



Photo Courtesy of Paul Zaretsky



2016 CROP REPORT

SAN BENITO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

KAREN OVERSTREET AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES
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August 4, 2017

Karen Ross, Secretary

California Department of Food and Agriculture, and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, and

Ray Espinosa, County Administrative Officer

In accordance with the requirements of Section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 2016 annual crop report for San Benito County.

San Benito County continues to be one of the top five producing counties in California of spinach, peppers, lettuces, and salad mix products. The impact of production agriculture to our local economy is much greater than the gross production value detailed in this report. San Benito County is an excellent place to produce agriculture commodities. The industry produces a variety of commodities, numerous specialty vegetable crops, and quality wine grapes. In 2016, the overall value of the county's agricultural increased slightly by 1.9% from 2015. This year was average yielding in some commodities and lower in others. Processing tomato acreage decreased as more ground was productive for leafy greens and miscellaneous fresh vegetable crops. Cattle prices dropped off from record prices in 2015 and many producers held onto replacements to rebuild herds.

2016 was slightly below average precipitation year. A dry warm February pushed the fruit and nut trees and turned the rangeland grasses early. Therefore, tree crop yields were below average and walnut yields were inconsistent as well as quality well below normal. Walnut prices dropped significantly for the second year in a row. Wine Grape yields and price were up. This year growers experienced a great amount of insect and disease pressure which effected market quality and a lower return in many cases. The spring rains hindered the cherries and other commodities experienced a less than average harvest yield. It should be emphasized that these figures are farm gate gross sales figures only. They do not represent net profit to the producers. The figures are also periodically averaged and or rounded in the process to achieve the end value.

I wish to thank the many farmers, ranchers and businesses that have cooperated in providing the information required for this report. I would also like to thank my staff for their dedication in compiling the information for this report.

Sincerely,

Karen Overstreet

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San Benito County

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

2016 Crop Report

County Board of Supervisors

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Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

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Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

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Michael Silverman

Victor Ayala

Rafael Martinez

Agricultural Technician

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Tony Wilson

Gabby Jimenez

Elyssa Soria

Rick Perez

Juliarose Medal

Administrative Support Staff

Billie Jimenez, Secretary II

Cassia Mendez, Account Clerk II

Sally Boden

Asian Citrus Psyllid

What is it?

The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) is a small insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. The ACP can transmit a disease that is fatal for citrus called Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening disease. All citrus and closely related species such as curry trees are susceptible hosts for both the insect and the disease. There is no cure once a tree becomes infected. The diseased tree will decline in health and produce bitter, misshaped fruit until it dies.



Local Update

A single Asian citrus psyllid was first detected in April 2015. Response to this initial find triggered a survey covering 8 square miles surrounding the find. 353 yellow sticky traps were deployed throughout this area. For almost 12 months, there were no additional insects found. In 2016, we had five additional finds all consisting of just a single insect. These finds were scattered throughout the Hollister area. These finds expanded the survey area and increased the number of traps to a total of 573. The last insect found took place in October 2016.



Why is it important?

Controlling populations of the Asian citrus psyllid is critical to controlling the spread of the disease. The ACP feeds on all citrus trees, including orange, lemon, lime, mandarin, pomelo, kumquat, grapefruit and tangerine trees. It also feeds on some relatives of citrus, like orange jasmine and curry leaves. If you have any of these plants in your backyard, inspect them monthly, or whenever watering, spraying, pruning or tending trees.

Fighting the Asian citrus psyllid and huanglongbing is a collaborative effort. Included in the fight are government agencies at the Federal, State and County level, agricultural citrus growers, nursery operators and residents. By working together we can all save our citrus trees.

Visit <http://www.CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org> or <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/acp/> for more information on the Asian citrus psyllid and huanglongbing disease.

