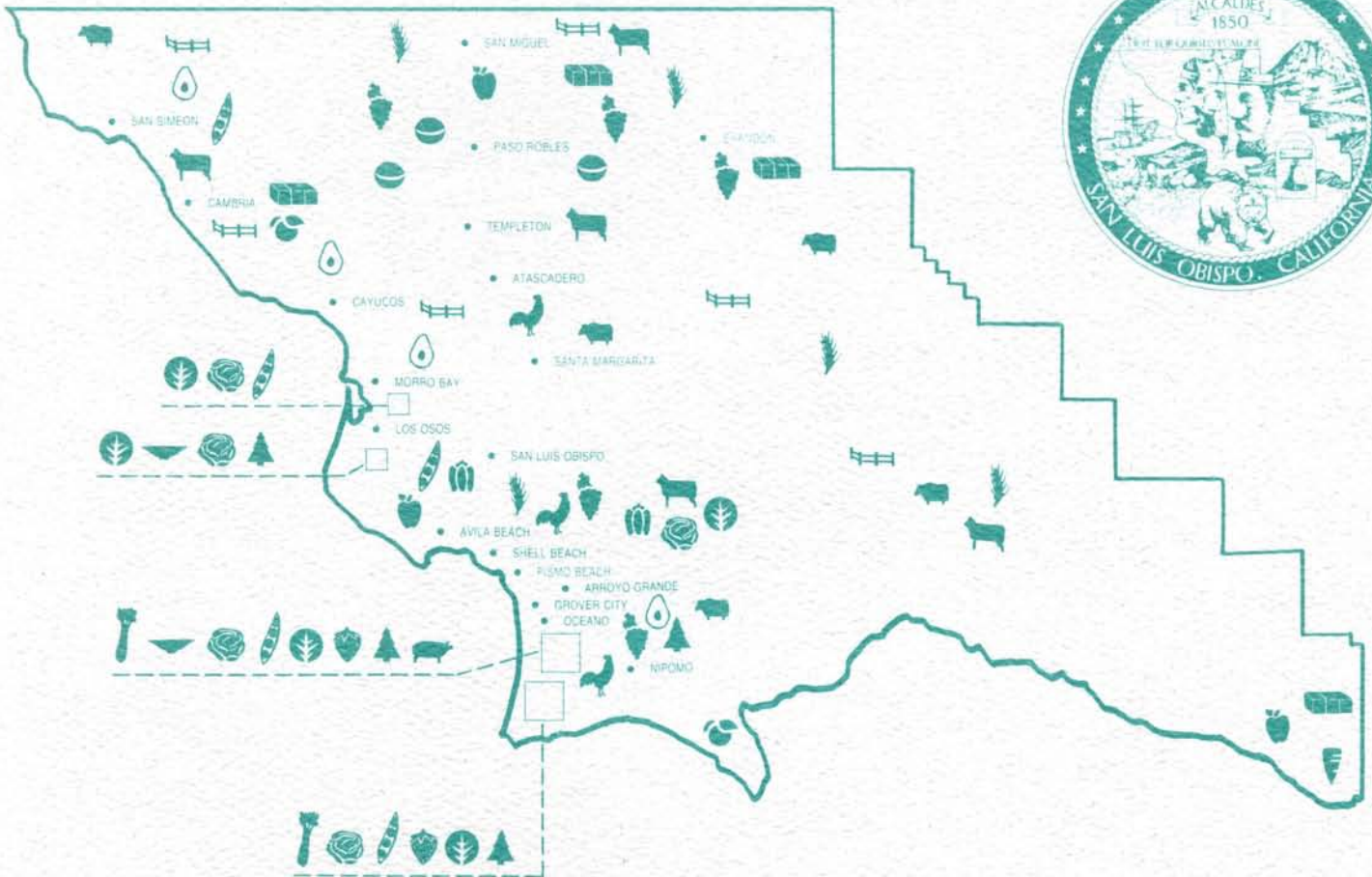


SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures 1990 Annual Report



AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

KEY TO SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY LAND USE MAP

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Almonds, Walnuts | Celery | Nursery Stock |
| Apples | Citrus Fruit | Oriental Vegetables |
| Avocados | Grain Crops | Pasture, Rangeland |
| Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower | Grapes | Peas |
| Bushberries, Strawberries | Hay Crops | Peppers |
| Carrots | Hogs | Poultry |
| Cattle | Lettuce | Sheep, Lamb, Wool |

County of San Luis Obispo



Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A, San Luis Obispo
(805) 549-5910

HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Harry Ovitt
District I

Mr. Laurence L. Laurent
District II

Ms. Evelyn Delany
District III

Ms. Ruth Brackett
District IV

Mr. David Blakely
Chair, District V

Mr. Robert Hendrix
*San Luis Obispo County
Administrative Officer*

Mr. Henry Voss
*California State Department
of Food and Agriculture*

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/ SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Richard D. Greek

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Robert F. Lilley

CHIEF DEPUTY SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Stephen F. Morrison

DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

Christine E. Crump

Robert Hopkins

Rick Landon

Brenda W. Ouwerkerk

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

Since 1980, approximately 4,000 acres in San Luis Obispo County have been converted from the agricultural category to other land use categories.

