

Marin County  
Livestock & Agricultural Crop Report  
2003

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*Cover photo: McEvoy Ranch, Petaluma*

*McEvoy Ranch is an organic producer of olive trees and olive oil. Located in Marin County, west of Petaluma, McEvoy propagates olive trees from cuttings. The oil from the olive trees is milled right on the ranch site. In addition, McEvoy Ranch also does custom milling for other olive growers. For more information, log on to [www.mcevoyranch.com](http://www.mcevoyranch.com).*

This report is available at our web site:  
[www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/ag/main/index.cfm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/ag/main/index.cfm)





MARIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**STACY K. CARLSEN**

COMMISSIONER/DIRECTOR

**FRED W. CROWDER**

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/DIRECTOR

April 1, 2004

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
And  
Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Steve Kinsey, President, District 4

Susan Adams,	District 1	Annette Rose,	District 3
Harold C. Brown,	District 2	Cynthia Murray,	District 5

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the Annual Crop and Livestock Report for 2003. This report is a summary of counts, acreage, yields, and gross value of agricultural production in Marin County. The 2003 gross value of all production was \$48,675,154. This represents an increase of \$4,198,082 or 8.7% from the 2002 total agricultural production value. The report represents gross returns to the producer and does not indicate actual net profit.

Milk is the long standing, premier commodity for Marin, and this year accounts for over 53% of the crop report's total value. Milk increased in value by \$1,347,000 (5.4%) due to volume (up 2.6%) and price increases.

Livestock and poultry value increased by \$2,732,381 or 21.3%. Prices received for beef cattle, and sheep increased from last year's market prices. Prices went up as consumption and demand for protein provided by beef and lamb was up in 2003, partially due to the increased popularity of low carbohydrate diets. Dairy cattle dropped in value. Poultry value went up \$958,509 or 27%.

Aquaculture experienced a 3.8% increase in value over last year, due mostly to higher planting rates leading to increased harvests.

The value of field, fruit and vegetable production, excluding wine grapes, went up by \$80,616, a 1.2% increase in total value. The total value of wine grapes decreased by \$23,947 or 9.4%. This is due to a slight drop in the wine grape acreage, a 19.6% drop in total tons produced, as well as decreased market values and poor weather conditions at time of bloom. Nursery crops experienced a decrease in value of \$40,374 or 5.6%.

My appreciation goes to the many growers, individuals and organizations for their cooperation in providing the information necessary for this report and special thanks to the members of my staff, Laurel Thomassin and Amanda Stephens, for working so hard to prepare it.