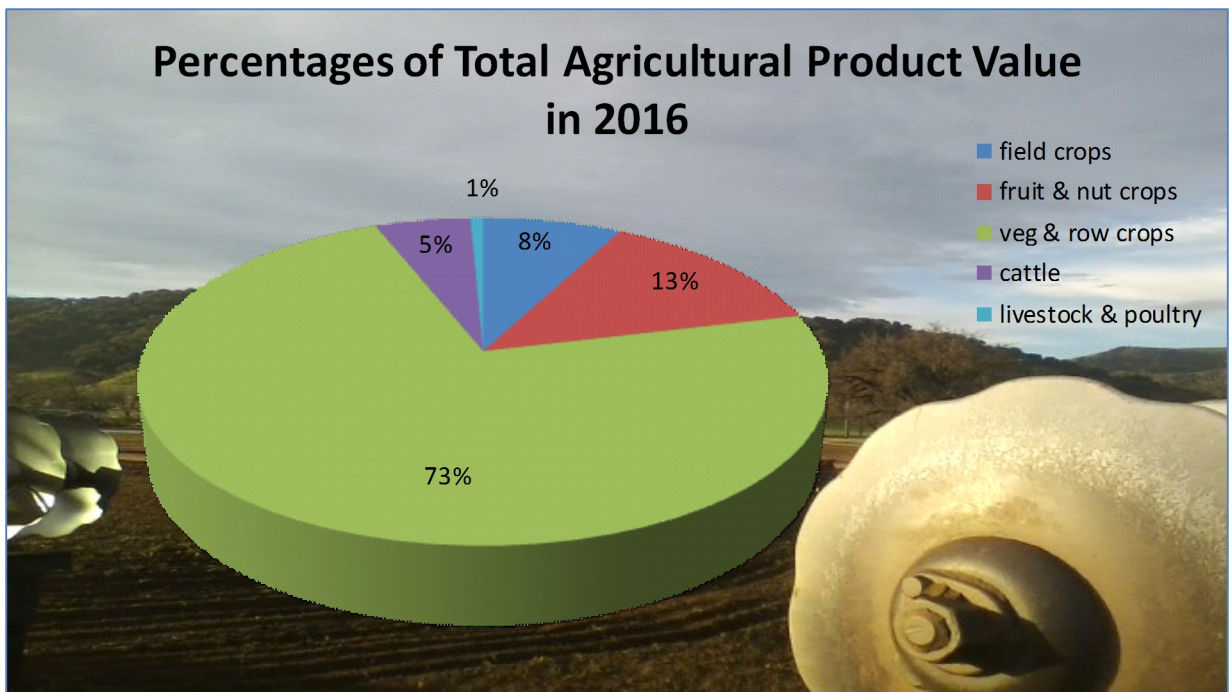


Help protect our citrus! Learn how to inspect your own citrus trees and help us stop the advancement of ACP and the potential spread of HLB. The Save Our Citrus app is a free iPhone application from the USDA that can help identify common citrus tree diseases. If you find what you think is ACP or HLB then call our office at (831)637-5344.

Commodity Summary

Total commodity values are compared between 2015 and 2016. Agricultural value from San Bento County increased by nearly \$7 million in gross sales dollars for 2016. The most growth was found to have been in the fields of vegetable and row crops.

Commodity	Year	
	2016	2015
Field Crops	28,627,500	29,209,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	49,431,750	41,445,000
Vegetable & Row Crops	267,112,000	257,351,000
Cattle	19,670,000	26,199,000
Misc. Livestock & Poultry	2,610,000	6,389,000
Total Value	367,451,250	360,593,000



	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>	
Field Crops	28,627,500	8%	29,209,000	8%
Fruit and Nut Crops	49,431,750	13%	41,445,000	12%
Vegetable and Row Crop	267,112,000	73%	257,351,000	71%
Cattle	19,670,000	5%	26,199,000	7%
Misc. Livestock & Poultry	2,610,000	1%	6,389,000	2%
Totals	367,451,250	100%	360,593,000	100%

Top 10 Commodities

2016 Rank	Product	Value	% of Total	% Change
1	Misc. Vegetables	\$55,016,000	15%	-16%
2	Lettuce, Salad Mix	\$43,873,000	12%	+16%
3	Peppers, All	\$32,973,000	9%	+8.25%
4	Lettuce, Romaine	\$32,895,000	9%	+4.25%
5	Wine Grapes	\$31,117,000	8%	+69%
6	Spinach	\$25,326,000	7%	-31%
7	Kale, All	\$19,057,000	5%	+33
8	Onion /Shallot/ Garlic	\$12,938,000	4%	—
9	Pasture/Rangeland	\$12,649,000	3%	+10.75%
10	Misc. Fruits & Nuts	\$12,250,000	3%	-22.5%
	Total	\$265,156,000	75%	



