

ORANGE COUNTY



20

Annual Crop Report

23



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Urban Agriculture Programs

Orange County's urban farmers continue to educate, support, and inspire our communities with innovative agricultural workshops and education programs. Explore this report to learn about the urban farming opportunities in your supervisory district!

District 1

- 1 UC Master Gardeners' School Gardens
- 2 Westminster HS Bees
- 3 Food Finders

District 3

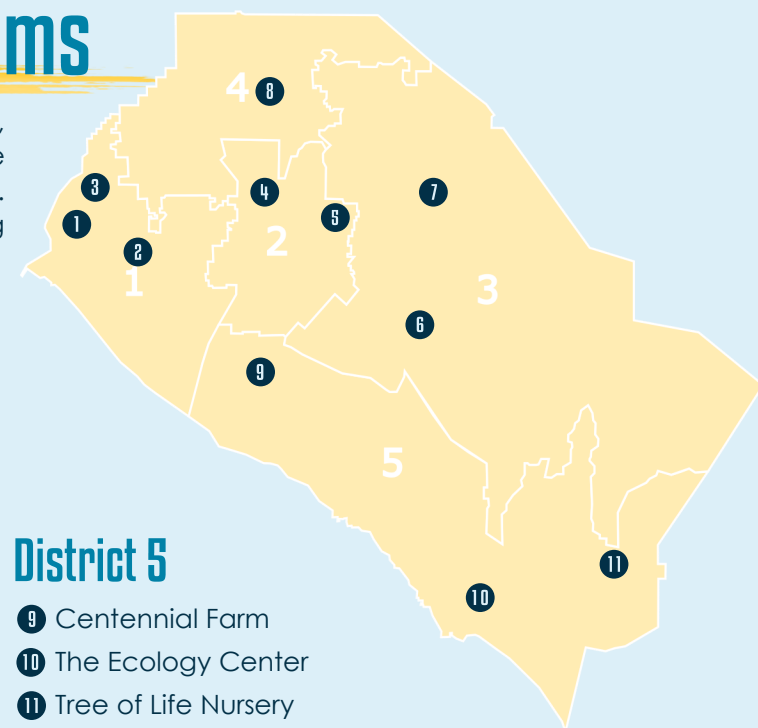
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Commissioner's Letter

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Doug Chaffee, Fourth District, Vice Chairman
Andrew Do, First District
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Katrina Foley, Fifth District

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Orange County Crop Report as prepared pursuant to Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. It is important to note that the values represented in this report reflect the gross value of agricultural commodities grown in Orange County and not the costs associated with production, labor, harvesting, and preparation for market.

This report reflects a production value of \$75,703,000 representing a decrease of 12 percent from 2022. Nursery products continue to constitute over 48 percent of Orange County's agricultural output. However, the nursery industry faced significant challenges due to an extended rainy season, marked by atmospheric rivers that disrupted landscaping projects and reduced sales. The prolonged rainfall, followed by an extended period of overcast weather, adversely affected tree fruit and berry production, with waterlogged soils and insufficient sunlight impairing flower development and resulting in poor fruit quality. Conversely, the abundant rainfall yielded excellent forage for our apiary industries which saw a boom in production.

This report is produced each year with the outstanding partnership and cooperation of the nursery industry, ranchers, farmers, and 4-H education programs that represent the agricultural industry in Orange County. My appreciation goes to all of the producers, growers, and individuals in the agribusiness sector for their assistance in providing the data to make this report possible. I also extend my sincere thanks to the exceptional staff here at the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office who help in the compilation and preparation of this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Jose Arriaga



ORANGE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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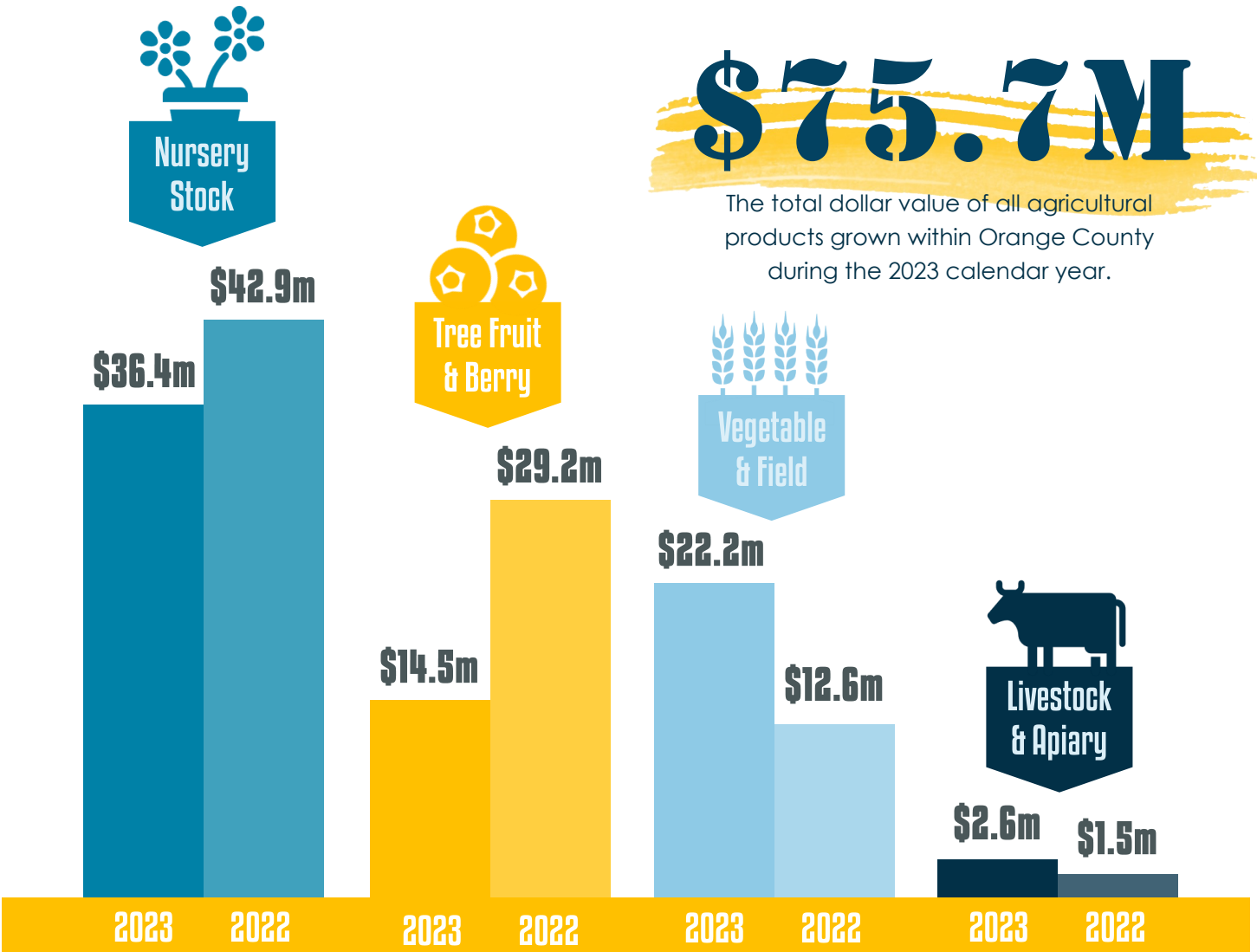