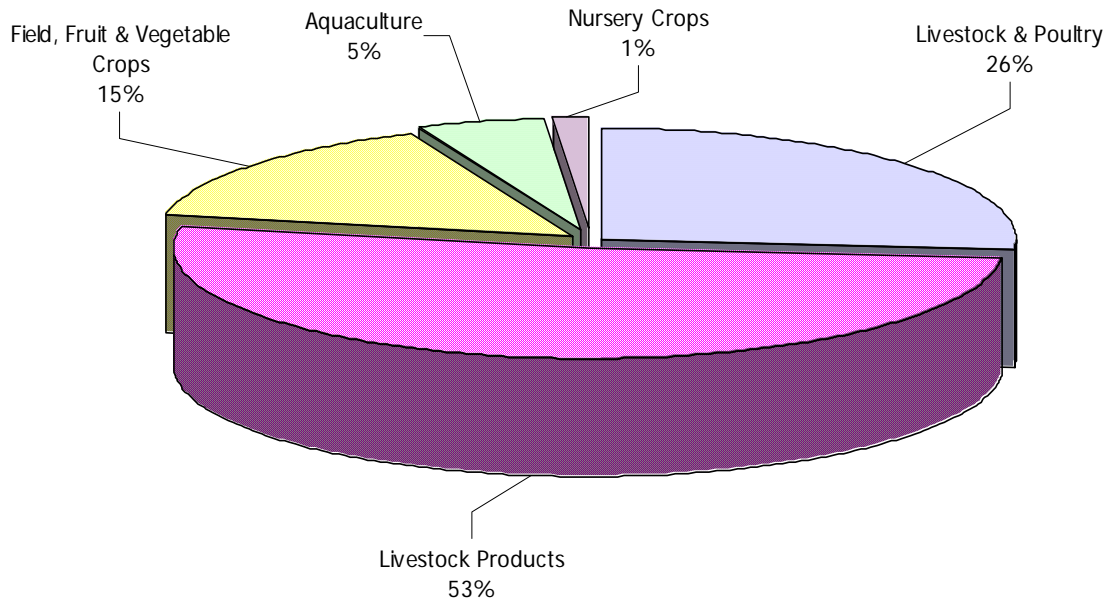
Respectfully submitted,

Stacy K. Carlsen  
Agricultural Commissioner

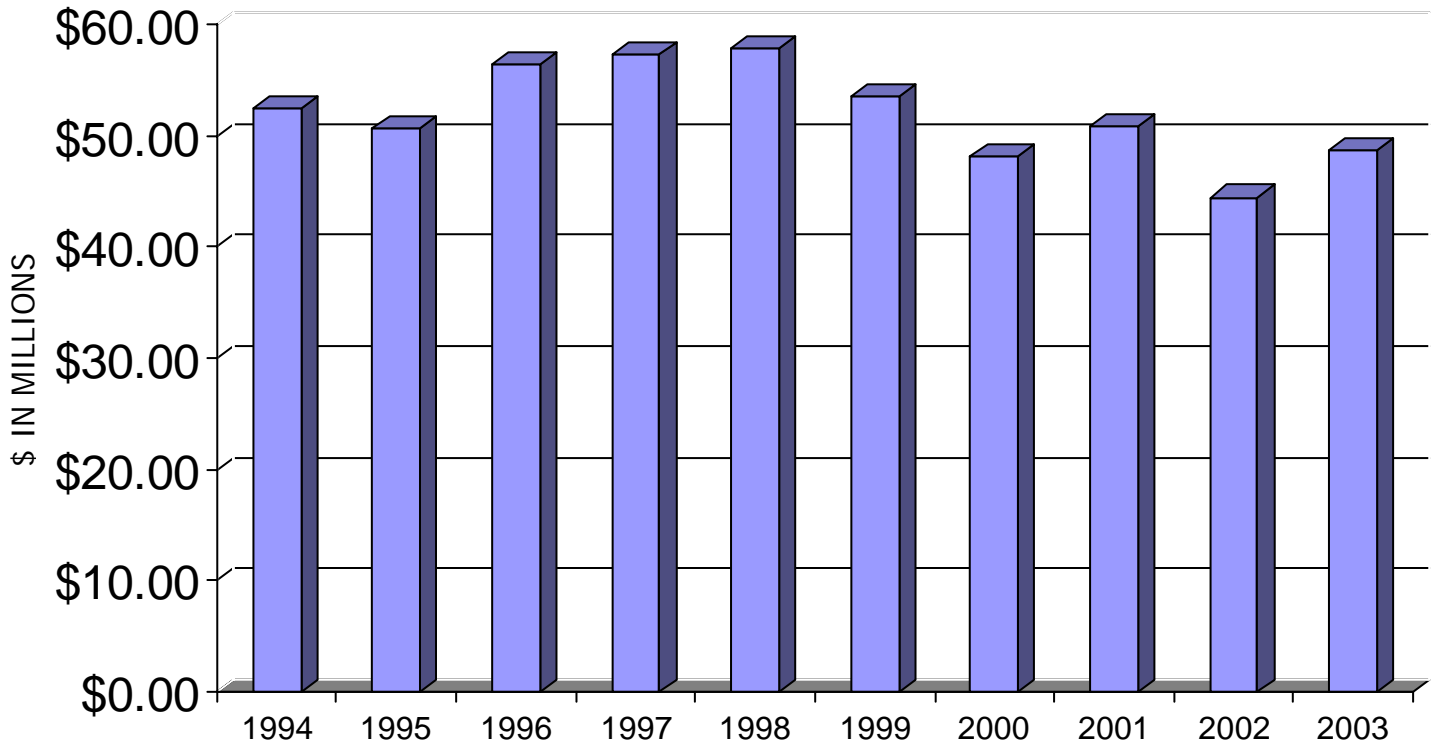
## Summary of Production

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Livestock Products	<b>\$ 25,137,035</b>	\$ 23,782,019
Livestock & Poultry	<b>\$ 12,836,770</b>	\$ 10,104,389
Field, Fruit & Vegetable Crops	<b>\$ 7,524,398</b>	\$ 7,467,729
Aquaculture	<b>\$ 2,492,235</b>	\$ 2,397,845
Nursery Crops	<b>\$ 684,716</b>	\$ 725,090
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 48,675,154</b>	<b>\$ 44,477,072</b>

## 2003 Production Summary



## Agricultural Production Gross Value A Ten Year Summary



## Livestock, Poultry and Aquaculture

Item	Year	No. of Head	Live Weight	Unit	Dollar Value	
					\$/Unit	Total
Cattle & Calves	<b>2003</b>	<b>18,050</b>	<b>109,184</b>	<b>cwt</b>	<b>\$ 76.31</b>	<b>\$ 8,331,555</b>
	2002	17,490	106,443	cwt	\$ 64.82	\$ 6,899,387
Sheep & Lambs	<b>2003</b>	<b>11,607</b>	<b>12,535</b>	<b>cwt</b>	<b>\$ 74.88</b>	<b>\$ 938,584</b>
