



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT & 2019 CALENDAR

2017



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Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer's Letter

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

I am pleased to submit the 2017 Agricultural Crop Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

The total gross value of agricultural crops in 2017 was \$120,441,000 which is a decrease of \$7,615,000 or 6% from 2016. In general, demand and prices have remained strong for agricultural crops in Contra Costa County.

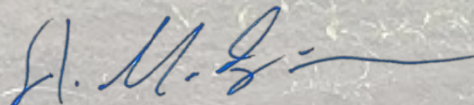
Crop values vary from year to year due to factors such as production, weather, and market conditions. Some notable changes include a 31% increase in nursery product value and a significant decrease of 43% of field crop values. Livestock and livestock product values remained largely unchanged with a small increase in production values of almost \$1,000,000. Approximately 2.5% or 4,861 acres of the total cultivated acreage was farmed organically on 15 farms.

Several crop categories exceeded one million dollars in value. These categories in decreasing order include cattle and calves, tomatoes, sweet corn, grapes, miscellaneous vegetables, cherries, rangeland, walnuts, irrigated pasture, field corn, peaches and alfalfa hay.

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.

I truly appreciate the agricultural producers and organizations that shared information and supported our efforts in completing this report. Special recognition goes to all of the staff who assisted in compiling this information to make this report possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Humberto Izquierdo
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

Contra
Costa
County



Mission Statement

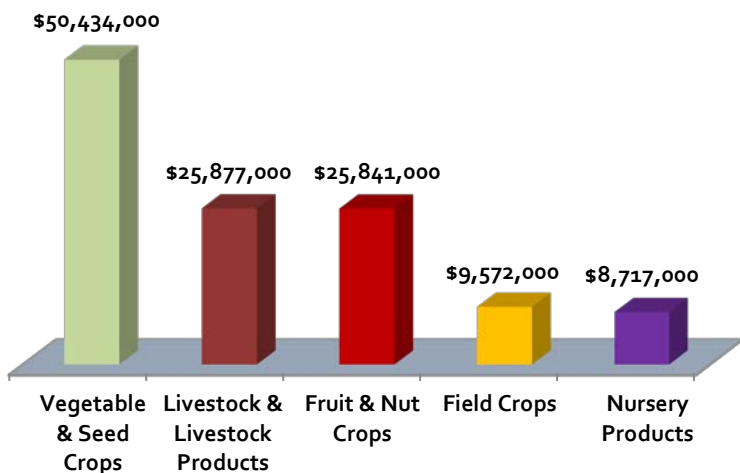
The Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture, under the direction of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Pesticide Regulation, and Division of Measurement Standards, is responsible for conducting regulatory and service activities pertaining to the agricultural industry 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. Our work as County Weights and Measures officials in the community ensures a safe place to live and a fair marketplace for trade.



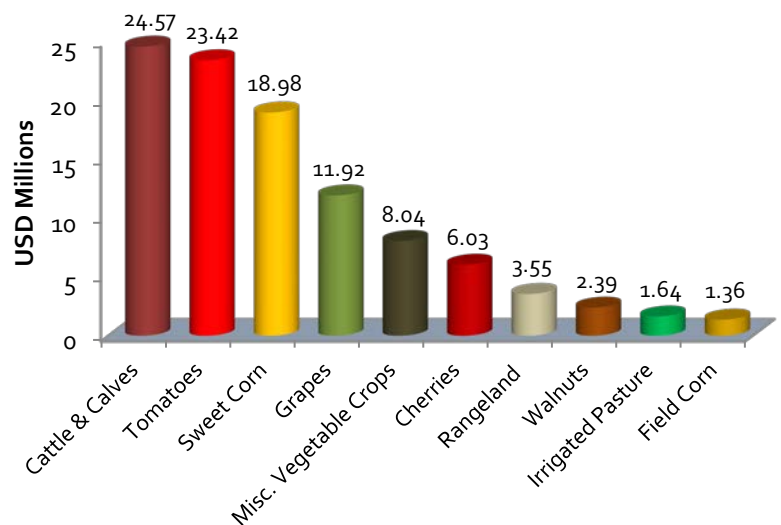
January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Gross Production Values by Category



