables, cauliflower, eggplant, endive, garlic, gourds, herbs, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce (head), melons, mushrooms, peas, radicchio, sprouts, squash, tomatillos, and turnips.

Organic Consumer Demand



San Miguel has been farming vegetables in Ventura County for over 40-years. In the past 23-years, San Miguel has become well known as a niche or specialty grower of dark leafy greens such as kales, collards, chards, mustard, turnip and beets/greens etc. In 2004, San Miguel decided to begin transitioning 20-acres of farmland to Organic. In 2007, the company became Certified Organic as a grower and handler/processor. It has been almost 13-years now since we started our new venture into Organics selling specialty green commodities and packaged washed/chopped (fresh-cut) greens under our Cut 'N Clean Greens brand. Today Organics represent about 30% of our business volume and continues to grow every year. Dark leafy greens have become popular for their high nutrient density. Consumer demand for healthy eating has been the primary driver for Organic greens. As a year-round farmer in Ventura County growing greens Organically is a choice we made for two reasons: 1) the consumer demand for Organic greens is high, and 2) we felt it was a good, sustainable choice for the direction of our company business model. San Miguel has been a sustainable business since its inception. The company has always been a vertically integrated - farming, harvesting, cooling, processing (washing/bagging) selling and marketing - direct from our farms to the retailers or foodservice operations. Today all farming in California is challenging, however, Organic farming provides extra challenges, especially certain times of the year, like managing pests in the summer months with limited tools. However, we continue to look at better farming practices and tools to help minimize issues as best we can.

Jan Berk & Roy Nishimori
San Miguel Produce

2017-2018
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION
AND VALUES

Nursery

STOCK



Item	Year	Greenhouse Sq. Ft.	Field Acres	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Fruit & Nut Trees	2018	---	245	1,105,967	trees	\$18.42	\$20,375,000
	2017	---	243	1,026,962	trees	\$18.37	\$18,866,000
Potted Plants	2018	1,919,613	31	2,624,189	pots	\$3.84	\$10,076,000
	2017	2,020,645	30	2,499,228	pots	\$3.67	\$9,160,000
Propagative Material	2018	783,372	1	64,873,092	cuttings	\$0.12	\$7,953,000
	2017	725,344	1	61,201,030	cuttings	\$0.12	\$7,230,000
Herbaceous Perennials	2018	68,971	97	2,933,459	containers	\$3.65	\$10,705,000
	2017	72,601	95	2,716,166	containers	\$3.43	\$9,309,000
Woody Ornamentals	2018	93,181	1,690	5,632,473	trees/shrubs	\$14.29	\$80,475,000
	2017	97,063	1,740	5,867,159	trees/shrubs	\$14.91	\$87,473,000
Bedding Plants, Ground Cover & Turf	2018	472,755	942	13,833,792	flats	\$3.24	\$44,793,000
	2017	463,486	930	13,175,040	flats	\$3.27	\$43,070,000
Vegetable Transplants	2018	1,834,638	112	4,953,675	flats	\$4.06	\$20,118,000
	2017	1,972,728	120	5,565,926	flats	\$4.11	\$22,861,000
TOTAL	2018	5,172,530	3,118				\$194,495,000
	2017	5,351,867	3,159				\$197,969,000

Organic Niche Market

My mother and father used to grow conventional strawberries for many years and I helped them with that operation. With the strawberry industry and markets changing in the wrong direction, he knew his "good years" were a thing of the past, so he decided to get out of the strawberry business. In 2003, we decided to grow blueberries. Blueberries were a good niche and change. Soon conventional blueberries became over-supplied. In 2015, we decided to grow Organic on a small scale. There seems to be a high demand for Organic blueberries and we decided to convert part of this farm into an Organic farm by planting blueberries in pots. My father still picks for quality first, as he believes quality and taste will bring the customer back. My father is still involved in this operation as we are learning together and we have grown Organic blueberries since 2003.

Rick Nakama
Chas Nakama Ranch





2017-2018
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION
AND VALUES

Cut Flowers

Crop	Year	Acres	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total Value
Flower Blooms & Stems	2018	51	24,365,157	blooms	---	\$5,322,000
	2017	53	25,738,906	blooms	---	\$6,973,000
Flower Bunches - Total	2018	554	11,908,497	bunches	---	\$43,120,000
	2017	550	11,682,651	bunches	---	\$42,380,000
Stalice, Lace, Aster & Gypsophila	2018	98	1,660,640	bunches	\$2.55	\$4,229,000
	2017	96	1,350,114	bunches	\$2.51	\$3,383,000
Chrysanthemums & Sunflowers	2018	53	2,272,906	bunches	\$2.03	\$4,614,000
	2017	52	2,084,265	bunches	\$1.92	\$4,012,000
Lilies & Irises	2018	140	3,931,379	bunches	\$5.80	\$22,802,000
	2017	138	3,893,261	bunches	\$5.75	\$22,402,000
Lisianthus	2018	23	382,634	bunches	\$5.24	\$2,005,000
	2017	25	541,807	bunches	\$3.89	\$2,110,000
Delphinium, Larkspur, Stock & Snapdragons	2018	165	2,322,234	bunches	\$3.06	\$7,115,000
	2017	173	2,638,902	bunches	\$3.17	\$8,370,000
Miscellaneous*	2018	75	1,338,704	bunches	\$1.76	\$2,355,000
	2017	66	1,174,302	bunches	\$1.79	\$2,103,000
TOTAL	2018	605				\$48,442,000
	2017	668				\$49,904,000

* Includes: cut greens and dried flowers.

