

MARIN COUNTY

# **CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT**

2020



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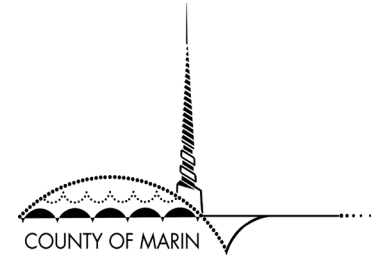
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Cover photo (front and back) taken by Department Staff: A beef rancher surveying pasture in West Marin.

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**Stefan Parnay**, Commissioner/Director

It is my privilege to present the 2020 Marin County Crop and Livestock Report pursuant to the provisions of Section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This publication is presented annually and reports statistical information on acreage, yield, and gross value of all agricultural products produced in Marin County. The estimated total gross value of Marin County's agricultural production for 2020 was \$101,840,000, which represents a 4% increase from our 2019 value of \$97,929,000.

The COVID-19 pandemic, along with drought and wildfire, presented unique challenges to the local agricultural industry in 2020.

- Aquaculture saw a decrease in value of 46%, which is attributed to COVID-related lack of demand in the first half of 2020 followed by business challenges in rapidly pivoting to direct retail marketing in the second half of the year.
- Total winegrape production dropped by 146 tons or 36%, a decrease largely attributed to winegrapes left hanging in the vineyard because of smoke damage caused by the Woodward wildfire that burned through parts of the Point Reyes National Seashore in August 2020.

The values of Fruits & Vegetables as well as Nursery Products were up 11% and 17% respectively. Despite production acreage decreasing slightly for Fruits & Vegetables, overall production and prices increased in 2020 because of demand for local produce, and Nursery Products benefited by the increase in garden hobbyists.

I would like to express my gratitude for the continuing cooperation of all individuals, growers, and agencies who contributed information necessary to prepare this report. Without their assistance, this report would not be possible. I wish to thank my team, in particular Allison Klein and Christopher Cook, who made the publication of this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefan Parnay  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights & Measures



# Marin Farmers: Resilient Throughout 2020

Agricultural communities are resilient to continual change in part because they cope with high levels of uncertainty all the time. Their livelihoods, tied to the variations of nature, volatile swings of commodity markets, and ever-changing demands, creates a way of life that requires flexibility. An ability to cope with sudden changes and sometimes persistent hardship is a needed requisite of the profession. It would be difficult for many farmers and producers to say that they felt prepared for the changes the pandemic would bring, but for better or worse, the nature of their profession better prepared them for it.

Scott Chang-Fleeman of Shao Shan Farm, an organic row crop producer specializing in Asian-American produce located in Bolinas, commented, “Initially the pandemic posed challenges because a significant portion of the farm’s revenue was generated by direct sales to restaurants. The stay-at-home orders brought the restaurant industry to a tragic halt and I had to shift quickly to make up for lost revenue.” That initial uncertainty during the pandemic’s early months was nerve-wracking for the operation. Despite the setback, the operation was able to regain its losses by focusing on farmers’ market sales and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes.

Long lines at grocery stores, the uncertainty of entering crowded places, the disruption of world supply chains, and wanting to help those in need all helped spur a renewed interest and, more importantly, a demand for local produce. Farmers’ markets were deemed to be essential businesses and their outdoor environment was ideal given the pandemic conditions and health precautions. In addition

to the farmers’ markets, Shao Shan Farm worked with the Agricultural Institute of Marin (AIM) providing produce for their Bounty Box program. This program offers a box of locally grown, fresh, favorable, and healthy produce for \$30 (or \$15 if paying with CalFresh or electronic benefit transfer card). Each Bounty Box contains approximately 15 pounds of fruits, vegetables, and herbs from the farmers’ market, with a focus on small farms that are certified organic or use climate-smart growing practices.

For Chang-Fleeman, AIM provided a critical partnership during the pandemic. AIM’s Bounty Box program among others similar to theirs seeks to promote local agriculture and support smaller and mid-size operations such as Shao Shan Farm. Chang-Fleeman said, “Contending with large grocery stores that are stocked with a wide variety of crops produced on a large commercial scale is difficult.” Coupled with a consumer demand for out-of-season crops, blemish-free produce, all for relatively inexpensive prices drives a dominant food system that is difficult for smaller producers such as Shao Shan Farm to participate within. Having partnerships like those built by AIM offers a way for operations like Chang-Fleeman’s to contend within the prevailing wider market.