Leading Crops





February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



Production Summary

Category	Gross Value		Change in Gross Value	Total Cultivated Acreage		Change in Acreage	Ranking	
	2017	2016	%	2017	2016	%	2017	2016
Vegetable & Seed Crops	\$50,434,000	\$53,908,000	-6	9,161	8,977	2	1	1
Livestock & Livestock Products	\$25,877,000	\$24,981,000	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	3
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$25,841,000	\$25,673,000	1	4,234	4,183	1	3	2
Field Crops	\$9,572,000	\$16,845,000	-43	185,993	197,405	-6	4	4
Nursery Products	\$8,717,000	\$6,649,000	31	23	21	10	5	5
Total	\$120,441,000	128,056,000	-6	199,411	210,586			



March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Vegetable & Seed Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Tons Harvested	Value Per Ton	Total Value ¹
Tomatoes ²	2017	4,512	46.39 tons	209,300	various	\$23,415,000
	2016	3,520	48.01 tons	169,000		\$19,987,000
Sweet Corn	2017	3,500	10.70 tons	37,500	\$506	\$18,975,000
	2016	4,026	11.00 tons	44,300	\$525	\$23,258,000
Misc. ³	2017	1,149	various	various	various	\$8,044,000
	2016	1,431				\$10,663,000
Total	2017	9,161				\$50,434,000
	2016	8,977				\$53,908,000

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

² Includes fresh and processing tomatoes.

³ Includes asparagus, artichokes, beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cardoon, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, ginseng, kohlrabi, lettuce, okra, onions, greens, herbs, melons, mushrooms, peas, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, squash, and wheat grass.



April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Livestock & Livestock Products

Commodity	Year	Number of Head	Total Live Weight	Value Per CWT	Total Value ¹
Cattle & Calves	2017	22,289	185,053 lbs.	\$133	\$24,572,000
	2016	19,257	169,134 lbs	\$138	\$23,267,000
Apiary Products ²	2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$424,000
	2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$414,000
Misc. Livestock ³	2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$881,000
	2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$1,300,000
Total	2017				\$25,877,000
	2016				\$24,981,000

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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

Asparagus in Contra Costa County

Asparagus has a long history in Contra Costa County. It was first planted in the 1850's in the San Joaquin Delta region of California, where it flourished in the peat soils. This relatively salt tolerant crop grows well when there is a high water table and soil rich in organic matter. The earliest county crop report of 1939 stated an asparagus cultivation area of 7,100 acres.

Harvesting and packing asparagus, which produces spears between February and May, are very labor intensive. Asparagus is capable of growing three to six inches on a warm day, and produces market-ready spears in a 24-hour period. During the prime growth season, workers must hand-harvest the asparagus every day for market.

The decline of the asparagus industry in California is closely tied to the high harvest and post-harvest labor requirements. About 75% of the cost of asparagus production is due to labor costs¹. Rising wage requirements, combined with an overall shortage of farm workers, have made it difficult to hire workers able to harvest and pack the asparagus. At the same time, changing market forces have led to an influx of cheap imported asparagus. In the past, the US applied a 25% tariff on imported asparagus between February and June, which protected the California asparagus industry from cheaper asparagus grown in countries with lower labor costs. The loss of this protection, combined with rising labor costs, have resulted in an increase in imported asparagus from 10.8% of US consumption in 1980 to 91.2% in 2015¹.

Today, there is one asparagus grower left in Contra Costa County who sells solely at the Certified Farmers' Markets. While the total acreage in asparagus production has dwindled to less than fifty acres, those lucky enough to find the asparagus at their local Farmers' Market can still taste the fresh asparagus once common to the Delta region.