SUPERVISING ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

Judy A. Noble

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STAFF

Charlean Bogan

Linda Leos

Annette Egeberg

Erin Myers

Troy L. Wolverton

John Gorman

MEASUREMENT STANDARDS INSPECTORS

Jan G. Hendrix

Robert Lopez

Lance C. Millspaugh

AGRICULTURE/MEASUREMENT STANDARDS AIDES

Christine Linne

Janine Newby

Roxy McIntosh

Gisele Schoniger

Ed Virgin

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTOR/ BIOLOGISTS

Chuck B. Alender

Tamara Kleemann

Chris Browning

Dennis Knowles

Janice Campbell

Catherine Krause

Alicia Doran

Jennifer Lathrop

P. Kim Frank

Richard Little

Beverly Gingg

Peggy Mckie

Judy Groat

Brenda D. Protopapas

Rusty Hall

John Schmitz

Mary Hertel

Jennifer Welch/Cosko

CURRENT TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

George Andrade

Gwen Gilbert

Marlene Bartsch

Ginger Nedry

Jackie Crabb

Jody Olson

Gail Perez

FISCAL YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS 1989-1990

Gerry Fjeld

Mike Sterling

Patti Mendez

Stan Zervas

Field crop acreage faces the most pressure from urban expansion, because of its lower agricultural value per acre.



We are pleased to report the state of the county's agricultural industry in our 1990 annual report. Agricultural commodities produced in 1990 totaled an estimated \$272,687,000 in "gross receipts". This represents a drop of approximately \$8,000,000 from the all-time high reported in 1989. Except for the nursery industry, all segments of agriculture showed a reduction in value with field, fruit and nut crops, and animal industry showing the greatest decline.

This year's theme highlights some of the land use planning facts and issues facing the local agricultural community. Growth pressures, resource competition, shifting economic stability and changing political priorities come together to form a complex backdrop against which agricultural land use planning occurs. On several fronts, our office acts, in cooperation with other county and city planning agencies, to protect agricultural lands from urban growth problems and promote the continuation of agriculture on agriculturally productive lands.

For the first time our report includes a section on sustainable agriculture. Information on biological control, pest interceptions, and organic farms is on the next to the last page.

We extend our appreciation to all sectors of the agricultural community for providing their production and value information, and to the staff who complied and finalized the report.

Sincerely,



Richard Greek

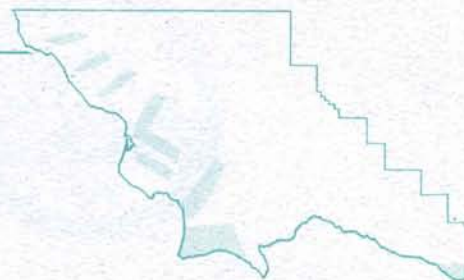
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

"The injections of urban people with urban attitudes into the countryside indirectly affects farmers. New residents come into conflict with farmers over normal agricultural practices...Urban-rural conflicts, whether they result in costly legal actions or physical damage, make it more difficult to farm and usually lead to decreases in profitability of farming in the area". (Risk, Challenges and Opportunities, American Farmland Trust, 1989)

Vegetable Crops

The drought contributed towards a reduction in planted acreage resulting in a slight overall decline in value. Vegetables continue to represent about half of the total value of agricultural production for the county, with head lettuce rebounding to the number one crop.



Vegetable Crop Land Use

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Beans (Green).....	1990	789	344	271,416	30#	\$9.23	\$2,505,000
	1989	479	515	246,685	30#	\$8.25	\$2,035,000
Bell Peppers.....	1990	717	951	681,867	30#	8.21	5,598,000
	1989	812	971	788,452	30#	9.12	7,191,000
Broccoli (Fresh).....	1990	3,712	676	2,509,312	23#	5.16	12,948,000
	1989	5,843	637	3,721,991	23#	4.19	15,595,000
Broccoli (Freezer).....	1990	1,863	5	9,315	Ton	360.00	3,353,000
	1989	1,520	5	7,600	Ton	360.00	2,736,000
Brussel Sprouts.....	1990	42	805	33,810	25#	9.66	327,000
	1989	52	550	28,600	25#	6.62	189,000
Cabbage.....	1990	991	850	842,350	45#	5.07	4,271,000
	1989	716	866	620,056	45#	7.73	4,793,000
Carrots.....	1990	3,486	680	2,370,480	50#	4.83	11,449,000
	1989	3,480	27	93,960	Ton	128.00	12,027,000
Cauliflower.....	1990	1,854	619	1,147,626	25#	5.48	6,289,000
	1989	1,923	585	1,124,955	25#	4.85	5,456,000
Celery.....	1990	1,113	1091	1,214,283	60#	5.94	7,213,000
	1989	1,156	1134	1,310,904	60#	6.87	9,006,000
Oriental Vegetables.....	1990	1,215	947	1,150,605	80#	7.09	8,158,000
	1989	1,378	817	1,125,826	80#	7.35	8,275,000
Lettuce (Head).....	1990	9,108	731	6,657,948	50#	6.85	45,607,000
	1989	7,633	691	5,274,403	50#	5.74	30,275,000
Lettuce (Leaf).....	1990	1,786	882	1,575,252	50#	4.47	7,041,000
	1989	2,072	790	1,636,880	50#	4.75	7,775,000
Peas (Edible Pod).....	1990	3,500	491	1,718,500	10#	8.59	14,762,000
	1989	4,260	597	2,543,220	10#	9.75	24,796,000
Squash.....	1990	144	809	116,496	30#	5.06	589,000
	1989	377	789	297,453	30#	4.59	1,365,000
*Miscellaneous.....	1990	1,310					5,239,000
	1989	1,510					6,345,000

