

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 1984



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE**  
and  
**MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**

# County Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

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Chief Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures  
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Deputy Agricultural Commissioner  
Stewart Williams

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner  
(Vacant)

Supervising Administrative Clerk  
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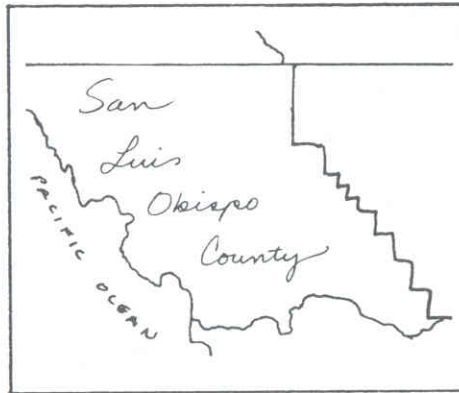
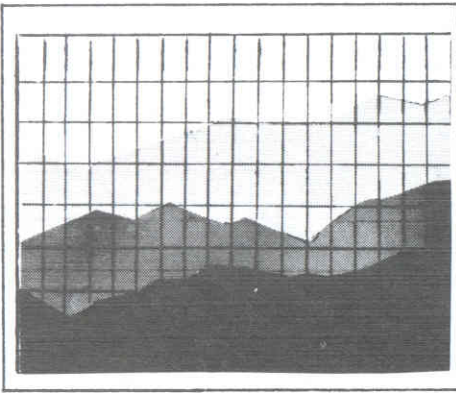
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## Administrative Services Staff

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## Weed Eradication Team

R. Michael Grainger  
Susan Ayres



# 20 YEARS OF AGRICULTURE

**TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors**

- Jerry Deifenderfer  
District One
- William Coy, Chairman  
District Two
- Evelyn Delany  
District Three
- Ruth Brackett  
District Four
- Carl Hysen  
District Five

**AND: Clare Berryhill, Director**  
California Department of  
Food and Agriculture

San Luis Obispo's farmers and ranchers produced agricultural commodities in 1984 with an estimated value of \$209,153,000. The overall value declined \$20,254,000 from 1983. Since this figure is based on gross receipts, it does not reflect the additional burden of increasing expenses incurred by agri-business.

Nineteen eighty-four was a difficult year for local agriculture. The following factors, by crop category, explain some of the problems:

**Field Crops.** Dryland crops were hit hard by the lack of rainfall after December 1983. Lowered production, when coupled with reduced prices, resulted in a significant decrease in overall value from past years.

**Fruit and Nut Crops.** Gross value was generally stable in this category.

**Vegetable Crops.** Vegetable prices took a sharp, across the board, reduction which resulted in decreasing crops values, even

though acreage and production levels were higher.

**Seed and Nursery Stock.** This was one area where county production and value increased modestly.

**Livestock and Poultry.** The overall value declined slightly based upon a reduction in herd size for cattle and the loss of the turkey industry.

On page eight we have provided an overview of land use and economic problems impacting local agriculture. Based on a recent report developed by the Giannini Foundation, staff created a graph illustrating the economic and population pressures affecting agriculture. Looking at three of our most consistently valued crops, you will note an increase in acreage and productivity. However, when adjusted for inflation, the prices per unit for those farm products have decreased over the last 20 years, while production costs have risen dramatically.

Our annual report also includes a financial statement regarding departmental operations. This is coupled with a description of Measurement Standards and Agricultural program activity and functions providing an overview of departmental responsibilities.

I wish to thank the agricultural community and my staff for their assistance in compiling this report.

Respectively submitted,

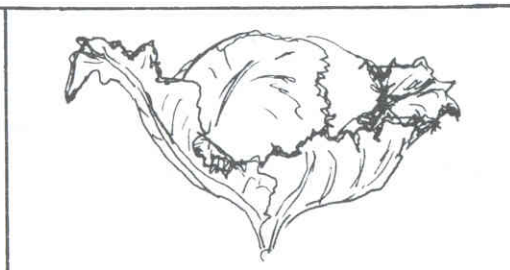
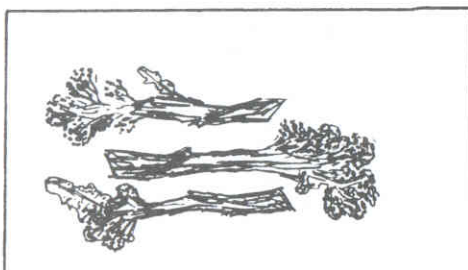
*Richard Greek*

Richard Greek  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

**The Cover:** San Luis Obispo's agricultural diversity is depicted by the Annual Reports published during the 20 years Earl R. Kalar was department head. The following resolution was presented upon his retirement.