	2002	9,271	10,013	cwt	\$ 59.61	\$ 596,880
Poultry & Eggs*	<b>2003</b>	<b>121,894</b>				<b>\$ 3,566,631</b>
	2002	60,492				\$ 2,608,122
Aquaculture	<b>2003</b>		<b>Oysters, Mussels, &amp; Clams</b>			<b>\$ 2,492,235</b>
	2002		Oysters, Mussels, & Clams			\$ 2,397,845
Total	<b>2003</b>					<b>\$ 15,329,005</b>
	2002					\$ 12,502,234

\* parent stock hatching eggs

## Livestock Products

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Dollar Value	
				\$/Unit	Total
Milk (Market)	<b>2003</b>	<b>2,109,199</b>	<b>cwt</b>	<b>\$ 11.90</b>	<b>\$ 25,099,468</b>
	2002	2,054,495	cwt	\$ 11.56	\$ 23,749,962
Milk (Manufacturing)	<b>2003</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>cwt</b>	<b>\$ 11.82</b>	<b>\$ 11,465</b>
	2002	1,415	cwt	\$ 10.04	\$ 14,207
Wool*	<b>2003</b>	<b>65,256</b>	<b>lbs</b>	<b>\$ 0.40</b>	<b>\$ 26,102</b>
	2002	71,400	lbs	\$ 0.25	\$ 17,850
Total	<b>2003</b>				<b>\$ 25,137,035</b>
	2002				\$ 23,782,019