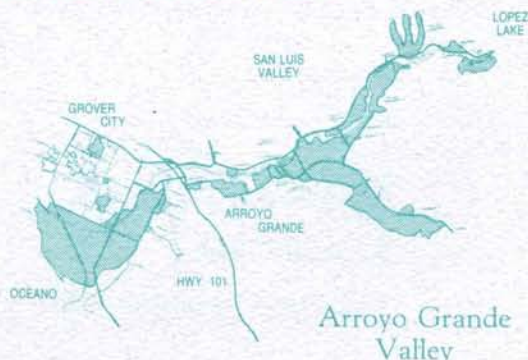
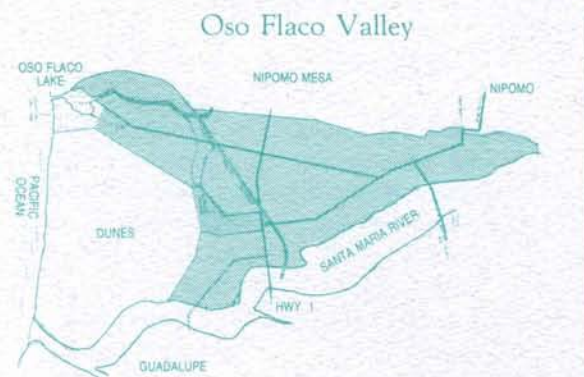
TOTAL VEGETABLE CROPS	1990	31,630					\$135,349,000
	1989	33,211					\$137,859,000

* Anise, Artichokes, Cilantro, Chili Peppers, Cucumbers, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Kale, Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Pumpkins, Radishes, Spinach, Sweet Corn, Tomatoes, Tomatillos, Turnips, Watermelon

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

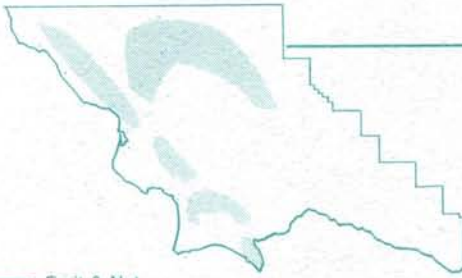
Of the 79 primary crops grown throughout California, over 40 are produced in San Luis Obispo County.

Major San Luis Obispo County Vegetable Crop Growing Areas



San Luis Obispo County's 411 million pound lettuce crop supplies the average annual consumption of 15,500,000 Americans.

Fruit and Nut Crops



Fruit & Nut Crop Land Use

Total acreage and value declined in 1990 due to unfavorable growing conditions. The drought caused the greatest problem, but freeze damage also contributed to the decline.

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Almonds.....	1990	3,299	0.011	36	Ton	\$4,067.00	\$148,000
	1989	4,299	0.023	99	Ton	\$3,750.00	\$371,000
Apples.....	1990 ▶ ^c	469	7.250	3,400	Ton	349.20	1,187,000
	1989 ▶ ^c	443	9.370	4,151	Ton	557.50	2,314,000
Avocados.....	1990	1,220	1.370	1,671	Ton	2,250.00	3,761,000
	1989 ▶ ^c	1,320	3.520	4,646	Ton	1,650.00	7,667,000
Bushberries.....	1990	50	3.550	178	Ton	4,438.00	788,000
	1989	50	2.310	116	Ton	3,890.00	449,000
Grapes (Wine).....	1990	8,150	4.410	35,942	Ton	876.15	31,490,000
	1989	7,649	5.560	42,528	Ton	857.15	36,453,000
Kiwi Fruit.....	1990	60	1.730	104	Ton	1,429.00	148,000
	1989	102	2.520	257	Ton	1,410.00	362,000
Lemons.....	1990	905	16.350	14,797	Ton	277.00	4,099,000
	1989 ▶ ^c	905	18.950	17,150	Ton	252.00	4,322,000
Valencia Oranges.....	1990 ▶ ^c	134	8.220	1,101	Ton	179.00	197,000
	1989	74	18.060	1,336	Ton	148.00	198,000
Pistachios.....	1990	47	0.605	28	Ton	2,941.00	84,000
	1989	47	0.244	11	Ton	4,163.00	48,000
English Walnuts.....	1990	2,970	0.360	1,069	Ton	969.00	1,036,000
	1989 ▶ ^c	3,073	0.468	1,438	Ton	827.00	1,189,000
Strawberries.....	1990	596	22.731	13,548	Ton	700.00	9,483,000
	1989	426	22.000	9,372	Ton	646.00	6,054,000
*Miscellaneous.....	1990	320					1,120,000
	1989	250					519,000
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROP	1990	18,220					\$53,541,000
	1989	18,638					\$59,946,000

