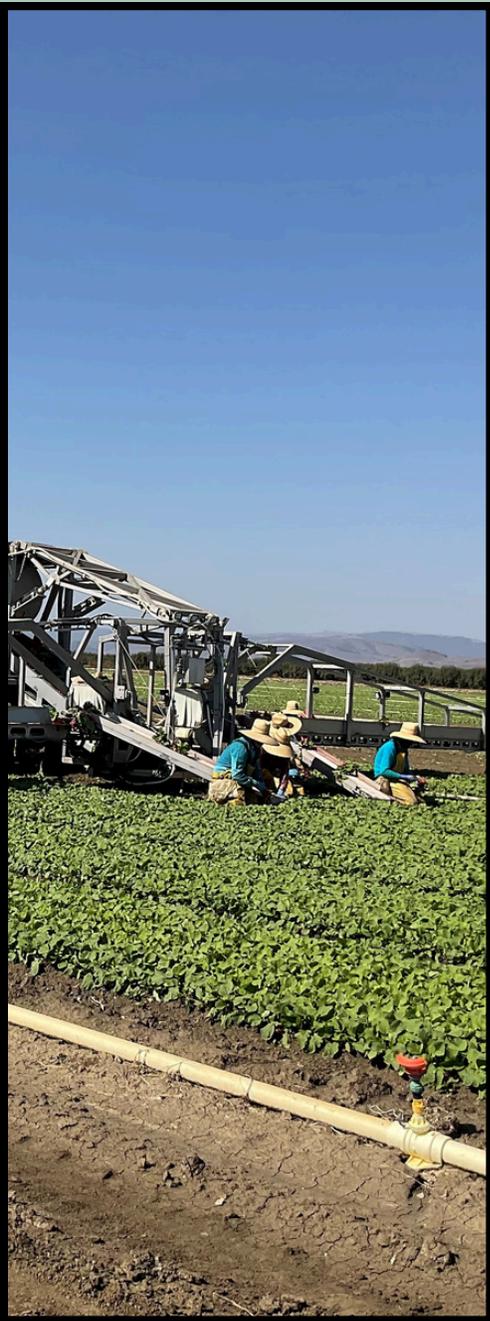
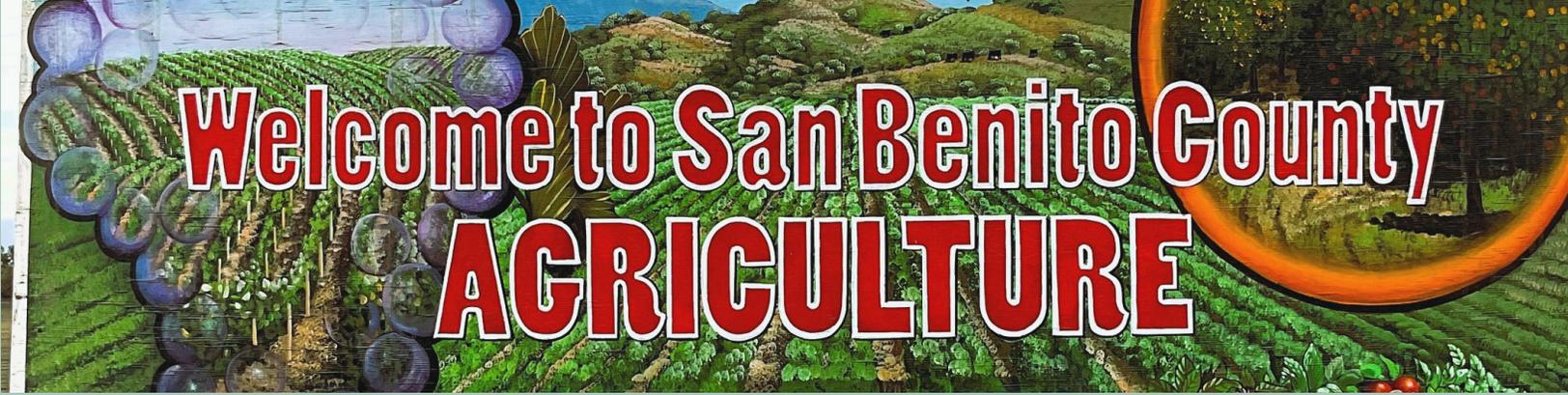


