

Agriculture, Weights and Measures
Final Performance Plan
FY 2008-09

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Agriculture, Weights and Measures Department is to serve the public's interest by ensuring equity in the market place, promoting and protecting agriculture, protecting environmental quality and the health and welfare of Marin County's residents.

II. DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Agricultural Commissioner/Department of Weights and Measures protects environmental quality and the health and welfare of residents by ensuring that pest control is performed safely and appropriately. The department also guards natural, agricultural, and urban community resources from destructive and invasive pests, and serves the public's interest by implementing weights and measures programs that protect consumers and ensure equity in the marketplace.

These functions are accomplished through education, commodity inspection and certification, promotion of sustainable food systems, and enforcement of County, State, and federal regulations. The department works cooperatively with the public, agricultural industry, and various County, State and federal agencies with similar mandates to facilitate program goals.

The department also provides sustainable agriculture programs and pest identification and pest control guidance for residents and is an informational resource for the agricultural industry, pest control operators, and other government agencies.

The Agriculture, Weights and Measures Department includes the following programs:

- Agriculture
- Weights and measures

The staff of the Agriculture Commission is responsible for the following services:

- Pesticide Use Enforcement ensures pesticides are used safely, appropriately; and in compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations
- Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection, and Pest Eradication programs prevent the introduction, spread and establishment of injurious and destructive pests such as Light Brown Apple Moth
- Sustainable Agriculture programs include Organic Certification, Grass-fed Livestock Certification to promote Marin's agricultural industry and encourage sustainable agricultural practices
- Fruit, Vegetable and Egg Quality Control protect consumers from substandard quality, insufficiently labeled, and deceptively packed fruits, vegetables and eggs
- Nursery and Seed Inspection ensures agricultural commodities meet State standards
- Livestock and Crop Statistics gathers statistics for annual livestock and agricultural crop report, crop loss due to environmental disaster

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- Farmers Market / Direct Marketing program provides certification of local growers so they may sell directly to consumers at farmer's markets, and provides regulation of Farmers Market and other direct market outlets

The Weights and Measures staff is responsible for the following services:

- Weighing and Measuring Device Regulation program provides for inspection and testing of all commercial weighing and measuring devices within the county to ensure accuracy and fair transactions
- Quantity Control program assures that the sales of commodities over a scale, or prepackaged commodities are accurately represented as to quantity and price extension
- Scanner inspection program checks scanner-pricing accuracy at retail and consumer compliant investigation
- Petroleum Inspection program ensures petroleum products meet minimum state standards and investigates complaints of gasoline quality and other petroleum products
- Weighmaster program assures commercial transactions by individuals or firms, in the absence of a third party, issue accurate certificates when weighing or measuring bulk commodities

III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2007-08

- Installed new pesticide permit and reporting system
- Marin Organic Certified Agriculture reaccredited by U.S. Department of Agriculture following onsite audit
- Reviewed and updated County Integrated Pest Management ordinance
- Initiated "training exchange" with Sonoma County
- Updated and implemented department of Point of Sale (POS) / scanner billing program
- Completed draft Hillside Protection Ordinance

IV. GOALS AND INITIATIVES FY 2008-09

GOAL 1: Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species

FY 2008-09 Initiatives
1. Conduct continuous light brown apple moth (LBAM) detection trapping and regulate all LBAM quarantine properties
2. Set up LBAM compliance agreement with affected businesses
3. Provide LBAM public outreach and education within affected communities
4. Map all LBAM finds in County using Geographic Information System (GIS) for quick visualization of infestation areas

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FY 2008-09 Initiatives

5. Arrange visit by Contra Costa County canine inspection team to Marin County package distribution centers to better profile high risk packages

GOAL 2: Ensure pesticides are used safely and appropriately

FY 2008-09 Initiatives

1. Update newly installed Restricted Materials Management System program for GIS ability
2. Update departmental website to include links to public records regarding local pesticide related information
3. Develop map of organic properties to insure adequate buffers between organic producers and pesticide users
4. Conduct in-house trainings for new staff on pesticide related inspections in ranching and other industries
5. Create database to facilitate industry contact
6. Complete review all permits, operator identification numbers and registrations to insure accuracy and completeness
7. Review Pesticide registration fees and adjust to statutory maximum