\*Includes USDA wool subsidy

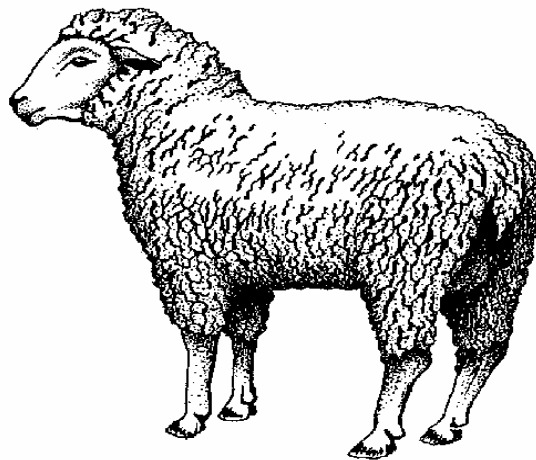
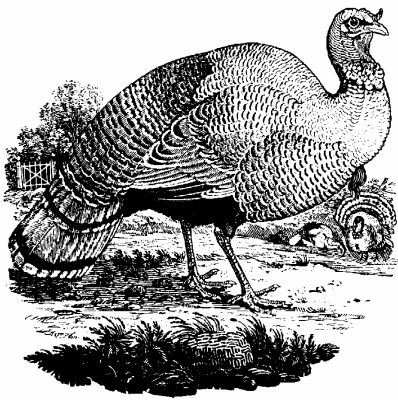
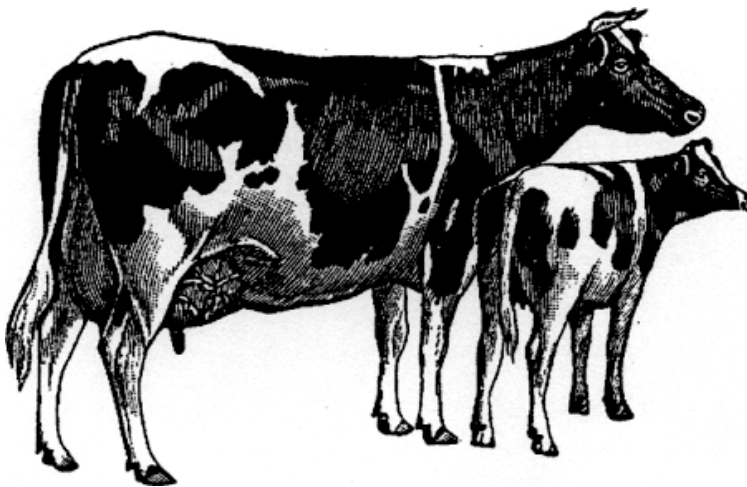
# Inventories of Livestock and Poultry

(Number of Head as of January 1, 2004)

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ITEM	NUMBER
Cattle and Calves, all	38,942
Milk cows and heifers 2 years and over	10,200
Beef cows and heifers 2 years and over	12,000
Sheep and Lambs, all	8,156
Poultry	121,894

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## Field, Fruit and Vegetable Crops

Item	Year	Harvested Acreage	Ton/ Acre	Total Tons	Unit	Dollar Value	
						\$/Unit	Total
Hay, Grass	<b>2003</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>ton</b>	<b>\$ 58.30</b>	<b>\$227,370</b>
	2002	1,940	2.0	3,880	ton	\$ 56.00	\$ 217,280
Hay, Oat	<b>2003</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>ton</b>	<b>\$ 74.50</b>	<b>\$ 249,948</b>
	2002	1,500	2.0	3,000	ton	\$ 77.50	\$ 232,500
Silage	<b>2003</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>36,450</b>	<b>ton</b>	<b>\$ 21.00</b>	<b>\$ 765,450</b>
	2002	2,794	11	30,734	ton	\$ 27.00	\$ 829,818
Hay, Grain	<b>2003</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>.40</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>ton</b>	<b>\$ 160.00</b>	<b>\$19,200</b>
	2002	300	.75	225	ton	\$ 320.00	\$ 72,000
Pasture, Irrigated	<b>2003</b>	<b>810</b>				<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 81,000</b>
	2002	810				\$ 100.00	\$ 81,000
Pasture, Other	<b>2003</b>	<b>154,000</b>				<b>\$ 29.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,466,000</b>
	2002	154,000				\$ 29.00	\$ 4,466,000
Fruits & Vegetables	<b>2003</b>	<b>183.4</b>					<b>\$ 1,484,407</b>
	2002	174.8					\$ 1,314,161
Grapes, Wine*	<b>2003</b>	<b>74</b>		<b>116.2</b>	<b>ton</b>		<b>\$ 231,023</b>
	2002	82		144.5	ton		\$ 254,970
Total	<b>2003</b>						<b>\$ 7,524,398</b>
	2002						\$ 7,467,729

