

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE AND WEIGHTS & MEASURES NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013

Santa Barbara County Agriculture
and Weights & Measures

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION SURPASSES \$1 BILLION IN 2012

Submitted by Cathy Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner

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The 2012 Agricultural Production Report was released on April 15, 2013. Agriculture continues to be the County's major producing industry with a gross production value of almost \$1.3 billion in 2012. This is an increase of \$96 million, or approximately 8.1 percent, when compared with the 2011 figure.

The annual report documents the acreage, yield, and gross dollar value of agricultural commodities produced in Santa Barbara County. It must be emphasized that the report shows gross values. Labor, production, transportation and marketing costs must be subtracted to determine net returns to growers.

Santa Barbara County's agricultural strength is due to our crop diversity and our position in the global marketplace. As the financial picture worldwide slowly improves, so does the demand for our fruits and vegetables.

Agriculture continues to fuel the local economy, and through the multiplier effect, agriculture and related activities had a total contribution in 2012 of more than \$2.5 billion.

The combination of increases in strawberry acreage, yield, and market price resulted in the continuation of strawberries' reign as the County's leading crop with a gross value of \$441 million in 2012, an increase of almost \$75 million from 2011. Broccoli remained in second place with a total value of almost \$131 million. After a very difficult year in 2011, wine grapes had a more typical harvest with strong prices to keep wine grapes in third place with a total value of \$91 million. Head lettuce remained in fourth place at \$66 million. Avocados stayed in fifth place with gross receipts of \$56 million and complete the list of the top five commodities produced in 2012.

Santa Barbara County is California's 13th-ranked county in total agricultural production. The success of Santa Barbara County's agriculture is in the diversity of the crops grown here. More than 40 different crops produced in 2012 reported gross receipts in excess of \$1 million.

The entire 2012 report, as well as the reports since 1916, can be found online at: <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/agcomm.aspx?id=11562>.

 **New Online Feature:** Click on our logo at the bottom of each page to bring you back to the table of contents.

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ADOPTS AN AGRICULTURAL BUFFER ORDINANCE

Submitted by Stephanie Stark, Agricultural Planner



In June 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Agricultural Buffer Ordinance (Ordinance) for the inland areas of the County. The Ordinance establishes development standards for agricultural buffers between new non-agricultural development and agriculture. The new Ordinance will assure and enhance the continuation of agriculture as a major viable production industry in Santa Barbara County by minimizing potential land use conflicts resulting from roaming pets, invasive exotic plant species, and trespassing issues often associated with encroaching non-agricultural uses.

Additionally, the Ordinance provides an additional margin of safety for the public by reducing noise, dust, odors, and other nuisances often associated with agricultural practices.

Background. Throughout development of the Ordinance, Planning and Development staff consulted with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC). In the winter of 2012, staff formed an ad-hoc working group consisting of seven members to discuss the proposed Ordinance. The Agricultural Buffer Working Group (ABWG) included four members from the agricultural community, two members from the development community, and one member from the environmental community. The ABWG assisted in working through most of the technical issues with the Ordinance and the development of the Agricultural Buffer Implementation Guidelines.

Who may be affected by the Ordinance. Below is a summary of the project criteria that may trigger the Ordinance. Please refer to the Ordinance language for more details. The Ordinance may apply when the non-agricultural development project meets all of the following criteria:

- The project requires a "discretionary" development permit such as a Conditional Use Permit, Development Plan, Lot Line Adjustment or Lot Split. Existing development and projects that require a "ministerial" development permit are unaffected by the Ordinance.
- The project site is located in the inland area of the County. Project sites located within a city boundary or coastal areas of the County are unaffected. The County will be proposing a similar Ordinance for the coastal areas of the County, but nothing has been adopted yet.
- The project site is designated as Urban, Inner-Rural, Existing Developed Rural Neighborhoods (EDRN), or located in an Industrial zone district.
- The project site is located adjacent to rural, agricultural land. The Ordinance does not apply to agricultural lands located in the Urban area.
- The project does not fall under one of the specified exemptions in the Ordinance.