# SAN BENITO COUNTY



## CROP REPORT 2023



# Welcome to San Benito County **AGRICULTURE**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commissioner Letter	2
San Benito County Board & Office Staff	3
Commodity Summary	4
Top 10 Commodities	5
Vegetable & Row Crop	6
Fruit & Nut Crop	7
Field Crop	8
Cattle & Livestock	9
Miscellaneous Crops	10
Fruit & Vegetable Standardization	11
Pest Detection	12
Pest Exclusion & Eradication	13
Weights & Measures	14
Mosquito Abatement Program	15



---

# County of San Benito

---

Ken Griffin Acting AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES  
P O Box 699, Hollister, CA 95024-0699 Telephone (831) 637-5344 Fax (831) 637-9015

Karen Ross, Secretary California Department of Food and Agriculture  
The Honorable San Benito County Board of Supervisors  
Ray Espinosa, County Administrative Officer

In accordance with the requirements of section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I respectfully submit the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures' 2023 Annual Livestock and Crop Report.

In 2023 the state of California saw record breaking rainfall which caused farmers and ranchers throughout San Benito County to overcome challenges they faced early in the year. There were days with nonstop rain, which led to numerous acres of flooded croplands. Farmers were challenged on the food safety side of things to hold back on planting new crops even after the water had seceded. This resulted in a loss of crop plantings. Once the fields had been cleared of the food safety window, the hydrated and fertile soil yielded plentiful crops. Ranchers had combatted many years of drought leading to 2023 but were fortunate in having such as great year in rangeland forages. The cattle industry as a whole saw healthier, higher weight gain, and prosperous cattle all around. Despite these hardships, the San Benito County agricultural industry powered through.

The San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's Office prides itself with the close net relationships it has with our county's farmers and ranchers. We strive to build rapport and open communication with our growers thus a special thank you to all who have contributed to the data collection process. This report could not have been done without the efforts of our community and department staff. Thank you to all who call agriculture their professional career and especially to the staff who collected, analyzed, and published this important data.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into consideration the cost of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report. The figures are also periodically averaged and/or rounded in the process to achieve the end value.

Sincerely,

*Ken Griffin*

Ken Griffin



# San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Office

**Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
*Karen Overstreet*

**Deputy Ag Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
*Ken Griffin*

**Supervising Agricultural Biologist/ Inspector**  
*Donna Carbonaro*

## **Agricultural Biologist/ Inspector**

*Rafael Martinez*  
*Michael Silverman*  
*Belen Velasquez*  
*Priscila Nolasco*

## **Agricultural Technician**

*Jose Carapia*  
*Gabby Jimenez*  
*Isabelle Holly*  
*Elyssa Soria*  
*Lorie Tilley*

## **Administrative Support**

*Lisa Zavala*

## **County Board of Supervisors**

*Dom Zanger*     *District 1*  
*Kollin Kosmicki*     *District 2*  
*Mindy Soletto*     *District 3*     *Chair*  
*Angela Curro*     *District 4*     *Vice Chair*  
*Bea Gonzales*     *District 5*

