

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Farms in Berkeley?

Yes! and in

Alameda

Emeryville

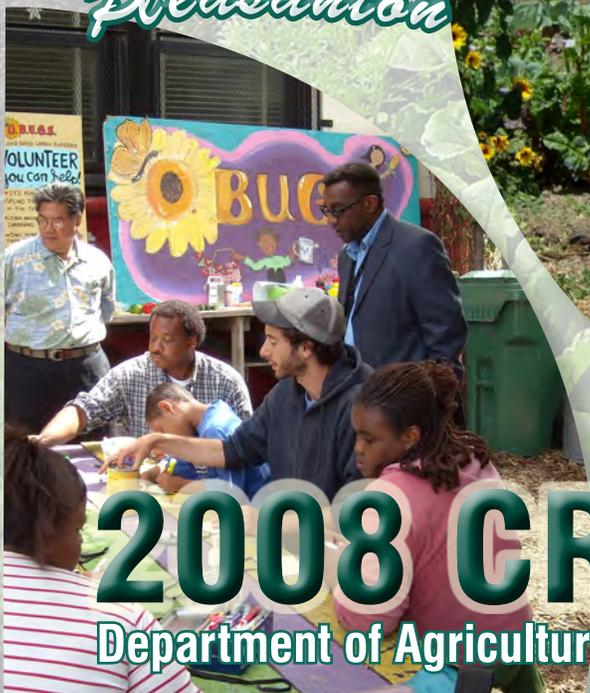
Fremont

Hayward

Livermore

Oakland

Pleasanton



2008 CROP REPORT

Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures



Community Agriculture

Agriculture means different things to different people. Alameda County has a long history of agriculture beginning as early as the San Jose Mission days. With California statehood, Alameda agriculture boomed from the 1860's to the 1970's producing a wide variety of agricultural commodities including cotton, cherries, rutabagas, grapes, cauliflower, lettuce, corn, tomatoes, sugar beets and hops. Farms could be found throughout our county. Today, because of urbanization our farms are located in the eastern and south eastern portion of the County, primarily in the Livermore and Sunol areas.

Now predominately an urban county, a new generation of farmers is being reborn in and around the edge of our cities. Alameda agriculture has diversified its approach to the traditional production of healthy and wholesome food and plant products through sustainable community agriculture programs. Alameda has over 200 community and school farms/gardens that teach and support our community about the importance agriculture has in our daily lives. These benefits go beyond just providing healthy food in underserved urban areas, but also, educates our youth about the importance of environmental stewardship, invasive pests and the value of neighborhood green spaces.

There are over 35 Farmers Markets in Alameda County that support our County's efforts to provide a healthy community for its residents. While farmers markets provide fresh food for residents, they also help to sustain local small farmers, improve the environment and provide public space for social interaction to learn about the agricultural products grown directly from the growers themselves.



Ralph Bunch School Nursery



West Oakland Woods Farm

Urban farming projects such as City Slicker Farms, empowers West Oakland community members to grow, distribute and eat healthy organic produce by creating high-yield urban farms and back yard gardens.



Center Street Farm



Secret Garden



Paul & Inez Jones Garden



Through local organizations like OBUGS (Oakland Based Urban Gardens), urban children, youth and families in a network of school/neighborhood gardens, green spaces and farmers markets, learn to garden, grow, cook and eat healthy foods, exercise, do science experiments and help their neighborhood look beautiful.



Chris Bazar
Agency Director

ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, California

June 30, 2009

It is my pleasure to present the 2008 Alameda County Crop Report. In accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code this publication is presented annually and reports statistical information on acreage, yield, and gross value of Alameda County agricultural products.

The 2008 total gross value of Alameda County's agriculture was \$41,185,000. This figure is a slight decrease (2.9%) from the 2007 gross production value (\$42,441,000) or \$1,256,000.

Although down significantly, nursery products remained our highest valued commodity. This category, which includes ornamental trees and shrubs, bedding plants, and indoor decoratives, had a decrease of \$3,813,000 (16%) compared to 2007 due to reduced sales of ornamental trees and shrubs. Fruit and Nut Crops was our second valued commodity at \$8,772,000, which increased (34.6%) because of an increase in bearing acreage of wine grapes. Livestock was the third highest valued commodity and had a small increase of \$293,000 (3.9%).