Organic From the Start

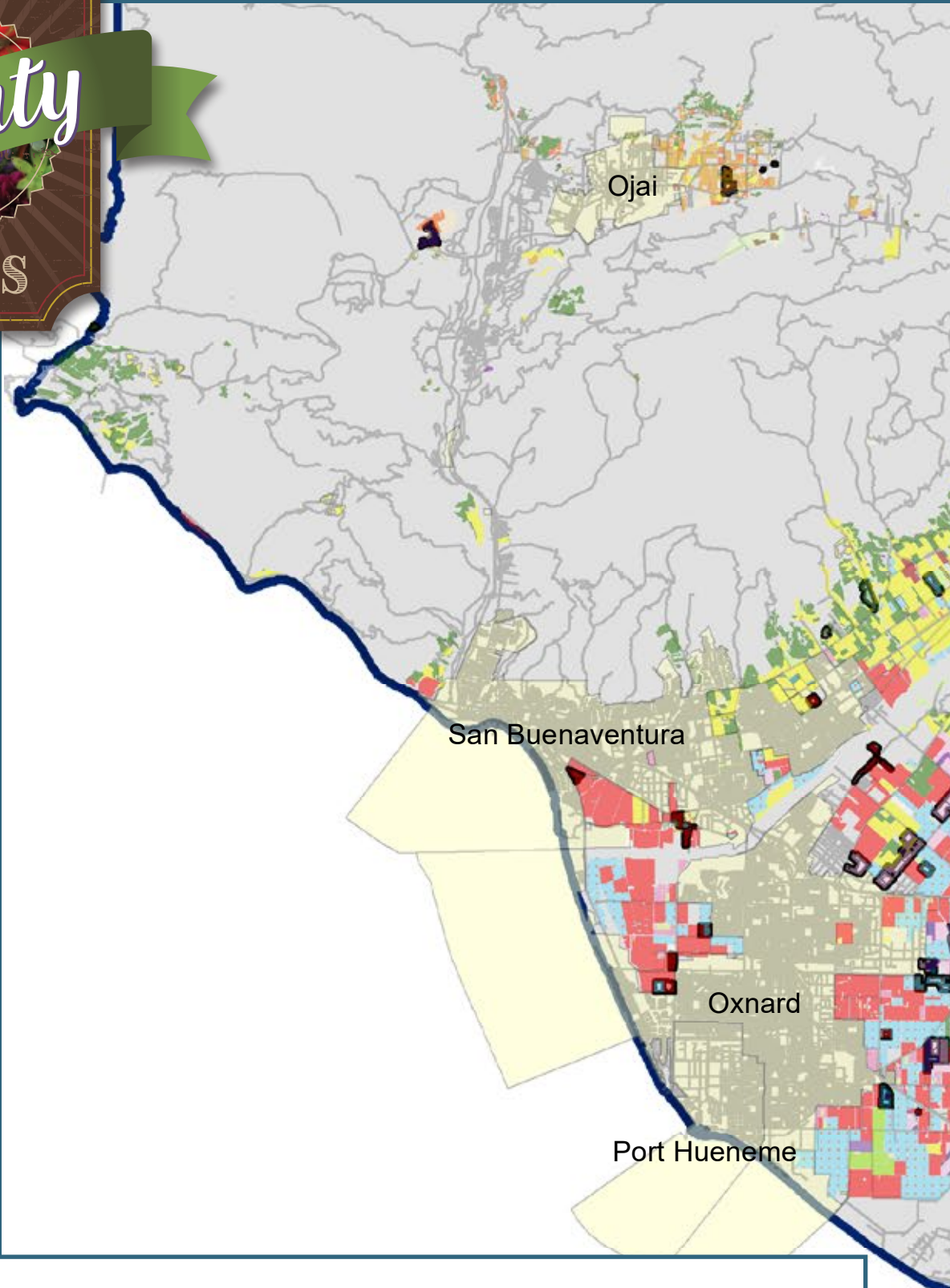


We had the land for a long time, and previously nothing had been grown on it. It was used for cattle grazing for the last 100 years plus. Since it was a new orchard, I decided to start out Organic to keep the natural use of the soil. I fenced off about forty acres and after building the house, we decided to put in something that we didn't have to mow or clear brush. I researched what would grow here, and being Italian, I thought about olive oil. I went to the University of Davis which has an Olive Center and took all of their short courses on growing Organic Olives. I started out with about 700 trees and hand planted those, and after looking around, we decided to plant more trees. Now we have about 3,200 olive trees. The trees took off and are doing very well with no fertilizer. We planted native grasses under the trees, and we do everything possible to preserve the soil for continued use.