* Apricots, Asian Pears, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Feijoa, Limes, Navel Oranges, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pomegranates, Plums, Table Grapes, Starfruit, Pepino, Raisin Grapes

▶^c Does not meet California Agricultural Statistics service requirements for bearing acres.

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

Only 11% of the world's land surface is readily suitable for crop production, and most of it is already under cultivation.

In the United States, about 40 million acres of land are in urban use and about half of that was, at one time, cropland.



Seed Crop Land Use

Seed Crop

Although the harvested acreage remained virtually unchanged, the drought condition depressed yields for dryland seed crops.

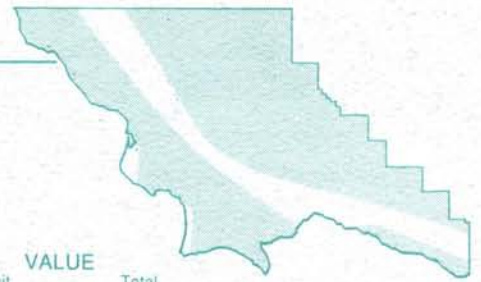
Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Value
Vegetable.....	1989	96	\$248,000
Barley.....	1990	400	80,000
	1989	364	73,000
Oats.....	1990	885	278,000
	1989	1,150	345,000
Wheat.....	1989	61	15,000
Miscellaneous.....	*1990	461	232,000
	**1989	58	32,000
TOTAL SEED CROP	1990	1,746	\$590,000
	1989	1,729	\$713,000

* Flower Seed

** Wheat Seed, Dry Bean Seed, Alfalfa Seed

Animal Industry

Animal industry overall values showed a slight decline. Drought conditions continued to result in the sell-off of cattle and sheep, maintaining the value of these categories.



Commodity	Year	Number of Head	Production	Unit	VALUE	
					Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves.....	1990	60,000	315,000	Cwt	\$80.00	\$25,200,000
	1989	62,500	350,300	Cwt	\$74.00	\$25,922,000
Hogs.....	1990	4,313	9,180	Cwt	64.00	588,000
	1989	4,102	8,560	Cwt	53.57	459,000
Market Milk.....	1990		127,988	Cwt	12.09	1,547,000
	1989		127,186	Cwt	12.33**	1,566,000
Sheep and Lambs.....	1990	7,807	9,072	Cwt	56.00	508,000
	1989	7,391	7,868	Cwt	72.67	572,000
Wool.....	1990		110,000	Lbs	1.36	150,000
	1989		110,105	Lbs	1.40	154,000
Honey.....	1990		51,500	Lbs	0.52	27,000
	1989		65,420	Lbs	0.84	55,000
*Miscellaneous.....	1990					2,257,000
	1989					2,145,000
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY	1990					\$30,277,000
	1989					\$30,875,000

* Eggs, Poultry, Goats, Game Birds, Aquaculture

** Revised

Animal Industry Land Use

Nursery Stock

The nursery industry made its largest one-year jump in value from 1989 to 1990, up nearly six million dollars. All segments of the nursery industry showed increases in value and continue to grow.



Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Greenhouse Production (sq. ft.)	Total
Cut Flowers (Field).....	1990	187		\$4,945,000
	1989	**135		\$4,226,000
Cut Flowers (Greenhouse).....	1990		2,150,525	9,620,000
	1989		2,143,016	7,157,000
Ornamentals (Woody, Bedding).....	1990	48		2,340,000
	1989	67		2,256,000
Fruit & Nut Trees.....	1990	28		1,400,000
	1989	27		1,355,000
Vegetable Transplants.....	1990	82	788,100	6,967,000
	1989	**82	856,952	4,920,000
Indoor Decoratives.....	1990		1,322,350	7,800,000
	1989		1,276,256	4,612,000
Christmas Trees, Cut.....	1990	110		183,000
	1989	74		206,000
*Miscellaneous.....	1990	12	209,000	1,794,000
	1989	10	85,000	1,200,000
TOTAL NURSERY STOCK	1990	467	4,469,975	\$35,049,000
	1989	395	4,361,224	\$25,932,000

* Herbaceous Perennials, Herbs, Specialty Plants, Ground Covers

** Revised

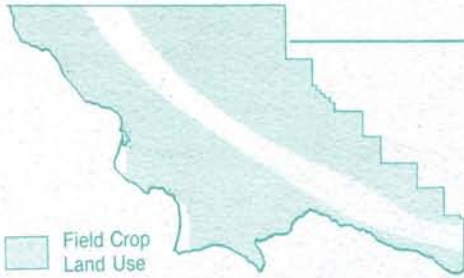
AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

20% of San Luis Obispo County land is publicly owned. This includes National Forest and Bureau of Land Management holdings.