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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ADOPTS AN AGRICULTURAL BUFFER ORDINANCE

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Buffer width ranges. The proposed Ordinance applies only to future land use projects and buffers are located on the non-agricultural lot. Proposed buffer width ranges are higher for non-agricultural development adjacent to production agriculture (100 feet to 400 feet) than adjacent to rangeland and/or pastureland (100 feet to 150 feet). Production agriculture requires more intensive farming practices (tillage of the soil, picking, and pruning, etc.) and typically generates more noise, dust and odors. The buffer width ranges are based on recommendations from the AAC and ABWG as well as research, including other jurisdictions' agricultural buffer requirements.

Range of Agricultural Buffer Widths			
Project Land Use or Zoning	Project Location	Minimum Buffer Width (feet)	Maximum Buffer Width (feet)
Commercial or Industrial	Adjacent to production agriculture	100	300
	Adjacent to rangeland or pastureland	100	150
Residential, not located on a Small Lot located within an Urban Area	Adjacent to production agriculture	200	300
	Adjacent to rangeland or pastureland	100	150
Residential, located on a Small Lot located within an Urban Area	Adjacent to production agriculture	100	200
	Adjacent to rangeland or pastureland	100	150
Sensitive Non-agricultural Uses	Adjacent to production agriculture	300	400
	Adjacent to rangeland or pastureland	100	150

Additional Ordinance features. Allowable uses within the agricultural buffers are designated either "unrestricted" or "restricted" uses depending on the level of compatibility with agriculture. The Ordinance also requires a Landscape, Lighting, and Irrigation Plan and performance security to ensure the buffer is established and a Maintenance Plan to ensure the agricultural buffer is maintained. A recorded Notice to Property Owner ensures the agricultural buffer will inform future owners there is an agricultural buffer on the property.

For more information, including the adopted Ordinance language, please go to the [Agricultural Buffer Ordinance webpage](#) or contact Stephanie Stark, Agricultural Planner with the Planning and Development Department at 805.568.2048 or ststark@countyofsb.org.

Agricultural Buffer Ordinance Webpage:

http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/programs/ag_buffer/AgBufferordinance.php



CALIFORNIA NURSERY STOCK CERTIFICATE UPDATE

Submitted by Bree Belyea, Agricultural Biologist

Wholesale nurseries are inspected annually by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to ensure they meet the basic standards of freedom from pests as defined by California Food and Agriculture Code. A California Nursery Stock Certificate (CNSC) is required for nurseries that ship plants or seeds out of the county. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has made some changes to the CNSC Program and we will be issuing new certificates to all nurseries that ship out of Santa Barbara County. The new CNSCs will be valid for two years and will be renewed automatically by CDFA for a period of up to six years.

If a pest of quarantine significance is detected in a shipment of their plants, a Nursery may be asked to provide records regarding sources and distribution of those plants. Nurseries are required to maintain records for one year of each shipment sent or received including:

1. Botanical and/or common name of plant including variety or cultivar
2. Number of plants
3. Container or plant sizes
4. Receiver info (Where they came from and date)
5. Consignee info (Where they were shipped to and date).



For nurseries with multiple locations, the last shipping location should be designated on the shipping documents.

Please refer to the CDFA website for the latest version of the shipping guide:

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/Nursery/pdfs/nipm_3_3.pdf

For nursery stock shipping regulations for all states, refer to the National Plant Board website:

<http://nationalplantboard.org/laws/index.html>

Contact your local Agricultural Commissioner's office for additional information.