## **County Administrative Officer**

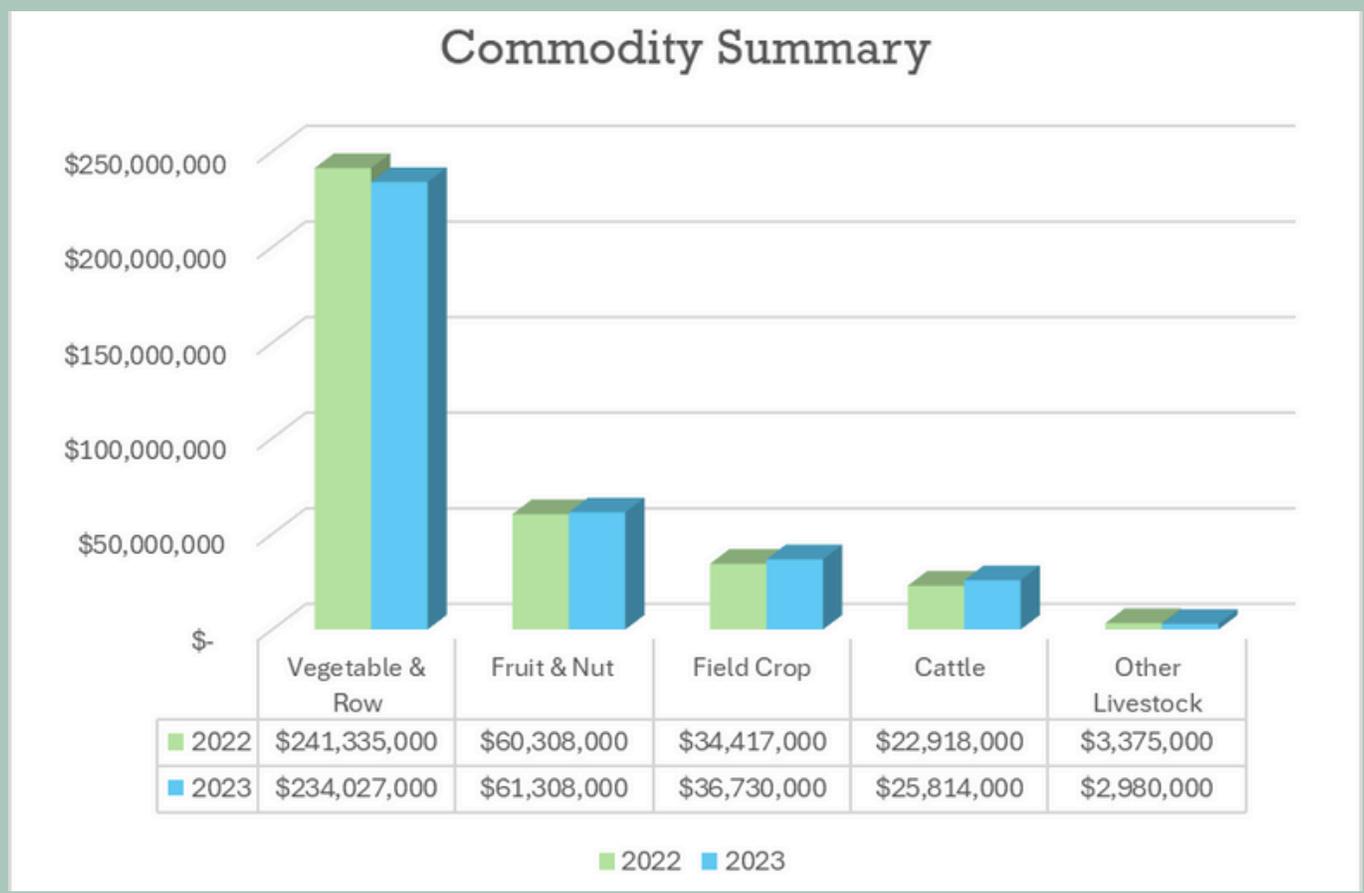
*Ray Espinosa*

# Commodity Summary

San Benito County's Agricultural Value decreased by 2 million dollars in gross sales for 2023. The biggest decrease was found in Vegetable and Row Crops and the biggest increase was in Cattle production.

## Total Gross Value

2022	\$362,353,000
2023	\$360,859,000





# Top 10 Commodities

2022 Rank	2023 Rank	Commodity	Value	% of Total
3	1	Spinach	\$42,929,000	12%
5	2	Lettuce Romaine	\$38,663,000	11%
2	3	Wine Grape	\$31,901,000	8%
8	4	Lettuce, Salad Mix	\$30,970,000	8%
1	5	Misc. Vegetable & Row	\$26,605,000	7%
7	6	Cattle	\$25,814,000	7%
6	7	Broccoli/ Broccollette	\$25,404,000	7%
NR	8	Misc. Fruit & Nut	\$21,618,000	6%
10	9	Peppers	\$19,372,000	5%
9	10	Rangeland/ Pasture	\$18,245,000	5%