Whereas, Earl R. Kalar was appointed as Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures for San Luis Obispo County on March 18, 1963; and Whereas, on May 7, 1963, Earl Kalar was also appointed as the County Air Pollution Control Officer and has carried out the duties of that office since; and Whereas, Earl Kalar has carried out his duties as an active and dedicated department head serving the citizens of San Luis Obispo County; and Whereas, Earl Kalar has developed programs beneficial to agriculture, business, the consumers and the environment; and Whereas, Earl Kalar has performed his duties as directed by this and previous Boards of Supervisors, and acted as consultant to the Board in his assigned areas of responsibility;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, that all should recognize Earl R. Kalar for his outstanding contribution to good government in San Luis Obispo County; and Be it further resolved, that Earl Kalar is thanked for his professional dedication and wished a long and productive retirement.



# FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	Year	Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION		Unit	Per Unit	TOTAL	
			Per Acre	Total			Per Unit	Total
Almonds-----	1984	5,979	0.042	251	Ton	\$1,600.00	\$	401,600
	1983	5,979	0.030	179	Ton	1,400.00		251,000
Apples-----	1984	306	3.0	918	Ton	320.00		293,800
	1983	256	5.1	1,306	Ton	348.00		454,500
Avocados-----	1984	1,523	1.19	1,812	Ton	540.00		978,500
	1983	1,523	0.68	1,036	Ton	624.00		646,500
Grapes, (Wine)-----	1984	5,477	4.3	23,551	Ton	398.00		9,373,000
	1983	4,977	3.9	19,410	Ton	432.00		8,385,000
Kiwifruit-----	1984	101	1.1	111	Ton	2,143.00		237,900
	1983	71	2.9	206	Ton	1,680.00		346,100
Lemons-----	1984	830	17.3	14,359	Ton	190.00		2,728,000
	1983	812	17.0	13,804	Ton	180.00		2,485,000
Walnuts-----	1984	2,975	0.49	1,458	Ton	778.00		1,134,000
	1983	2,775	0.33	916	Ton	651.00		596,000
Strawberries-----	1984	212	24.0	5,088	Ton	540.00		2,748,000
	1983	207	26.0	5,382	Ton	760.00		4,090,000
Miscellaneous-----	1984	394						1,538,000
	1983	340						1,679,000
TOTAL FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	1984	17,797						\$19,433,000
	1983	16,940						\$18,933,000

# FIELD CROPS

CROP	Year	Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION		Unit	Per Unit	TOTAL	
			Per Acre	Total			Per Unit	Total
Alfalfa Hay-----	1984	9,345	6.0	56,070	Ton	\$100.00	\$	5,607,000
	1983	9,619	6.4	61,562	Ton	103.00		6,341,000
Barley-----	1984	98,700	1.1	108,570	Ton	115.00		12,486,000
	1983	96,400	1.5	144,600	Ton	130.00		18,798,000
Garbanzo-----	1984	1,100	4.0	4,400	Cwt	33.00		145,200
	1983	2,403	7.0	16,821	Cwt	33.00		555,100
Grain Hay-----	1984	19,000	3.0	57,000	Ton	68.00		3,876,000
	1983	15,000	3.5	52,500	Ton	68.00		3,570,000
Grain Stubble, (Grazing)-----	1984	165,000			Acre	4.00		660,000
	1983	160,000			Acre	3.00		480,000
Irrigated Pasture-----	1984	5,750			Acre	140.00		805,000
	1983	5,500			Acre	138.00		759,000
Range, Dryland-----	1984	1,083,842			Acre	6.75		7,316,000
	1983	1,083,842			Acre	6.75		7,316,000
Safflower-----	1984	1,665	0.20	333	Ton	230.00		76,600
	1983	3,615	0.41	1,482	Ton	250.00		370,500
Sugar Beets-----	1984	761	24.7	18,797	Ton	30.98		582,300
	1983	595	23.7	14,102	Ton	32.45		457,600
Wheat-----	1984	22,000	0.5	11,000	Ton	115.00		1,265,000
	1983	27,500	1.5	41,250	Ton	135.00		5,569,000
Miscellaneous-----	1984	3,861						893,200
	1983	*3,700						*875,000
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	1984	1,411,024						\$33,712,000
	1983	*1,408,474						*\$45,091,000