ENTER YOUR PESTICIDE USE REPORTS ONLINE

Submitted by Katie Caterino, Agricultural Biologist



Tired of writing your pesticide use reports by hand each month? Check out the web-based California Pesticide Permitting and Use Reporting (CalAgPermits) System. CalAgPermits is an online pesticide use reporting system that enables users to enter pesticide use reports and notices of intent, as well as view information about their permit(s). CalAgPermits contains four types of pesticide use report (PUR) data entry forms -- PUR single Job Entry, PUR Production Ag Monthly Report, MSPUR Non-Ag, Non-Prod Ag Monthly Report and Notice of Intent -- so whether you are a grower, maintenance gardener, structural or agricultural pest control business, you can report your pesticide use through this online system. It is fast, easy, and efficient, so try it out today. To request a new account, check out our website:

<http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/agcomm.aspx?id=34752> and click on "request a New User ID and temporary Password." For questions, contact Alicia Morales in our Santa Maria office at (805) 934-6200.



THOUSAND CANKERS DISEASE

Submitted by Heather Scheck, Plant Pathologist

A newly described fungal pathogen is killing black walnut trees in California and poses a potential threat to the commercial walnut industry.

Since 2008, Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) has been confirmed from Los Angeles County in the south up to Sutter County in the north. TCD is also known to be present in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, plus some parts of the southeastern US.

The fungus has been named *Geosmithia morbida* sp. nov. It is spread by the tiny walnut twig beetle (WTB), *Pityophthorus juglandis*. The fungus lives as a symbiont with the beetle and is not known to spread any other way than with the movement of the WTB. WTB does not appear to be attracted to stressed or injured branches or trees. WTB can fly and introduces the fungus into the phloem during feeding and construction of reproductive galleries.



Walnut Twig Beetle (Photo: North Carolina Cooperative Extension)



Weak and declining English Walnut (on Paradox rootstock)

WTB is believed to attack all species of walnut; however, TCD has primarily been a problem on black walnut trees. Most often killed are two California native species of black walnut, *Juglans californica* and *J. hindsii*. Eastern black walnut, *J. nigra*, and hybrids of that species or hybrids of California native walnuts such as the Paradox hybrid (*J. hindsii* x *J. regia*), which are important rootstocks for commercial walnuts, have also contracted TCD. English walnut, *J. regia*, the primary commercial species grown for nuts, was confirmed to have TCD in Santa Barbara County (Lompoc and Buellton) in the fall of 2010. Trees showed branch dieback and general symptoms of decline. Since then symptoms on more trees are developing slowly.

Geosmithia colonizes and kills the phloem of walnut branches and stems, and causes the formation of small, oozing bark cankers.

Hundreds or even thousands of small fungal cankers develop in the branches, below the surface, around beetle galleries. They coalesce and eventually kill the cambium but these cankers are not highly visible and disease progress is slow. This makes disease diagnosis very difficult.

Symptoms: Early yellowing of foliage and leaf drop, progressive branch decline or dieback over 2-3 years from the top down, small beetle holes in live branches which when shaved off show evidence that the cambium has been damaged, tree death not associated with obvious causes such as physical damage, stem cankers, root rot, collar rot, or trunk rot.

Management: Diseased trees or parts of trees should be removed from the orchard to reduce beetle reproduction. No fungicides or insecticides have been shown to be effective in preventing or curing TCD.

Please report any possible symptoms on walnut trees to your Agricultural Commissioner's office or to your local University of California Cooperative Extension office. Presence of the pathogen can be confirmed by laboratory testing.

For more information, check out the Thousand Canker Disease website:

<http://www.thousandcankerdisease.com/>



Small bleeding spots from TCD on English Walnut branch



ARUNDO DONAX ERADICATION IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Submitted by David Chang, Weed Management Program Specialist

Arundo donax is a tough perennial grass that can displace native vegetation, increase the potential for flooding, and increase the flammability of habitat along creeks and rivers in Santa Barbara County. Arundo grows best on low gradient banks of streams and rivers and can grow into large, impenetrable patches, up to 30 feet tall, making life difficult for the animals that depend on the usually diverse habitat that the arundo replaced. Floods can result when water is diverted by arundo patches that retain soil and block water flow, and by loose stalks and roots of arundo that have been uprooted by water flow and trapped in the river. Arundo increases the fuel load, frequency, height and heat of fires, increasing the flammability of a riparian corridor. Arundo recovers quicker than native vegetation after a fire. Floods spread arundo throughout the riparian habitat. A vicious cycle is created. Floods and fire increase arundo and in turn, Arundo increases the potential for floods and fire.