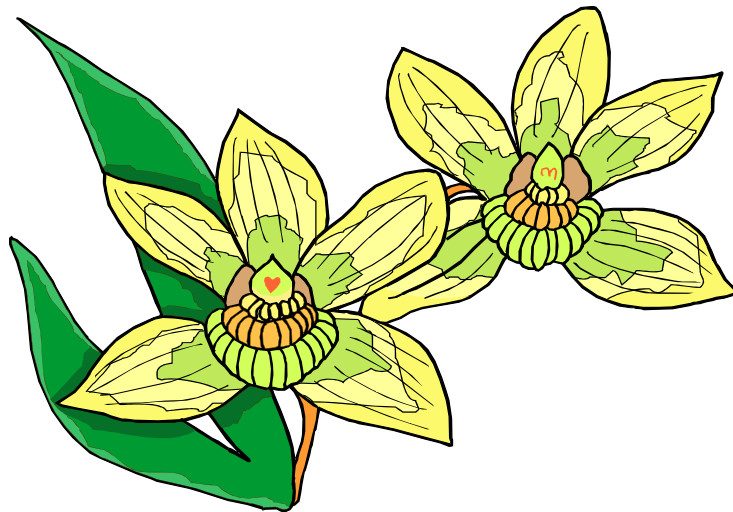
\* Varieties include: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Gewurztraminer and Cabernet Franc





# Nursery Products

Item	Year	Production Acres	Dollar Value Total
Nursery	<b>2003</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>\$ 684,716</b>
Stock, All	2002	42	\$ 725,090



# Marin County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures

## **Departmental Mission Statement**

Our mission 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 citizens.

Following is a description of the department's activities:

## **Pest Prevention**

Pest prevention encompasses several activities aimed to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic pests in Marin County. 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 avenues of pest entry into the 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 and eradicate them before it becomes biologically or economically unfeasible.

## **Protection of the Environment**

Over the years Marin County has developed a program of Pesticide Use Enforcement that includes all the facets that are needed to comply with Federal and State laws and to ensure proper, safe, and efficient use of pest control methods and pesticides for the production of food and fiber and for the protection of public health, safety and welfare, and the environment. This is accomplished by a permit process and monitoring the use of pesticides, investigating pesticide incidents and complaints, continuous enforcement of pesticide use and records associated with that use, collecting and reviewing of pesticide use data, and educating and assisting users of pesticides.

## **Integrated Pest Management**

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a common-sense approach to pest management that uses a variety of methods to control pests. Pesticides may be part of an IPM program, however, considerable effort is also put towards preventing pest problems by controlling conditions which may attract and support pests. Marin County's IPM program is designed to ensure that County departments and everyone applying pesticides to property owned and/or managed by the County of Marin utilize IPM practices, eliminate or reduce pesticide applications where ever possible and take reasonable measures to ensure that long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems has minimal negative impact on human health, non-target organisms, and the environment. The goal of the County is to reduce its countywide total yearly pesticide use by 75% by weight, as compared to the total pesticide use in 1997, no later than January 1, 2004. At this time the county has exceeded that goal with current estimates showing a greater than 80% pesticide use reduction.

The Marin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office has been developing a model IPM program for schools. This program has been established to develop pro-active pest management systems and to provide maintenance personnel and other school staff pest management tools that are effective while reducing risk to human health and the environment.

## **Product Quality**

Marin County inspectors are protecting consumers by inspecting agricultural products for compliance with laws, regulations, and standards and ensuring that businesses are afforded a fair and equitable opportunity to market their products. Inspections are conducted at horticultural nurseries, farmers markets, and organic farms, as well as locations selling wholesale and retail eggs.