\*Revised



# ANIMAL INDUSTRY

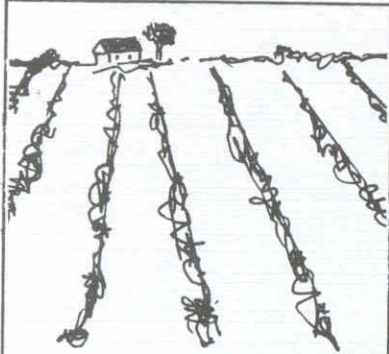
COMMODITY	Year	Number of Head	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Total	
Cattle and Calves-----	1984	87,000	522,000	Cwt	\$ 54.00	\$ 28,188,000	
	1983	92,000	529,000	Cwt	54.00	28,566,000	
Hogs -----	1984	6,292	13,244	Cwt	48.00	635,700	
	1983	5,050	10,478	Cwt	56.00	586,800	
Horse (work /Pleasure)-----	1984	1,200		Each	1,600.00	1,920,000	
	1983	700		Each	1,600.00	1,120,000	
(Race/Show/Investment)-----	1984	645		Each	29,500.00	19,028,000	
	1983	650		Each	28,000.00	18,200,000	
Turkeys -----	1983	401,647	8,335,620	Lbs	.40	3,334,000	
Market Milk -----	1984		370,000	Cwt	13.03	4,821,000	
	1983		366,000	Cwt	13.08	4,787,000	
Sheep and Lambs -----	1984	8,750	9,188	Cwt	63.00	578,800	
	1983	10,000	10,603	Cwt	61.00	646,800	
Wool -----	1984		93,000	Lbs	.40	37,200	
	1983		*91,000	Lbs	.39	*35,500	
Honey-----	1984		392,800	Lbs	.58	227,800	
	1983		407,100	Lbs	.55	223,900	
Miscellaneous -----	1984					2,772,000	
	1983					2,873,000	
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY	1984					\$ 58,209,000	
	1983					*\$60,373,000	

\*Revised

# VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	Year	Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION		Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
			Per Acre	Total			Total	
Beans, (Green) -----	1984	397	450	178,650	30#	\$ 7.79	\$ 1,392,000	
	1983	413	499	206,087	30#	8.33	1,717,000	
Broccoli -----	1984	4,313	441	1,902,033	23#	5.11	9,719,000	
	1983	4,315	432	1,864,080	23#	5.56	10,364,000	
Cabbage -----	1984	577	723	417,171	45#	4.34	1,811,000	
	1983	857	696	596,472	45#	3.68	2,195,000	
Carrots -----	1984	1,370	26	35,620	Ton	124.00	4,417,000	
	1983	1,270	880	1,117,600	48#	6.75	7,544,000	
Cauliflower -----	1984	1,234	518	639,212	25#	5.75	3,675,000	
	1983	1,009	446	450,014	25#	6.62	2,979,000	
Celery -----	1984	1,053	1,079	1,136,187	60#	5.25	5,965,000	
	1983	638	1,048	668,624	60#	7.13	4,767,000	
Chinese Vegetable -----	1984	756	717	542,052	80#	6.36	3,447,000	
	1983	812	682	553,784	80#	7.38	4,087,000	
Lettuce (Iceburg) -----	1984	9,793	549	5,376,357	50#	5.10	27,419,000	
	1983	9,460	578	5,467,880	50#	5.95	32,534,000	
Lettuce, (Leaf) -----	1984	518	838	434,084	50#	4.43	1,923,000	
	1983	778	763	593,614	50#	4.75	2,820,000	
Peas (Edible Pod) -----	1984	4,680	89	416,520	45#	43.89	18,281,000	
	1983	3,730	93	346,890	45#	48.00	16,651,000	
Peppers, (Bell) -----	1984	599	559	334,841	30#	5.71	1,912,000	
	1983	536	642	344,112	30#	6.82	2,347,000	
Romaine -----	1984	484	779	377,036	60#	4.26	1,606,000	
	1983	699	776	542,424	60#	5.22	2,831,000	
Miscellaneous -----	1984	1,722					5,836,000	
	1983	1,617					6,303,000	
TOTAL VEGETABLE CROP	1984	27,496					\$87,403,000	
	1983	26,134					\$97,139,000	





## NURSERY STOCK

CROP	Year	Harvested Acreage	Greenhouse Production (Sq. Ft)	VALUE
				Total
Cut Flowers -----	1984		1,181,000	\$ 3,682,000
	1983		524,200	2,903,000
Ornamentals -----	1984	36	148,000*	1,854,000
	1983	58		2,023,000
Fruit and Nut Trees--- Vegetable Transplants	1984	40		2,647,000
	1983	38		1,587,000
Indoor Decorative ----	1984		256,064	1,172,000
	1983		296,400	762,000
Cut Christmas Trees --	1984	141		230,600
	1983	125		*201,000
Miscellaneous -----	1984	10	75,000	405,000
	1983			395,400
TOTAL NURSERY STOCK	1984	227	1,660,064	\$9,991,000
	1983	221	820,600	*\$7,871,000

\*Revised, Restructured

## CROP SEED

CROP SEED	Year	Harvested Acreage	VALUE
Vegetable -----	1984	330	\$ 186,000
Oats -----	1984	2,000	200,000
Miscellaneous-----	1984	115	19,300
Total Crop Seed	1984	2,445	\$ 405,300