Arundo has not yet fully saturated the habitat in Santa Barbara County. The Agricultural Commis-

sioner is conducting arundo removal projects on Arroyo Burro Creek, Rincon Creek, Carpinteria Creek, the Santa Ynez River and in Lookout Park. Because the county's infestations are at an early stage in the invasion process, and because arundo prefers riparian systems and does not produce seed, eradication from a local area is possible.

The Agricultural Commissioner appreciates the cooperation of landowners who are allowing access, sometimes by helicopter, to their properties for removal activity. The Agricultural Commissioner anticipates revisiting infestations over a number of years to ensure eradication. The Agricultural Commissioner has been applying Aquamaster® (glyphosate) herbicide as cut-stump or foliar treatments. Imazapyr, (Polaris® or Habitat®), herbicide, a new more effective and efficient herbicide, will be used this year, pending approval by resource management agencies. More information is available at the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area's website at:

www.countyofsb.org/agcomm/wma.aspx?id=16352.



Continued growth of this 15 foot tall clump of arundo would further stabilize this beaver dam in the Santa Ynez River increasing the flood risk. Photo credit: D. Chang



Flood waters trapped behind an arundo logjam lifted the River Road bridge in Orange County off its foundation. Photo credit: V. Vartanian



Worker applying herbicide on arundo along the Santa Ynez River. Photo credit: J. Knapp

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Submitted by Tom Donlon, Agricultural Biologist



Tom Donlon, Agricultural Biologist, speaks to students at Guadalupe Boys and Girls Club.

In March of this year, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office had the opportunity to participate in two outreach programs designed to educate kids about agriculture. The first was at Fillmore Elementary School in Lompoc. They celebrated their 19th Annual Ag Day where groups of students from 1st through 5th grades rotated through several stations and presenters talked about everything from planting seedlings to agricultural practices of the mission era. Our office provided a presentation on invasive pests and how we monitor for them. The second outreach was a joint effort with assistance from California Women in Agriculture, Pioneer High School FFA, Nipomo 4H and local agricultural businesses at Guadalupe Boys and Girls Club. Representatives from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office spoke to the children about our efforts to protect agriculture and the local ecological systems from the introduction of exotic insect pests and invasive species. Staff demonstrated techniques and tools used to inspect and trap for these potential threats. Between the two programs, we were able to educate and recruit over 300 future community leaders and sets of young eyes to assist in the early detection of potential threats to agriculture.



THE DYNAMOMETER—A NEW METHOD OF TAXIMETER INSPECTION FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Submitted by Chris Tyler, Weights and Measures Inspector

Taximeters are one of the most common devices Santa Barbara Weights & Measures inspectors check during the year. Each of the county's taximeters (approximately 400) requires an annual inspection for accuracy. This year brings big changes to the method used by Weights and Measures to check the accuracy of taximeters. Starting May 23, taximeters are being inspected by using a dynamometer or dyno for short. Previously, taximeters were inspected by driving the vehicle along a specially marked, mile-long road course.

A dynamometer is a device that measures mileage by measuring the rotational speed of the wheels of a car while driven. The machine consists of a platform that contains two large rollers which hold the vehicle's wheels. These rollers can speed up or slow down in tandem with the car's drive wheels allowing the tires to spin freely at an equivalent MPH while the car itself remains stationary. To perform a meter inspection, the inspector places the car's drive wheels on the rollers. Once the car is in place, the inspector accelerates and conducts a series of tests. The device measures the number of rotations the wheels make in relation to the amount the taximeter charges for the same distance.