5 **Total Value** **\$281,521,000** **70% of ALL commodities**



# Vegetable & Row Crop

Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per Unit	Total
<b>Broccoli/Brocquette</b>	2022	2,792	7.1	19,823	1,212	\$24,046,000
	2023	2,986	6.9	20,603	1,233	\$25,404,000
<b>Celery</b>	2022	468	22.8	10,670	285	\$3,041,000
	2023	726	28.8	20,909	265	\$5,541,000
<b>Kale</b>	2022	920	7.1	6,532	1,200	\$7,838,000
	2023	1,306	7	9,142	1,100	\$10,056,000
<b>Lettuce, Iceberg</b>	2022	1,062	14.38	15,272	336	\$5,131,000
	2023	1,500	15.25	22,875	340	\$7,778,000
<b>Lettuce, Romaine</b>	2022	3,533	14.2	50,169	487	\$24,432,000
	2023	5,660	13.8	78,108	495	\$38,663,000
<b>Peppers</b>	2022	1,315	32	42,080	406	\$17,084,000
	2023	1,774	26	46,124	420	\$19,372,000
<b>Tomato</b>	2022	1,087	22	23,914	1,275	\$30,490,000
	2023	609	20	12,180	1,300	\$15,834,000
<b>Carrot</b>	2022	315	4,680			\$1,474,000
	2023	88	1,545			\$775,000
<b>Lettuce, Salad Mix</b>	2022	5,635	4,426	24,940,510		\$36,077,000
	2023	6,990	4,475	31,280,250		\$30,970,000
<b>Onions, Shallots, Garlic</b>	2022	787				\$8,205,000
	2023	888				\$11,100,000
<b>Spinach</b>	2022	4,410				\$37,353,000
	2023	5,213				\$42,929,000
<b>Misc. Veg &amp; Row</b>	2022	5,875				\$48,304,000
	2023	2,845				\$25,605,000



**2022 Total \$243,475,000**

**2023 Total \$234,027,000**



# APRICOTS

## Fruit & Nut Crop

Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per Unit	Total
Apple	2022	366	20	7,320	380	\$2,782,000
	2023	422	18	7,596	375	\$2,848,000
Apricot	2022	500	3	1,500	1,255	\$1,883,000
	2023	500	3.5	1,750	1,300	\$2,275,000
Cherry	2022	448	2	896	1,772	\$1,588,000
	2023	390	2.2	858	1,815	\$1,557,000
Grape	2022	5,323	5.4	28,744	1,413	\$40,616,000
	2023	4,377	4.6	22,434	1,422	\$31,901,000
Olive	2022	198	1.3	257	852	\$219,000
	2023	256	1.5	384	836	\$321,000
Walnut	2022	1326	0.5	663	1,200	\$796,000
	2023	595	0.75	446	1,215	\$542,000
Misc. Fruit & Nut	2022	519				\$12,426,000
	2023	935				\$21,618,000



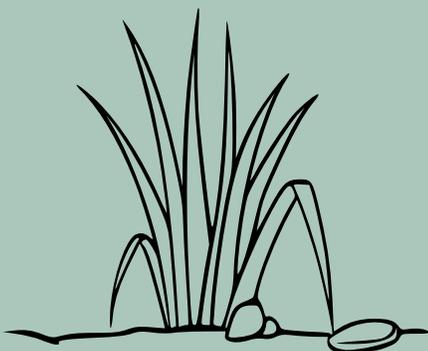
2022 Total \$60,308,000  
 2023 Total \$61,308,000

Land Preserved By:  
SanBenitoLandTrust.org



# Field Crops

Commodity	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total Tons	\$ per Unit	Total
Grain Hay	2022	8,750	2.46	21,525	275	\$5,919,000
	2023	9115	3.2	29,168	280	\$8,167,000
Nursery Stock	2022	85				\$4,525,000
	2023	80				\$4,300,000
Pasture/ Rangeland	2022	504,000			34.6	\$17,438,000
	2023	504,000			36.2	\$18,245,000
Seed Crop	2022	623				\$1,603,000
	2023	379				\$975,000
Hemp	2022	48				\$1,947,000
	2023	60				\$3,455,000
Misc. Field Crop	2022					\$815,000
	2023					\$823,000



**2022 Total \$34,417,000**  
**2023 Total \$36,730,000**

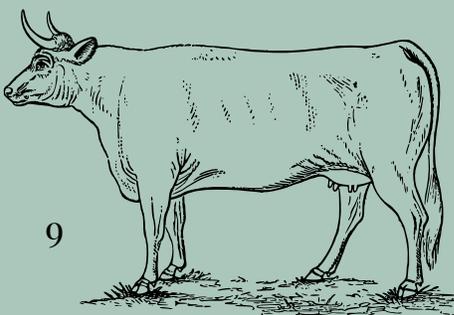
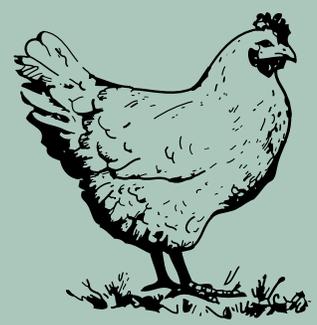