Mark Mooring
Buon Gusto Farms

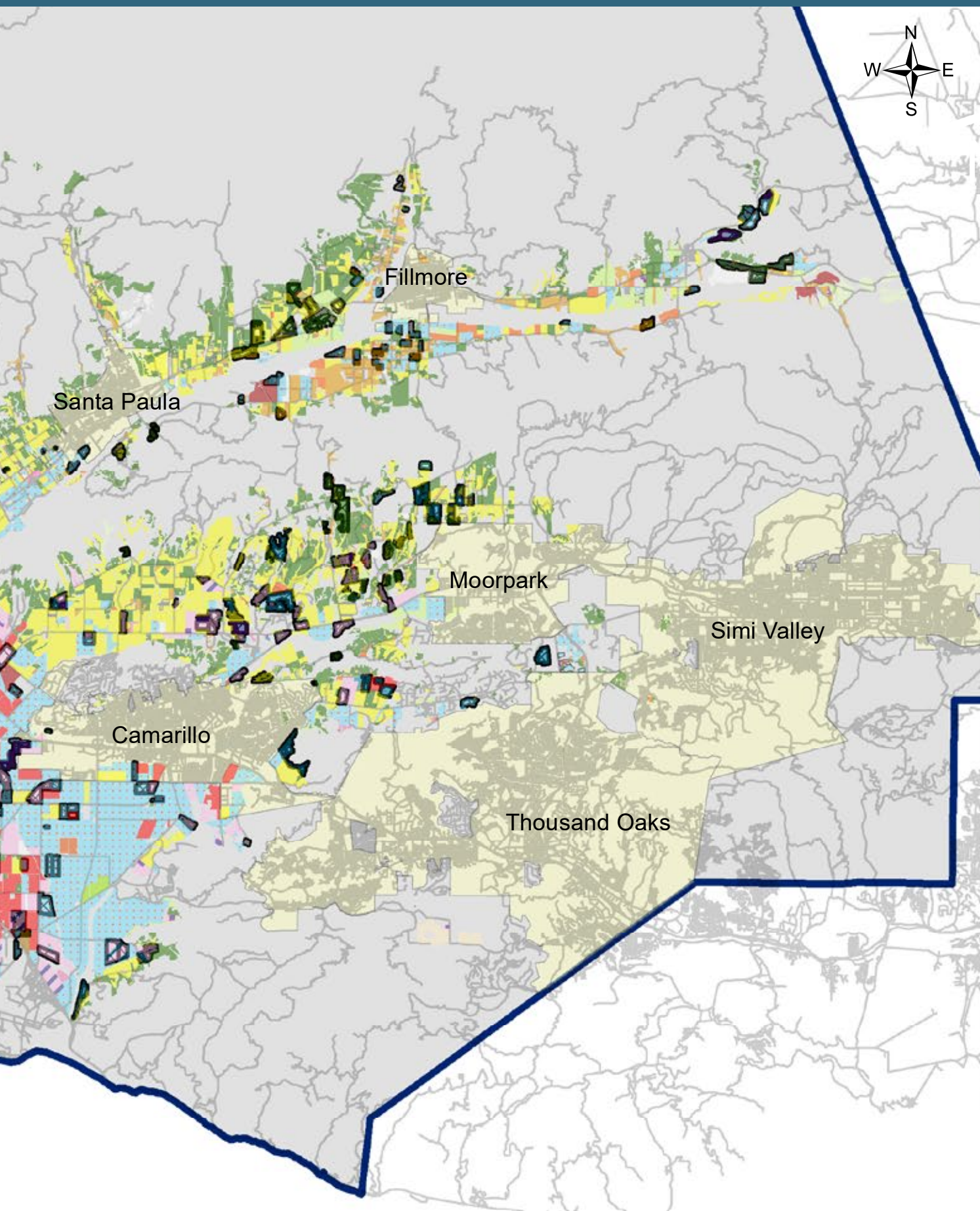
County

CROPS



LEGEND

Crops	
OTHER CROPS	BLACKBERRY
ALFALFA	BLACKBERRY, RASPBERRY
APPLE	BLUEBERRY
AVOCADO	CABBAGE
BARLEY	CELERY
BEAN LIMA	CHERIMOYA
	CHRISTMAS TREE
	CILANTRO
	CITRUS
	CITRUS, AVOCADO
	CITRUS, LEMON
	CITRUS, TANGERINE
	CUCUMBER, TOMATO
	FORAGE HAY/SLGE
	GRAPE
	GRAPEFRUIT
	GRAPEFRUIT, LEMON
	HERB, SPICE
	KALE
	LEMON
	LEMON, AVOCADO
	LEMON, ORANGE
	LEMON, TANGERINE
	LIME
	NURSERY-FLOWERS
	NURSERY-PLANTS
	NURSERY-TRANSPLANT
	OAT
	OLIVE
	ORANGE
	ORANGE, AVOCADO
	ORANGE, TANGERINE
	PEPPER FRUITNG
	PUMPKIN
	RASPBERRY
	RASPBERRY, BLUEBERRY
	RASPBERRY, STRAWBERRY
	Rotational Crops
	SOD FARM (TURF)
	STRAWBERRY
	STRAWBERRY, Rotational Crops
	TANGERINE
	TANGERINE, AVOCADO
	TOMATO
	WALNUT
	WATERCRESS
	Organic
	ORGANIC



2017-2018
PRODUCTION AND VALUES

Livestock

& POULTRY



Item	Year	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Livestock Cattle, Hogs, Sheep & Goats	2018	21,625	cwt	---	\$3,476,000
	2017	18,499	cwt	---	\$2,147,000
Poultry Chickens & Eggs	2018	---	---	---	\$1,972,000
	2017	---	---	---	\$2,304,000
Other Livestock Alpaca & Squab	2018	---	---	---	\$116,000
	2017	---	---	---	\$127,000
TOTAL	2018				\$5,564,000
	2017				\$4,578,000

FIELD CROPS

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES | 2017-2018

Crop	Year	Acreage	Total
Rangeland*	2018	220,120	\$75,000
	2017	197,699	\$54,000
Pasture, Hay & Grain	2018	562	\$230,000
	2017	578	\$246,000
Seed & Dry Beans	2018	400	\$1,221,000
	2017	437	\$1,252,000
Hemp	2018	63	\$2,040,000
	---	---	---
TOTAL	2018	221,145	\$3,566,000
	2017	198,714	\$1,552,000

*Includes fallow cropland



2017-2018
PRODUCTION AND VALUES

Apiary

PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Honey	2018	503,629	lbs	\$3.69	\$1,857,000
	2017	339,742	lbs	\$4.96	\$1,686,000
Beeswax & Pollen	2018	22,849	lbs	\$3.72	\$85,000
	2017	19,391	lbs	\$3.61	\$70,000
Pollination Use	2018	---	---	---	\$2,030,000
	2017	---	---	---	\$1,990,000
TOTAL	2018				\$3,972,000
	2017				\$3,746,000