Santa Barbara W&M is grateful to Los Angeles County Department Weights and Measures for the loan of this piece of equipment. By using the dyno, the inspectors are able to conduct more thorough testing of the County's taxicabs in a safer and more efficient manner. Taximeter inspection appointments are scheduled every 30 minutes on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. Contact the department at (805) 681-5600 for more information or to make an appointment for testing.



A taxi being tested on the dynamometer

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HELD LARGEST OVERALL CAMPAIGN FOR UNITED WAY

Submitted by Narit Gessler & Kerstin Padilla, United Way of Santa Barbara County



United Way of Santa Barbara County hosted its 90th Annual Awards Celebration at the Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore in Montecito on May 15, 2103.

The annual dinner recognizes local organizations and individuals for contributing to the community and United Way

activities, such as its Fun in the Sun program. A total of 30 awards were given to local volunteers, as well as businesses, schools, organizations and the individuals who lead them for their outstanding support of United Way of Santa Barbara County and its numerous programs in the Santa Barbara community.

The County of Santa Barbara has held the largest campaign for over a decade and again this year was awarded the Largest Overall Campaign. The County raised over \$205,000 given by 702 donors. Cathy Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, served as Chair for the 2012 campaign. Cathy provided great leadership to the campaign, bringing wisdom and enthusiasm to the entire process – which made for a very successful campaign.

Funds raised during the campaign will support United Way of Santa Barbara County and its partners in working to achieve community-driven 10-year goals, with a focus on the United 2020 Goals: Education, Financial Stability, and Health.

DPR 2011 MONITORING SHOWS MOST PRODUCE SAMPLES HAVE NO DETECTABLE PESTICIDE RESIDUES

From California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Enforcement Branch

On November 7, 2012, DPR Director Brian R. Leahy announced the majority of fresh produce samples collected by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in 2011 had no detectable pesticide residues, and residues that were detected generally fell well below allowable limits to protect public health.



More than 160 types of domestic and imported produce were analyzed for pesticide residues in 2011. Of the 2,707 samples:

- 60.8 percent (1,647 samples) had no pesticide residues detected.
- 35.8 percent (968 samples) had residues within the allowable limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 3.4 percent (92 samples) had illegal residues. Although illegal, the residues were at such low levels they posed no acute health risk. Most of the samples with illegal residues were imported from other countries.

Of the total samples, 988 were of California-grown produce of which 97.9 percent were in compliance with the allowable limits. In 2010 and 2011 combined, DPR detected illegal pesticide residues most frequently on snow peas from Guatemala; tomatillos, chili peppers, limes, and papayas from Mexico; ginger from China; and spinach and kale from California.

For more information, visit <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/residue/rsmonmnu.htm>

THREE EMERGING AG LEADERS GRADUATE FROM CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by Anne Coates, Cachuma Resource Conservation District

Congratulations to three emerging agricultural leaders in Santa Barbara County who graduated in June 2013 from the 20-month California Agricultural Leadership program. Graduates include:



California Ag Leadership Program – Graduates of
Class 42 – International Trip India and Nepal

- **Brenda Farias**, USDA-Farm Service Agency, Santa Maria (second row: fifth from left)
- **Anne Coates**, Cachuma Resource Conservation District, Santa Maria (second row: third from left)
- **Michael Testa**, E. & J. Gallo Winery, Pope Valley (first row: third from left)

The Ag Leadership Program is considered to be one of the foremost leadership development opportunities in the United States.

<http://www.agleaders.org/program>

We grow leaders who make a difference



SANTA BARBARA CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET LAUNCHES FARM FRIENDLY DINING CERTIFICATION

Submitted by Eric Cardenas, Ag Innovations Network

Santa Barbara Certified Farmers Market Association (SBCFMA) launches "Farm Friendly Dining" Certification Program highlighting local food establishments who support our farmers markets while simultaneously bringing increased exposure to the farmers markets located throughout Santa Barbara County.

"We want to recognize and commend restaurants that support our farmers while incentivizing an increase in farm-to-table dining throughout Santa Barbara," said Sam Edelman, General Manager of SBCFMA. "When restaurants source their products locally, it benefits our community's sustainability and wellbeing."