## TOTAL PRODUCTION ACREAGE

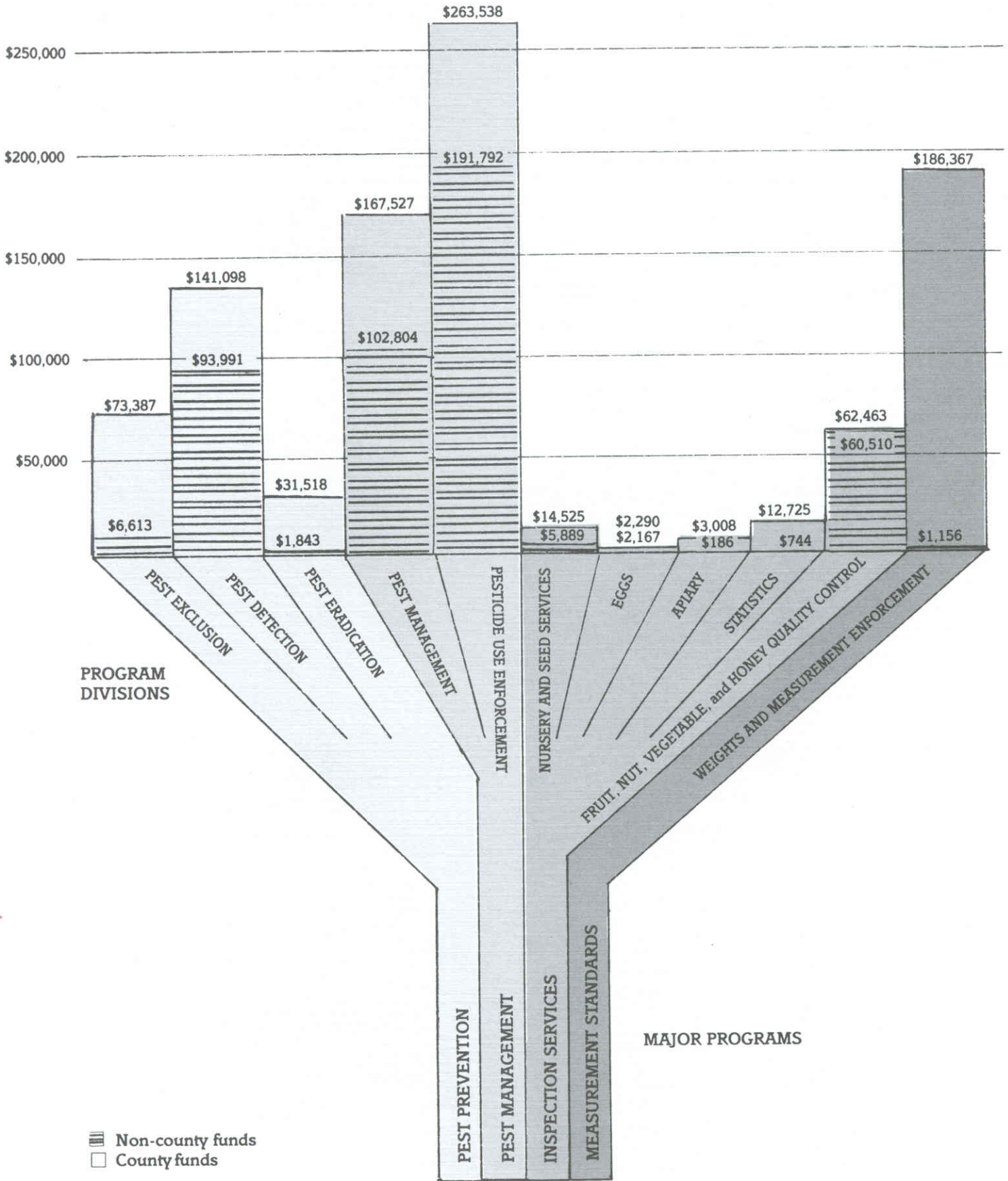
**1984: 1,458,989**  
**1983: 1,447,769**

## TEN YEAR VALUE COMPARISON

	ANIMAL INDUSTRY	FIELDS CROPS	FRUIT & NUT CROPS	VEGETABLE CROPS	NURSERY & SEED	TOTAL VALUATIONS
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
1982	58,998,000	39,825,000	21,317,000	78,510,000	9,509,000	208,159,000
1983	*60,373,000	*45,091,000	18,933,000	97,139,000	*7,871,000	*229,407,000
1984	58,209,000	33,712,000	19,433,000	87,403,000	10,396,000	209,153,000