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Item	Agent	Target	Scope of Program
Biological Control Commercial Insectaries	Predatory Mites, Predatory Beetles, Predatory Wasps, Predatory Nematodes, Various Predatory Insects	Scale, Mealybug, Snails, Aphids, Mites, Whitefly, Psyllid, Thrip, Nematodes, Flies	9,251,320,750 beneficials, released on 12,131 acres Valued at \$1,847,000
Pest Mitigation	Mechanical/Digging	Dalmation Toadflax, Scotch Thistle, Euphorbia Terracina	1 site each
Pest Eradications	Mechanical/Digging	Spotted Knapweed	1 site
Pest Exclusion & Plant Quarantine	<u>Incoming Shipments</u>		<u>Inspections</u>
	UPS/Fed Express (Shipments)	Various	1,627
	Truck/Air Freight	Various	846
	Household Goods (Inspections)	Gypsy Moth	22
	<u>Outgoing Shipments</u>		
	Federal Certificates	Various	11,747
	State Certificates	Various	620

2017-2018
ACREAGE AND VALUES

Organic

FARMING



Crops	Year	Acres	Total Value
Registered Growers	2018		180
	2017		169
Vegetables & Herbs	2018	1,235	\$25,591,000
	2017	2,500	\$30,227,000
Fruits & Nuts*	2018	4,222	\$150,452,000
	2017	5,260	\$152,109,000
Field & Seed Crops	2018	74	\$52,000
	2017	81	\$23,000
Cut Flowers & Nursery Stock	2018	9	\$41,000
	2017	9	\$26,000
Specialty Crops	2018	1	\$1,000
	2017	1	\$1,000
Livestock & Poultry	2018	4	\$3,000
	2017	---	---
TOTAL**	2018	7,341 [^]	\$176,140,000
	2017	7,851	\$182,386,000

* There was an error in user reporting for Fruits & Nuts Gross Sales and Acreage data for 2017. Updated numbers as shown. ** Included in all other total values.
[^] Includes 1,796 acres of fallow cropland.

Organic Plant Health

As farmers, we are adapting our growing practices with a sense of social responsibility because we want to be the best neighbors we can be. We grow Organic because it benefits the environment, encourages advancements in the industry and because more and more consumers are requesting Organically grown food. Farming Organically is costly, but by managing your crops and maintaining a high level of focus on plant health and longevity you can help secure a financial return as a grower. We have noticed that consumers are requesting more Organic strawberries, and we are adapting our acreage to supply that demand. Growing Organic can be advantageous because you are producing a crop that is environmentally safe and market price is often stronger in comparison to the market price for conventionally grown food. On the other hand, growing Organically is costly. It requires additional labor needs for maintaining plants. Finding quality farm land for an Organic crop can be difficult in our county. When asked what Organic farming is, I like to explain that it is a type of farming that eliminates the use of synthetic materials and requires high attention to detail in plant health, both above and below the soil. We are working to enhance our Organic program to better ensure yields and a sustainable business for years to come. We typically control pests through predatory release or inoculating the soil with beneficial fungi to ensure we protect our roots from disease in the soil. For me, sustainable farming is a way of operating in which we are responsible for the environment and those around us, including our employees, while maintaining a healthy business model to ensure our future as farmers.

Luis Caldron
Reiter Affiliated Companies



LEGACY OF ORGANIC FARMING

I have been growing Certified Organic since 1995; the year my dad died of cancer. That is a big factor why I went Organic, looking back. Organics have come a long way. The birthplace of American Organic agriculture is highly associated with the Santa Cruz farmers right after the 60's and into the early 70's. California has had more to do with the National Organic Program (NOP) than any other state. My main goal now is to see the NOP maintain integrity and not get watered down. I think our water, our air, and our food is easily polluted by sprays and chemicals used, and I believe the less we use, the better. It's so obvious to me people want good, clean food. Most of the cheap foods are GMO's or have been chemically sprayed. They are over sanitized, or over bred, and all about looks. But the good clean foods are more in season. They're heirloom products, they're Organically grown, and they taste good. My influence came when I was working down at the L.A. Farmers Markets prior to 1995 and having every other person ask if the vegetables were grown Organically. I realized this was not a trend or a wave, but that Organics were the way of the future. Since then, I have had tourist groups from all over the world learn about my Organic practices. It's pretty inspiring for me. Regenerative agricultural is sustainable agriculture. It's what my family has been doing for a hundred and fifty years and it's all about change; being open to new enterprises, new industries, and not being afraid of it. The way we irrigate today is so different from 60 years ago. There are so many more restrictions on chemicals in agriculture. Most farmers today use IPM methods whenever they can. The most important thing I do is continue with our rotational schedule and grow a large diversity of crops; no monocropping here. For me, Organic farming is baseline farming. That's where we start. Going above and beyond is biodynamic, regenerative farming and having healthy soils. Organic farming is not just whether you sprayed the crop with chemicals. It means a lot more. It's about keeping the air, the water, the soil and all of the environment cleaner. Sustainable farming is defined by the Three Es: *Economic* viability, *social Equity*, and *Environmental* sensitivity. We throw in one more E: *Education*. Sustainability is also succession farming; you have got to have a plan for the next generation. Agricultural is the oldest culture on the planet and its working with nature. It not about controlling it, it's about working with it.