Transfer of development rights from prime agricultural lands to other areas where development is encouraged is one of the progressive tools which may be used to protect agricultural lands from development pressures.

Field Crops

Field crop values continued to decline sharply with the overall value reduced by more than seven million dollars. The continuing drought, generally weak markets and the federal conservation reserve program were the key factors.



Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Alfalfa Hay.....	1990	4,200	5.40	22,680	Ton	\$122.00	\$2,767,000
	1989	5,000	6.50	32,500	Ton	\$125.00	\$4,063,000
Barley.....	1990	35,000	0.62	21,700	Ton	110.00	2,387,000
	1989	45,000	0.85	38,250	Ton	116.00	4,437,000
Garbanzo.....	1990*						
	1989	525	3.50	1,838	Cwt	35.00	64,000
Grain Hay.....	1990	32,500	1.54	50,050	Ton	100.00	5,005,000
	1989	35,000	2.15	75,250	Ton	105.00	7,901,000
Grain Stubble (Grazing).....	1990	96,250			Acre	3.60	347,000
	1989	112,500			Acre	4.00	450,000
Irrigated Pasture.....	1990	5,600			Acre	250.00	1,400,000
	1989	5,600			Acre	200.00	1,120,000
Rangeland, Dryland.....	1990	1,058,000			Acre	5.00	5,290,000
	1989	1,060,000			Acre	5.50	5,830,000
Safflower.....	1990	750	0.35	263	Ton	250.00	66,000
	1989	1,500	0.35	525	Ton	290.00	152,000
Wheat.....	1990	5,025	0.58	2,915	Ton	105.00	306,000
	1989	12,000	0.65	7,800	Ton	135.00	1,053,000
*Miscellaneous.....	1990	1,245					313,000
	1989	1,200					300,000
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	1990	1,238,570					\$17,881,000
	1989	1,278,325					\$25,370,000

* Silage Corn, Dry Beans, Sudangrass, Winter Forage, Pearl Millet, Garbanzo Beans

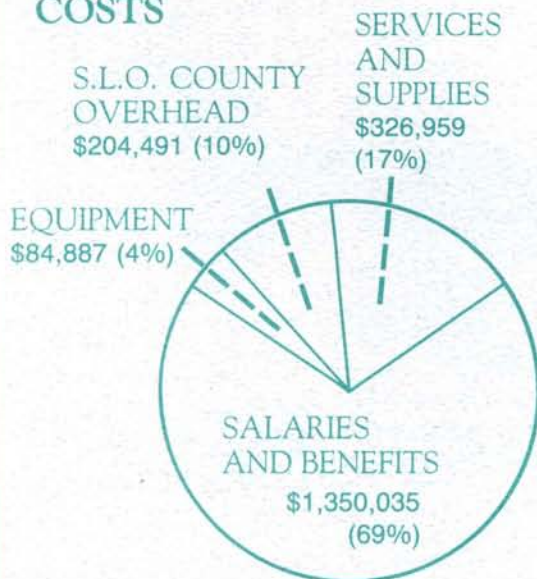
Financial Report & Program Review

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

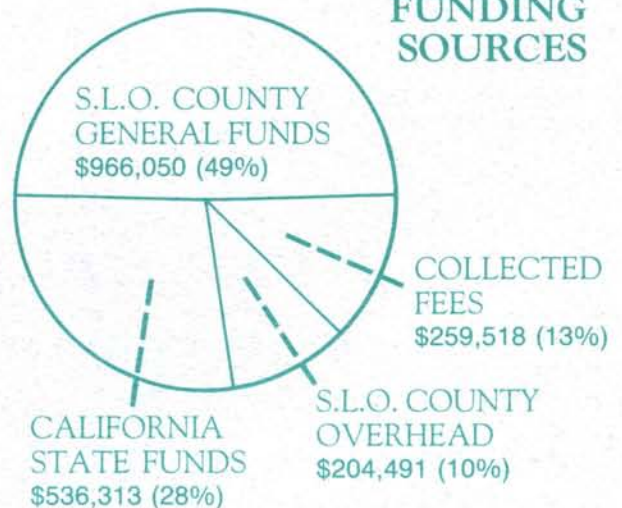
The current trend is toward conversion of less intensive to more intensive agricultural use.

About 783,000 acres of San Luis Obispo County land are under Agricultural Preserve protection. This represents 36% of the total land area.

EXPENDITURES AND OPERATIONAL COSTS



REVENUE AND FUNDING SOURCES



FY 89/90

TOTAL BUDGET \$1,966,372

Financial Report & Program Review

ADMINISTRATION AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Honors were bestowed upon both Richard Greek and Bob Lilley during 1990. Selected by the membership at large in May 1990, Greek took the helm of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association and continues to successfully balance state and county leadership responsibilities. Grappling with tough issues confronting California agriculture and coming up with long-range plans to deal with those issues has been a challenge.