## **Weights and Measures**

The Weights and Measures program protects the interests of the consumer and market place to ensure honesty and integrity of routine transactions when products are sold by weight, measure, count or time. This is accomplished through continuous and systematic inspection of all equipment that is used to weigh or measure a commodity. Weights and Measures inspectors test taximeters, scales in stores, gasoline pumps, fabric and cordage meters, electric meters, water meters, livestock and animal scales, vehicle scales, scanner systems for pricing accuracy, and packaged products for stated net contents. Every transaction involving the exchange of goods by volume, count, or weight is affected in a very vital way by some form of weights and measures.



# Summary of the Sustainable Agricultural Activities

Sustainability is a method of balancing resource use in such a manner that it provides for current needs while ensuring such resources will be available to meet the needs of future generations.

## Organic Food Production, Registration, and Certification

Organic production systems strive to achieve agro-ecosystems that are ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable. Organic farming emphasizes a greater cooperation with nature without reliance on synthetic inputs.

All California organic producers register in their principal county of operation. There are 33 registered organic producers in Marin County, farming 2,330 acres, producing a total gross value of 3.98 million dollars.

Organic commodities produced in Marin County include: apples, beans, berries, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, cucumbers, cut flowers, dairy products, eggs, figs, garlic, herbs, lavender, leaf lettuce, lemons, milk, mixed salad greens, olives, onions, pasture, pears, potatoes, pumpkins, silage, spinach, squash, strawberries, sunflowers, tomatoes, turnips, vegetable starts, and watercress.

## Marin Organic Certified Agriculture (MOCA)

MOCA is an Organic Certification program offered by the Marin County Agricultural Commissioner's office and serves the local community. MOCA is accredited by the USDA as an official organic certification agency.

Local and statewide consumer demand for certified products is increasing with an expectation by consumers that organic products are verifiable. MOCA was developed to provide a professional service to local individual and business operations engaged in the production and distribution of organically grown commodities. MOCA certification verifies compliance with the USDA National Organic Program standards and documents the operation practices of a sustainable agricultural system. In 2003 MOCA certified 28 growers and 1 processor in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

## Biological Control

Biological pest control is the use of natural enemies to help suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the agent becomes established, control is self-perpetuating, potentially reducing the need to use pesticides. The following are pests found in Marin and some of the methods being used to control them.

### Pest

Gorse  
Bull Thistle  
Yellow Star Thistle  
Scotch Broom  
Ash White Fly  
Italian Thistle  
Purple Star Thistle  
Klamath Weed  
Canada Thistle  
Plumeless Thistle  
Eucalyptus Red Gum Lerp Psyllid

### Biological Agent/Mechanism

Gorse Mite, Seed Weevil  
Bull Thistle Gall Fly  
Seed Head Weevil, Gall Fly, Hairy Weevil, Peacock Fly  
Seed Weevil, Stem Boring Moth  
Parasitic Wasp  
Seed Weevil  
Seed Weevil  
Beetle  
Mechanical and chemical removal  
Mechanical and chemical removal  
Parasitic Wasp

## Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area

A weed management area group was formed for Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties in early 1999. The Weed Management Area's (WMA) plan is to unite individual ownership and public agencies, provide an opportunity to share resources in mapping, planning information and help control weeds across land ownership boundaries. The WMA has performed a number of weed control projects made possible by the state legislature passing AB 1168 and SB 1740 which provide funding to WMA's. With this funding, the WMA has hand pulled woolly distaff thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*), and purple star thistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*). The WMA works with all landowners to determine the best method of control of each individual landowner's requirements. Where there are sites potentially harboring endangered or threatened species of plants and animals, hand removal is the method of choice. Mechanical and chemical removal of weeds is utilized at other sites. The WMA conducted a hand weed pulling field day. Anyone is welcome to come to the meetings and everyone is welcome to help control weeds.