Jose Arriaga

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

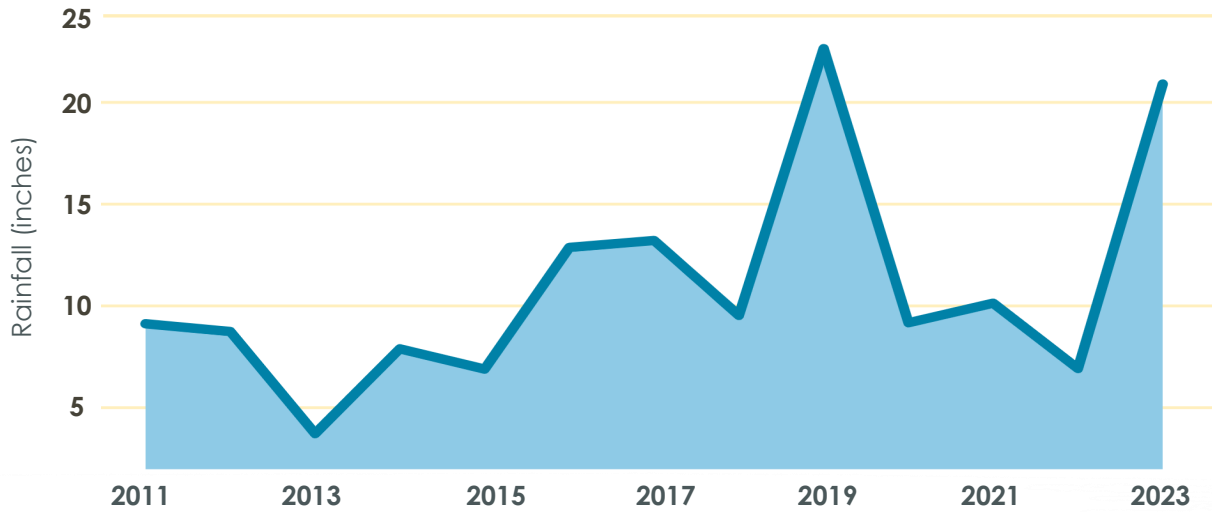
Total Production Values

In 2023, Orange County ranked as the 3rd most populous county in California with 3,135,755 residents, constituting over 8 percent of the state's population. Urban development continues to encroach upon historical agricultural lands, diminishing available space for farming. Additionally, rising costs and, in some cases, the aging and retirement of business owners have led to some agricultural growers leaving the county or closing their operations altogether. The total dollar value of agricultural products grown within Orange County during 2023 was **\$75,703,000**, which represents a 12 percent decrease when compared to the previous year's value.



Rainfall Data

The Santa Ana rain gauge dates back to 1908 and is one of the oldest rain observation stations in Orange County. From January through December 2023, a total of **20.88** inches of rain were recorded. This was a **30** percent increase compared to the 6.9 inches recorded the previous year. High intensity rainfall was recorded later in the rainy season than typical, which contributed to crop losses and damage. The rainfall data for this report was provided by Orange County Watersheds of OC Public Works.



South Coast REC

Established in 1956, the South Coast Research and Extension Center (South Coast REC) plays a pivotal role in agricultural and horticultural research as part of the University of California's Agriculture and Natural Resources system. The South Coast REC serves as a regional living laboratory for UC scientists, conducting research on a range of fruits, vegetables, agronomic crops, and ornamental plants, while also supporting research in entomology, plant pathology, biological control, and integrated pest management. It serves as a hub for community engagement through outreach and education programs such as the Urban Ag Expo, UC Master Gardeners program, 4-H Youth Development, and Master Food Preserver program. Recently added programs include GROW Workforce Development for high school students enrolled in Career and Technical Education programs and the Adult Transition Program (ATP) offering agricultural skills training for students with disabilities. Produce grown on site is sold to support the Center, but over 50,000 pounds of produce is also donated weekly to support food-insecure families in the community.



© South Coast REC



Tree Fruit and Berry

		ACRES	TONS	VALUE
CITRUS, AVOCADOS & STRAWBERRIES ¹	2023	1,561	8,949	\$14,140,000
	2022	1,623	13,293	\$29,090,000
MISCELLANEOUS FRUIT & BERRY CROPS ²	2023	28	96	\$370,000
	2022	11	26	\$134,000
TOTAL FRUIT & BERRY VALUE	2023	1,589	9,045	\$14,510,000
	2022	1,634	13,319	\$29,224,000

¹Includes: avocados, oranges, lemons, and strawberries

²Includes: bushberries, grapes, and miscellaneous orchard crops

CSU Fullerton's U-ACRE Project

Since its inception in 2010, the U-ACRE (Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience) Project has

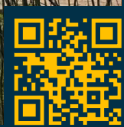
provided California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) students with hands-on opportunities through multiple community-based research projects relating to nutritional sufficiency, food sovereignty, urban agroecology, and a sustainable local food system. U-ACRE utilizes a sustainable tiered mentoring and networking system incorporating multiple levels of undergraduate and graduate students. The interdisciplinary student-faculty teams work with community partners including four K-12 school districts; the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens at CSUF; and Monkey Business Café, a non-profit restaurant that provides workforce development to foster youth and those aging out of foster care. The projects include development and implementation of school and community gardens, examination of the effects of those gardens on students' dietary choices, and assisting Santa Ana Unified School District with their Farm-to-School program. U-ACRE works with Monkey Business Café participants by providing agricultural experience and training at the Arboretum's Learning Farm. At the Learning Farm, U-ACRE students and faculty conduct agroecological research on invasive plant deterrence and integrated pest management of vertebrate and insect pests, and incorporate traditional indigenous knowledge through the use of culturally significant plant varieties. The program includes an apiary team of chemistry and biochemistry, mechanical engineering, biology, and anthropology students and faculty that examine the interaction between honeybee and Varroa mite life histories to develop new mitigation approaches, as well as use honeybees as environmental biomonitors.