Lilley was chosen to receive a Special Recognition Award for outstanding contributions to the state's industry and to the people of California. The assistant commissioner's work in the areas of land use planning and nuclear power plant emergency response planning was recognized by the award, sponsored annually by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the state's Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association.

During 1990 the department's procedures for mitigating agricultural/residential land use conflicts was adopted as policy by the Board of Supervisors. Staff successfully processed 153 referrals for discretionary land use permits and General Plan Amendments. A three-fold increase in staffing over previous levels and the prioritization of existing workload have helped to effectively manage the tremendous demand for program services.

In addition to this and providing recommendations to county and city decision-makers, the Land Use Planning Program is involved with important policy issues, including:

- Adding an agricultural element to the county's General Plan.
- Writing new rules and procedures for the county's agricultural preserve program.
- Expansion of the Right to Farm Ordinance.
- Evaluation of proposed subdivisions of agricultural parcels.

The Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Response Program was developed to prepare the public to respond to an accident at Diablo Canyon. The department has the responsibility of evaluating any effects on the production of our food supply caused by a radiation release. Mapping agricultural properties and compiling and updating agricultural data are a few current program activities. This work enabled the staff to provide assistance to Southern California counties preparing for a potential emergency at the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant.

MEASUREMENT STANDARDS

The Measurement Standards staff guarantees equity in all commercial transactions involving weight, count and time. Staff responsibilities can be divided into six areas of concern:

Weighing Devices— Grocery store and commercial truck scales are examples of weighing devices which must be certified for accuracy.

Measuring Devices— Gasoline pump and taxi meters are two types of measuring devices which are inspected.

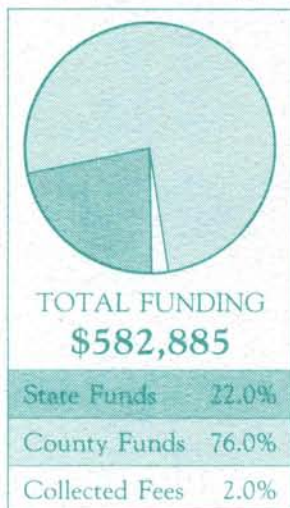
Electric Meters— Staff checks the accuracy of those meters which are not under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission.

Compressed Gases— Butane and propane dispensers are examples of devices which are inspected and certified by staff.

Quantity Control— Staff verifies that packaged commodities for sale contain the stated net contents.

Petroleum/Weighmaster— Truth-in-labeling for petroleum products is another area of special concern for staff. The weighmaster notarizes certificates of weight and/or count whenever a buyer is not present.

This year, the replacement of the cattle scale truck and a new heavy-capacity weight truck were highlights. San Luis Obispo continues to be a major producer of beef cattle and the new truck allows for a more efficient means of testing the many cattle scales throughout the back country. After 25 years of service, the heavy-capacity weight truck has been replaced— allowing Weights and Measures to maintain its commitment to equity in the marketplace.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Environmental Protection Program faces the difficult duty of enforcing laws and regulations governing the use of pesticides. At a time when these laws and regulations seem to change almost daily, growing increasingly restrictive as the base of knowledge expands, staff has had to work hard to keep up with the changes.

Although, complex, extensive and ever-changing, the laws may be distilled down to a recurrent central point: all pesticides must be used in strict accordance with label directions and precautions in order to protect the health and safety of workers, the public, food supplies and the environment.

Pesticide use enforcement begins with growers applying for either a restricted materials permit or an operator identification number. During the application process, the grower's knowledge of safe use and handling practices is tested by written examination. Growers also receive



AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

"The allure of farm land to the developer is clear: it's generally flat and well drained, thus good for building..."
(Carlson; 1981:25)

It is estimated that the world could not grow enough food for the entire population to eat an average American diet.

Financial Report & Program Review

information concerning any special particular pesticide to be used. Permit issuance is only the beginning. A myriad of other duties also demand the attention of staff. Other responsibilities include investigation of pesticide-related injuries, illnesses, field surveillance, enforcement actions, training sessions, record audits and review of all notices of intent and use reports.

Fiscal year 1989/90 included the first six months of a new total use reporting regulation for the agricultural industry. An additional 557 growers came in to apply for operator identification numbers and began to report the agricultural use of non-restricted pesticides resulting in an additional 6,223 use reports reviewed. This change represented a major workload impact, but was managed by a very effective and highly professional staff.

Substantial progress was made in the Hazardous Materials Disclosure Program. Eighty-five sites were mapped and properly posted with warning signs. The computerization of agricultural hazardous materials users allowed staff improved access to information. Supplementing this program, the department conducted one household pesticide disposal campaign in fiscal year 1989/90, enabling county citizens to properly dispose of several hundred containers of unwanted household pesticides. In preparation for pesticide spills, six staff members enhanced their professional expertise, completing 24 hours of intense training on spill emergency procedures.