## Pest Exclusion

In 2003, Marin County personnel conducted 5,568 incoming plant quarantine inspections. Plant shipments were monitored at Federal Express, UPS, nurseries, ethnic markets, aquatic supply stores, and post entry quarantine. 38 gypsy moth inspections of household goods from eastern states were conducted, as well as 2,219 Glassy-Winged Sharp Shooter inspections on plant material from infested California counties.

30 rejections of plant material were made. Rejected plant material was either destroyed or reconditioned and released.

A total of 31 pests were intercepted. Of those, 12 were "Q" rated, 2 were "B" rated, 14 were "C" or "D" rated and 3 were viable GWSS egg masses.

The following is a list of the significant pest interceptions:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Rating
Acheta sp	Cricket	Q
Coccidae	Immature soft scale	Q
Gyponana germari	Leaf hopper	Q
Homalodisca coagulate	Glassy-Winged Sharp Shooter	B
Kallitaxila granulata	Plant hopper	Q
Nysius sp	Lygaeid bug	Q
Pheidole megacephala	Big Headed Ant	Q
Pheidole sp	An Ant	Q
Siphanta acuta	Topedo bug	B
Technomyrex albipes	An Ant	Q
Thrips hawaiiensis	Hawaiian flower thrips	Q
Thrips palmi	Thrips	Q

Q – rating: Quarantine Action

A – rating: State Action

B – rating: County Action

C – rating: County Action at Discretion of the Agricultural Commissioner

D – rating: No action



## Pest Detection

1,153 traps were serviced for exotic insect pests (including Mediterranean and Oriental Fruit Flies, Mexican Fruit Fly, Olive Fruit Fly, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Melon fly, and Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter). Of the 1,153 traps, 295 traps were placed for the Glassy-Winged sharpshooter in nurseries, vineyards, and landscaped areas throughout the county, and 4 Olive Fruit Fly traps were placed in olive orchards.

## Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter

The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) (*Homalodisca coagulata*) is a serious pest in California. This insect was first observed in California in 1990 and is now found throughout Southern California and portions of the San Joaquin Valley. It is a particular threat to vineyards due to its ability to spread *Xylella fastidiosa*, the bacterium that causes Pierce's disease. Pierce's disease kills grapevines and there are no effective treatments for it. The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter 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, staff inspect all incoming nursery plant shipments from infested California counties. A total of 2,219 shipments were inspected for GWSS. Detection traps placed throughout the county are also monitored for the Homopterus pest.



## Sudden Oak Death (SOD)

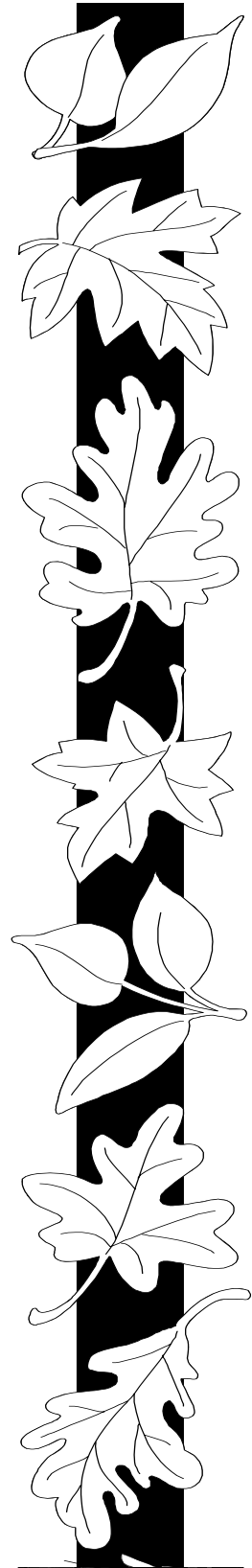
The story of Sudden Oak Death in Marin County began in 1995 with the observation of large numbers of tanoaks dying in Mill Valley. Mortality of coast live oak and black oaks was also noticed, here in Marin as well as in other coastal counties especially Santa Cruz and Monterey. In 2000, University of California researchers identified the cause of SOD as a previously unknown fungal-like pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*. Currently SOD has been confirmed as naturally occurring in 13 central coastal counties.