Total agricultural value over a decade:

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Value (Million \$)	\$271	\$293	\$262	\$243	\$256	\$263	\$298	\$330	\$328	\$360	\$367

Vegetable and Row Crops

Commodity	Production				Value	
	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Broccoli/Brocquette	2016	1397	7.87	10,994	1,193	\$13,116,000
	2015	835	7.25	6,053	1,040	\$6,300,500
Celery	2016	510	30.25	15,428	585	\$9,025,500
	2015	566	36.89	20,880	288	\$6,013,000
Kale	2016	1,344	12.14	16,316	1,168	\$19,057,000
	2015	930	12.5	11,625	1,113	\$12,938,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2016	1226	19.1	23,483	334	\$7,843,250
	2015	800	17.26	13,808	350	\$4,842,000
Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)	2016	307	10.86	3,334	666	\$2,220,500
	2015	269	10	2,690	671	\$1,805,500
Lettuce, Romaine	2016	3,779	13.07	49,392	666	\$32,895,000
	2015	3,526	13.12	46,261	682	\$31,553,000
*Lettuce, Salad Mix	2016	7,788	3.67	28,582	1,535	\$43,873,500
	2015	6,500	3.32	21,580	1,750	\$37,797,000
*Misc. Veg. & Row Crops	2016	6,176	—	—	—	\$55,016,000
	2015	7,280	—	—	—	\$65,458,500
**Onions/ Shallots / Garlic	2016	1365	—	—	—	\$12,929,000
Onions / Shallots	2015	821	—	—	—	\$8,965,000
Peppers, All Reported	2016	1,890	28.6	54,054	610	\$32,973,000
	2015	1,555	27.21	42,312	720	\$30,465,000
Spinach	2016	4,286	3.48	14,915	1698	\$25,326,000
	2015	3,611	4.23	15,265	2,404	\$36,699,000
Tomatoes, Canning	2016	700	43.14	30,198	72.5	\$2,189,500
	2015	926	49.89	46,198	80	\$3,696,000
Tomatoes, Market	2016	656	13.25	8,692	1,225	\$10,648,000
	2015	706	13.93	9,835	1,100	\$10,818,500
Totals	2016					\$267,112,000
*See page 11 for list	2015					\$ 257,351,000

** new category for 2016.



Field Crops

Commodity	Production				Value	
	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Misc. Field Crops	2016	240				\$534,000
	2015	229				\$429,000
Grain Hay	2016	11,750	3.16	37,130	150	\$5,569,500
	2015	12,000	1.51	18,120	230	\$4,167,500
Nursery Stock	2016	130				\$7,686,000
	2015	225				\$11,383,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2016	505,950			25	\$12,649,000
	2015	507,000			23.50	\$11,407,500
Permanent Pasture	2016	340			275	\$93,500
	2015	380			260	\$104,000
Seed Crops	2016	381			5,500	\$2,095,500
	2015	314			5,488	\$1,723,500
TOTAL	2016					\$28,627,500
	2015					\$29,209,000



Fruit and Nut Crops

Commodity	Production <i>(all planted acres included)</i>				Value	
	Year	Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL (in tons)	\$ Per Unit	TOTAL
Apples	2016	279	27.5	7,672.5	315	\$2,417,000
	2015	279	20.9	5831	305	\$1,778,500
Apricots	2016	547	1.71	935.5	1750	\$1,637,250
	2015	547	3.68	2013	900	\$1,812,000
*Cherries	2016	540	.34	183.5	4500	\$826,750
	2015	576	.25	144	3750	\$540,000
Grapes (Wine)	2016	4382	4.87	21,340.5	1452	\$31,117,000
	2015	4118	3.38	13,919	1320	\$18,373,000
**Misc. Fruits & Nuts	2016	350				\$12,250,000
	2015	395				\$15,802,000
Olives	2016	125	.66	82.5	800	\$49,500
	2015	121	.86	104	700	\$72,500
Walnuts	2016	1183	.621	734.5	875	\$642,750
	2015	1068	.726	776	1360	\$1,055,500
Walnuts (Organic)	2016	542	.45	244	2014	\$491,500
	2015	564	.613	353	5813	\$2,011,500
TOTAL	2016					\$49,431,750
*Late rains hindered crop	2015					\$41,445,000
**See page 12						