AIM started the Bounty Box program in April 2020 in response to the growing crisis the pandemic created for both producers and consumers. AIM’s CEO, Andy Naja-Riese, said, “Many of the county’s small producers were in the same situation as Shao Shan Farm in which they had lost 90% to 100% of their direct sales to restaurants.” According to the Congressional Research Service report

on unemployment rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, in April 2020 the state reached an unemployment level of 14.8%, the highest rate ever record since the 1948 beginning of such data collection. Rates have remained elevated throughout the pandemic but behind each percentage point in the unemployment rate are people in need of help themselves.

AIM's work has long focused on connecting local consumers with local medium- and small-sized agricultural operations. But in the face of the pandemic, their work took on the important role of connecting food to people who desperately needed it. Naja-Riese said, "Through AIM's efforts, over a quarter of a million dollars was used to provide direct assistance to both consumers and producers alike using food box programs like the Bounty Box program. In addition, they, along with other local agricultural producers participated in the USDA Farmers to Families food box program which delivered over 173 million food boxes to people in need nationwide. When USDA funding was no longer available, AIM continued to offer Bounty Boxes for free to communities in San Rafael's Canal neighborhood, Marin City, and senior housing sites in Corte Madera and Mill Valley, with financial support from the Marin Community Foundation and the TomKat Foundation.

Even though there are silver linings to be found in the grey times that the pandemic brought, the hardships our local agricultural producers face are not nearly finished. As we all make progress towards returning to a way of life that resembles pre-COVID, the agricultural community wants the public to know that the drought in the region poses a

very real risk to their operations. Loren Poncia of Stemple Creek Ranch, a beef cattle operation centered in West Marin, said, "The water crisis has been worsening for over a year, with last season's record-low rainfall totals creating a dire situation for many agricultural operations."

While it may seem like ages ago given the pandemic's capturing of national attention, in February 2020 California experienced its driest month ever. 2020 was also the third driest year in California since 1895. And the Bay Area has received thus far in 2021 only approximately 39% of normal rainfall. With such little rainfall the available forage for livestock becomes a serious issue. Many livestock operations have resorted to trucking in feed at a great cost in order to feed their animals and sustain their operations. Poncia said, "Agricultural producers are resilient folks who can face these trying conditions, but they need public support. Shopping locally and consumers making those connections with local producers is important." He hopes that the public also educates themselves about agricultural issues.

Undoubtedly the pandemic will have lasting effects upon the way we all conduct our lives going forward. The hope of our agricultural community is that the public-at-large comes away from this experience with a renewed appreciation for the critical support and resources local agriculture provides not only in times of crisis but every day of the year. As our agricultural community endures their own continuing crisis created by the severe drought, may we all remember to, in turn, support them.

