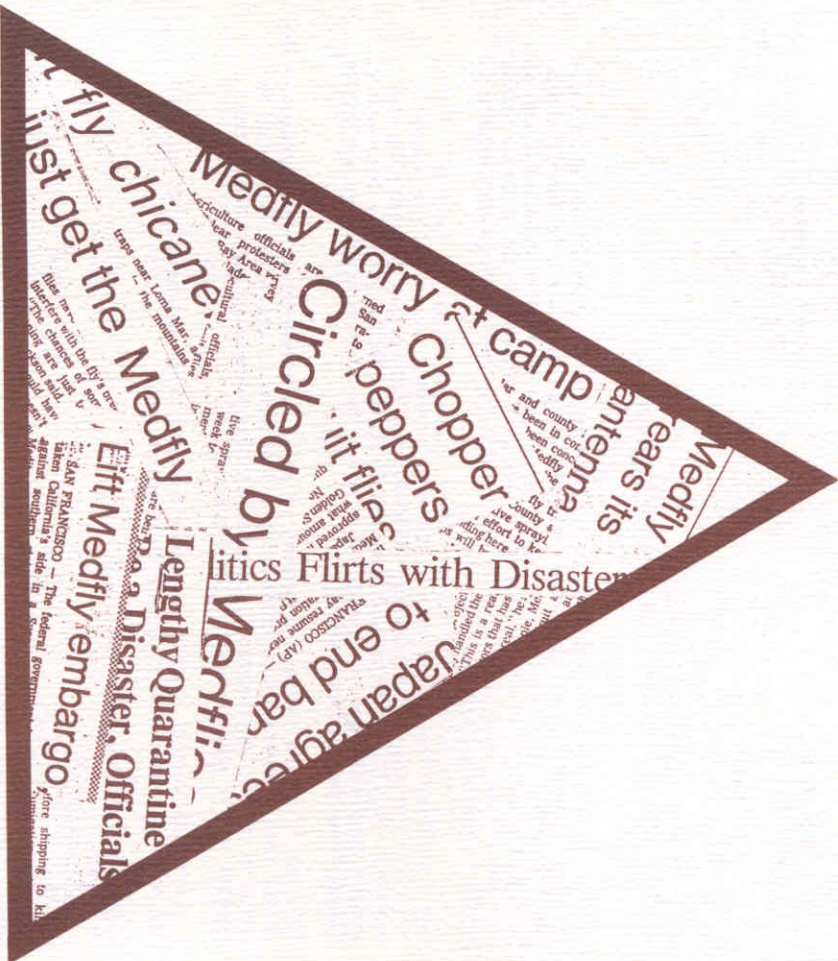


County Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 637
San Luis Obispo, Calif 93406

San Luis Obispo County
AGRICULTURAL REPORT
1981



EARL R. KALAR,
Commissioner



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

P.O. BOX 637 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93406 • (805) 549-5910 549-5911

COUNTY AIRPORT • EDNA ROAD

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Agricultural production for 1981 in San Luis Obispo is estimated at 191 million dollars. These figures are grower receipts and do not take into consideration inflationary costs. In fact, growers' spiraling production expenses often outstripped returns from crops. The vegetable crop segment of the county's industry had the largest value due to relatively stable demand and reasonable pricing of their commodities throughout the year.

San Luis Obispo County, as well as the entire state, recognized the essential need for a strong pest exclusion, detection and eradication program with the advent of Medfly. Industry and citizens in participation with the Agricultural Commissioner developed and conducted an effective program protecting our county from foreign pest introductions.

This year's report includes a summary of major departmental accomplishments during 1981. We hope this information will assist in providing the public an overview of the Commissioner's responsibilities concerning agriculture, the general public and the county's environment.