\*Revised

# TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

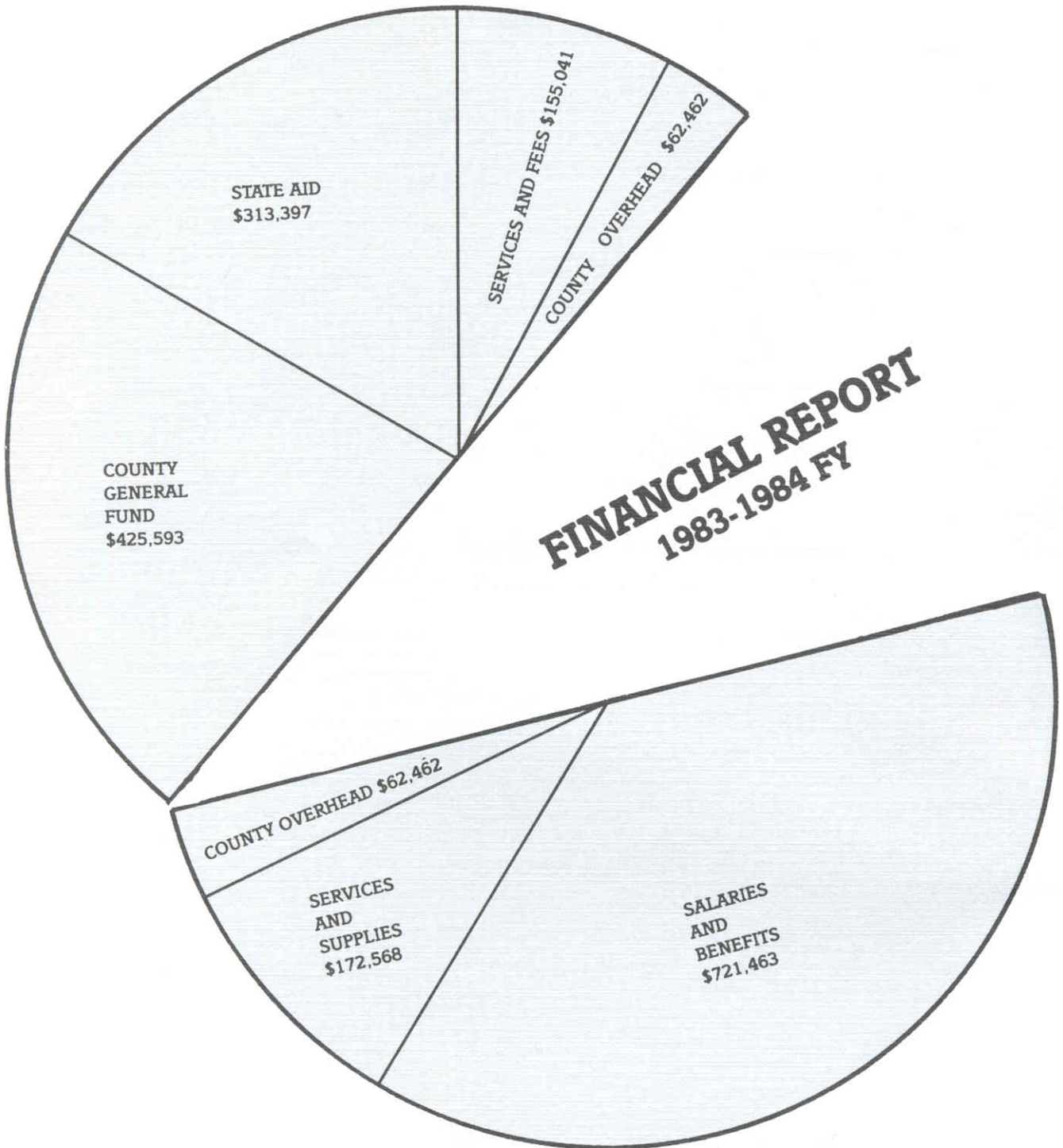


PROGRAM DIVISIONS

MAJOR PROGRAMS

Non-county funds  
 County funds

**FUNDING SOURCES**  
**\$956,493**



**EXPENDITURES**  
**\$956,493**



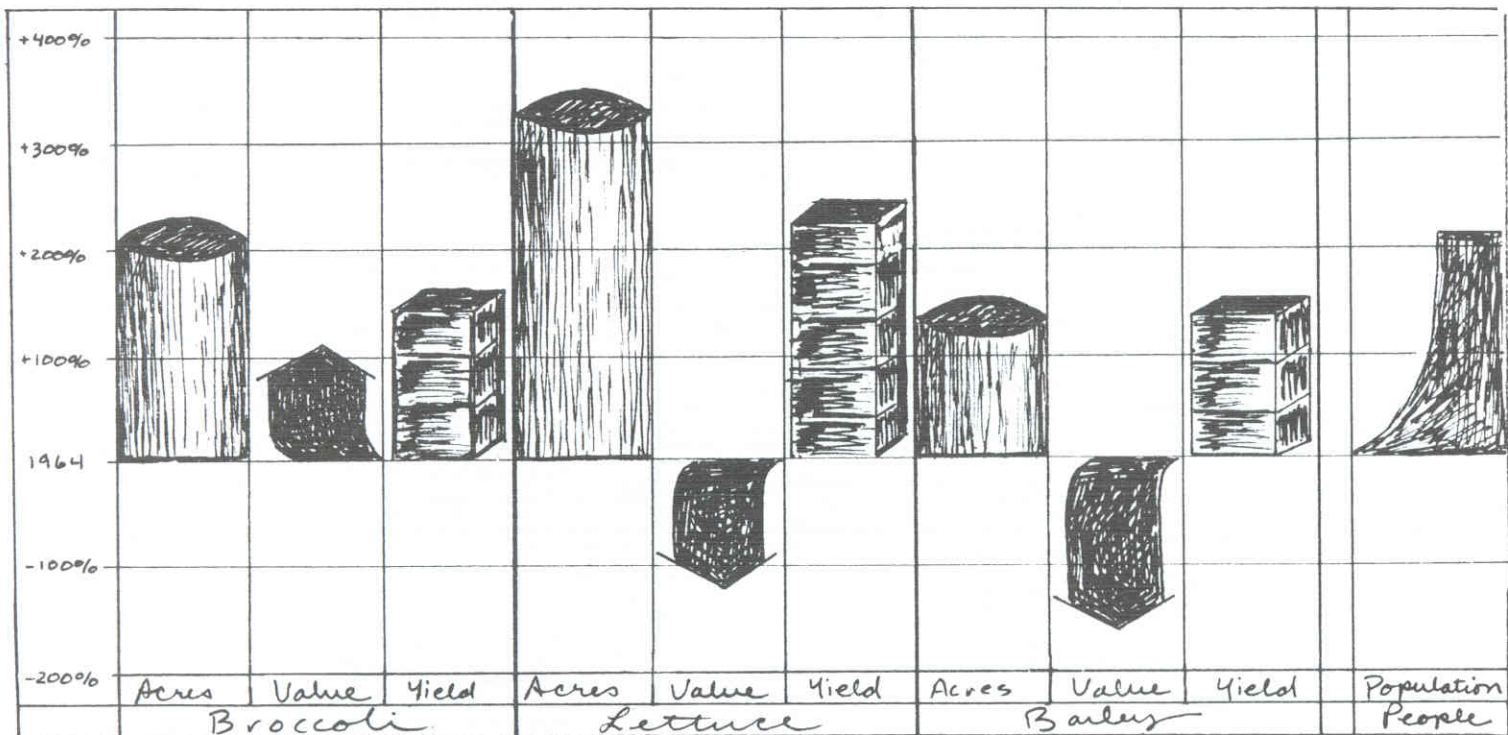
## SLO LEADING COUNTY

The three most significantly valued crops grown in San Luis Obispo County over the last 20 years are barley, head lettuce, and broccoli. Statewide, San Luis Obispo County placed first among all 52 counties for barley production, third for broccoli, and fourth for lettuce.\*

\*Summary of County Agricultural Commissioner Reports 1982 and 1983.