– **Phil McGrath**

McGrath Family Farms

Rincon Insectary started in a shed on Rincon Beach in 1959. In 1967, my father bought this property and started producing insects. I have been raised around insects and my father's work helping farmers get off of toxic pesticides. Rincon-Vitova provides beneficial insects not only to farmers, greenhouse growers, and backyard gardeners, but for the entire agricultural community. We also provide specialized beneficial insects for particular farmers. Our main role is to help farmers transition from a chemically based agriculture to a biologically based agricultural system. Our role is to direct farmers to the materials and strategies to assist in that transition. If a farmer is following an Organic system plan, we can help them build habitat and diversity on their farms so they can grow the beneficial insects needed. Every crop is different, but when a new insect threat is introduced, it takes a while to learn how to control it. The basic idea is to work with nature. We like to see where we can work with natural systems to produce good food with minimum negative impacts on soil health, ecology, biodiversity and so on. We have grown a wide variety of insects throughout the years, but now, half of what we grow are three types of wasps that attack and control houseflies. These parasitoids are used for fly control at dairies, stables, animal feeding operations, and compost yards. In this particular system, nature is so amazing. The beneficial insect lays its egg inside of the pupa and spends three immature stages inside the pupa eating the fly. We also grow many other biological control organisms: predators, parasites, and pathogens. In classical biological control, you reunite the beneficial insect with the pest and nature takes over as the beneficial spreads



and controls the pest. In inundative biocontrol, you introduce the natural enemy in high numbers to augment other beneficial insects on the farm to control the pest. It's important to be proactive and release early in the season. If you see pests

in the field, they can be food for beneficial insects – an in-field insectary. It's looking at the farmscape beyond the farm borders and the movement of insects and making sure that you've got that soil food web working in a healthy way in the root zone of the plant. In general, there is a balance through natural biodiversity, such as with flowers at the ends of rows to provide nutrition and habitat to support beneficial insects. The more diverse the farm cropping system and the soil microbiology, the healthier everything becomes. The fundamental idea in Organic is that a healthy plant resists pests and disease. It all starts with the surroundings, biodiversity and healthy soil.

– **Jan Dietrick and Ron Whitehurst**

Rincon-Vitova Insectaries

LEGACY OF ORGANIC FARMING (CONTINUED)

I grow Organic food because I believe in it. All my life I have avoided pills, drugs and such because they contain other than natural foods. My thinking is, I don't eat chemicals so why produce fruit with chemicals? I believe Organic foods of all types are hopefully the future of farming and if I can contribute to that endeavor, then I help to make an impact. I have been farming Organically for about five years. I have always been a person that's wanted to have good food. I try to eat natural raw foods, and producing it is the same way of thinking. The cost of Organic farming depends on the market. It's been good sometimes and sometimes it's not. Now with the lemons and the Asian Citrus Psyllid that is out here, we must spray four to six times a year, which is double or triple the cost of spraying a non-Organic crop. If the additional revenue received from Organic produce compensates for the additional cost of doing Organic farming, then it will be a plus. The last couple of years the sale of Organic fruit has been high enough to compensate for the additional cost, so, it's been a plus. One major disadvantage is the difficulty to feed the trees with enough nutrients to compensate for what you did before with commonly used chemical fertilizers. I use mulch on the soil and when I spray, we add nutrients in the spray process, but I am not convinced that the permitted fertilizers on the Organic list are as effective as that used by the non-Organic grower. I wish we had more choices. Snails are one of the problems facing the Organic lemon grower. We can't use poison. Snails get on the fruit and scar the skin giving it an undesirable appearance. Thus, it is sold for juice at a much lower price. I invented and patented a device called "The Snail Jail" that keeps snails out of the lemon trees. At the present time, I am the only Organic lemon grower in the world using that device. I don't need poison that I can't use, and I don't need to climb under trees to paint the trunk with cooper every other year. I attach the "Snail Jail" to the tree and I am finished worrying about snails forever. I have no snail scared fruit. Regarding the issue of sustainability, Organic Farming changes the equation. Consumers are more aware today of what they eat. They want foods that keep them healthy and have determined that Organic is the right direction. It is up to the farmer to figure out how to grow foods naturally and get "your organics" to the dining table at a lower cost. It's not going to be easy, but it is sustainable, and I believe the American Farmer can do it.

– **Bill Miller**
Irongate Ranch



My mom and dad started this farm back in 1980 out of a rundown piece of ground with one tractor on it. My dad was a farm boy from Idaho, went into business in Los Angeles and then he came out to the Cuyama Valley to go back into farming. This is a tough place to farm. The water has a lot of minerals in it and the ground is really variable, but it has a wonderful micro-climate, and we get sweet fruit. I partnered up with my dad in 1998 and we have expanded this operation. My dad always said, "no one ever said it was going to be easy", but we have had a good run, and his reputation lives on. We have been growing Organically since 1998. We grow Nagafu Fuji Apples, Sweet Crab Apples, Pink Lady Apples, Granny Smith Apples, Gala Apples, Arkansas Black and others. We feel good about producing good food and getting it into local hands for people to eat. We really love producing Organic fruit in the orchards. It's nice going through your orchards and knowing that all your sprays are Organic. It just feels good; it's clean. The cost effectiveness is getting harder all the time, as our costs have gone up tremendously over the past five years. The advantage of growing Organically is you produce better eating fruit. It makes you a better grower because you have to be a better farmer, and more doors are open to your product in the marketplace. One of the disadvantages is controlling certain diseases in the orchards. As the orchards get older, Fire Blight has become very challenging to control with the Organic tools. Our major pests are Coddling Moth and Mites. Mites have been a real challenge, but I think we're winning that battle finally with our integrated pest management program. We have been planting flowers at the ends of rows and controlling our water so we don't have hot dry row ends. We have done substantial releases of beneficial predators. It is working with integrated pest management and trying to have good practices that keep your orchards happy and healthy and in balance with nature. The fruit has to not only look good, but also have good taste. We need to get a fair enough return on this fruit to farm and be able to reinvest and keep the business healthy and thriving. We have to have a certain level of production per acre, and then we need to get paid a reasonable price for that production, one way or the other. We have had very good returns over the past ten years, but it has been very, very difficult over the past two years. Even though our fruit is mostly sold in California and

Arizona, we do ship some fruit to New York, Dubai and a few other places around the world. We have to find ways to get what we grow into the hands of the consumers. We know people want this fruit and support us and they love local farms, but the distribution can be difficult. Farmers' markets work well, but that is a small portion of how fruit moves.