¹ Satran, J. (2015). Most of your asparagus comes from abroad these days. Here's why. *Huffington Post*. Retrieved from https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/10/asparagus-farms-california_n_7029836.html

¹ Burfield, T. (2017). The continuing decline of U.S. asparagus. *The Packer*. Retrieved from <https://www.thepacker.com/article/continuing-decline-us-asparagus>



June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

U-Pick Farms



<http://harvest4you.com>



5 Star Cherries – Enos Family	Cherries	Mangini Farms	Cherries
Annie's Happy Farm	Apricots, Cherries, Peaches, etc.	McKinney Farms	Nectarines, Peaches
Bacchini's Fruit Tree	Apricots, Cherries, Peaches, etc.	Mike's U-Pick	Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches
Berry Best Farm	Blackberries, Strawberries	Moffatt Ranch	Nectarines, Peaches
Bloomfield Cherries	Cherries	Nunn Better Farms	Cherries
Canciamilla Ranch	Nectarines, Peaches, Plums	Orchard & Vine	Cherries
Chan's Fruit Stand	Blackberries, Strawberries	Papa's U-Pick Cherries	Cherries
Chavez U-Pick Cherries	Cherries	Papini Family Orchards	Cherries
Cherry Time	Cherries	Pease Ranch	Blackberries, Cherries
DC's Extraordinary Cherries	Cherries	Peterwolfe.com	Peaches
De Jesus Ranch	Cherries	Pomeroy Farm	Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches
Farmer John's Cherry Farm	Cherries	Rancho Zaragoza	Apricots, Nectarines, Peaches, etc.
Freitas Ranch Cherries	Cherries	RC U-Pick Cherries	Cherries
G & S Farms	Cherries	Salvador Family Farm	Cherries
Gursky Ranch County Store	Pomegranates, Walnuts	Seko Ranch Cherries	Cherries
Heritage Family Farm	Blue + Black Berries, Cherries	Smith Family Farm	Apricots, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums, etc
Kelsey Cherry Pickin' Farm	Cherries	Stoney Family Farms	Cherries
Laird Ranch	Cherries	The Farmer's Daughter	Apples, Apricots, Nectarines, Peaches
Lopez Ranch	Cherries	The Stand at Knightsen	Apricots
Maggiore Cherry Ranch	Cherries	Vornhagen Farms	Cherries
Maggiore Ranches	Cherries	Wolfe Ranch Cherries	Cherries



July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Certified Farmers' Markets (CFM)

In 2017, Contra Costa County Agricultural Department certified 22 farmers' markets, issued 60 Contra Costa Certified Producer's Certificates, and conducted 99 market inspections.



Currently operating Farmers' Markets in Contra Costa County:

CFM Name / Location	Day	CFM Name / Location	Day
Alamo	Sun	Oakley	Sat
Antioch Kaiser	Thu	Orinda	Sat
Brentwood	Sat	Pinole	Sat
Clayton	Sat	Pittsburg	Sat
Concord	Tue + Thu	Pleasant Hill	Tue
Danville	Sat	Richmond	Fri
Diablo Valley Shadelands	Sat	Rossmoor	Fri
El Cerrito	Tue + Sat	San Ramon Bishop Ranch 2	Sat
Kensington	Sun	San Ramon Bishop Ranch 3	Thu
Martinez	Sun	Walnut Creek Kaiser	Tue
Moraga	Sun	Walnut Creek	Sun



August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Fruit & Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Harvested Tons	Value Per Ton	Total Value ¹
Apricots	2017	125	2.85 tons	356	\$3,206	\$1,141,000
	2016	101	5.15 tons	520	\$2,063	\$1,073,000
Cherries	2017	566	2.99 tons	1,680	\$3,591	\$6,033,000
	2016	580	1.48 tons	858	\$4,660	\$3,998,000
Grapes	2017	2,545	5.05 tons	12,900	\$924	\$11,920,000
	2016	2,499	5.05 tons	12,600	\$1,096	\$13,810,000
Nectarines	2017	27	5.28 tons	143	\$2,835	\$405,000
	2016	31	5.73 tons	176	\$2,712	\$483,000
Olives	2017	174	2.50 tons	435	\$885	\$385,000
	2016	158	2.13 tons	337	\$876	\$295,000
Peaches	2017	101	4.57 tons	463	\$2,652	\$1,228,000
	2016	125	5.88 tons	735	\$2,491	\$1,831,000
Plums & Pluots	2017	42	4.92 tons	207	\$2,326	\$481,000
	2016	38	5.46 tons	207	\$3,234	\$669,000
Walnuts	2017	474	1.93 tons	915	\$2,610	\$2,388,000
	2016	450	2.28 tons	1,030	\$1,776	\$1,829,000
Miscellaneous ²	2017	184	various	various	various	\$1,860,000
	2016	201				\$1,685,000
Total	2017	4,234				\$25,841,000
	2016	4,183				\$25,673,000