I personally want to thank the agricultural community and members of my staff for their assistance in preparing this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl R. Kalar

Earl R. Kalar
Agricultural Commissioner

ERK:jn

CROP	VEGETABLE CROPS: Acreage, Production, Value 1980-1981		SEED AND NURSERY STOCK 1980-1981		VALUE	
	Year	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Production (Sq. Ft.)		Total
Beans, (Snap)	1981 1980	522 393	307 339	160,254 133,227	30# 30#	\$ 1,277,000 886,000
Broccoli	1981 1980	4,197 3,909	408 304	1,712,376 1,188,336	23# 23#	10,274,000 6,536,000
Cabbage	1981 1980	1,094 1,019	721 751	788,774 765,269	45# 45#	3,691,000 2,434,000
Cauliflower	1981 1980	615 625	486 475	298,890 296,875	25# 25#	2,035,000 1,707,000
Celery	1981 1980	1,267 1,269	981 876	1,242,927 1,111,644	60# 60#	8,613,000 4,825,000
Chinese Vegetables	1981 1980**	647	739	478,133	80#	3,481,000
Lettuce (Iceburg)	1981 1980	8,616 8,527	762 710	6,565,392 6,054,170	50# 48#	34,009,000 23,309,000
Lettuce, (Leaf)	1981 1980	754 775	780 815	588,120 631,625	50# 50#	3,111,000 2,185,000
Peas (Edible Pod)	1981 1980*	1,600 950	85 55	136,000 52,250	45# 45#	5,508,000 1,575,000
Peppers, (Bell)	1981 1980	584 462	700 560	408,800 258,720	30# 30#	3,123,000 1,537,000
Romaine	1981 1980	691 355	765 711	528,615 252,405	60# 60#	2,929,000 989,000
Miscellaneous	1981 1980	1,370 1,605				6,738,000 5,516,000
TOTAL VEGETABLE CROP	1981 1980*	21,957 19,889				\$84,789,000 \$51,499,000
**Included in Miscellaneous in Previous Years						
SEED AND NURSERY STOCK 1980-1981						
CROP	Year	Harvested Acreage		Production (Sq. Ft.)	VALUE	
Cut Flowers	1981 1980			1,038,000 878,000	\$ 3,265,000 2,180,000	
Nursery	1981 1980	122 116		755,600 696,200	5,488,000 5,179,000	
Seed, Field (Crop & Flower)	1981 1980	256 1,063			229,000 487,000	
TOTAL SEED AND NURSERY STOCK	1981 1980	378 1,179		1,793,600 1,574,200	\$ 8,982,000 \$ 7,846,000	

FIELD CROPS: Acreage, Production, Value 1980-1981

CROP	Year	Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION		Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
			Per Acre	Total			Total	Total
Alfalfa Hay	1981	11,780	6.5	76,570	Ton	\$ 80.00	\$ 6,126,000	
	1980	12,123	6.3	76,375	Ton	100.79	7,698,000	
Barley	1981	90,000	1.3	117,000	Ton	130.00	15,210,000	
	1980	82,000	1.5	123,000	Ton	125.00	15,375,000	
Garbanzo	1981	3,600	6.1	21,960	Cwt	42.00	922,000	
	1980	3,842	8.5	32,657	Cwt	35.45	1,158,000	
Grain Hay	1981	12,000	2.1	25,200	Ton	50.00	1,260,000	
	1980	13,500	4.0	54,000	Ton	80.00	4,320,000	
Irrigated Pasture	1981	5,800			Acre	135.00	783,000	
	1980	6,000			Acre	125.00	750,000	
Safflower	1981	4,291	0.36	1,545	Ton	363.20	561,000	
	1980	4,161	0.37	1,540	Ton	280.00	431,000	
Sugar Beets	1981	1,547	20.9	32,332	Ton	31.02	1,003,000	
	1980	1,599	19.6	31,340	Ton	52.00	1,630,000	
Wheat	1981	68,000	0.9	61,200	Ton	145.00	8,874,000	
	1980	66,000	0.9	59,400	Ton	133.00	7,900,000	
Miscellaneous	1981	1,800					2,103,000	
	1980	1,810					2,515,000	
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	1981	198,818					\$36,847,000	
	1980	191,035					\$41,775,000	

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS: Acreage, Production, Value 1980-1981