I would like to emphasize that the numbers in this report are gross values only and do not reflect costs related to production, harvesting, marketing or transportation. It is also important to note that the overall local economic benefit of our agricultural production is generally thought to be about three times the gross production value.

This year's crop report highlights farming in our urban communities. Empty urban lots are transformed into community and school gardens that help to provide healthy and wholesome food for inner city families.

I sincerely appreciate the cooperation of all the agricultural producers, contributing organizations, and those individuals in Alameda County who provided the necessary information for this report. I would also like to thank all the members of our staff whose hard work and dedication made this report possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis F. Bray
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

Annual Crop Report for Year 2008

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

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Director, Community Development Agency
CHRIS BAZAR

Deputy Director
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
DENNIS F. BRAY

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Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
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**Assistant Deputy Director
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Joanne Greer
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Nikolas Radey
Arisa Soontraviratana
Dereje Tamerat

Administrative Support

Suzette Morgado

Cora Robles

Clarice Walker

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Hay, Alfalfa	2008	495	5.32	2,635	Ton	\$203.00	\$535,000.00
	2007	679	5.16	3,490	Ton	\$179.00	\$625,000.00
Hay, Other	2008	3,795	1.59	6,020	Ton	\$110.37	\$664,000.00
	2007	3,220	1.7	5,474	Ton	\$104.00	\$569,000.00
Range Pasture	2008	189,000			Acre	\$17.03	\$3,219,000.00
	2007	189,000			Acre	\$17.10	\$3,232,000.00
Miscellaneous	2008	10					\$120,000.00
	2007	300					\$248,000.00
TOTAL	2008	193,300					\$4,538,000.00
	2007	193,199					\$4,674,000.00

Includes sugar beets, safflower, corn silage, barley, oats, wheat, beans, irrigated pasture, etc.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Grapes (Wine)							
Red	2008	2,019	3.6	7,265	Ton	Various	\$7,234,000.00
	2007	1,463	3.79	5,542	Ton	Various	\$5,215,000.00
White	2008	507	4.24	2,152	Ton	Various	\$1,352,000.00
	2007	453	4.38	1,984	Ton	Various	\$1,240,000.00
Misc. Fruit	2008	295					\$186,000.00
	2007	167					\$61,000.00
TOTAL	2008	2,821					\$8,772,000.00
	2007	2,083					\$6,516,000.00

Includes olives, walnuts, strawberries, pastachios, melons, etc.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Total
Miscellaneous Vegetables	2008	74	\$745,000.00
	2007	80	\$601,000.00