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

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





September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Field Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Tons Harvested	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value ¹
Alfalfa Hay	2017	1,774	3.75	6,650	Ton	\$167.51	\$1,114,000
	2016	1,909	4.16	7,940		\$155.70	\$1,236,000
Cereal Hay	2017	1,542	2.42	3,730	Ton	\$103.00	\$384,000
	2016	2,917	4.54	13,200		\$55.38	\$731,000
Field Corn	2017	2,781	3.16	8,790	Ton	\$155.15	\$1,364,000
	2016	7,408	3.92	29,000		\$153.55	\$4,453,000
Irrigated Pasture	2017	5,450	n/a	n/a	Acre	\$300.00	\$1,635,000
	2016	5,450				\$300.00	\$1,635,000
Rangeland	2017	169,000	n/a	n/a	Acre	\$21.00	\$3,549,000
	2016	169,000				\$21.00	\$3,549,000
Wheat	2017	2,943	1.35	3,970	Ton	\$152.38	\$605,000
	2016	3,063	2.06	6,310		\$183.68	\$1,159,000
Misc. ²	2017	2,503	various	various	var.	various	\$921,000
	2016	7,658				various	\$4,082,000
Total	2017	185,993					\$9,572,000
	2016	197,405					\$16,845,000



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

² Includes barley, corn silage, forage hay, hay (wild), rye, safflower, silage, straw, Sudan grass, and sorghum.



October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Nursery Production

Commodity	Year	Greenhouse Production	Field Production	Total Value ¹
Flowers & Foliage	2017	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2016	26,000 sq.ft.	n/a	\$20,000
Nursery Products ²	2017	49,300 sq.ft.	23.0 acres	\$8,717,000
	2016	39,725 sq.ft.	21.0 acres	\$6,629,000
Total	2017			\$8,717,000
	2016			\$6,649,000

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, Cut Flowers.



November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Thanksgiving Day		



Pest Detection

Insect Pest	Total No. of Traps	Total Trap Servicing	Insect Pest	Total No. of Traps	Total Trap Servicing
Asian Citrus Psyllid	855	4,570	Japanese Beetle	704	4,834
General Fruit Fly	885	27,419	Mediterranean Fruit Fly	853	13,426
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter	818	14,201	Melon Fly	836	10,097
Gypsy Moth	703	5,010	Oriental Fruit Fly	913	14,349



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				



Pest Exclusion

Post Office/UPS/FedEx – Package Inspections	5,405
Truck Shipment Inspections from within California	1,867
Truck Shipment Inspections from other States	173
Household Goods Inspections for Gypsy Moth	68
Non-native Pest Interceptions	12
Canine Detection Non-native Pest Interceptions ¹	231
Quarantine Pest, Certification and Markings Rejections	123

¹ Interceptions in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Yolo Counties



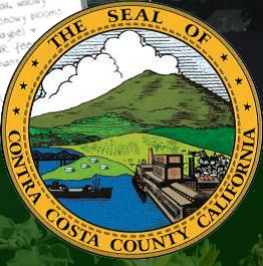
Pest Management

Weed Pest	Sites Surveyed	Acres Treated	Acres Surveyed	Control Method
Artichoke Thistle	44	45.5	41,714	Chemical
Purple Starthistle	19	5.8	2,539	Chemical





<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/1542/Agriculture-Weights-Measures>



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Department of Agriculture Weights & Measures

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