PEST MANAGEMENT

A growing appreciation for the need to balance pest management benefits with environmental and social costs has precipitated many changes. Now, pest management professionals are focusing more attention on a different tool, knowledge. Reflective of this new emphasis is the Pest Management Program's increased focus on education. During 1990, both the weed and the vertebrate pest management programs put more attention on the transfer of information to those seeking assistance.

Ground squirrels, again, topped the list of particularly troublesome pests. North county growers reported unusually high populations and asked for assistance in protecting their already drought-limited crops from the ravages of a burgeoning ground squirrel population. The Department worked to explore alternatives to Compound 1080. Existing stocks of the now-banned compound were applied to limited areas in 1990. Alternative materials and methods are being evaluated in continuing trials. The vertebrate pest management staff also responded to vegetable and grape growers' requests for assistance in minimizing crop damage caused by birds.

Weed problems of all kinds placed a heavy demand for services on the weed management staff. The need to prioritize the workload meant that there was always more work yet to be done than time allowed. Over 650 acres of county right-of-way land

was treated to reduce noxious weed populations and to keep roadsides clean and safe. Additionally, limited populations of certain weeds were treated alongside our state highways.

The Biological Control Program was recognized in November 1990 by the County Supervisors Association of California at their first annual Challenge Awards ceremony. The program was honored with a Special Recognition Award for its innovative and valuable service to the community. The program relies heavily on supportive and cooperative relationships with other individuals and agencies involved with biological control efforts. A significant amount of added help came in 1990 from the program's first Cal Poly student intern. The internship program was a great success and will be continued in 1991.

PRODUCT QUALITY

The Product Quality Program continues to play a vital role in providing consumers with the assurance of quality in the market place. The abundance and diversity of agricultural crops and commodities produced in our country presents a challenge to staff responsible for inspecting the harvest. Inspectors check to see that state and federal quality standards are met.

Since our county ranks high in lettuce production among all California counties, it is not surprising that much time is spent in the lettuce fields. Decay, insect damage and maturity of heads are some of the things that inspectors checked within the over 6,000,000 cartons of lettuce statistically sampled last year.

Farmers' markets are held at 11 locations throughout the county each week. The enormous popularity of these markets is a testament to the successful combination of direct marketing advantages with an entertaining, street-fair atmosphere. The Product Quality staff work behind the scenes at these events to see that produce marketed is sold directly from producer to consumer and measures up to quality standards. Last year, 199 producers were certified for direct marketing and 63 market inspections were conducted, a slight increase from the previous year's totals.



AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

Cattle grazing is the largest agricultural land use within the county.

Since the 19th century, beef cattle have generated more revenue for the county than any other single commodity.

PEST PREVENTION

Preventing the local establishment and proliferation of exotic pests is the aim of the Pest Prevention Program. Pest exclusion, detection and eradication are the three components of this cost effective program.

Pest exclusion represents the first line of defense against invading pests. Inspectors carefully examine selected incoming and outgoing shipments of agricultural produce to intercept hitchhiking pests.

Pest detection seeks to find those significant pests which are able to slip by the watchful eye of exclusion. Unmarked packages

Financial Report & Program Review

carrying plant material— perhaps a box of home-grown fruit sent by a backyard gardener from another state to a friend in San Luis Obispo— may carry pests that we don't have or want here.

Pest eradication is the approach used when detection finds that an invading pest with a particularly destructive potential has moved into the area. A limited infestation may then be successfully eliminated before it has had a chance to spread.

Pest Prevention Program statistics for 1990 reflect increased attention to both the quality and quantity of inspections. Thirty-five serious pests were intercepted en route to residences in our county; this represents a significant jump from the eight interceptions recorded during the previous year. Violations of state, federal or foreign quarantines prevented an additional 54 shipments from reaching destinations here. A total of 11,881 shipments were inspected.

The number of trap servicings performed by pest detection specialists dropped dramatically from 40,000 to 27,167 due to the termination of the special Mexican fruit fly trapping project.



Citrus, celery transplants and carrots were among the 836 shipments of agricultural commodities which were inspected and certified for export out of San Luis Obispo County. The department's nematology laboratory, fully operational in 1990, assisted with checking some of these, as well as certain incoming shipments, for the presence of plant parasitic nematodes.

Skeletonweed, along with a few other weeds of equally destructive potential, continued to be a target of weed eradication efforts. Some progress has been made, but the work continues.

Apiary

The Apiary Program focuses its attention on two primary areas of concern:

1. Maintaining healthy bee colonies and,
2. Maintaining healthy relations between people and bees.

During 1990, 15 inspections involving 1,000 colonies helped to keep harmful bee pests, such as American Foulbrood Disease and Varroa Mite, out of our county.

Unfortunately, the number of reported conflicts between people and bees seems to increase each year as more people move into traditionally rural undeveloped areas. The drought also has contributed to the number of reported conflicts. Beekeepers have been forced to seek new nectar sources, often placing bees in areas not normally utilized as apiary sites.