- By Chris Cook, Inspector

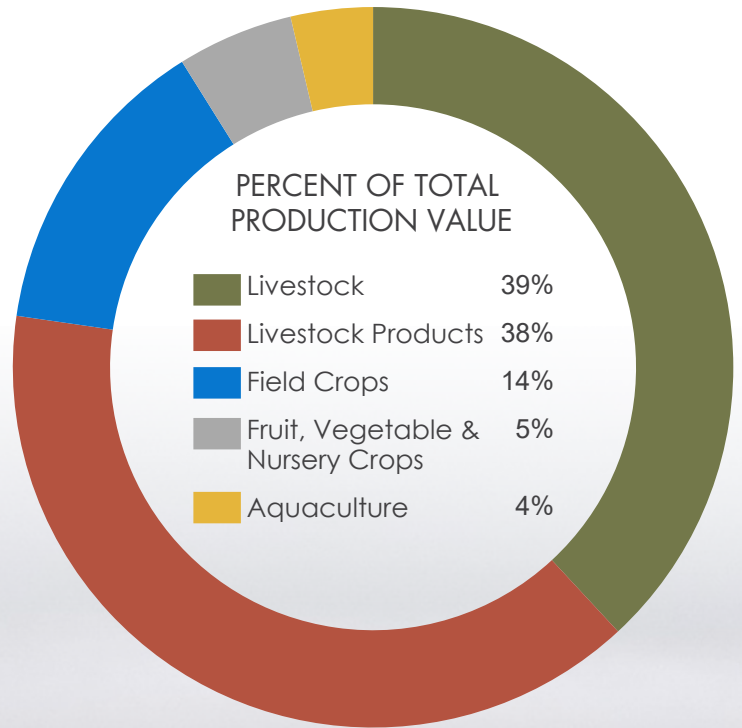


# Agricultural Production Summary

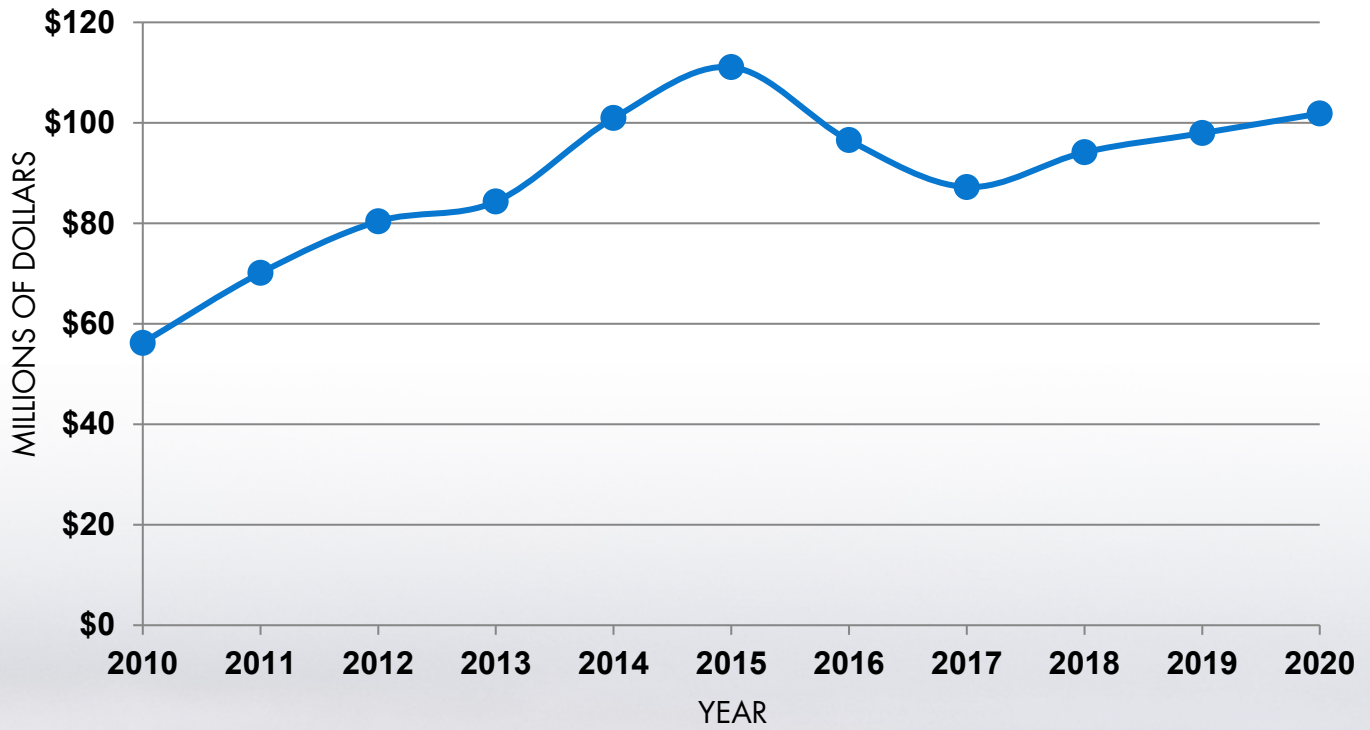
The gross value of all agricultural production in Marin County for 2020 was approximately

# \$101,840,000





which represents an increase of approximately 4% compared to the 2019 gross value of \$97,929,000.