# Cattle & Livestock

	Year	# of Head	Total CWT	\$ per CWT	Total
Calves	2022	12,950	82,491	160	\$13,199,000
	2023	11,736	71,758	173	\$12,933,000
Pasture	2022	22,500	63,000	48	\$3,024,000
	2023	30,000	78,000	54	\$4,212,000
Cows	2022	5,000	71,000	86	\$6,106,000
	2023	4,165	59,143	136	\$8,043,000
Bulls	2022	300	5,610	105	\$589,000
	2023	279	5,217	120	\$626,000
2022 Total	All Cattle	40,750			\$22,918,000
2023 Total	Sold	46,180			\$25,814,000

## Other Livestock & Poultry Products

2022	\$3,375,000
2023	\$2,980,000



9

## Cattle Herd Inventory

	Year Round	8-10 Months	2-6 Months	Total Head
2022	20,475	8,252	26,000	54,727
2023	25,590	10,315	32,500	68,405



# Miscellaneous Crops

## Fruit & Nut Crops

Almond	Lemon
Avocado	Peach
Blackberry	Pear
Fig	Plum
Kiwi	Raspberry
Strawberry	

## Vegetable & Row Crops

Arugula	Corn	Parsley
Artichokes	Cucumbers	Parsnips
Asparagus	Daandelion Green	Peas
Beans	Eggplant	Potatoes
Beets	Endive	Pumpkin
Bok Choy	Escarole	Radicchio
Borage	Fennel	Radishes
Brussel Sprouts	Frisee	Rapini
Cabbage	Gourds	Rutabagas
Cantaloupe	Garbanzo Beans	Snow Peas & Shoots
Cauliflower	Herbs	Squash
Celery Root	Leek	Tomatillos
Chard	Kohlrabi	Processing Tomatoes
Chinese Greens	Melons	Turnips
Chicory	Mushrooms	Watermelons
Cilantro	Mustard	
Collards	Okra	

## Salad Mix

Baby Lettuces	Baby Spinach
Romaine Red/ Green Oak	Mache
Butter Lettuce	Mustard
Lolla Rosa	Tat-soi
Tango	Frisee
Mizuna	Red/ Green Chard
Arugula	Radicchio
Beet Tops	Herbs

## Livestock & Poultry

### Products

Chicken	Lamb
Turkey	Milk
Eggs	Wool
Goat	Hog

## Seed Crop

Flowers
Vegetable Crop
Vine Crop

# FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STANDARDIZATION

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM ENSURES COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA'S MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE QUALITY AND MARKETING OF ALL PRODUCE COMMERCIALY GROWN AND/OR MARKETED IN THE STATE. IT INCLUDES REGULATIONS RELATED TO DIRECT MARKETING AND ORGANIC LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROVIDING LOCAL PROTECTION TO GROWERS, MARKETERS, AND CONSUMERS.



THE HOLLISTER FARMER'S MARKET WAS ESTABLISHED IN SAN BENITO COUNTY TO OFFER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS. THE SAN BENITO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE CERTIFIED AND ISSUED NUMEROUS CERTIFIED PRODUCER'S CERTIFICATES. OUR BIOLOGIST/INSPECTORS CONDUCT INSPECTIONS AT THE MARKETS AND THE CERTIFIED GROWING SITES TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE DIRECT MARKETING PROGRAM.

# PEST DETECTION



JAPANESE  
BEEETLE



LIGHT BROWN  
APPLE MOTH



MEDITERRANEAN  
FRUIT FLY

DURING PEAK SEASON, OUR OFFICE DEPLOYED 906 INSECT DETECTION TRAPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. THESE TRAPS ARE DESIGNED TO INTERCEPT NEW EXOTIC AND NON-NATIVE INSECT SPECIES BEFORE THEY BECOME ESTABLISHED. SOME OF THE INSECTS WE MONITOR FOR INCLUDE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID - EUROPEAN PINE SHOOT MOTH - JAPANESE BEETLE - MELON FRUIT FLY - MEXICAN FRUIT FLY - EUROPEAN CORN BORER - GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER - KHAPRA BEETLE - MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY - EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH - GYPSY MOTH - ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY - LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH ALL AMOUNT TO 12,349 SERVICING'S COMPLETED IN OVER 3651 HOURS.