GOAL 3: Encourage sustainable agricultural practices

FY 2008-09 Initiatives

1. Review and update Marin Organic Certified Agriculture (MOCA) certification fees
2. Review and rewrite organic certification and registration forms
3. Review MOCA organic certification process to streamline organic renewals
4. Identify and initiate special project locations for livestock protection program
5. Assess efficacy of different weed control methods for pasture management in organic and conventional operations

GOAL 4: Maintain a fair and equitable marketplace

FY 2008-09 Initiatives

1. Fully implement POS / scanner program for all registered scanner locations

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FY 2008-09 Initiatives

2. Improve industry scanner compliance by 5%
3. Work with Sonoma and Napa Counties through a Weights and Measures Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to replace aging medium-capacity weight test vehicle
4. Continue to train new staff on Weights and Measures programs and obtain necessary State licenses to increase Weights and Measures program flexibility
5. Update device program addresses to streamline mailing and collection of fees
6. Investigate device inspection program for feasibility of follow-up inspection fee
7. Purchase Probewell Electric meter standard and initiate in-house testing of electric meters
8. Review and modify taxi meter testing procedure to increase efficiency

GOAL 5: Provide increased efficiencies through office automation

FY 2008-09 Initiatives

1. Automate main departmental office e-mail inbox
2. Develop Microsoft Access database that will automate compilation of staff hours and activities for preparation of monthly and annual time reports
3. Develop procedures to assist with routine office activities such as filing, use report processing, mail and email distribution

V. KEY CHALLENGES AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- Completion of County Integrated Pest Management (IPM) ordinance rewrite and draft County IPM Policy
- Completion of Hillside Protection ordinance and presentation to BOS
- Workload challenges of existing staff with new issues such as Light Brown Apple Moth

VI. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Sustainable Agriculture activities include developing a sustainable agricultural model that provides incentives for growers and producers to incorporate sustainable and value-added elements into

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their operation, while promoting environmental stewardship. This will be accomplished through a targeted education campaign on integrated pest control, implementation of sustainable agricultural practices, identification of sustainable indicators, and holistic production strategies to develop creative alternatives for sustainable food production and alternative concepts for pest management.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce number of acres of distaff and purple star thistle on agricultural properties to restore the land to productivity

Measures	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Estimate	FY 2008-09 Estimate
Workload Measures			
Number of acres of distaff and purple star thistle	7,125	6,982	6,839
Efficiency Measures			
Cost per acre cleared	\$175	\$150	\$150
Effectiveness Measures			
Percent reduction in acres of distaff and purple star thistle	0%	-2%	-2%

Department Comments:

These measures provide baseline information to determine whether activities are achieving goals and whether activities are cost effective.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the number of hours spent on organic renewals to maintain certifications

Measures	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Estimate	FY 2008-09 Estimate
Workload Measures			
Number of organic agricultural operations	38	50	50
Efficiency Measures			
Number of hours spent per certification renewal	6	6	5
Effectiveness Measures			
Percentage of prior-year's certified organic agricultural operations recertified in the current year	50%	100%	100%

Department Comments:

Organic certification provides added value to local agricultural products, helping local producers remain financially viable. Organic certification program integrity is key to continue local affordable certification services.

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OBJECTIVE: Improve industry compliance and ensure transaction clarity between consumer and industry

Measures	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Estimate	FY 2008-09 Estimate
Workload Measures			
Number of inspections conducted	45	100	125
Effectiveness Measures			
Number of hours spent to verify location compliance	3.75	3.75	3.5
Percent of businesses complying with scanner regulations	50%	60%	70%

Department Comments:

These measures evaluate departmental field activity toward completion of program inspection responsibilities, as well as indicate level of compliance by point-of-sale / scanner users.