CROP	Year	Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION		Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
			Per Acre	Total			Total	Total
Almonds	1981	6,154	0.095	585	Ton	\$2,500.00	\$ 1,465,000	
	1980	6,184	0.184	1,138	Ton	2,500.00	2,845,000	
Apples	1981	256	3.4	870	Ton	116.00	101,000	
	1980	251	3.4	853	Ton	357.00	305,000	
Avocados	1981	833	1.12	933	Ton	520.00	485,000	
	1980	737	0.54	398	Ton	1,929.00	768,000	
Grapes	1981	4,374	4.2	18,371	Ton	569.00	10,453,000	
	1980	3,957	3.3	13,058	Ton	529.00	6,908,000	
Lemons	1981	875	14.5	12,688	Ton	80.00	1,015,000	
	1980	875	472.0	413,000	Box	7.41	3,060,000	
Mainuts	1981	2,853	0.31	884	Ton	1,020.00	902,000	
	1980*	2,853	0.60	1,712	Ton	1,046.00	1,791,000	
Strawberries	1981	141	43,500.0	6,134,000	Lbs	0.41	2,515,000	
	1980	140	38,250.0	5,355,000	Lbs	0.38	2,035,000	
Miscellaneous	1981	216					1,115,000	
	1980	203					1,209,000	
TOTAL FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	1981	15,702					\$18,109,000	
	1980*	15,200					\$18,921,000	

*Revised

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: Production and Value 1980-1981

TYPE	Year	Number of Head	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Total	Total
Cattle and Calves	1981	94,000	517,000	Cwt	\$ 52.00	\$26,884,000	
	1980	72,000	396,000	Cwt	65.00	25,740,000	
Hogs	1981	7,700	17,325	Cwt	48.00	832,000	
	1980	8,000	18,000	Cwt	38.36	690,000	
Horses	1981	700		Each	1,500.00	1,050,000	
	1980	295		Each	1,400.00	413,000	
Poultry	1981	414,796	7,843,933	Lbs	0.41	3,216,000	
	1980	465,323	8,018,000	Lbs	0.39	3,127,000	
Sheep and Lambs	1981	12,600	12,094	Cwt	43.00	520,000	
	1980*	11,000	10,560	Cwt	47.37	500,000	
Miscellaneous	1981					3,250,000	
	1980					3,035,000	
TOTAL LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	1981					\$35,752,000	
	1980*					\$33,525,000	

*Revised

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS: Production and Value 1980-1981

PRODUCT	Year	Total	PRODUCTION	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Total	Total
Market Milk	1981	334,000		Cwt	\$13.57	\$4,532,000	
	1980*	348,520		Cwt	13.05	4,548,000	
Manufacturing Milk	1981**	730		Cwt	11.85	9,000	
	1980*						
Wool	1981	30,363		Lbs	0.84	25,500	
	1980	27,200		Lbs	0.80	21,800	
Honey	1981**	86,900		Lbs	0.50	43,500	
	1980						
Miscellaneous	1981					1,636,000	
	1980					1,865,000	
TOTAL LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	1981					\$6,193,500	
	1980*					\$6,487,300	

**Revised
**None Reported

ADMINISTRATION

The agency chief administers the functions of three departments, County Agriculture, Measurement Standards and the Air Pollution Control District. Extra time was devoted to Measurement Standards' responsibilities since Mr. Kalar was President of the state-wide Sealers' Association. In this capacity Kalar worked at developing federal laws guaranteeing true measure at the time of sale. This regulatory approach would prevent the consumer from paying for weight loss that occurs during shipping and storage.

Headway was also made on developing adequate and equitable funding sources for agency programs. Departmental record keeping requirements were computerized increasing accuracy, accountability and reducing the documentation time required of staff. Finally, in an effort to further enhance departmental performance, a strong staff development/training program was initiated.

Another area of management achievement included completion of a new departmental informational filing system.

PEST EXCLUSION AND DETECTION

Hectic best describes these functions during 1981. The Mediterranean Fruit Fly threat resulted in 4 biologists inspecting 1,500 traps countywide on a weekly basis during much of the year. Two sterile released flies were trapped in the winter months. During the summer and fall, industry was assisted through certification and preventative spray programs coordinated by the Commissioner's office.