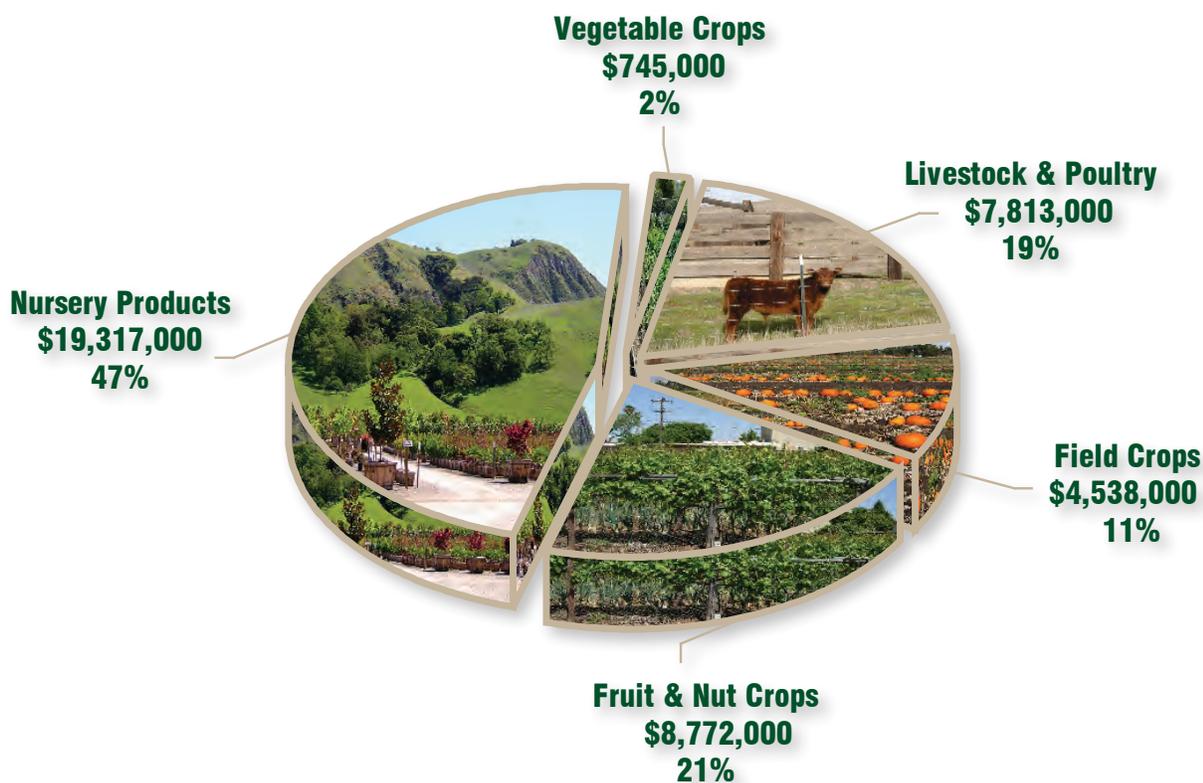
Includes broccoli, cabbage, corn, fava beans, leaf lettuce, greens, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, etc.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Item	Year	No. of Head	Total Weight	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	2008	13,235	81,276	Cwt.	Various	\$7,757,000.00
	2007	12,792	78,159	Cwt.	Various	\$7,191,000.00
Misc. Poultry and Livestock Products	2008	Includes rabbits, sheep, wool, lambs, hogs, bees and apiary products				\$56,000.00
	2007					\$329,000.00
TOTAL	2008					\$7,813,000.00
	2007					\$7,520,000.00

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	House Sq. Ft.	Field Acres	Quantity Sold	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Ornamental Trees and Shrubs	2008	775,150	211	1,154,482	Plt.	Various	\$18,310,000.00
	2007	665,150	200	1,690,147	Plt.	Various	\$20,393,000.00
Miscellaneous Nursery Products	2008	253,100	54	Includes bedding plants, indoor decoratives, narcissus, peonies, christmas trees, cut flowers, etc.			\$1,007,000.00
	2007	254,300	69				\$2,737,000.00
TOTAL	2008	1,028,250	265				\$19,317,000.00
	2007	919,450	269				\$23,130,000.00



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING

County Biological Control

Pest

Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)



Agent/Mechanism

Bud Weevil
(*Bangasternus orientalis*)
Seedhead Gall Fly
(*Urophora sirunaseva*)
Seedhead Fly
(*Chaetorellia* spp.)
Hairy Weevil
(*Eustenopus villosus*)
Rust Fungus
(*Puccinia jaceae* var. *solstitialis*)

Scope of Program

Found in most areas of the County
Released at 3 sites

Organic Farming Statistics

	Number of Registered Organic Producers	Est. Acreage
Miscellaneous Crops	3	75

Pest Management and Eradication

Pest

Artichoke Thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*)
Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia*)
Golden Thistle (*Scolymus hispanicus*)
Iberian Thistle (*Centaurea iberica*)
Japanese Dodder (*Cuscuta japonica*)
Pampas Grass (*Corederia selloana*)
Puna Grass (*Stipa brachychaeta*)
Purple Starthistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*)

Agent/Mechanism

Chemical
Mechanical
Chemical
Chemical & Mechanical
Mechanical
Chemical
Mechanical
Chemical & Mechanical

Scope of Program

45 Net Acres
One Site/1Acre
720 Acres
One Site/10 Acres
34 Sites Removed
1 Site/2 Acres
One Site/2 Acres
18 Net Acres

Pest Exclusion

Inspection of incoming shipments of plant products and other high-risk articles to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases harmful to California's agricultural industry. 335 Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) traps were deployed in various nurseries, with 6,488 servicings for the year.