In order to qualify for the program, certified restaurants must demonstrate that 25% or more of their establishments' total monthly food expenditures come from SBCFMA and other approved local vendors including the Santa Barbara Fish Market and Harvest Santa Barbara. Qualifying restaurants receive a window decal and framed certificate acknowledging their participation as well as marketing and publicity from SBCFMA.

Developed by LoaCom in conjunction with SBCFMA, the program stimulates the local economy by encouraging consumers to eat at restaurants who source their food from regional farmers.

The program also seeks to support our regional food system by creating stronger connections between the farmer, the restaurant and the consumer.

"Through our Farm Friendly Dining certification program, customers can support regional farms, the restaurants who support them, and strengthen our local economy every time they dine out," explains program coordinator Abby Wolff. "Whether you're looking for late night eats at the Blue Owl, farm-to-bar drinks at Anchor or post-yoga juice at the Juice Ranch, there is something for everyone."

Currently certified establishments include Alchemy Café, Arlington Tavern, Anchor Woodfire Kitchen, Blue Owl, Downey's Restaurant, Duo Catering, Juice Ranch, Julienne, the Isla Vista Food Co-op Kitchen, the Organic Soup Kitchen, Seagrass, and SOhO Restaurant and Music Venue.

The Santa Barbara Certified Farmers Market Association is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation that was founded in 1983 to provide California farmers with direct access at landmark locations to market their agricultural products directly to the local community.

Our Association of 130 grower members, owned and operated by the members and its board of

directors, is committed to helping promote local family farmers, and protecting the environment by sustaining and restoring surrounding greenbelt areas. The SBCFMA continues working diligently to bring the freshest and most nutritious produce our rich local agricultural land has to offer for you and your families.

LoaCom is a 'better world' consulting agency offering business and organizational development, marketing and public relations, and event management and production services to businesses, non-profits and individuals.

For more information regarding the SBCFMA Farm Friendly Dining Certification, contact program coordinator Abby Wolff at (314) 941-5863 or abby@loacom.com.

Dining establishments interested in joining the program can participate by contacting: info@loacom.com.

Visit: [SB Farmers Market](http://SBFarmersMarket.com) or contact (805) 962-5354 for more information about the Santa Barbara Certified Farmers Market Association. Learn more about LoaCom at: www.loacom.com.



CLIMATE CHANGE — NRCS AND CACHUMA RCD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Submitted by Anne Coates, Cachuma Resource Conservation District

As experts predict growing climate changes in the United States, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD) offer a variety of practices, programs and studies that help landowners build resiliency to its effects.

Although agriculture sources only contribute six percent of greenhouse gas emissions, many sources can be reduced with minimal economic impact, Dr. Wayne Honeycutt, NRCS deputy chief for science and technology, said. With more extreme weather events, it's more difficult for farmers and ranchers to predict what they'll be faced with", which is where NRCS and RCDs can help.

Several conservation practices increase carbon storage in soil, called carbon sequestration, which buffers climate change and provides benefits to landowners by storing more carbon and increasing the organic matter in the soil. The higher the organic matter content, the higher the water holding capacity and water infiltration, which also increases resilience to drought, heavy precipitation and extreme temperatures. Soil, pollinators, wildlife and farmers can all benefit from these practices. Farmers are able to achieve higher yields, reduce inputs and improve efficiency of nutrient and water use all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Building resiliency to extreme weather helps keep farmers farming and ranchers ranching, so we aren't dependent on others for our food supply," Honeycutt said.

After evaluating all of NRCS' 160 conservation standards, NRCS experts identified 35 standards as positively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration. This allows conservation planners to readily choose practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase carbon sequestration. "We, as an agency, have tremendous opportunity and responsibility to mitigate climate change and increase the resiliency of production systems to extreme weather events so

we can enhance sustainability of our food production systems," Honeycutt said.