# 20 YEARS OF AGRICULTURE

## AGRICULTURAL CHALLENGES: 20 Years of Progress?



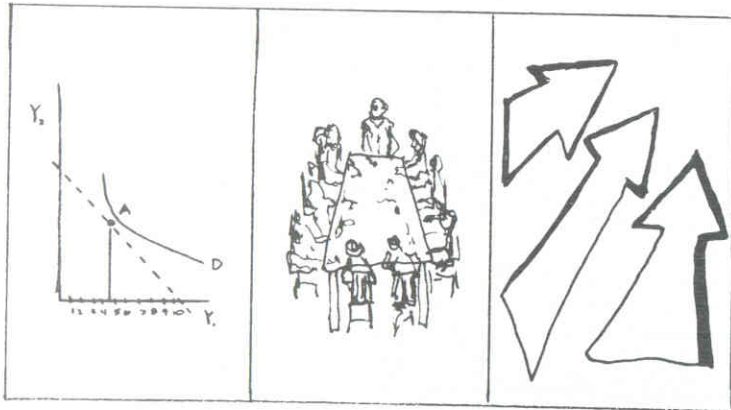
Inflationary value adjusted to 1982 dollars. Sources: Giannini Foundation, CDFA Annual Reports, San Luis Obispo County Annual Reports.

### LAND USE

During the twenty years represented in this report, San Luis Obispo County has been discovered as one of Southern California's last pristine coastal counties. This has resulted in an increased population and conversion of land for urban and rural residential purposes. Many acres of former prime soils are now encompassed within the city's Urban Reserve. Population growth, along with scattered ranches, has displaced traditional agriculture to areas with less favorable soils and environmental conditions.

