

Department of Agriculture

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Contra Costa County



Chad Godoy

Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

Date: October 28, 2014

To: John M. Gioia, Supervisor District 1
Candace Andersen, Supervisor District 2
Mary N. Piepho, Supervisor District 3
Karen Mitchoff, Supervisor District 4
Federal D. Glover, Supervisor District 5

From: Chad Godoy 
Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures

Re: Contra Costa County 2013 Annual Crop Report

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the "Contra Costa County 2013 Annual Crop Report". This report, along with the attached press release will be sent out upon your approval.

Please contact my Executive Secretary, Roxann Crosby at 646-5250 or roxann.crosby@ag.cccounty.us if you wish to have additional copies of this report for your office. If you have any questions regarding the report, I can be reached at the same number.

For additional information call:
Ralph Fonseca (925) 646-5250

We are pleased to announce the completion of the 2013 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County.

The total gross value of Contra Costa agricultural crops and products in 2013 was \$96,811,700. This represents an increase of 6.4% over the previous year or a \$5,840,000 increase in gross revenue. In general, demand and prices have remained relatively strong for most agricultural crops grown in Contra Costa County.

Brentwood's famous sweet corn continues to be in high demand nationwide; however production levels have not been able to keep up with increased demand due to the lack of available cropland in East County. Brentwood's fresh market green beans continue to show an increase in acreage due to strong demand for high quality specialized products. Non irrigated grain crop yields were down due to the lack of rainfall during the growing season.

Some notable changes in crop values include: vegetable and seed crops increased 17%; cattle and calves increased 16% and nursery products increased 72%. The 2013 cherry crop value declined 12% due to lower yields caused by weather and other environmental factors.

Several crop categories exceeded \$1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include cattle and calves, sweet corn, tomatoes, grapes, miscellaneous vegetables, field corn, rangeland pasture, alfalfa, beans, cherries, walnuts, peaches, irrigated pasture, wheat grain and miscellaneous field crops.

Organic production has shown an increase in acreage due to increased consumer demand for natural products. Farmer's markets are expanding in numbers as consumers continue to shift toward high quality locally produced fruits, nuts and vegetables. A total of 36 Certified Farmer's Markets were operating in Contra Costa County in 2013.

CDFA's promotion of state and local products has shown great success with the marketing of specialized crops. Specialized crops provide opportunity for smaller family operated farms to survive in an ever changing economic environment. Continued promotion and support from Federal, State and Local government will be key in reversing the decline of Family Farms.

Copies of the 2011 Agricultural Crop Report may be obtained from the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture. The Concord office is located at 2366A Stanwell Circle, Concord, CA 94520, (925) 646-5250. The East County office is located at 3020 Second Street, Knightsen, (925) 427-8610.

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