The Cachuma RCD has several programs that assist with carbon sequestration and GHG reductions:

The CRCD's *Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL)* staff works with both urban large turf landscape managers (e.g., schools), and farmers in the field to reduce water and nitrogen inputs into their fields.

The CRCD's Rangeland staff work with ranchers to build productive soils, choose appropriate vegetation, and can help assist in determining correct stocking ratios. Two years ago, the CRCD started a grassland carbon sequestration program and with positive feedback, will be expanding this effort.



For more information, contact Santa Barbara County NRCS and the CRCD at (805) 928-9269.



FARM SERVICE AGENCY COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

From USDA Newsroom

Overview

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established with large or small operations.



It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Election Period

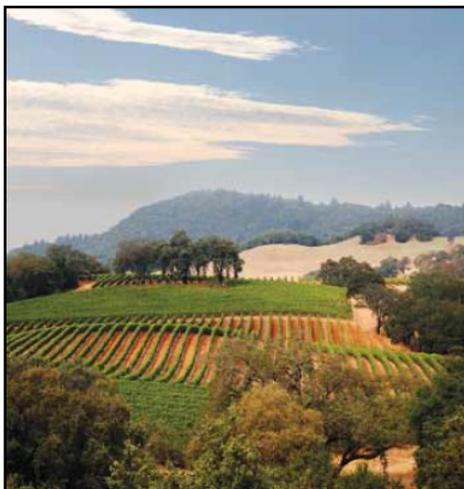
- **June 17, 2013** – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>
- **Aug. 1, 2013** – Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center
- **Nov. 4, 2013** – Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Dec. 2, 2013** – Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
- **Jan. 1, 2014** – Newly elected county committee members take office



“BLOOMING BUSINESS”

From Growing California

The most recent segment in the [Growing California](#) video series, a partnership with [California Grown](#), is “Blooming Business,” a profile of California’s cut flower industry. Check out the video featuring some of our local Carpinteria flower growers: <http://www.californiagrown.org/growing-california/>.



PRESERVE
OUR BEAUTIFUL SCENERY

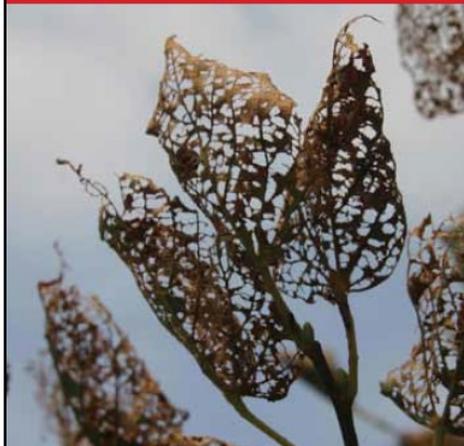
YOU CAN HELP

Here's how you can help protect California's bounty.

- * **Keep A Lookout.** Learn to identify the invasive plants and animals that affect your favorite farm, hiking trail or boating area. Learn more at [CaliforniaInvasives.info](#)
- * **Buy It Where You Buy It.** Use local firewood to avoid giving bugs a free ride.
- * **Plant Carefully.** Buy non-invasive home and garden plants from a reputable local source.
- * **Travel Safely.** Please be sure to declare produce and plants at borders.
- * **Keep It Clean.** Before returning home from fishing, hunting and camping trips wash outdoor gear, boats and vehicles to keep hitchhikers from damaging other areas.
- * **Treat Pets Wisely.** Always acquire pets from legal sources and never release any pet into the wild.
- * **Report Sightings.** Being a “citizen scientist” is fun and easy. There are many ways to make a difference.
 - Call California's Pest Hotline at 800-491-1899.
 - Contact your local county Agricultural Commissioner, www.oaocsa.org
 - Visit whatisthisbug.org & download the Report a Pest app.



PROTECT
OUR FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE



A striking example of invasive species impact! In this case, tree removal in Massachusetts to stop the spread of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle.

BEFORE



AFTER



Photos: Center for Invasive Species Research.