# TEN YEAR SUMMARY






# Livestock & Aquaculture

		# of Head	\$ / Head	Dollar Value
↑ 9%		14,245	\$1,124	\$16,011,000
		14,561	\$1,013	\$14,750,000
↑ 22%		13,209	\$199	\$2,629,000
		10,582	\$203	\$2,148,000
↑ 5%		Poultry figures include poultry fryers and chicken eggs for consumption.		\$21,265,000
↓ -46%		Aquaculture figures include oysters, mussels and clams.		\$3,750,000 <sup>A</sup>
				\$6,925,000
<b>Total Value:</b>				\$43,655,000
				\$44,135,000



# Livestock Products

		Production	\$ / Unit	Dollar Value
↑ 11%		1,058,597 CWT	\$34.54	\$36,564,000
		1,132,274 CWT	\$29.00	\$32,836,000
↓ -2%		134,675 CWT	\$16.37	\$2,205,000
		154,401 CWT	\$14.50	\$2,239,000
↑ 10%		30,366 lbs	\$1.09	\$33,000
		31,343 lbs	\$0.96	\$30,100
<b>Total Value:</b>				\$38,802,000
				\$35,105,000

<sup>A</sup> Aquaculture value based on report prepared by California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

<sup>B</sup> "Conv." means conventional (not organically certified)

Figures may not total due to rounding.



20  
19

## Field Crops

	Acreage	Total Tons	\$ / Ton	Dollar Value
-1% Hay	1,124	2,734	\$136	\$373,000 <sup>C</sup>
	999	2,588	\$145	\$375,000
4% Silage	1,651	19,301	\$56	\$1,073,000 <sup>D</sup>
	1,643	18,529	\$55	\$1,027,000
	Harvested Acreage		\$ / Acre	Dollar Value
5% Pasture	154,000		\$81	\$12,628,000
	154,000		\$78	\$12,012,000
			<b>Total Value:</b>	<b>\$14,074,000</b>
				\$13,414,000

## Fruits, Vegetables & Nursery

	Acreage	Total Tons	Dollar Value
11% Fruits & Vegetables	380 <sup>E</sup>		\$4,006,000
	407		\$3,593,000
-31% Wine Grapes	195	260	\$938,000
	195	406	\$1,369,000
17% Nursery Products	7.02		\$365,000
	7.43		\$313,000
			<b>Total Value:</b>
			<b>\$5,309,000</b>
			\$5,275,000

\*2020 data is presented in blue above; 2019 data is presented in green below.

<sup>C</sup> Values include Rye Hay, Oat Hay, Oat Seed and Vetch Seed.  
<sup>D</sup> Much of the hay and silage is not sold, but used on the farm - value determined by the feed equivalent.  
<sup>E</sup> Following the National Agricultural Statistics Service for Acreage Harvested, acreage harvested and planted repeatedly during the year is counted each time. Harvested acreage for 2020 Fruits & Vegetables represents 350 planted acres.



# Sustainable Agriculture Activities

## LIVESTOCK PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Marin County Board of Supervisors continues to support and appropriate cost-share funds for the Livestock Protection Program to eligible agricultural producers who qualify for non-lethal depredation improvements and practices. Recognized non-lethal control methods include the use of protection animals (e.g., livestock guardian dogs, llamas, etc.), electric fencing, and scare devices, which are eligible for cost-share funds to support ranchers. The Department administers annual verification inspections for cost-share funding for ranchers participating in this program.

Over the past year, 15 ranchers participated in the Livestock Protection cost-share program to help build and repair fences, purchase and support protection animals, and use scare devices to protect animals from predators. Protected animals include sheep, poultry, goats, cattle, buffalo, and alpaca. The total funds expended to support our ranching community from July 2019 to June 2020 was \$31,032.



Photos by Department Staff (from top): electric fencing helps protect a flock of laying hens; a livestock protection dog guarding sheep; and new woven wire fencing.

## **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a common-sense approach to pest management that uses a variety of methods and tools to control pests. IPM programs focus on preventing pest problems through cultural and biological measures, although pesticides may be part of an IPM program. The goal is to eliminate or reduce pesticide applications wherever possible and take reasonable measures to ensure that the long-term prevention or suppression of pests has minimal negative impact on human health, non-target organisms, and the environment. The Department recommends Integrated Pest Management strategies for long-term pest control such as the use of cultural, biological, and mechanical control methods (with chemical control as a last option).