Public health and safety is the top priority, and education of beekeepers and the public, is done in support of that priority. Additionally, the Apiary Program assists beekeepers in meeting the quarantine requirements of other states and the requirements for reentry into California.

Sustainable Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

Changes in annual reporting requirements provides for the documenting of sustainable agricultural activities in the county. In the first year of reporting we have summarized some of these activities:

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL COUNTY PROGRAM

Pest	Type of Organisms	# of Sites	Crop/Acreage Involved
Four Weed Pests	Six control organisms, stem and seedhead weevils, gall midges, and leaf-mining moths	22	pasture noncrop and rangeland
Six insect pests	Eight control organisms parasitoid wasps, predaceous mites, bacteria	51	home garden (citrus) street trees, parks, alfalfa, greenhouse (chrysanthemums)

SOIL CONSERVATION

U.S.D.A. Conservation Reserve Program 100,550 acres

ORGANIC FARMS

Crops: Almonds, apples, livestock melons, vegetable, walnuts 20 farms 1,918 acres

PEST PREVENTION

Pest Interception 147
Pest Eradication 1 property (purple scale)

San Luis Obispo County is currently updating the "Right-To-Farm ordinance". This important local ordinance provides farmers with protection from nuisance complaints concerning normal agricultural practices.

Irrigated cropland in San Luis Obispo County is almost entirely dependant on ground water supply.

Crop & Commodity Value • 10-Year Comparison

Head Lettuce surged into the #1 crop position for 1990. Reaching the top 10 for the first time are: Greenhouse Cut Flowers, Strawberries and Indoor Decoratives.

TOP 20 CROP & COMMODITY VALUES 1990

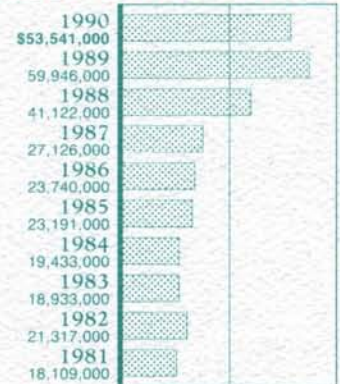
1	LETTUCE (Head)	\$45,607,000
2	WINE GRAPES	31,490,000
3	CATTLE (& Calves)	25,200,000
4	BROCCOLI	16,301,000
5	PEAS (Edible)	14,762,000
6	CARROTS	11,449,000
7	CUT FLOWERS (Greenhouse)	9,620,000
8	STRAWBERRIES	9,483,000
9	VEGETABLES (Oriental)	8,158,000
10	DECORATIVES (Indoors)	7,800,000
11	CELERY	7,213,000
12	LEAF LETTUCE	7,041,000
13	TRANSPLANTS (Vegetables)	6,967,000
14	CAULIFLOWER	6,289,000
15	BELL PEPPERS	5,598,000
16	RANGELAND (Dryland)	5,290,000
17	GRAIN HAY	5,005,000
18	CUT FLOWERS (Field)	4,945,000
19	CABBAGE	4,271,000
20	LEMONS	4,099,000

TOTAL VALUATIONS



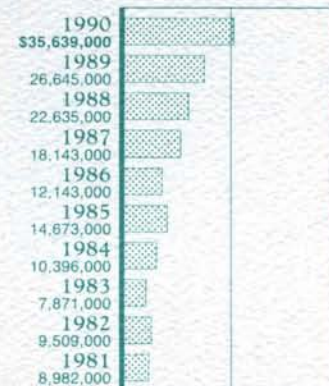
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

FRUIT & NUT CROPS



MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

NURSERY & SEED



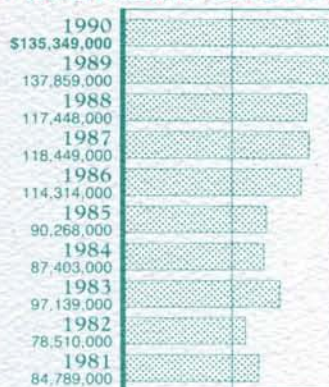
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

FIELD CROPS



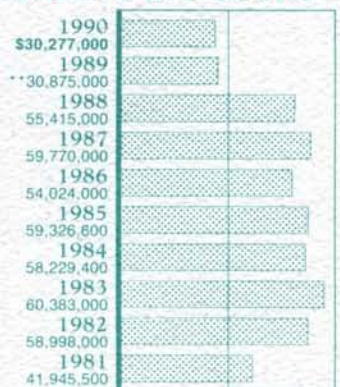
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

VEGETABLE CROPS



MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

ANIMAL INDUSTRY



MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ISSUES

Building setbacks (buffers), walls and landscape barriers are some of the effective ways of reducing conflict between urban people and farming operations.

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, total California land in farms dropped 4.9% from 1980-1987— from 32.1 million acres to 30.6 million acres— compared to just 2.3% for the nation as a whole.

TOTAL AGRICULTURE ACREAGE

1990 1,290,633

1989 **1,322,298

**Revised

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