– **Byron Albano**
Cuyama Orchards





City	Day/Time	Type	Market & Location	Contact
Camarillo	SAT / 8 AM – 12 PM	y/r	Camarillo Hospice - 2220 Ventura Blvd.	Ruff Smith / 805-389-6870 info@camarillohospice.org
Ojai	SUN / 9 AM – 1 PM	y/r	Ojai - 300 E. Matilija St.	Cynthia Korman / 805-698-5555 ojaifarmersmarket@cox.net
Oxnard	SUN / 10 AM – 2 PM	y/r	Channel Islands Harbor - 3350 S. Harbor Blvd. @ Cabezone Way, Harbor Side	Mariel Espinoza / 818-591-8161 info@rawinspiration.org
Oxnard	THU / 9 AM – 2 PM	y/r	Downtown Oxnard - Downtown Plaza Park 500 S. C Street @ 5th and C St.	The Oxnard Heritage Foundation 805-247-0197 / dofm_info@rock.com
Simi Valley	FRI / 11 AM – 3:30 PM	y/r	Simi Valley @ Civic Center Plaza Tapo Cyn @ Alamo St.	Mark Rochin / 805-643-6458 pacific209@hotmail.com
Thousand Oaks	THU / 1:30 PM – 6 PM	y/r	Thousand Oaks - The Oaks Shopping Center 222 W. Hillcrest Dr. (East End Parking Lot)	Karen Wetzel Schott / 805-529-6266 www.vccfarmersmarket.com
Ventura	SAT / 8:30 AM – 12 PM	y/r	Downtown Ventura - Santa Clara and Palm St. City Parking Lot	Karen Wetzel Schott / 805-529-6266 www.vccfarmersmarket.com
Ventura	WED / 9 AM – 1 PM	y/r	Midtown Ventura - Pacific View Mall Front West Parking Lot	Karen Wetzel Schott / 805-529-6266 www.vccfarmersmarket.com
Ventura	THU / 3 PM – 7 PM	y/r	East Ventura - 901 S Kimball Rd.	Patrice Powell / 805-479-9699 openaireproduce@aol.com
Westlake Village	SUN / 10 AM – 2 PM	y/r	2797 Agoura Rd.	Fernando Oxa / 818-591-8161 info@rawinspiration.org

Positive Impact with Organics



My grandfather Harry Iwamoto started farming in 1966. He grew strawberries and other crops commercially in Oxnard until about 1993. My parents took over the small farm and lately I have been managing it. Since then, we have downsized our fields and have concentrated on growing food without pesticides. We wanted to provide quality fruits for our family and keep the family heritage of farming. We farmed Organically for about twenty years before becoming a Certified Organic grower and now we have been Certified Organic for the last six-years. At Harry's Berries, we like to provide the freshest product we can. In 1986, we started selling at the farmers markets where we interacted with our customers face to face and provided them with the best strawberries. We have longtime customers that rely on our excellent reputation and we have built good relationships with them. We grow tomatoes and green beans, but our main crop is strawberries. We feel the strawberry is most important to be Organically grown since strawberries are very porous and will soak up anything you apply to them like a sponge. We have very educated consumers that shop with us who will read an article about pesticides and they will bring it to our attention on how important it is to eat organic strawberries. To control pests, we use an Organic mild insecticide fish oil and Neem oil blend. In addition, we use Organic fertilizers, not chemical based fertilizers. In addition, we plant wildflower borders and then release beneficial insects to help combat the bad bugs from infecting our crop. We feel we are making a positive impact not only for the future of our kids, but for our surroundings by not using chemicals.

Kris Jean
Harry's Berries

2017-2018

Programs

& SERVICES



Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Program

The Glassy Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) program benefits the nursery industry in Ventura County by the inspection and certification of nursery stock to be shipped to Northern California and the Central Valley. The GWSS program helps prevent the spread of the GWSS from Ventura County to key grape growing areas of California. The GWSS is an insect that transmits a bacterial disease (Pierce's Disease) that can seriously damage grapevines. The GWSS is widespread in Southern California and has reduced the ability of growers in Southern California to produce wine grapes. In 2018, no GWSS were discovered upon shipment to their destination for the first time in the history of the program. Most of the funding for the GWSS program is provided through a contract with the Cdfa, which is made possible through an assessment paid by wine grape growers.

Shipments Inspected	5,530
Containers Inspected	568,937
Flats Inspected	16,957
GWSS Finds Outgoing	28
GWSS Finds at Destination	0

GWSS = Glassy Winged Sharpshooter

Direct Marketing/Certified Farmers Market Program

The Direct Marketing Program benefits the consumer and the agricultural community by supplying fresh produce for consumers at local Certified Farmer's Markets (CFMs) while providing growers with an alternative method to sell their agricultural products. These products include California-grown fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables, honey and eggs. Producers at these markets are called certified producers and to participate must obtain a certificate from the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) that documents what they produce and where they produce it. Growing grounds are inspected by Agricultural Inspectors and each CFM is inspected throughout the year.

Certified Producer Certificates (CPC's) Issued	141
Certified Farmer's Markets Inspected	18
Warning Letters Issued	9
Notices of Proposed Action (NOPA's) Issued	4

Organic Program

The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) and our staff enforce regulations adopted under the National Organic Program (NOP) through residue sampling of fruit and vegetables, organic audits and pesticide use record checks. The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) and our staff also investigate organic complaints and register businesses (producers, handlers, and retailers) prior to sales of organic products with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

Registrations	169
Audits Performed	15
Samples Collected	3

Standardization Program

Standardization laws establish minimum standards for maturity, quality, size, standard container and pack, and container markings. The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) and our staff enforce standards at the local level. Inspections take place in fields and packinghouses, at wholesale markets retail distribution centers, and retail outlets.