Type of Shipment

Parcel Carriers (Post Office, UPS, Fed Ex, Etc.)
Trucks
Household Goods (for Gypsy Moth)

Number Inspected

13,454
459
140

Number Rejected

219 NOR's / 139 Pests
2 NOR's / 2 Pests
4 NOR's / 0 Viable Pests

GWSS

Shipments Incoming

4,049

Number Rejected

3

LBAM Exclusion Program

Businesses under compliance agreement: 143 (7 Host/Crop Producers, 16 Community Gardens, 92 Retail/Production Nurseries, 28 Greenwaste Facilities [origin facilities and transporters])

Number of compliance inspections: 847 **Total traps in shipping nurseries:** 53 **Number of positive nursery finds (non-males):** 0

Equine Statistics

Recreation and Pleasure

5,000

Non-Racing Competition

1,000

Racing

2,000

Working Ranch Horses

1,500

The purpose of including equine data in this report is to demonstrate the economic benefit of this industry. Hopefully, horses will soon again be recognized as a part of agriculture.

Urban Agriculture

	Number of Gardens	Est. Acreage
Community Gardens	15	45
School Gardens	190	65



**Ralph Bunch School Nursery
Oakland**



**Secret Garden
Oakland**



**Val Vista Community Garden
Pleasanton**

PEST DETECTION

7,925 insect detection traps were deployed for exotic insect pests, and serviced 119,535 times during the year.

There were 935 yellow panel traps deployed in urban areas for detection of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, with 12,325 servicings for the year..

In 2008 a county wide trapping survey continued for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). 1,000 insect traps were deployed and inspected a total of 20,659 times. The inspections resulted in trapping 2,543 moths for the year.

Exotic insect pest finds included 1 Oriental fruit fly and 1 Japanese beetle.

The following economically significant pests were the main targets of this effort: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Mexican Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Melon Fly, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, European Pine Shoot Moth, Khapra Beetle, Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, and Light Brown Apple Moth.



Light Brown Apple Moth



Glassywinged Sharpshooter



Japanese Beetle

COMPARISON SUMMARY

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Field Crops	4,538,000	4,674,000	4,883,000	3,403,000	5,087,000
Vegetable Crops	745,000	601,000	1,153,000	683,000	682,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	8,772,000	6,516,000	8,049,000	8,580,000	9,084,000
Nursery Products	19,317,000	23,130,000	20,451,000	21,065,000	17,491,000
Nursery Cut Flowers	Included in Nursery Products				
Livestock & Poultry	7,813,000	7,520,000	8,876,000	8,695,000	7,850,000
Apiary Products	Included in Livestock & Poultry				
TOTALS	41,185,000	42,441,000	43,412,000	42,426,000	40,194,000



**The Herb Farm
Oakland**



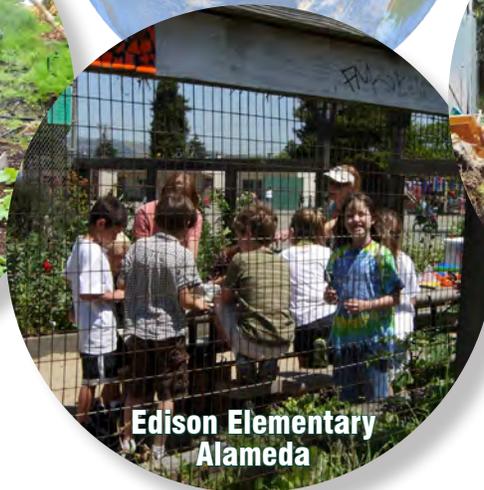
**Temescal
Community Garden
Oakland**



**Center Street Farm
Emeryville**



**The Annex Farm
Oakland**



**Edison Elementary
Alameda**



**Secret Garden
Oakland**

General Alameda County Information

County Seat	Oakland
County Population, 2008.....	1,556,657
Land Area (Square Miles).....	737.5
Water Area (Square Miles).....	83.8
Persons per Square Mile	2,111

14 Incorporated Cities

Alameda • Albany • Berkeley • Dublin • Emeryville • Fremont • Hayward
Livermore • Newark • Oakland • Piedmont • Pleasanton • San Leandro • Union City

6 Unincorporated Areas

Ashland • Castro Valley • Cherryland • Fairview • San Lorenzo • Sunol

Total Assessed Property (Local Roll – 2008)	\$207,212,661,324
Total Harvested Crop Acreage (2008)	196,460
Major Roads	Interstate 80, Interstate 580, Interstate 680, Interstate 880, Highway 238, Highway 84, Highway 92, Highway 13
Elevation	Sea level to 3,817 ft. at Rose Peak in the southern part of the County
Average Climate	Mild winters and cool summers near the Bay. The eastern portion of the County is moderately warmer; high temperatures in the Livermore Amador Valley average 90°F in July.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Mission

To enrich the lives of Alameda County residents through visionary policies and accessible, responsive, and effective services

Vision

Alameda County is recognized as one of the best counties in which to live, work and do business.