© CSU Fullerton

Jeanne Carter Nature Center

The Jeanne Carter Nature Center, nestled within El Modena High School, stands as a testament to the dedication of one teacher and the power of scientific education. Established in 1970 by chemistry teacher Jeanne Carter, this once barren 1-acre plot has flourished into a vibrant oasis of native plants, complete with a small pond and creek, providing a sanctuary for native species of insects, lizards, and birds. The Center offers free field trips to Title 1 elementary school students on topics ranging from indigenous peoples' land use, biology and ecology of native species, water conservation, and sustainable land practices. It also boasts an interpretive mini-museum and resource hub on native plants, and recently the school has partnered with Saddleback College to include two urban gardens as part of their new horticulture program.



Vegetable and Field

	YEAR	ACRES	TONS	VALUE
BRASSICA ³	2023	17	71	\$164,000
	2022	16	68	\$177,000
CURCUBITS ⁴	2023	1,005	9,855	\$8,400,000
	2022	60	128	\$428,000
ROOT VEGETABLES ⁵	2023	237	4,449	\$5,274,000
	2022	9	16	\$77,000
ALLIUMS ⁶	2023	11	19	\$65,000
	2022	10	16	\$52,000
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES ⁷	2023	16,744	4,725	\$8,315,000
	2022	16,605	8,172	\$11,914,000
TOTAL VEGETABLE VALUE	2023	18,014	19,119	\$22,218,000
	2022	16,700	8,400	\$12,648,000

³Includes: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale

⁴Includes: cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, melons, and watermelons

⁵Includes: turnips, radishes, carrots, and beets

⁶Includes: onions, green onions, leeks, and garlic

⁷Includes: field crops and pasture rental

The Ecology Center

The Ecology Center is on a mission to train the next generation of farmers, chefs, and food system changemakers, nurturing a future of abundance. Recognizing the challenges facing aspiring farmers in Southern California, they focus on small-scale, regenerative organic farming through their Market Garden Apprenticeship Program. This program mentors young farmers to create sustainable agribusinesses out of small-scale agriculture operations, even in urban and suburban spaces. Through hands-on training in soil-building techniques, irrigation management, organic pest control, and more, apprentices learn to cultivate healthy, local food sources for communities in Orange County and beyond.



Nursery Stock

	YEAR	ACRES	VALUE
ORNAMENTAL TREES & SHRUBS	2023	361	\$26,287,000
	2022	391	\$33,312,000
CACTI & SUCCULENTS	2023	24	\$3,644,000
	2022	20	\$3,116,000
LINERS, POTTED PLANTS, CUT FLOWERS, & CUT TREES ¹	2023	40	\$1,846,000
	2022	49	\$1,878,000
PALMS	2023	6	\$4,578,000
	2022	9	\$4,683,000
TOTAL NURSERY VALUE	2023	431	\$36,355,000
	2022	469	\$42,989,000

¹Includes: Christmas trees

Livestock and Apiary

	YEAR	VALUE
TOTAL LIVESTOCK & APIARY VALUE ^{2,3}	2023	\$2,621,000
	2022	\$1,517,000

²Includes: cattle, swine, goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, eggs, and dairy
³Includes: honey, beeswax, pollen, sale of bees and queens, and pollination rental

Westminster High School Beekeeping

Westminster High School has buzzed into a groundbreaking initiative by launching the first high school beekeeping program in the state. In collaboration with the Community Action Partnership of Orange County and grant funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, the school began its program with 6 queen bees and 60,000 worker bees. Under guidance from teacher Gina Cunningham and local honey company Honey Pacifica, students receive hands-on experience in caring for their beehives by donning white beekeeping suits, using bee smokers, and inspecting hives for colony health and injurious pests. The program also provides practical lessons in entrepreneurship as students learn to harvest and sell honey and beeswax products. Westminster High School is already home to a robust Future Farmers of America program, operated on their 5-acre Giving Farm where students grow produce that is donated to local food banks. The addition of the beekeeping program offers a fantastic opportunity for students to expand their agricultural knowledge into apiculture.



© Curtis Gibbs



Direct Marketing and Organics

Orange County Inspectors certify our diverse range of producers, from backyard growers to large scale farms, by visiting each growing site annually and documenting the variety and quantity of crops being grown, expected yield, and estimating the expected harvest season. Our Inspectors conduct unannounced regulatory inspections at Certified Farmers' Markets to verify that produce being offered for sale matches the commodities documented on each grower's certificate. These inspections ensure that consumers are truly receiving locally grown produce and that their purchases are directly benefiting and supporting local farmers. In 2023, the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office issued a total of **41** Certified Producers Certificates to local growers and registered **38** Certified Farmers' Markets.

Orange County also conducts inspections under the State Organic Program (SOP), where our Inspectors review organic certification and state registration documents, investigate organic complaints, and conduct random residue sampling of produce being advertised as organic. Our inspection oversight gives Orange County consumers confidence that the organic agricultural products are authentic and grown according to State organic standards. The Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office continues to work with our SOP partners to register, inspect, and enforce regulations on our local organic operations. In 2023, **18** producers and **34** handlers, packers, and processors were registered in Orange County.

UC Master Gardeners' School Gardens

The UC Master Gardeners program has forged a fruitful

partnership with Rossmoor, Lee, and McGaugh elementary schools in the Los Alamitos School District, enriching student learning through the creation of school gardens. Alongside practical assistance, the UC Master Gardeners provide workshops, activities, and cultivation guidelines tailored to different grade levels for hands-on learning experiences for students, teachers, and parent volunteers. These gardens not only foster an understanding of botany, composting, vermiculture, and responsible, effective pest management but also ignite a passion for agriculture in young minds, laying the foundation for the next generation of farmers and environmental stewards. The partnership between the UC Master Gardeners and Rossmoor, Lee, and McGaugh elementary schools has been so successful that the school garden program is now breaking ground at two more elementary schools in the Los Alamitos School District.



Photo courtesy of Rossmoor Elementary



Certified Farmers' Market Schedule

Tuesday

IRVINE REGIONAL PARK 1 Irvine Park Rd 9am - 1pm	PLACENTIA Placentia Town Center 5pm - 9pm	SEAL BEACH VILLAGE Westminster & Seal Beach 9am - 1pm	HUNTINGTON BEACH SURF CITY NIGHTS Main & Olive 5pm - 9pm
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For current market schedule, scan here!