Premises Visited	100
Lots Inspected	2,062
Citrus Maturity Tests Conducted	20

Bulk Citrus Program

The pests known as Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and Huanglongbing (HLB) present a real and ongoing threat to the agricultural industry, environment and economy of the State of California. In response to this threat, growers, transporters and packing houses of bulk citrus are required to work under Compliance Agreements (CA) with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for assisting and educating industry members, performing inspections at orchards, bulk citrus packing/handling facilities, and issuing enforcement actions to ensure that compliance is being met. Through these efforts and various mitigation methods, the risk of unintentional movement of ACP has been greatly reduced.

New CA's Issued	99
CA's Updated	62
Total CA's Reviewed	161
Compliance Inspections*	45
Notices of Violation Issued	6
NOPA's Issued	1

DOMESTICALLY GROWN EXPORTS OF FRUITS & VEGETABLES BY VENTURA COUNTY IN 2018



LEMONS



CELERY



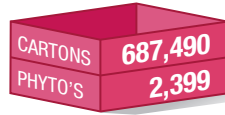
STRAWBERRY



AVOCADO



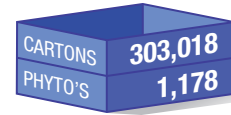
SPINACH



RASPBERRY



LETTUCE



BLUEBERRY



TOMATO



BOK CHOY



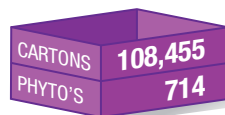
ORANGE



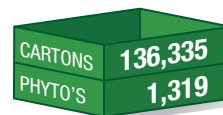
CILANTRO



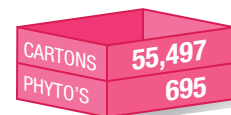
LEEK



CABBAGE



KALE



RADISH



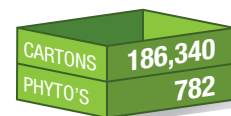
CARROTS



CUCUMBER



BEEF



GREEN ONION



PARSLEY



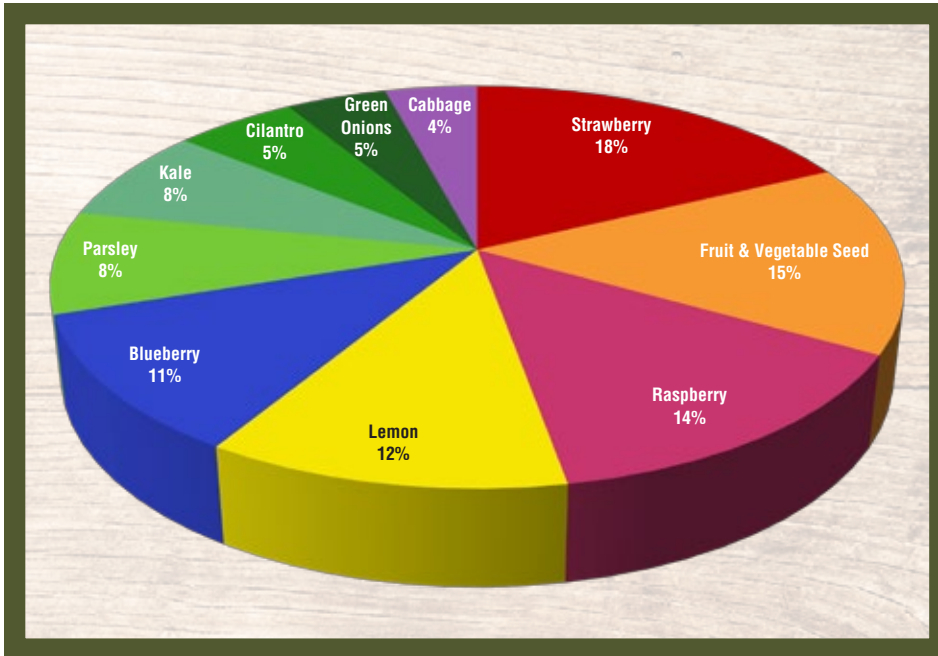
ENDIVE/ESCAROLE



BROCCOLI

The number of phytosanitary certificates for these commodities totaled 17,190. This is higher than actual number of certificates issued. This can be accounted for by the fact that many of the certificates certified more than one crop. The total number of cartons includes "trays" and cases.