## **PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

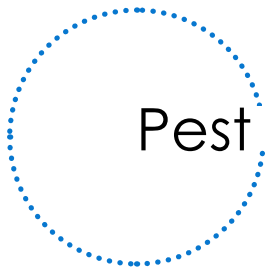
The Department oversees the use of pesticides in Marin County and operates a Pesticide Use Enforcement program that includes a permitting process for restricted pesticides as well as education and assistance for pesticide users. While reviewing, collecting and analyzing data and records associated with pesticide sales and use, our Department also monitors pesticide use applications, investigates pesticide-related citizen complaints, and conducts pesticide-related illness investigations. The ultimate goal of this program is to ensure the safe and effective use of pest control methods in order to protect public health and the environment, while strongly promoting the production of healthy, safe food and fiber through sustainable practices.

## **PEST PREVENTION, DETECTION & EXCLUSION**

Pest prevention encompasses several activities aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of exotic pests in Marin County.

Pest detection is the systematic search for exotic pests outside of a known infested area. The goal is to find infestations of harmful exotic pests as early as possible and eradicate them before eradication becomes biologically or economically infeasible.

Pest exclusion focuses on preventing the entry and establishment of exotic pests and limiting the intrastate movement of newly discovered pests. Marin County inspectors monitor all primary pathways of pest entry into the county including nurseries and points of entry such as UPS and FedEx package terminals.



# Pest Prevention Programs

## PEST DETECTION

In 2020, Inspectors from the Marin County Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture placed and serviced 1,981 traps for exotic insect pests. In total, 24,484 trap inspections were conducted, with most traps being checked every two weeks from May to October. Targeted pests included: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Melon Fly, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS), Light Brown Apple Moth, and Asian Citrus Psyllid. Traps are strategically placed within the county on or near preferred hosts. For example, GWSS traps were placed in nurseries and urban areas; Mediterranean Fruit Fly traps were placed in fruit trees; and Gypsy Moth traps were placed on the trunks of hardwood trees.

## GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, *Homalodisca vitripennis*, is a very serious threat to California agriculture. First observed in the state around 1990, it's now found in the entire counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura, and portions of Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Santa Barbara, and Tulare counties. GWSS is a particular threat to vineyards due to its ability to spread *Xylella fastidiosa*, the bacterium that causes Pierce's disease in grapevines. Pierce's disease is lethal to grapevines and significant resources are committed annually to find effective treatments and produce Pierce's Disease-resistant grape varieties. GWSS also spreads other diseases to a variety of agricultural and ornamental plants, having the potential to substantially impact California's agriculture and environment if left unchecked.

To prevent the introduction of this leafhopper into Marin County, department staff inspect incoming nursery plant shipments containing GWSS host plants from infested California counties. In 2020, a total of 1,698 shipments were inspected for GWSS, with no viable egg masses or live finds. Detection traps are strategically placed throughout the county to monitor for this unwanted pest.

## PEST EXCLUSION

In 2020, inspectors conducted 9,835 incoming plant quarantine inspections. Plant shipments were monitored at FedEx, UPS, retail nurseries, aquatic supply stores, and post-entry quarantine sites. Forty-eight rejections of plant material were made to protect Marin's agriculture and environment. There was a 30% increase in inspections compared to the number performed in 2019 due to increased shipping volumes and because the Department continued daily inspections at FedEx and UPS as permitted by stable state funding. Additionally, the Department performed 16 Gypsy Moth inspections of household goods from infested states, as well as 1,698 Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter inspections on plant material from infested California counties.

The following pests were intercepted in 2020:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RATING
<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	Light brown apple moth	A
<i>Poaceae donax</i>	Giant reed	B
<i>Pseudococcidae sp.</i>	Mealy bug	Q
<i>Euphorbiaceae ophthalmica</i>	Florida hammock sandmat	Q
<i>Diaspis boisduvalii</i>	Boisduval scale	C
<i>Coccidae hesperidum</i>	Brown soft scale	C
<i>Formicidae sp.</i>	Ant	C
<i>Puccinia antirrhini</i>	Snapdragon rust	C



## SUDDEN OAK DEATH

Marin County continues to be infested with Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and Ramorum blight, the diseases caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. SOD has resulted in widespread dieback of various forest tree species, and Ramorum blight affects the leaves and twigs of susceptible forest and nursery plants. While the California bay laurel tree has been shown to be the primary predictor of *P. ramorum* in forests, mortality in tanoak and manzanita has been recorded in sections of the Mt. Tamalpais watershed, with a noticeable absence of California bay laurel, inferring that tanoak and possibly manzanita have caused the inoculum to spread.