Wednesday

FULLERTON 340 West Commonwealth 9am - 1pm	TUSTIN 3rd & El Camino 8am - 1pm	LAKE FOREST Lake Forest Sports Park 5pm - 8:30pm	KAISER IRVINE Alton & Sand Canyon 9am - 1pm
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Thursday

ANAHEIM DOWNTOWN 435 W Center St Promenade 9am - 1pm	BREA 135 South State College 10am - 2pm	COSTA MESA Orange County Fairgrounds 9am - 1pm	FULLERTON DOWNTOWN Pomona & Wilshire 9am - 1pm	ROSSMOOR 3001 Blume Dr Rush Park 4pm - 8pm
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Friday

FARMAKIS FARMS 29932 Camino Capistrano 11am - 3pm	KAISER ANAHEIM 3400 East La Palma 8am - 12pm	LAGUNA HILLS Laguna Hills Mall Parking Lot 9am - 2pm	MILE SQUARE PARK Freedom Hall Mile Square Park 3pm - 7pm	
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Saturday

ALISO VIEJO 26701 Aliso Creek 9am - 2pm	BUENA PARK La Palma & Stanton 9am - 1pm	CORONA DEL MAR Marguerite & Pacific Coast Hwy 9am - 1pm	CYPRESS Katella & Lexington 10am - 2pm	DANA POINT Golden Lantern & Pacific Coast Hwy 9am - 1pm
FARMERS MARKET ON THE RANCH 2 Tierno Street 9am - 1pm	IRVINE Mariners Church 9am - 1pm	LAGUNA BEACH Forest & 3rd Street near City Hall 4pm - 8:30pm	MISSION VIEJO Marguerite Pkwy & Village Center 10am - 2pm	ORANGE HOMEGROWN Palm & Cypress 9am - 2pm
	SOCO Sunflower & Hyland 9am - 2pm	TUSTIN DISTRICT Barranca Pkwy & Tustin Ranch 9am - 1pm	YORBA LINDA 5091 Mountain View 9am - 1pm	

Sunday

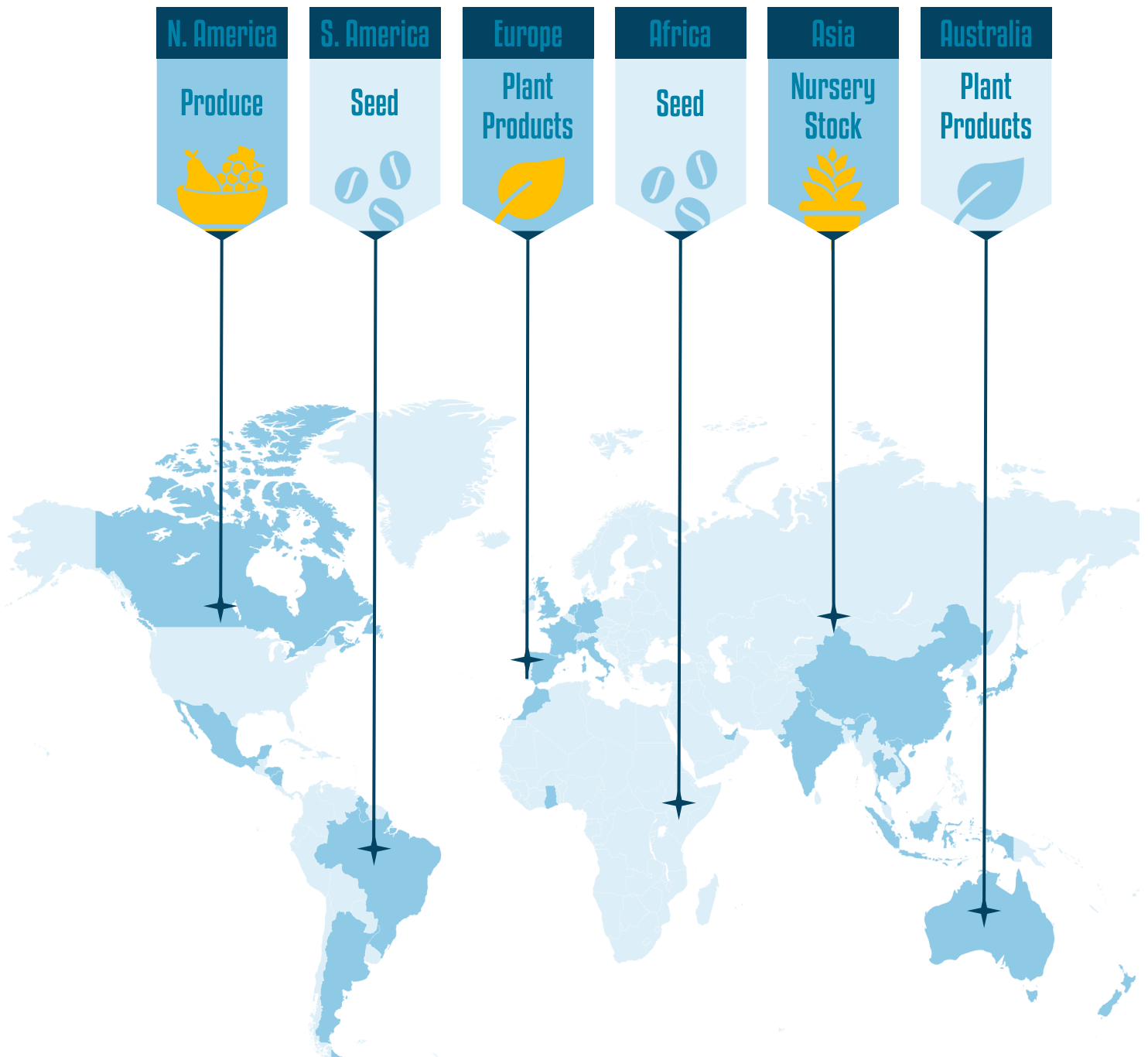
LOCAL HARVEST GARDEN GROVE Main & Garden Grove 9am - 1pm	LADERA RANCH Founders Park 28275 Avendale 10am - 2pm	LAGUNA NIGUEL 27241 La Paz 9am - 1pm	NEWPORT BEACH McFadden Square The Newport Pier 8am - 12pm	NORTH LAGUNA HILLS 24411 Ridge Route 9am - 1pm
	IRVINE GREAT PARK Sand Canyon & Marine Way 8am - 12pm	SAN CLEMENTE Avenida Del Mar & Seville 8am - 12pm		

Export Certification

Foreign markets are an important destination for many Orange County agricultural products, but such markets have diverse entry requirements to exclude harmful pests and diseases. Regulated agricultural commodities such as plants, bulbs, seeds, fruits, vegetables, lumber, and grain require a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited Authorized Certifying Official.

Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Inspectors, who are USDA-accredited, evaluate each country and agricultural commodity's unique import requirements, review any required documentation such as laboratory test results and import permits, and conduct inspections to assure that each shipment is free from injurious pests and plant diseases to protect California's strong international trade standing.

In 2023, the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office issued a total of **414** Federal Phytosanitary Certificates for shipments destined for our international trading partners, with the majority of our shipments destined for countries in Asia.



International Trading Partners

Argentina 1	Australia 7	Brazil 3	Canada 9	Cayman Islands 1	China 6
France 1	Germany 1	Ghana 2	Guyana 1	Honduras 12	Hong Kong 14
India 7	Indonesia 1	Italy 3	Japan 233	Macao 1	Mexico 8
Morocco 1	Netherlands 2	New Zealand 1	Nicaragua 1	Singapore 6	Spain 1
Taiwan 47	Thailand 20	The Republic of Korea 14	United Arab Emirates 5	United Kingdom 3	Viet Nam 2

Renewable Farms

Farmers within Orange County are increasingly struggling for space to thrive in the second most-densely populated county in California. Renewable Farms, a 501(c)(e) non-profit organization, has tackled that challenge in a unique way by partnering with city governments to carve out space within the heart of our urban communities. Founder Aaron Flora set out to create an urban farm where he could offer free and accessible produce, hands-on workshops on sustainable agriculture and aquaponics to the local community. He started Renewable Farms by converting part of an Anaheim city-owned maintenance yard into an acre of raised vegetable beds, aquaponics systems, chicken coops and fruit trees. The City of Anaheim authorizes the use of the farm for event space rentals to offset the costs of utilities and supplies and, in return, all the produce and livestock products produced at the farm are donated to the City's Community Services Department to be distributed to family resource centers that support food-insecure families in Anaheim. In 2021, Renewable Farms opened their second public aquaponics farm, Gold Coast Farm, in partnership with the city of Aliso Viejo on the historic Aliso Viejo Ranch property. Renewable Farms offers workshops and consulting as well as educational field trips and internship opportunities to inspire and empower the next generation of urban farmers.



© Renewable Farms



Huanglongbing Quarantine Impact



Scan for ACP/HLB
Project Information

Over half of Orange County is under quarantine for Huanglongbing (HLB), a bacterial disease vectored by the Asian Citrus Psyllid that kills infected citrus trees and has no cure. Detection surveys are performed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and since the initial find in 2017, HLB has been detected in a total of **5,006** trees at **3,167** residential properties, predominantly affecting Anaheim, Garden Grove, Westminster, Santa Ana, and Orange. The infected trees were immediately removed by CDFA staff to prevent further spread of this disease. Residents rely on these trees for nutrition and enrichment. The cost to residents to replace these trees is estimated to be **\$1.98** million.

In 2023, Orange County inspectors surveyed **25** citrus groves and monitored harvests to ensure that regulated plant material such as stems and leaves do not leave the quarantine zone and that all bulk citrus fruit shipments were safeguarded from pest risk.

Food Finders

Food Finders is a local nonprofit committed to making a positive impact on the community and the environment by eliminating hunger by providing equitable access to food, minimizing food waste, and improving nutrition in food-insecure communities. A leader in the food recovery industry for 35 years, Food Finders has been building relationships with businesses that have surplus food and connecting this food to their network of nonprofit partners. In 2023, these partnerships helped them rescue and distribute more than 16 million pounds of food that provided an estimated 13.5 million meals. This year, Food Finders launched an innovative program in Orange County, connecting families in need with residential properties boasting fruit trees, harvesting over 50,000 pounds of stone fruits and citrus and dispensing it to local college pantries and community food distributors. Food Finders operates within compliance of local agricultural regulations, such as the Huanglongbing citrus disease quarantine and fruit fly quarantines, ensuring both community nutrition and maintaining the safety and sustainability of Orange County's local agricultural industries. In a landscape where hunger remains a pressing issue, Food Finders' approach to addressing food insecurity while supporting residential agriculture exemplifies impactful community-driven initiatives that directly benefit our local communities.

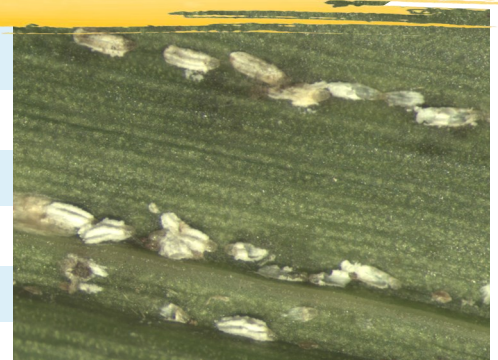
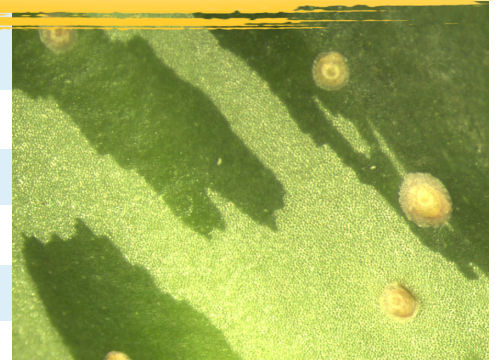


Pest Exclusion and Interceptions

Orange County inspectors work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Federal regulatory agencies to inspect all possible methods of agricultural commodity entry and intercept exotic pests that can threaten our urban landscapes and local agriculture. Our inspectors monitored shipments at major package carrier facilities and conducted inspections on incoming air and sea freight, truck shipments, and at destination nurseries, retailers, and residences to detect and prevent the establishment of injurious pests and plant diseases.