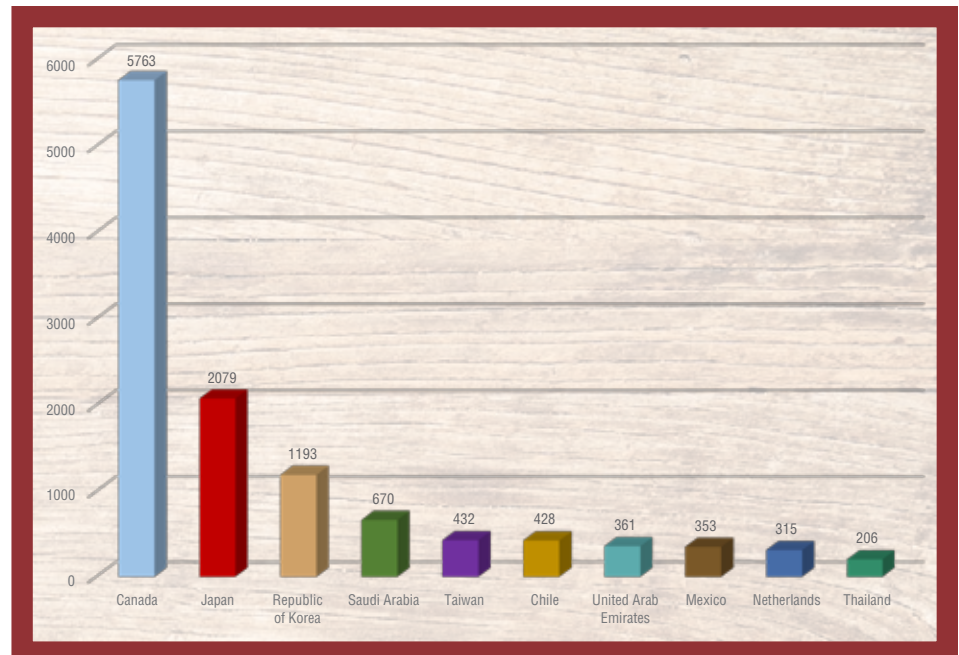
TOP 10 COMMODITIES EXPORTED



Commodity	# of Shipments including Commodity
Strawberry	3,070
Fruit & Vegetable Seed	2,630
Raspberry	2,399
Lemon	1,988
Blueberry	1,913
Parsley	1,413
Kale	1,320
Cilantro	940
Green Onions	782
Cabbage	717

TOP 10 LEADING EXPORT COUNTRIES

Country Exported To	# of Exports
Canada	5,763
Japan	2,079
Republic of Korea	1,193
Saudi Arabia	670
Taiwan	432
Chile	428
United Arab Emirates	361
Mexico	353
Netherlands	315
Thailand	206



Countries exported to (in descending order): Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Chile, United Arab Emirates, Mexico, Netherlands, Thailand, Brazil, Philippines, China, Kuwait, Peru, Australia, Argentina, Panama, Qatar, Guatemala, Honduras, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Costa Rica, India, Colombia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, French Polynesia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Pakistan, Ecuador, Indonesia, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Oman, Vietnam, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guadeloupe, Plurinational State of Bolivia, France, Barbados, Kenya, Spain, Turkey, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt, Cambodia, Israel, Grenada, Lebanon, Belize, Algeria, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Ukraine, Curaçao, Iraq, Hungary, Morocco, Tunisia, Uruguay, Italy, Greece, Paraguay, Georgia, Germany, Malaysia, Romania, Bahrain, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Serbia, Haiti, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Zambia, Cyprus, Myanmar, United Kingdom, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

These numbers include the total number of exports (domestic and foreign grown commodities) that were exported from Ventura County in 2018.

PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT REGULATORY PROGRAM BY CALENDAR YEAR

PERMITS AND OPERATOR ID'S

Calendar Year	Agricultural Permits	Non-Agricultural Permits	Operator ID's
2016	337	77	376
2017	314	78	369
2018	292	78	294

Permits are required to apply Restricted Materials, a subset of more tightly regulated pesticides. Operator ID Numbers are issued to growers not using Restricted Materials, for pesticide use reporting.

ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES

Calendar Year	Agricultural Civil Penalties	Structural Civil Penalties	Compliance Actions	Decision Reports
2016	19	5	50	6
2017	4	3	47	17
2018	9	13	47	4

Civil Penalties are fines levied. Compliance Actions are measures, such as violation notices or letters of reprimand which give notice of non-compliance but do not impose a penalty. Decision Reports are a type of Compliance Action in which the Ag Commissioner is required to justify to the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation why it is not administering a penalty.

INVESTIGATIONS

Calendar Year	Investigations Completed
2016	82
2017	78
2018	59

These represent all investigations of suspected misuse of pesticides, including agricultural, other commercial, and home use.

NOI'S AND PRE-APPLICATION INSPECTIONS

Calendar Year	NOI's Received	Pre-Application Inspections	Percent Pre-Application Monitored
2016	2,111	184	8.7 %
2017	2,539	161	6.3 %
2018	2,628	227	8.6 %

Notices of Intent (NOI's) are sent to the Ag Commissioner before the use of a pesticide requiring a permit. All are carefully evaluated. The state of CA requires the Ag Commissioner to do a site inspection of at least 5% of these prior to application. NOI numbers often go up when new pesticides are classed as Restricted Materials.

INSPECTIONS

Calendar Year	Agricultural & Non-Agricultural	Structural (Buildings)
2016	318	69
2017	388	73
2018	567	113

Increased Pesticide Use Enforcement staffing resulted in more inspections in 2018.

Organic Challenges & Benefits



I have been growing Organic foods for about twelve years now. I used to work for an Organic strawberry farming company, and I grew Organic strawberries for them. But now, I work for my family's business and have been here about ten years. We grow Organic strawberries, celery, spinach, cilantro and peppers. This celery crop was grown Organically. We hire a Pest Control Advisor to monitor the fields on a regular basis to watch for flairs ups. When pests reach critical levels a recommendation to spray for the targeted pest is made. During the Organic pepper growing season, we released beneficial insects to prevent certain pests from damaging the crop, and also during the Organic strawberry season, we released beneficial mites to keep the problem mites down to an acceptable level. I have heard people say fruits like oranges where you have a peel around it are not as critical to be Organic, but, with fruits like strawberries where you eat the fruit with direct spray contact and root crops which absorb the materials into the edible portion, it seems more important to the consumer. Choosing to grow Organic can be costly and challenging. You seek the opportunity when the markets prices can cover the higher cost of growing which includes more Organic fertilizer, Organic pesticides, and weeding costs than non-Organic farming. In order for farming to be sustainable the environment needs to be protected, employees need fair wages, and crops need to show a profit.

Hank Laubacher Jr.
Laubacher Farms



Ventura County
AGRICULTURAL
Commissioner

Serving Ventura County Since 1895

www.ventura.org/agricultural-commissioner

Office of Agricultural Commissioner • 555 Airport Way, Suite E • Camarillo, CA 93010

Telephone (805) 388-4343 • FAX (805) 388-4331