ASIAN CITRUS  
PSYLLID

GLASSY-WINGED  
SHARPSHOOTER

MEXICAN  
FRUIT FLY



# PEST EXCLUSION

PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED UPON THE INSPECTION OF A MULTITUDE OF FRESH VEGETABLES OR SEED CROPS TO ENSURE CLEANLINESS FOR PRODUCT DESTINED AROUND THE WORLD. IN 2023 OUR DEPARTMENT ISSUED 3,201 FEDERAL CERTIFICATES AND 253 STATE CERTIFICATES. OUR TOP EXPORTING COUNTRIES INCLUDED MEXICO, CANADA AND NETHERLANDS.

# PEST ERADICATION

INVASIVE PLANT PESTS ARE ERADICATED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR USING A COMBINATION OF CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL METHODS. TARGET SPECIES INCLUDE YELLOW & PURPLE STAR THISTLE, SCOTCH & ARTICHOKE THISTLE



YELLOW STAR  
THISTLE



PURPLE STAR  
THISTLE



SCOTCH THISTLE

# WEIGHTS & MEASURES

WEIGHT AND MEASURES INSPECTORS CERTIFY DEVICES USED IN COMMERCE THAT WEIGH, MEASURE, OR COUNT PRODUCTS. OUR INSPECTORS CONDUCT ANNUAL INSPECTIONS OF THESE DEVICES TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE ACCURATE AND WITHIN TOLERANCE. AFTER A SUCCESSFUL INSPECTION OUR INSPECTORS WILL PLACE A SEAL TO CERTIFY THAT THESE DEVICES MEET THE REQUIRED ACCURACY STANDARDS.



OUR JEEP IS A CERTIFIED RUNNING STANDARD THAT IS CERTIFIED AS 4000 LBS, WHICH IS INTENDED TO TEST CATTLE SCALES.

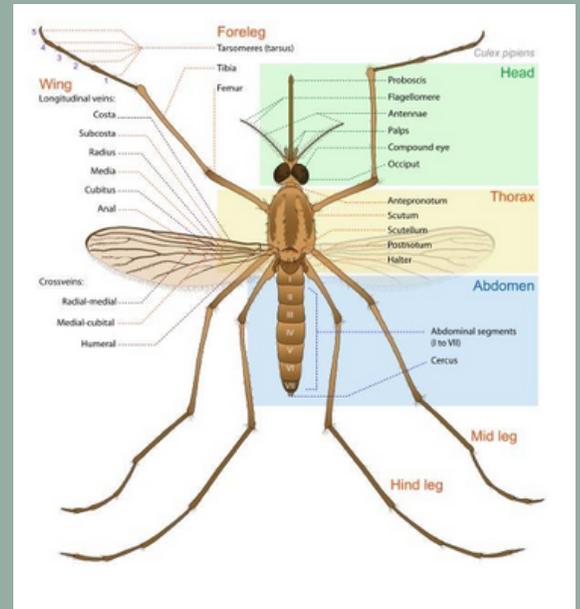
THE WEIGHT KIT UTILIZED TO TEST COMMERCIAL SCALES AT GROCERY STORES, FARMER MARKETS, POST OFFICES & ETC.



UPON COMPLETING THE INSPECTION, A SEAL IS PLACED ON THE DEVICE TO INDICATE THAT THE SCALE IS WORKING WITHIN TOLERANCE STANDARDS.

# Mosquito Abatement Program

In response to the introduction of West Nile Virus (WNV) to California, the San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for managing the mosquito abatement program. Our program utilizes Integrated Pest Management practices incorporating public education, biological control, source reduction and use of the least toxic pesticides that have minimal impact on people, wildlife, and the environment



Adult mosquito monitoring is conducted each year during mosquito season from April–November. Standardized traps emitting carbon dioxide are used to determine mosquito populations, location, and species. Mosquito samples are collected from specific traps and sent to a State laboratory for WNV testing. Visual site evaluations for larvae detection are also completed in certain problem areas. A flock of ten sentinel chicken are kept throughout the season and blood samples are collected every two weeks for screening.