CATTLE

	Production		Value		
	Year	# of Head	TOTAL Cwt	\$ Per Cwt	TOTAL
All Cattle	2016	47,375			
	2015	43,090			
Calves	2016	12,800	79,360	151.1	\$11,991,250
	2015	11,600	65,540	274.50	\$17,991,000
Pasture and Stockers	2016	32,860	103,509	48	\$4,968,500
	2015	28,300	67,920	44	\$2,988,500
Cows	2016	2,050	28,700	84	\$2,411,000
	2015	2,980	41,720	113	\$4,714,500
Bulls	2016	165	3,053	98	\$299,250
	2015	210	3,885	130	\$505,000
TOTAL	2016				\$19,670,000
	2015				\$26,199,000



CATTLE HERD INVENTORY

	<u>YEAR ROUND</u>	<u>8-10 MONTHS</u>	<u>2-6 MONTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL HEAD</u>
2016	21,620	13,800	33,260	68,680
2015	20,700	13,000	31,300	65,000

Other Livestock & Poultry Products

TOTALS: 2016—\$2,610,000 2015— \$6,389,000

*Miscellaneous Livestock and Poultry Products listed on page 12

Miscellaneous Crops and Products

*Commodities in these categories are combined with other similar products because the number of producers of each commodity were less than three, or one producer is responsible for 60 percent or more of the product. This is to avoid disclosure of the business affairs of the firms involved.

Vegetable & Row Crops

Artichokes	Cantaloupe	Cucumbers	Kohlrabi	Radicchio
Arugula	Carrots	Dandelion Green	Melons	Radishes
Asparagus	Cauliflower	Eggplant	Mixed Vegetables	Rapini
Beans	Celery Root	Endive	Mushrooms	Rutabagas
Beets	Chard	Escarole	Mustard	Snow Peas & Shoots
Bok Choy	Chinese Greens	Fennel	Okra	Squash
Borage	Chicory	Frisee	Parsley	Tomatillos
Brussel Sprouts	Cilantro	Gourds	Parsnips	Turnips
Cabbage	Collards	Garbanzo Beans	Peas	Watermelons
	Corn	Herbs	Potatoes	
	Corn, Sweet	Leek	Pumpkins	

Salad Mix

Baby Lettuces	Lollo Rosa	Baby Spinach	Red/Green Chard
Red/Green Romaine	Tango	Mache	Radicchio
Red/Green Oak Leaf	Mizuna	Red/Green Mustard	Herbs
Butter Lettuce	Arugula	Tat-Soi	
	Beet Tops	Frisee	

Field Crops

Garbanzo Beans	Alfalfa	Honey & Pollination	Oats	Wheat
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Fruit & Nut

Almonds	Figs	Pears	Raspberries
Avocados	Kiwi	Pecans	Strawberries
Blackberries	Lemons	Persimmons	
Blueberries	Peaches	Plums	

Seed Crops

Flowers	Vegetable Crops	Vine Crops	Field Crops
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Nursery Stock

Cut Flowers (dry & fresh)	Nursery Plants & Trees	Christmas Trees
Mushroom Spawn	Vegetable Transplants	

Livestock & Poultry

Chickens	Eggs	Lambs
Turkeys	Goats	Milk
	Hogs	Wool

Products



Export Destinations

San Benito County biologists inspected and certified a total of 2,888 agricultural shipments to 64 countries in 2016. The top export country was Canada with 1607 shipments. Top Five Countries are: CANADA 1607, MEXICO 821, JAPAN 148, NETHERLANDS 78, & ITALY 69.



COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS	COUNTRY	SHIPMENTS
ALGERIA	17	IRAN	3	PHILIPPINES	8
ARGENTINA	16	IRAQ	15	PORTUGAL	6
AUSTRALIA	42	ISRAEL	4	RUSSIA	-
BOLIVIA	3	ITALY	69	SAUDI ARABIA	32
BRAZIL	32	JAPAN	148	SLOVENIA	-
CANADA	1,607	JORDAN	22	SOUTH AFRICA	31
CHILE	19	KAZAKHSTAN	2	SPAIN	18
CHINA	34	KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	22	SUDAN	2
COLUMBIA	8	KUWAIT	4	SWEDEN	-
COSTA RICA	2	LEBANON	18	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	2
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	17	LIBYA	4	TAIWAN	44
ECUADOR	2	MEXICO	821	THAILAND	7
EGYPT	12	MOROCCO	21	TURKEY	16
EL SALVADOR	1	NETHERLANDS	78	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	27
FRANCE	37	NEW ZEALAND	3	UNITED KINGDOM	4
FRENCH POLYNESIA	3	OMAN	2	UZBEKISTAN	4
GREECE	4	PAKISTAN	4	VENEZUELA	-
GUATEMALA	3	PALESTINIAN TERRITORY		VIETNAM	16
HONDURAS	1	PANAMA	1	YEMEN	6
HONG KONG	6	PARAGUAY	4		
INDIA	32	PERU	8		
INDONESIA	1				

Organic Farming

San Benito county had 78 certified registered growers in 2016 growing a wide variety of fruit, nut, vegetable, nursery, feed, and seed crops. Organic farming is an important part of the agricultural economy in San Benito County. Price and Yields were slightly off, product quality suffered from rough growing conditions and grower returns were less. The most popular and highest grossing commodities include salad mix varieties, spinach, and cole crops.

<u>Organic Farming Statistics</u>			
<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Salad Mix	2016	5462	\$55,985,000
	2015	5382	\$62,385,000
Misc. Vegetables	2016	3245	\$28,358,250
	2015	3205	\$37,390,000
Misc. Fruit, Nut, Nursery, Chicken	2016		\$1,864,500
	2015	255	\$1,492,000
Walnuts	2016	542	\$491,500
	2015	564	\$2,011,500
Rangeland/ Livestock	2016		\$6,525,750
	2015	22000	\$8,052,000
Total	2016	0	\$93,225,000
	2015	31406	\$111,330,500



AG PROGRAMS

Agricultural Statistics

As required by the California Food and Agricultural Code, the County Agricultural Commissioner compiles an annual report of the County's agricultural production. With its unique climate along with fertile soils and water supplies, agriculture is the County's largest industry. Yearly agricultural statistics have been compiled and reported by the San Benito Agricultural Commissioner's office since 1941 and can be viewed on the department's website: <http://www.cosb.us/county-departments/agriculture/crop-report/>.

Certified Farmers' Markets

The Hollister Farmer's Market was established to provide raw agricultural products directly to the consumers in San Benito County. This office inspects certified growing sites and markets to preserve the integrity of the direct marketing program.

Vegetable Standardization

This program ensures compliance with California's minimum standards regarding quality and marketing of all produce commercially grown and/or marketed in the state. Direct Marketing regulation and Organic law enforcement are part of a program that provides for local protection to growers, marketers and consumers.

Nursery & Seed Inspection

Through this program, the Commissioner inspects the growing, propagation, production and sale of nursery stock to assure cleanliness from pests, true variety and vigorous-healthy plants for sale to the consumer. Inspections are also performed at the retail and wholesale establishments that sell seeds. Samples are drawn for germination and purity testing. Labeling is inspected for compliance with state requirements. Through this program, certification services are also performed for growers and processors, in cooperation with the California Crop Improvement Association.

Pesticide Use Enforcement

California has the most comprehensive pesticide regulatory system in the nation. The Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for the implementation of the statewide program at the County level. This program regulates the proper, safe, and effective use of pesticides that are essential for production of food and for protection of the public health and safety. Structural and landscape use of pesticides are also regulated by the Commissioner. It also protects the environment from potentially harmful pesticides by prohibiting, regulating or ensuring proper stewardship of pesticides. Other components of the program include pesticide use reporting, incident investigations, outreach activities, inspection of users/distributors of pesticides and monitoring applications in the field.