In addition, many conflicting land use patterns are challenging

the agricultural industry, government officials, and the county's citizens. The agricultural industry in San Luis Obispo County is beginning to actively participate in solving the problems and informing the general public of its needs. Solutions will be developed only through hard work and compromise. Issues such as water, clean air, open space, property rights, prime soils, and the ability to produce a crop, are all complicated and encompass many varying special interest groups. The continuing production of food and fiber is critical to the county's health. Maintenance of a viable agricultural industry is in the best interest of everyone. Solving land use and economic problems will be the key to ensuring the future of our local farming and ranching community.



## Administration

The County Department of Agricultural/Measurement Standards and the Air Pollution Control District continued to improve service levels under the direction of Earl Kalar. Our staff development program resulted in three employees acquiring their Deputy Agricultural Commissioner's Certificates of Qualification. Facilities in San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles were upgraded, providing a more functional environment for supporting operations.

Another critical area that required significant planning was developing a transition process for the Pest Detection Insect Trapping Program from an emergency project to a permanent program. This process is expected to be complete by the end of the 85/86 FY. In other program areas, management continued to provide general support allowing staff to further improve performance and accountability.

## The Role of Measurement Standards

The Department of Measurement Standards, as mandated by California state law, is responsible for guaranteeing that equity prevails in all commercial transactions involving weight, measure or count. This responsibility is divided into six categories as explained below. Inspectors must be certified by the California State Department of Food and Agriculture's Division of Measurement Standards for each category in which they work.

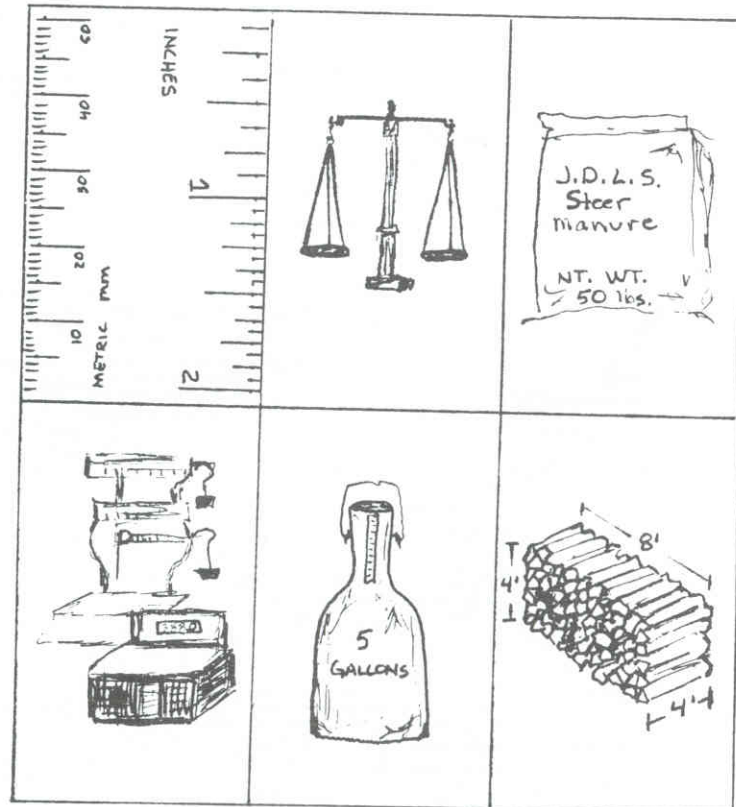
**Weighing Devices.** These are scales which are used commercially in the county and include jewelers scales, spring scales, check stand scales, platform scales, vehicle scales, hopper scales and livestock scales.

Weighing devices are tested using certified weights ranging from small milligram weights up to one thousand pound cast iron standards.

**Measuring Devices.** Measuring devices include the familiar retail meters found at service stations, wholesale meters, bulk truck meters, water meters, milk tanks, taxi meters and cordage meters.

All devices measuring in volumetric units are tested using calibrated containers or provers ranging in size from 1 to 600 gallons.

**Electric and Vapor Meters.** The department tests electric meters that are found in many mobile home parks where the park acts as a separate utility and is not under the jurisdiction of the public utilities commission. This condition also applies to vapor meters.



**Liquid Petroleum Gas Meters.** The department tests retail and wholesale LPG meters using a 20 and 100 gallon prover respectively.

**Weighmaster and Petroleum.** A licensed weighmaster is anyone who issues a certificate of weight or count for a commodity without the buyer being present. These certificates are directly involved in the transfer of millions of dollars every year and are subject to special laws and regulations.

The Petroleum Program is the enforcement of laws pertaining to the proper labeling of petroleum products, gasoline price sign advertising, and testing of gasoline samples for octane rating and adulteration.

**Package Inspection.** Packaged goods are regularly tested for stated weight, measure or count using statistical methods. Packages are also inspected for proper labeling.

**Department of Measurement Standards Achievements in 1984.** Measurement Standards staff inspected 2,547 devices, checked 51,391 packages and made 344 weighmaster and petroleum inspections.