**Main Offices****Santa Barbara**

263 Camino del Remedio
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1335
Phone: (805) 681-5600
FAX: (805) 681-5603
Hours: M-F 8:00AM to 4:30PM

Santa Maria

624 W. Foster Rd., Suite E
Santa Maria, CA 93455-3623
Phone: (805) 934-6200
FAX: (805) 934-6202
Hours: M-F 8:00AM to 4:30PM

District Offices**Carpinteria**

941 Walnut Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93103
Phone: (805) 681-5600
FAX: (805) 681-5603
Hours: By Appointment Only

Solvang

1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
Phone: (805) 686-5064
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Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 to 2:00 PM
and By Appointment

Lompoc

401 E. Cypress Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436-6806
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FAX: (805) 737-7735
Hours: By Appointment Only

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STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

The Agriculture and Weights and Measures Department is pleased to introduce three new staff members. Two new Weights and Measures Inspectors, Daniel Garcia and Scott Perkins, and one Agricultural Biologist, Robbie Towne. Please join us in welcoming them to the Department.



Daniel Garcia was born and raised in Santa Barbara County. He attended Allan Hancock College where he received an AA in Administration of Justice. He

transferred to San Diego State University and earned a BA in Sociology and a BS in Criminal Justice Administration. While in college, Daniel worked for San Diego County Probation Department as an intern. After college he returned to Santa Barbara County and worked at Bacara Resort & Spa

where he gained valuable experience in customer service. Daniel is very excited to begin his career in Weights and Measures and to serve Santa Barbara County. He is on track with the Department's goals and looks forward to becoming fluent in our new Equimetric software.



Scott Perkins a native to Santa Maria and has lived there most of his life. For the past 18 years, Scott was employed by Santa Barbara County Public Works as a Heavy Equipment Operator, with a focus on Urban Forestry. Scott has a Class A Commercial Driver's License and is Peace Officers Standards Training Certified through Allan Hancock College. Scott is presently training on the heavy capacity programs including vehicle scales, livestock scales and



liquid propane gas meters. Scott enjoys testing taxi meters on the new dynamometer and also enjoys using the Department's new computer program. Robbie Towne grew up in Northern California where his family owns and operates a bedding plant business. He recently graduated with a BS in Environmental Horticulture Sciences from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He worked as the Sales Manager and Floriculture Production Manager at Cal Poly as well as a nursery in Los Osos. More recently, Robbie has been working in the Santa Maria office as an Extra Help Biologist assisting with various regulatory activities, including Light Brown Apple Moth trapping and inspections. Robbie has enjoyed his time as Extra Help and is excited to work with the Department full-time.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Santa Barbara County Fair — July 10-14, 2013

Be sure to check out the Santa Barbara County AG & WM booth.

Sustainability Assessment Workshop — July 17, 2013

The CSWA, Wine Institute, and CA Association of Winegrape Growers is offering a free hands-on workshop to begin assessing the sustainability of your vineyard or winery. The workshop will take place at the Santa Ynez Marriott from 8:30am—12:00 pm. For more information and to RSVP, visit: <http://www.sustainablewinegrowing.org/event/603/SustainabilityWorkshopSantaYnez.html>

Local Work Group Meeting — July 18, 2013

The Cachuma Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will host a Local Work Group Meeting from 10 AM until noon, at the USDA Service Center, 920 E Stowell Road in Santa Maria. The primary purpose of the meeting is to review Farm Bill conservation programs available to farmers and ranchers and to identify priority natural resource concerns for Santa Barbara County.

QAC/QAL Exam Prep Course — August 8, 2013

PAPA is presenting an educational course designed to help you increase your knowledge and prepare for the QAC/QAL exam. Preparation materials will be included. Landscape, Industrial, Plant Ag and Right-of-Way categories covered and Laws and Regulations. Santa Maria Elks Lodge, 1305 N Bradley Road, Santa Maria, CA 93456. To register online go to: <http://www.papaseminars.com/TESTPREP.htm>