Pest Detection

At the peak season, our office deploys more than 960 insect detection traps throughout the county. These traps are designed to intercept new exotic and non-native insect species before they become established. Some of the insects we monitor for include:

PEST	TRAPS	SERVICINGS	HOURS
Asian Citrus Psyllid	573	10,147	3,348
European Pine Shoot Moth	2	4	1
Japanese Beetle	36	131	63
Melon Fruit Fly	34	359	182
Mexican Fruit Fly	47	1,335	523
European Corn Borer	2	6	3
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter	52	593	283
Khapra Beetle	9	54	17
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	65	709	330
Gypsy Moth	48	164	76
Oriental Fruit Fly	43	599	271
Light Brown Apple Moth	29	172	104
General (Champ-Rural)	23	118	66
TOTAL	963	14,391	5,267

Pest Eradication

Invasive plant pests are eradicated throughout the year using a combination of chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods.

Weights & Measures

County inspectors inspect and test the various types of weighing and measuring devices throughout the County. Those found to comply with California standards are sealed and are allowed to be used for commercial transactions. Those devices that fail the testing are placed out of service until repaired by a licensed device repair company. Regular inspections protect consumers from misrepresentation and maintain fair competition between sellers.



Scanner Inspections

County inspectors regularly inspect price scanning systems with highly accurate equipment to protect consumers, businesses, and manufacturers from unfair practices. Scanners at retail establishments include any automated system by which a marking affixed to an item for sale is electronically scanned and read at the point of sale (POS) terminal to determine the identity and price charged for the item. This includes electronic or laser scanners, radio frequency identifications, and cell phone camera scanners.

Weighmaster & Petroleum Inspections

Weighmasters play an important part in the economy of the County and the nation. Weighmasters are persons who are licensed by Weights and Measures to certify the weighted, measured or counted quantity of any material in certain commercial transactions. Inspections are conducted by the County to ensure that weighmaster and weighmaster certificates are in compliance with the California Business and Professions Code. The county also inspects retail fuel stations for correct advertising and posting requirements.

Device Inspection Statistics

<u>Measuring Device Inspections</u>	<u>Weighing Device Inspections</u>
386 gas & diesel pumps	163 retail store scales
23 water meters	27 platform scales
10 fuel delivery truck meters	6 prescription/jewelers scales
3 fabric/cord/wire meters	1 railway scale
21 LPG meters	37 truck scales
460 Electric sub meters	65 cattle scales
	106 Farmers market scales

Mosquito Abatement Program

Mosquito Control

In response to the introduction of West Nile Virus to California, the Agricultural Commissioner assumed responsibility for mosquito abatement. The program uses monitoring and trapping techniques and chemical, biological, and cultural control methods to reduce pest abundance and prevent their associated diseases.

Monitoring



Adult mosquito monitoring is conducted each year during mosquito season from May-October. Standardized traps emitting carbon dioxide are used to determine mosquito abundance, location, and species. Visual site evaluations for larvae detection are also completed in certain problem areas.

Chemical Control

Larvicide tablets and granular formulations are used to treat infested water features like neglected pools and fountains as well as stagnant, standing water on lawns, agricultural land, and parks. Larvicide is also applied to city storm drains each year as a preventative measure. Fogging sprays from ground rigs can also be used to



reduce the adult population in problem areas, protecting communities from bites and the potential for the spreading of disease.

Biological Control

Biological control is employed through the use of mosquito fish. Mosquito fish are a natural predator of mosquito larvae and have been shown to be effective at reducing or eliminating the production of mosquitos from target sources. Mosquito fish



are a hardy species and survive well in a wide range of conditions, making them an efficient and cost effective method of control. The agricultural commissioner's office supplies mosquito fish at no cost to the public.

Cultural Control and Outreach

Cultural, or behavioral control, involves education about proper pool maintenance, irrigation practices, and the overall reduction of stagnant water on one's property. The county holds outreach and educational demonstrations and booths yearly at the county fair. For more information on steps you can take to reduce mosquito breeding and habitat, contact the agricultural commissioner's office.