Our inspectors inspected a total of **38,918** shipments originating from high pest-risk areas and issued a total of **376** Notices of Rejection for shipments that did not meet California's entry requirements. Pests intercepted during these inspections were submitted to CDFA's pest diagnostic laboratory for identification and rating. A total of **85** A-rated pests and **190** Q-rated pests were submitted. Notable finds are listed below.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RATING
<i>Aspidiotus excisus</i>	Aglaonema scale	A
<i>Pinnaspis buxi</i>	Boxwood scale	A
<i>Planococcus minor</i>	Pacific mealybug	A
<i>Maconellicoccus hirsutus</i>	Pink hibiscus mealybug	A
<i>Dysmicoccus neobrevipes</i>	Gray pineapple mealybug	A
<i>Diaphorina citri</i>	Asian citrus psyllid	A
<i>Dysmicoccus grassii</i>	Mealybug	A
<i>Aleurodicus disperses</i>	Spiraling whitefly	A
<i>Ceroplastes rusci</i>	Fix wax scale	A
<i>Aonidiella orientalis</i>	Oriental scale	A
<i>Aulacaspis tubercularis</i>	Armored scale	A
<i>Ochetellus glaber</i>	Copper-bellied ant	A
<i>Pseudaulacaspis pentagona</i>	White peach scale	A
<i>Ischnaspis longirostris</i>	Black thread scale	A
<i>Pinnaspis strachani</i>	Lesser snow scale	A
<i>Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli</i>	Magnolia white scale	A
<i>Solenopsis invicta</i>	Red imported fire ant	A
<i>Lopholeucaspis cockerelli</i>	Cockerell scale	A
<i>Aspidiotus destructor</i>	Coconut scale	A
<i>Opogona</i> sp.	Tineid moth	Q
<i>Aleurotrachelus</i> sp.	Whitefly	Q
<i>Pheidole</i> sp.	Ant	Q
<i>Cardiocondyla</i> sp.	Ant	Q
<i>Ferrisia</i> sp.	Mealybug	Q



Scan here for the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pest Rating Definitions



Integrated Pest Management

The Integrated Pest Management Unit's mission is to maintain public safety by servicing flood control facilities and roadways throughout the county. Vegetation and pest control activities are performed using integrated pest management (IPM) procedures which prioritize pesticide-free or reduced-risk pesticide use when possible. Recent strategies for IPM included the use of saturated steam for weed control for residential curbs and gutters and using self-resetting traps for rodents. The unit is monitored through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Pesticide Use Enforcement Unit of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and is in full compliance.

	FACILITIES	AMOUNT SERVICED
FLOOD CONTROL	Channels (miles)	380
	Dams	4
	Pump Stations	7
	Basins	22
ROADS	County Roads (acres)	319
CURBS AND GUTTERS	Arterial Roads (miles)	184
	Residential Roads (miles)	245

Noxious Weed Control

The Integrated Pest Management Unit works with the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Noxious Weed Grant Program (NWGP) to identify and control new and invasive noxious weeds in Orange County. This grant program provides funding to protect local agriculture, residential landscapes, and natural areas from noxious weed invasions that can have a detrimental impact to native ecosystem biodiversity if left unchecked. The program also aims to decrease the costs of roadside, park, and waterway maintenance, reduce fire hazard and fire control costs, and maintain recreational and aesthetic value of public open spaces.

In 2023, **110** acres of county areas were treated to target dangerous invasive weeds such as Santa Maria feverfew (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) and stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*).



Santa Maria Feverfew



Stinkwort

Photos courtesy of Ron Vanderhoff, CA Native Plant Society

Fire Hazard Reduction

The Orange County Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program is authorized by the California Health & Safety Code and aims to ensure public safety by mitigating the risk of wildland fire posed by overgrown weeds and vegetation throughout the unincorporated areas of Orange County.

Regular field inspections are conducted in these areas to identify hazardous vegetation, and other combustible material, on improved and unimproved properties which may pose an increased fire risk. Those parcels noted to have open spaces or hazardous weeds, vegetation, accumulated piles of rubbish, refuse, trash, litter, or other hazardous and/or flammable material on the property creating a fire hazard are added to the program's Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement List. Properties with a history of public complaints or violations related to abatement of hazardous weeds or rubbish and properties ordered to abate weeds by the Board in previous years will be placed on the list. The owner on record for these properties will be identified by the current equalized tax assessment roll and mailed an abatement notice. The notice provides the owner of record a date by which the hazardous weeds and vegetation must be cleared. If the property is not cleared by that date, the County takes action to clear the hazard and mitigate fire risk.

In 2023, our Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement program inspected and mailed the Annual Weed Abatement Notice to **5,330** parcel owners and manually removed weeds and dried brush from **76** parcels of land. A total of **1,065,400** square feet (nearly **24.5** acres) of weeds were removed by either cutting or discing.

Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center

Located deep within the Irvine

Regional Park, the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center (IROEC) offers academic and recreational programming for groups of all ages and backgrounds. One feature of the IROEC is their sustainable "food forest" of over 70 citrus trees, organic garden beds, beehives, and aquaponics system located at the border of the ranch property and adjacent canyon wilderness. Field trips are offered to students where they explore the relationship between urban and wildlife interface zones in a small-scale agricultural setting, covering topics such as botany, agricultural ecology, soil science, composting, permaculture, and entomology. Students learn about sustainable production practices within a fire management zone, involving native plant identification and integrated pest management for invasive insects and weeds. Produce from the orchard and garden are harvested by the students with surplus being donated to support local food-insecure families. The IROEC's Ranch Immersion program offers an unparalleled opportunity for young minds to experience orchard and pest management in our urban-wildlife interface areas.



© Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center



Weights and Measures

The County of Orange's Weights and Measures program strives to provide all of its 3.1 million residents, visitors, and businesses fair competition and a basis of value comparison in the marketplace by ensuring the accuracy of weighing and measuring instruments. Inspectors test and inspect all commercially-used weighing and measuring devices for accuracy. Orange County Inspectors also investigate all consumer complaints and provide education and training to the public and regulated industries. Orange County inspectors are responsible for inspecting, testing, and certifying a total of **196,005** commercial measuring and weighing devices throughout all of Orange County, a **5.1** percent increase from 2022. Orange County ranks **3rd** in California in terms of total devices within its jurisdiction.

COMMERCIAL DEVICES	REGISTERED	% CHANGE
RETAIL MOTOR FUEL METERS	20,384	+ 0.2 %
WATER SUBMETERS	100,722	+ 10.7 %
ELECTRIC SUBMETERS	29,909	- 0.1 %
VAPOR SUBMETERS	35,087	+ 0.1 %
LIQUID PROPANE GAS METERS	136	+ 0.1 %
COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS METERS	52	0.0 %
ODOMETERS & TAXIMETERS	865	+ 35.1 %
RETAIL WATER METERS	571	+ 3.2 %
WHOLESALE & VEHICLE METERS	289	- 13.2 %
COMPUTING/COUNTER SCALES	6,468	- 1.1 %
JEWELRY/PRESCRIPTION SCALES	225	+ 8.6 %
DORMANT & PORTABLE PLATFORM SCALES	915	+ 2.1 %
VEHICLE SCALES	87	0.0 %
ELECTRIC VEHICLE FUELING SYSTEMS ¹	2,578	100 %
ALL OTHER DEVICES ²	295	+ 25.0 %

¹Electric vehicle fueling systems is a new type of device with no prior data to compare values to

²Includes: livestock scales, monorail & meatbeam scales, hanging scales, spring scales, hydrogen meters, and fabric/cordage/wire meters

Have you seen this seal?