Values

Integrity, honesty and respect fostering mutual trust.

Transparency and accountability achieved through open communications and involvement of diverse community voices.

Fiscal stewardship reflecting the responsible management of resources.

Customer service built on commitment, accessibility and responsiveness.

Excellence in performance based on strong leadership, teamwork and a willingness to take risks.

Diversity recognizing the unique qualities of every individual and his or her perspective.

Environmental stewardship to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources.

Social responsibility promoting self-sufficiency, economic independence and an interdependent system of care and support.

Compassion ensuring all people are treated with respect, dignity and fairness.

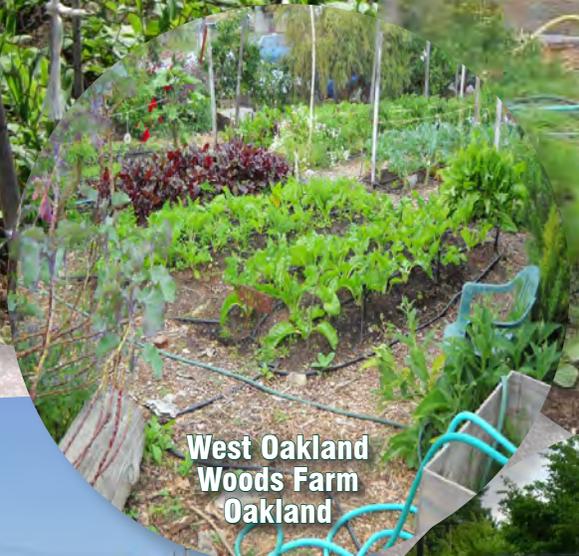
**Hayward Community Garden
Hayward**



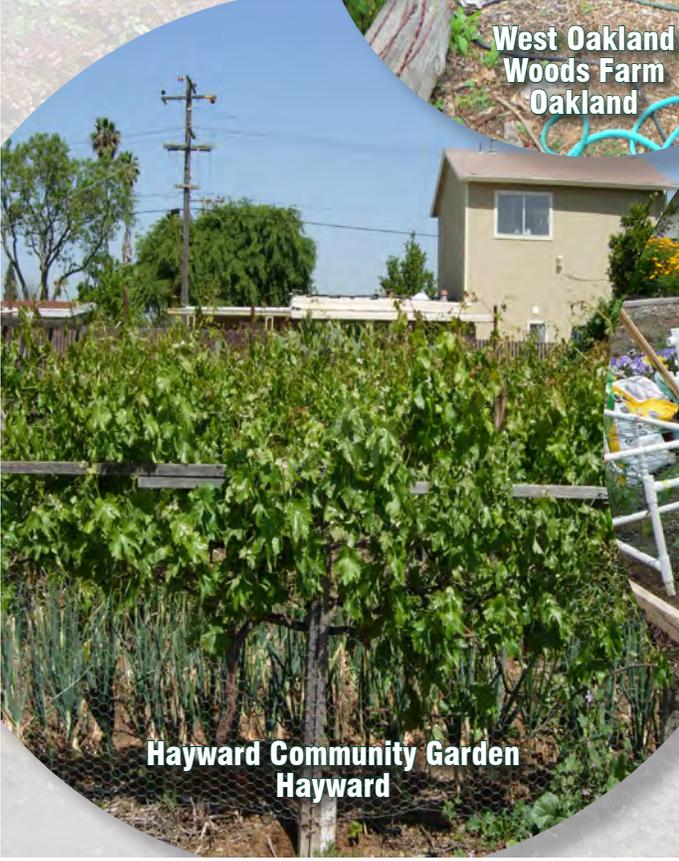
**The Annex Farm
Oakland**



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Woods Farm
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