Tree mortality in wildland and urban/wildland interface areas causes dramatic changes in the landscape, affecting ecosystems, increasing fire and safety hazards, and decreasing property values. Hosts of *P. ramorum* include various native woodland trees and understory plants, as well as assorted ornamental nursery plants. State and federal quarantines regulate the movement of host nursery stock, and ongoing research is being conducted to help production nurseries continue to mitigate the risk of spread.

On certain oaks such as Coast Live Oak, *P. ramorum* causes potentially lethal trunk cankers; on other hosts it causes leaf or twig blight, which is rarely lethal. Tanoaks may have both trunk cankers and leaf dieback. Unlike oaks, some hosts (e.g., California bay laurel) are not killed by this pathogen; instead these hosts act as a vector, allowing inoculum to spread through natural or artificial means (i.e., rainwater, soil, infested nursery stock) under moist conditions. Oaks have been found to be terminal hosts, becoming infected by pathogen spores produced on leaves of nearby plants.

UC Berkeley sponsors annual citizen science SOD blitzes in many California counties, including Marin. Visit [https://nature.berkeley.edu/matteolab/?page\\_id=5906](https://nature.berkeley.edu/matteolab/?page_id=5906) for more information.

Prevention is the only treatment to protect trees from *P. ramorum*. Best preventative practices include keeping trees healthy to maintain their natural defenses, pruning overstory California bay laurels, and strategically utilizing phosphonate treatment products. For more information about diagnosis, distribution, and best management practices, please visit:

<http://www.suddenoakdeath.org>.

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Biological pest control is the use of pests' natural enemies to help suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the control agent becomes established, management is generally self-perpetuating, potentially eliminating or reducing the need to use pesticides.

The following are pests found in Marin and some of the methods that have been used to control them:

PEST	BIOLOGICAL AGENT
Gorse	Gorse Mite, Seed Weevil
Bull Thistle	Bull Thistle Gall Fly
Yellow Star Thistle	Peacock Fly
Scotch Broom	Stem Boring Moth
Ash White Fly	Parasitic Wasp
Italian Thistle	Seed Weevil



# Invasive Weed Management

## JAPANESE KNOTWEED ERADICATION PROGRAM

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) continues to threaten parts of Marin County. First documented in the winter of 2011 along Lagunitas Creek, Japanese knotweed now occurs on state, federal, and private lands in and along both Lagunitas and San Geronimo Creeks. In 2018, the Marin Knotweed Action Team (MKAT) was created. This coalition of various land managers includes the Marin Resource Conservation District, Marin County Parks, Marin Municipal Water District, State Parks, National Park Service (Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area), One Tam, UC Cooperative Extension Marin, and the Marin County Department of Agriculture. MKAT is leading the effort on eradicating Japanese knotweed from these watersheds.

This invasive plant is classified as an A-rated pest by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, which is the highest and most serious pest rating. Japanese knotweed is considered one of the top 10 most aggressive, destructive and invasive plants in the world!

Small patches of knotweed can quickly grow to infest large areas of land in and along waterways, over time making creek banks more vulnerable to erosion, clogging waterways, and reducing habitat quality for fish and wildlife. It's an aggressive colonizer that outcompetes native vegetation by emerging early, growing fast, and preventing seedling regeneration. It can grow through cracks in street pavement, concrete, and other hardscapes, including home foundations and septic systems. As a result, land managers are not only concerned about the ecological threat this species poses, but also about the damage it can do to homes and property.

Much great work has been done on state, federal, and private lands to manage and treat these knotweed populations. However, in order to eradicate this species in Marin, continued coordinated action must be taken before the infestation becomes more widespread.



MKAT has worked closely with dozens of streamside private property owners along San Geronimo Creek since fall 2018. The goal has been to educate them on the serious threat Japanese knotweed poses, get permission to survey their property, and treat any infestation that is found with the consent of the owner. Mechanical removal of this weed has proven to be ineffective. Attempting to manually remove plants stimulates their growth, which causes spread. Rhizomes (underground stems) have been documented to extend 23 feet horizontally and 10 feet deep.

Japanese knotweed sites range in size from newly deposited, single stem plants to mature stands of Japanese knotweed larger than half a tennis court. Over half of the sites surveyed in Marin in 2018 were less than the size of a car parking space. Based off the experiences of other land managers in northern California and Washington state, three to five years of treatment may be needed for larger sites with less and less herbicide being used in each subsequent year as the populations are reduced in size and number.