This seal is placed on devices that our office has inspected and found to be in compliance. If you see this seal, you can be confident that the device is correct and that you are receiving the appropriate quantity for your purchase.



Centennial Farm Foundation

In 1989, the OC Fair & Event Center dedicated three acres to create a miniature working farm known as Centennial Farm. The

Centennial Farm Foundation (CFF), a nonprofit organization, was established to support educational programs at the Farm and collaborate with community volunteers and OC Fair & Event Center staff to plan, develop, and operate the Farm, which houses a variety of livestock, apiaries, fruit trees, and garden beds. By linking the urban landscape with the rural, the farm aims to expose young minds to Orange County and California's diverse agricultural industries, inspire future farmers, highlight farming's role in providing food, fiber, and nutrition, and explore innovative and sustainable technologies in agriculture. They offer free school tour programs for elementary school students, a ranch after-school program, and weekend farm and garden classes, all of which are supported by staff, volunteers, and College Corps fellows. From September to June, Centennial Farm welcomes and impacts more than 45,000 children, adolescents and adults through their programs.



© Centennial Farm Foundation

Price Verification Program

Orange County consumers spend \$52.3 billion annually on retail sales, making up **8.8** percent of our state's robust retail economy. California law prohibits businesses from charging customers more than the lowest advertised, posted, or quoted price. The Orange County Weights and Measures program performs routine and complaint-based price verification inspections to protect consumers from being overcharged. Orange County is the 2nd largest county with registered automated pricing systems in California, with **4,738** registered businesses utilizing **22,704** point-of-sale systems to charge customers for the items they sell. These businesses include your local grocery stores, gas station convenience stores, department stores, amusement parks, airports, and more.

In 2023, Orange County inspectors conducted **1,042** routine inspections and **82** consumer complaint-based investigations, which resulted in **300** retail locations with violations for pricing overcharges. With a multi-billion dollar retail economy in Orange County, these overcharges can add up to millions of dollars being unfairly charged to customers. Our Weights and Measures Inspectors work hard to ensure the accuracy of everyday business transactions so that both buyers and sellers can be confident that the marketplace is free from deceptive or misleading pricing practices.



Pierce's Disease Control Program



The Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) is a leafhopper insect and a vector for *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium that causes Pierce's Disease in grapevines. This disease has no known cure and is fatal to the plant, so restricting the movement of the Glassy-winged sharpshooter is the most effective way of keeping the spread of this disease under control. County inspectors installed monitoring traps and inspected all host plant material leaving our county to ensure the safety of California's robust grape industry and to maintain open markets for our local plant nurseries.

In 2023, Orange County inspectors serviced a total of **84** insect monitoring traps, serviced these traps **2,352** times, and certified **67** GWSS host material shipments destined for non-infested areas of California.

Tree of Life Nursery

Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, located on a 40-acre leasehold on the historic Rancho Mission Viejo, celebrates over 45 years of propagating and producing

California native plants. With a passion for native plants, they have grown well over 1,000 unique species, including those handled for special projects, and maintain over 400 of these varieties in their regular inventory. Tree of Life boasts extensive gardens and plantings around the grounds, including impressive mature specimens of native oaks and sycamores. The nursery features buildings constructed to replicate traditional California adobe construction, offering a healing ambiance of peace and tranquility.

Tree of Life is a major supplier of native plants, catering primarily to the wholesale marketplace but also offering their plants to the public through their on-site store Casa La Paz. Founded by Mike Evans and Jeff Bohn, the nursery is renowned for its expertise in California natural history and native plant horticulture. Most of the staff have been part of the team for over 30 years, contributing to the company's extensive institutional knowledge on native plants. In addition to nursery sales, Tree of Life Nursery hosts events and workshops to educate locals and growers on topics such as site preparation, watering techniques for natives, building functional habitats and swales, and creating butterfly gardens. Their passion for native plants has remained steadfast since their inception, with the nursery remaining 100% native-plant focused.



(c) Tree of Life Nursery

Pesticide Use Enforcement

The Pesticide Use Enforcement program of the Agricultural Commissioner's office is responsible for the local enforcement of pesticide use laws and regulations to protect the urban and agricultural environment as well as the public and industry by overseeing the legal and safe use of pesticides. Orange County inspectors work with the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Department of Consumer Affairs Structural Pest Control Board to enforce appropriate pesticide use through active inspections, annual registrations of pest control businesses, monitoring of pesticide use reports, and pesticide illness investigations. Orange County inspectors also investigate all cases of suspected misuse of pesticides including commercial settings, agricultural production, and injurious use of consumer products in home settings.

In 2023, Orange County inspectors conducted **2,381** in-field pesticide safety inspections in agricultural and structural settings, including residential treatments and structural fumigations for termites. **303** pest control business, pesticide dealer, and property operators records were audited for compliance with worker safety, training, and retention requirements. Our Inspectors also reviewed and issued **186** California Environmental Quality Act Environmental Impact Report functionally-equivalent pesticide Restricted Material Permits and **145** Operator Identification Numbers, and completed **103** pesticide illness-related investigations. Orange County ranked **2nd** in the state with a grand total of **2,684** pesticide inspections conducted in 2023. Of the total number of inspections conducted, violations were found in **141** inspections, and a total of **421** individual violations were identified and mitigated through compliance or enforcement actions.

Pesticide Disposal Event

The Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office collaborated with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Department of Toxic Substances Control, Orange County Waste and Recycling and Clean Harbors Environmental to hold a one-day Pesticide Collection and Disposal Event. Our office secured full funding for the event with a grant from DPR. Each registered pest control entity in Orange County was sent an outreach letter inviting them to participate in the free event. Orange County growers, public agencies, and pest control businesses participated in the event and safely disposed over **2,500** pounds of unwanted pesticides.

Pesticide categories collected included restricted materials, danger products, expired labels, and Proposition 65 listed chemicals. This event provided a safe means for production agriculture and pest control entities to dispose of unwanted or outdated pesticides stored in Orange County. The objective of the project was to reduce the potential risk of unintended pesticide exposure. By not disposing of the pesticides safely over time, there is a potential risk that the containers may leak, or pose harm to human health, children, wildlife, the environment, or the domestic water supply. This was the first event of its kind held in Orange County.