Medfly wasn't the only problem; staff intercepted 31 other significant foreign pests while inspecting 4,977 shipments. One hundred twenty-three homeowners were assisted with identification, pest management information and a biological survey of their yards for exotic pests. Two of the county's feed grain mills developed systems and signed official agreements which reduced the chance of new weed and insect pests being introduced into the area. Also, the inconvenience to the mill operator of waiting for an inspection by the Agricultural Commissioner was eliminated.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Over 1/2 million acres representing 1,196 urban and rural properties were assisted by the office with their ground squirrel and other vertebrate pest problems. Advice, materials and supervision of these efforts by staff resulted in an effective problem-free program that adequately protected non-target wildlife.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of industry, the county was able to implement a new stringent state-mandated pesticide permit program. Many departmental programs were significantly affected due to the increased workload requirements generated from 804 permits, 5,329 notices of intent and 913 field inspections. Additionally, 79 thorough investigations were completed on reported accidents and citizen complaints concerning the use of pesticides.

Educational seminars to improve pesticide safety and pest control practices were conducted. These programs covered everything from handling chemical spills to developing and solving weed control problems in small grains. Much time was spent resolving the continuing land use conflicts that result from different cropping systems and urban encroachment.

Need projects included the sterilization along county road shoulders, treatment of weedy weeds and continued work on several eradication efforts. Klamath weed was declared eliminated from San Luis Obispo by the Commissioner. A multiyear effort was initiated to take care of a Quara infestation near Atascadero. Skeleton weed survey and integrated pest management techniques continued in an effort to reduce the impact and number of acres infested by this serious rangeland and grain pest.

INSPECTION SERVICES

Significant reductions occurred in this area of responsibility due to the Pesticide and Medfly program requirements. However, high level apiary complaints were processed, wholesale nurseries were inspected and some consumer protection was provided in the Fruit, Vegetable, Nut, Honey and Eggs program at the retail level.

Mutual efforts of the Commissioner offices of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara together with the agricultural industry resulted in an improved lettuce inspection program. The quality of field inspection increased in San Luis Obispo, departmental costs were reduced, and a better accounting/shipping system was implemented. Over 64 million lettuce containers were inspected, certified and shipped worldwide.

TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACREAGE: 1981 - 236,855
1980 - 227,303

COMPARISON OF VALUATIONS OF MAJOR GROUPS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS:						
ANIMAL INDUSTRY	FIELD CROPS	FRUIT & NUT CROPS	VEGETABLE CROPS	SEED & NURSERY STOCK	TOTAL VALUATIONS	
1972	26,645,400	10,668,840	2,029,600	22,276,300	435,700	62,055,840
1973	33,200,700	15,881,000	3,853,600	27,983,800	753,600	81,672,700
1974	25,839,900	23,377,300	4,952,600	28,256,700	1,941,000	84,367,500
1975	27,830,300	24,830,300	3,906,400	31,214,100	3,052,000	90,833,100
1976	26,167,500	19,585,500	6,443,840	34,999,600	6,185,000	93,381,440
1977	28,405,800	12,457,200	7,284,000	41,400,600	3,151,000	92,698,600
1978	31,400,000	20,646,000	10,255,000	60,664,000	5,195,000	128,160,000
1979	47,242,600	25,026,000	22,875,000	45,700,000	7,006,000	147,849,600
1980*	40,012,300	41,775,000	18,921,000	51,499,000	7,846,000	160,053,300
1981	41,945,500	36,842,000	18,109,000	84,789,000	8,982,000	190,667,500

*Revised

Compiled by the Agricultural Commissioner's Staff:

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Richard D. Greek

DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Stewart W. Williams

CLERICAL

Judy A. Noble
Linda L. Franco
Donna D. Woeste
Melaine M. Miller

PEST CONTROL OPERATOR

C. Nick Afana

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS

Warren E. Howell
Robert F. Lilley
Edward L. Ingram
Pamela E. Schlotter
Robert L. Hopkins
Carolyn J. Irwin
Janice M. Bise
Gloria C. Stultz
Carol L. Gunnarson
Charles B. Alender
Jacquelyn J. Crabb
Josephine N. Laine
Catherine Darling
Rolf F. DeCou
P. Kim Frank
Suzanne R. McCaslin