Of the 70 sites on private lands that were treated in 2019, 24 sites had no detectable aboveground stems in 2020, while 46 sites did have stems present (though the height and number of stems were significantly reduced). In addition to these 70 sites, six new sites (ranging from one to ten stems) were found in 2020 during a streambank survey from Roy's Pools in San Geronimo to the Inkwells in Lagunitas. One-third of the 76 sites required no treatment as there were no visible stems present. All but three of the remaining 52 knotweed sites were treated in July and September 2020. The total treatment area in 2020 was 0.32 foliar acres. While this area was only slightly less than in 2019, the amount of herbicide applied was greatly reduced. Herbicide use for all 49 sites in late summer 2020 included: 4.8 ounces of Habitat, 3.25 ounces of Competitor (adjuvant), and 5.12 ounces of Roundup Custom.

MKAT is continuing to educate and work with three property owners that have declined treatment to manage Japanese knotweed on properties with streamside knotweed. To date, there are also two additional properties with Japanese knotweed near the residence (not near the stream) that also have declined treatment. More information about Japanese knotweed can be found at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinKnotweedActionTeam>.

## MARIN/SONOMA WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

The Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area (MSWMA) is a cooperative organization fighting weeds and invasive plants in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Established in 1999, the group includes representatives from federal, state, county and city agencies, private industry, and landowners.

MSWMA reconvened Fiscal Year 2019-20 as a result of the California legislature approving \$2 million in state-wide funding in Spring 2019 for weed projects across California. MSWMA had not officially met since 2015 due to the lack of state funding to support weed projects. Going forward the California Department of Food and Agriculture has a baseline amount of \$3 million for noxious weed control and research through California's Biodiversity Initiative.

MSWMA's goals include improving the effectiveness of local weed management efforts, increasing public awareness of invasive weeds, advancing responsible land stewardship practices, and working collaboratively with partner organizations by sharing resources and knowledge to manage and/or eradicate invasive weed populations. MSWMA helps control weeds across land ownership boundaries by uniting landowners with public agencies and providing an opportunity to share resources in mapping, planning, and treatment strategies.

Visit the Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area website at <https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/wmas/marin-sonoma-wma/>. Information can also be found at <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/ag/weeds>.

# Marin Organic Farming & Ranching

## MARIN ORGANIC CERTIFIED AGRICULTURE

The Marin County Department of Agriculture is accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as an official organic certification agency.

Marin Organic Certified Agriculture (MOCA) serves local agricultural producers who employ organic farming and ranching practices, and seek formal certification under USDA's National Organic Program. Organic production systems strive to achieve agro-ecosystems that are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable. Organic farming emphasizes greater cooperation with nature without reliance on synthetic inputs.

Consumer demand for certified organic products continues to increase, with an expectation by consumers that organic products are verifiable. MOCA was established in 2001 to provide a professional service to local individual and business operations engaged in the production and distribution of organically produced commodities.

The primary responsibilities of MOCA are to uphold the standards of the USDA National Organic Program, and document and verify operations' practices of sustainable agriculture. One of the most important benefits of the MOCA program is as a local resource that services the production of organic, value-added products by Marin's family farms.

In 2020, MOCA certified 50 operations as organic. Of those, 14 operations are dairies. Thirty-two of the operations are located in Marin County. Sixteen operations are located in Sonoma County. The remaining two operations are located in Riverside County and are managed by Marin-based operations to ensure a year-round supply of fresh produce in the local off-season.

## CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PROGRAM

All organic producers in California must register with the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Organic Program. In 2020, there were 68 registered organic producers in Marin County, farming approximately 39,174 acres, and producing an estimated gross value of \$40,402,364. More than 95% of the acreage farmed organically is pastureland (approximately 37,932 acres).

Beginning January 2017, changes to the Organic Food and Farming Act no longer require organic registrants in California to provide detailed commodity information and acreage to the state. Before these changes, the state and its counties had been collecting detailed information on specific commodities, their acreage and associated value. This allowed counties to evaluate the contribution of organic agriculture to the overall county economy and to ascertain the ratio of organic to conventional acreage. The total production acreage is now reported by registrant rather than commodity. For more information on the Organic Food and Farming Act, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture's State Organic Program website at <https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/is/organicprogram/>.