Photos courtesy of Damara Trumbauer

Welcoming Our Detector Dog Team

Orange County is proud to welcome detector dog, Bear, and canine handler, Vanessa Ochoa as the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures Office's first detector dog team, and together they will help augment the needed pest exclusion capacity to protect the local agricultural industry and the natural environment from injurious pest and diseases. Bear and Vanessa trained at the United States Department of Agriculture's National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC) in Newnan, Georgia for 8 weeks before graduating and returning to Orange County to inspect our local UPS and FedEx parcel facilities.

Bear is one of **14** detector dogs currently deployed between **12** counties in California as part of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Detector Dog program. Orange County's program was made possible with funding from the federal Farm Bill in partnership with CDFA and the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association. Pest interception data indicates that unmarked parcels present a high-risk pathway for significant agricultural pests to enter California, and during 2023 a total of **863** significant agricultural pests were intercepted by California Dog Teams, **502** being found in unmarked parcels. These pests were found on by the detector dogs alerting on **53,866** marked and unmarked parcels containing agricultural commodities such as produce, nursery stock, cut flowers, seed, and other plant material.

Dog team interception data has shown that the United States Postal Service (USPS) processing and distribution centers present the highest risk of unmarked parcel and injurious pest interceptions. Orange County currently has two USPS distribution centers which have previously gone uninspected, and our office is eager to deploy Bear and Vanessa to these USPS locations to safeguard our County's agriculture and environment from any potential pests or diseases that may be moving undetected through these facilities.

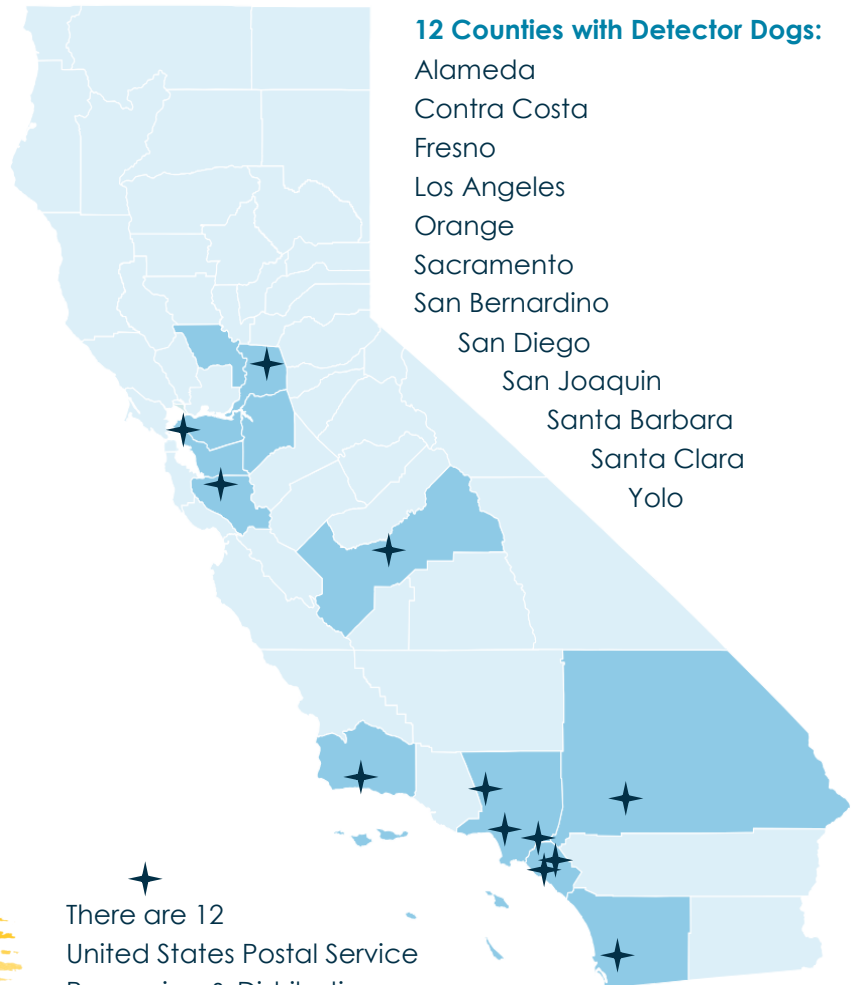


Bear

DETECTOR DOG

Breed: Chocolate Labrador

Age: 2 years



There are 12
United States Postal Service
Processing & Distribution
Centers in California

Our Department

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/ SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Jose Arriaga

DEPUTY

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS/ SEALERS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Damara Trumbauer

Seth Birenbaum

Anthony Bong Lee

Brian Glenn

SENIOR AGRICULTURAL/STANDARDS INSPECTORS (SUPERVISING)

Jana Gibbs

Janet Rivas

Abel Castillo

Juan Lopez

Otto Rieger

Mark Johnson

Emily Hesselgrave

Diana Nguyen

Hugo Soto

Albert Bustamante

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Maria Tamez

Anna Watts

Nolidad Zielinski

Shannon Santistevan

Huong Dang

Jinell Villanueva

Christina Gomez

Riah Creighton

AGRICULTURAL/STANDARDS INSPECTORS

Mike West

Rebekah Ban

Nagy Mikhail

Candice Skorupski

David Skorupski

Dugan Fauth

Kieu Tran

Pete Sandoval

Shane Johnson

Sophia Yun

Karen Hernandez

Shannon Clafford

Zachary Kelly

Jared Munoz

Peter Nguyen

Jeremiah Hopson

Omar Quiroz

Fernando Lopez

Eugenio Vasquez

Mario Perez

Laura Ramirez

Thaïs Spiropoulos

Vanessa Ochoa

Mirindah Her

SENIOR INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT TECHNICIANS

Miguel Barajas

Sal Palacios

Daniel Kane

Oscar Cerda

Matthew Dolan

Luis Avila

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT TECHNICIANS

Edgar Garcia

Josh Dresser

Corey Graham

Steven Youngberg

Masen Martinez

Mitchell Duong

Felipe Jimenez

Unattributed photos were taken by E. Hesselgrave



Happy Retirement, Jana!


After an impressive 36 years, Senior Agricultural/Standards Inspector Jana Gibbs celebrates her retirement! Jana began her career in agriculture as a CDFA insect detection trapper, and from there she joined the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's office as an Inspector. Jana later came to supervise our Direct Marketing program, Organics program, and the Pierce's Disease Control Program.


Jana spends her newfound free time with her adorable French bulldog puppies.




Public Works

The Orange County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures Office is a division of Orange County Public Works. For additional information about the office and a list of services please visit us at:

 ocerac.ocpublicworks.com

 facebook.com/ocpublicworks

 X.com/ocpublicworks