**Special Effort.** The staff developed a test purchase program using undercover buys at retail markets to discover if overcharging was occurring. Increased surveillance of firewood deliveries was implemented to apprehend fraudulent wood dealers. These efforts have shown positive results, and we will continue to initiate new programs and approaches to meet problems which arise in the future.

# Major Accomplishments of Agricultural Commissioner

## PEST PREVENTION

The Pest Exclusion Program is the Commissioner's first line defense against the introduction of new pests. Inspection of 6,570 shipments resulted in 18 rejections which potentially could have introduced detrimental pests into the County. Additionally, 216 out-going agricultural shipments were inspected by staff biologists and certified for shipment to other states and counties.

The department orchestrated an effective pest prevention response to the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The three part plan was composed of public information about pest exclusion, pest detection surveys at high hazard locations throughout the county, and a pest eradication plan approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The Pesticide Permit Program functioned smoothly with major emphasis on worker and public health and safety. Agricultural Inspector/Biologists issued 713 permits, certified 527 private applicators, reviewed 8,632 notices of intent to use restricted materials, performed 1,324 inspections and completed 30 investigations.



Continued effort was made by our staff in developing technical solutions to drift control and the use of phenoxy herbicides. The 1983 experimental results were published and presented to the Annual California Weed Conference. In the Spring of 1984 staff conducted another field experiment in cooperation with the local agricultural industry, the University of California, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. It is hoped that once the information is analyzed, state laws and local permit conditions will allow greater flexibility for use of new spray application systems. This should further improve safety and weed control.

Weed eradication efforts continued on skeletonweed, guara, and oblong spurge. A concerted effort was made to prevent the spread of these noxious weeds. Herbicide treatments were made on 45 properties infested with skeletonweed, three properties for quara, and two properties for oblong spurge. Significant population and density reductions were noted.

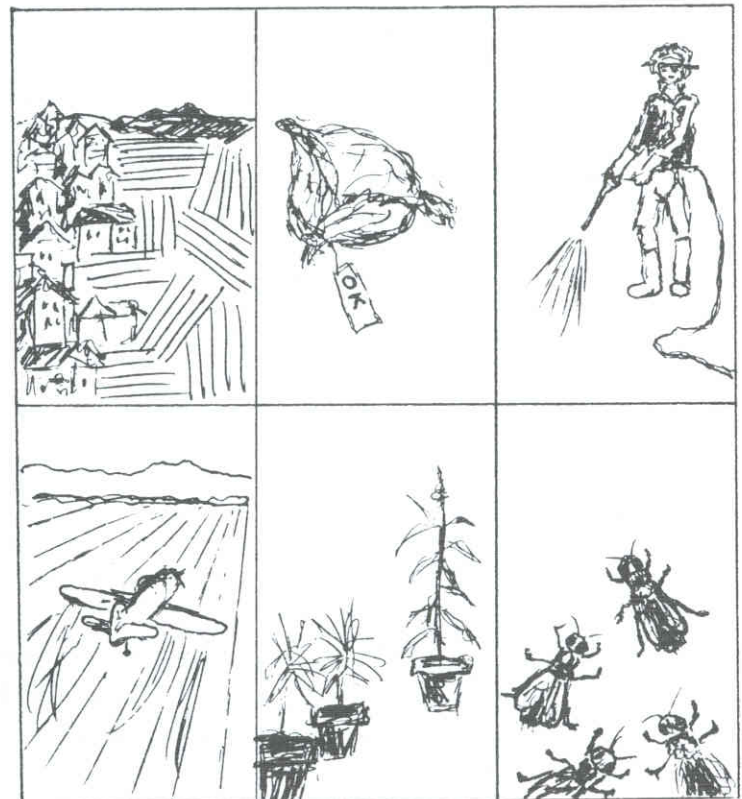
The Insect Trapping Program was our major emphasis with the Pest Detection Program. Biologists made 24,224 servicings of 1,092 traps located countywide. Besides trapping, 240 miles of railroad, right-of-ways, and roadsides were inspected for noxious weeds. 101 inspections were performed in crop, high-hazard, and urban yard properties for target pests.

## PEST MANAGEMENT

One thousand two hundred and forty (1,240) properties were treated with vertebrate pest control materials supplied by the Commissioner's office. Staff efforts resulted in an effective problem-free program that adequately protected non-target wildlife. The efficiency and effectiveness of the department's weed control programs improved through the use of new selective herbicides controlling noxious weeds while leaving desired species.

## INSPECTION SERVICES

Twenty-one premises were monitored for egg quality control and 5,376,357 cartons of lettuce were statistically sampled for compliance with quality standards. Nursery stock was inspected at 133 locations countywide for pest cleanliness and compliance with the law, and 118 lots of seed were inspected. Biologists responded to 16 bee complaints and took necessary action to alleviate threatened public health and safety. Seventy staff days were spent compiling the annual report and in land use planning.



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