SOD hosts include many of the native trees and understory plant species associated with oaks and tanoaks in the native woodland, such as bay laurel, madrone, and rhododendron. In addition it has recently been found on camellias in two southern California nurseries, and numerous cultivated nursery plants have been added to the host list.

Symptoms and damage vary among the hosts, and infection may occur on the trunk (bark cankers on oaks and tanoaks), branches, twigs, and or leaves, with cankers often causing mortality by girdling the trunk. Symptoms on other hosts vary from leaf spotting to twig girdling, and may or may not cause mortality.

*Phytophthora ramorum* has been found to prefer cool, wet climates, and the spores may be spread through soil and rainwater, as well as infected plant material. Spores collect on the leaves of foliar hosts such as bay laurel and rhododendron and may be dispersed through the air under moist and windy conditions.

The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) was established to research and understand the disease process in an effort to manage or even control the spread of *Phytophthora*. More information with links to many other sites may be obtained at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org) and [www.camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks](http://www.camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks)



# Farmers Markets of Marin County

The purpose of farmers markets are to allow local producers to sell their certified commodities direct to the public. There are 25 certified producers that have been issued certificates in Marin County. The following 8 Farmers Markets have been certified by the Agricultural Commissioner to market local produce in Marin County.

## **Civic Center Farmers Market**

Civic Center, San Rafael  
Thursdays – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Sundays – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Open All Year

## **Fairfax Farmers Market**

Broadway, in Fairfax Theatre  
Parking Lot  
Wednesdays – 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
June – October

## **Old Town Novato Farmers Market**

Down Town, Novato  
Tuesdays – 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
May – October

## **Downtown San Rafael Farmers Mrk**

Fourth St., San Rafael  
Thursdays – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
April - September

## **Sausalito Farmers Market**

Sausalito Ferry Landing  
Fridays – 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
May – October

## **Corte Madera Farmers Market**

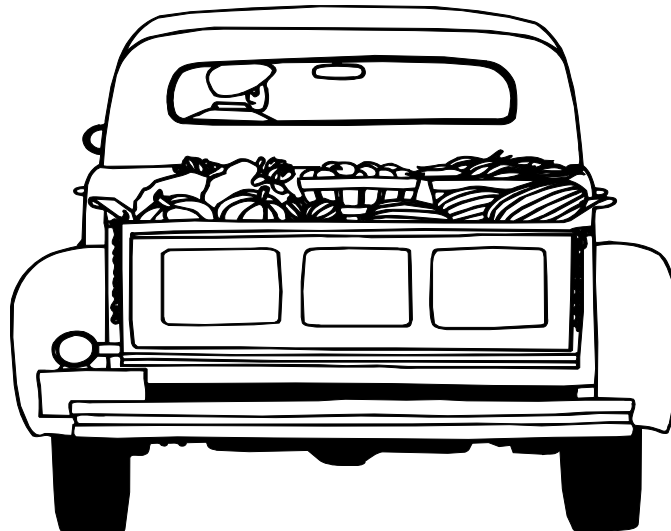
1554 Redwood HWY (The Village Mall)  
Wednesdays – 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Open All Year

## **Pt. Reyes Farmers Market**

11250 Hwy 1, Pt. Reyes Station  
Saturdays – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
June - October

## **Larkspur Farmers Market**

Larkspur Landing Circle  
Saturdays – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
May - October



## Department Staff

**Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures**

**Stacy K. Carlsen**



**Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Deputy Director of Weights and Measures**

**Fred W. Crowder**



**Agricultural/Weights and Measures Inspectors**

**Hugo Abaurre**

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**Laurel Thomassin**

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**Ann Keaton**