# Marin Certified Farmers' Markets

Certified Farmers' Markets are community events bringing together farmers and consumers, offering the opportunity to meet certified producers and learn how and where food is grown. Farmers may only sell what they grow so consumers can rest assured the food is fresh and seasonal.

Marin's Certified Farmers' Markets showcase the diversity and abundance of local and regional produce. In 2020, 25 Certified Producer Certificates were issued to producers in Marin County, which allows growers to sell at the markets, and 10 farmers' markets were certified.

Check our website at <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ag> to stay up to date with current market schedules.

## MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

Thursday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Open all year

## CORTE MADERA

Corte Madera Town Center  
Wednesday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Open all year

## SAN RAFAEL

Fourth St.  
Thursday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
May - September

## FAIRFAX

Bolinas Park  
Wednesday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
May - October

## NOVATO

Grant Ave. @ 7th St.  
Tuesday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
May - October

## LARKSPUR

Marin Country Mart  
Saturday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Open all year

## MILL VALLEY

E. Blithedale Ave @ Alto Shopping Center  
Friday 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Open all year

## TOMALES

CA-1 @ 1st St.  
Every 3rd Saturday of the Month  
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
June - October

## POINT REYES STATION

Toby's Feed Barn  
Saturday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
June - November





# Staff Retirement: Stacy Carlsen

## **25 years of dedicated service as Marin County's Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Weights & Measures**

Stacy Carlsen came to the Marin County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures in June of 1995 and worked here for 25 years as Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Weights & Measures, retiring in September of 2020.

Stacy began his career in the County Agricultural Commissioner system in Stanislaus County in 1978. From December 1989 to June 1995, Stacy was the Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures in Sutter County. Combining his service in Marin and Sutter counties he was the state's longest serving Commissioner/ Sealer in recent decades, with over 31 years of service.

An avid supporter of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, Stacy established the Model IPM in Schools Program, helping schools implement the Healthy Schools Act of 2000. In 2005, he was part of the entourage that hosted the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall to Marin County.

An innovative problem solver with a creative approach to setting policy, Stacy worked with ranchers and staff to create the Livestock Protection Program in 2001 – an alternative, community-based, cost-share program to assist ranchers in preventing livestock depredations solely through non-lethal means.

He was at the forefront of California's organic certification movement for many years and helped establish the Marin Organic Certified Agriculture (MOCA) program in 2001 – the first government third-party organic certifying agency in California.

In 2011, Stacy helped establish the Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (VESCO). This program helps minimize erosion and sedimentation in connection with vineyard planting and re-planting in the county, and ensures the long-term economic viability of the county's viticulture, agricultural and natural resources.

A member of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) for over 24 years, Stacy was the Chair of the NCWM Professional Development Committee for two terms. He also was a member of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC) for over 15 years.

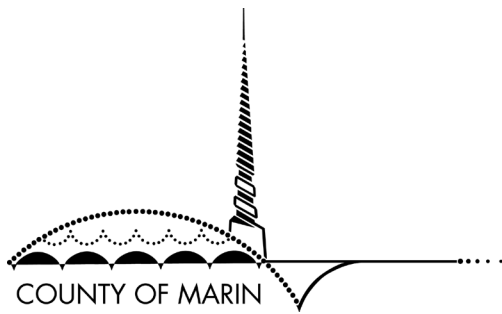
Most recently, Stacy led the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association's (CACASA) 2019 County Sealer Statewide Retail Marketplace Survey. Marin County partnered with dozens of other counties around California to conduct price verification inspections at retailers in low-income and underserved communities. While pricing errors affect all consumers, they have a disproportionate effect on low-income households. The results of the survey clearly indicated the need to incorporate enhancements to weights and measures programs to address social justice issues.

Outside of work Stacy enjoys gold-panning, fishing, collecting rocks, and working on his vintage vehicles. An entomologist at heart, he enjoys identifying insects and even collects flies for fishing. He still has his first car – a 1956 Bel Aire – that he likes to use to pull his vintage camper. He bought the Bel Aire from an older neighborhood kid on the condition that the neighbor teach him how to work on it. Since then, he has enjoyed car mechanics.

The Department would like to thank Stacy for the lasting contributions made during his 25 years of professional service with the county. We wish him all the best in his retirement.



Photo of Stacy Carlsen by Kristin Murphy 17



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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Promoting and protecting agriculture and environmental quality, and ensuring equity in the marketplace.