

# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

## Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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Suzanne Ostrom and Dan Curtain

### 2004 CROP REPORT RELEASED

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Lisa Correia presented the 2004 Crop Report to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on June 14, 2005. This year's crop report celebrates the dairy industry, and paid tribute to retired Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer John Westoby.

The total gross value of agricultural commodities produced in Sonoma County in 2004 was \$525,992,600. This represents a 2.9 percent increase from the 2003 value of \$511,268,100.

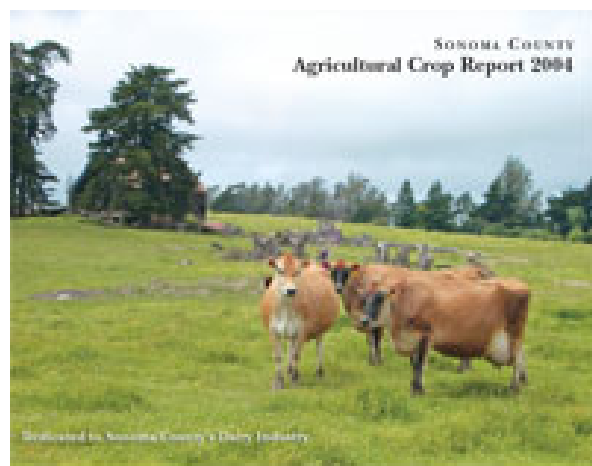
The Sonoma County dairy industry reported a record value of \$98.8 million for market and manufacturing milk. While production levels have declined slightly, the value per unit continues to rise, and is reflected in the \$19.3 million increase in value for 2004. Also contributing to this year's increased production value is a \$1.7 million gain in nursery product values due primarily to higher prices.

Decreases in values were seen in wine grapes, apples, and vegetable crops. The value for wine grapes continue to lead farm production values at \$309,871,300, however this does represent a \$3,205,300, decrease from 2003. This decrease can be attributed to a \$78 reduction in average price paid per ton; nonetheless, this is less of a reduction than seen in 2003 (\$108). Overall wine grape production was up by 5,015 tons due primarily to higher yields.

We also saw the apple and vegetable crop production values decrease by \$1.5 million and \$739,000 respectively. The decrease in apple values can be attributed to reduced prices and yields for late apples. On the other hand, the value for Gravenstein apples increased by \$659,000.

Appreciation goes to the growers, producers, ranchers, and others who provided us vital information making this crop report possible. This report reflects the gross production values and not the net income or costs of production for an individual producer. Cree Morgan is congratulated for his efforts in producing the crop report with assistance and support from Marilyn Vernon, Laura Knudsen, and Deanna McAulay.

The 2004 crop report is now available online, and interested parties are encouraged to download a copy from our website: <http://www.sonomacounty.org/agcomm>, and then navigate to Agricultural Division and Crop Report.



## OLIVE FRUIT FLY CONTROL

Olive Fruit Fly (OLFF) numbers have grown since being detected in 2001 in Sonoma County. It is important that some control method for OLFF be used if you are hoping to get useful fruit from your olive trees. Most growers start their control programs in June or July each year and continue through to harvest. Monitoring for OLFF using "McPhail" or yellow sticky (Champ) traps should be done. Consulting with a Pest Control Advisor regarding products available and application timing is advised.

Most commercial growers in the county are using Spinosad (GF-120) for their control method. GF-120 is an organic product that is currently working its way through the registration process at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for use on olives under a regular label. If you are producing a commercial olive crop, and using GF-120, it is currently available as a restricted material. Note, that using a restricted material requires a permit through the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Paul Vossen and Alexandra Devarenne, of the University of California Cooperative Extension Office (UCCE), recently published a handout titled "Controlling Olive Fruit Fly at Home". As the title implies, this handout is primarily for homeowners and not for commercial growers. However, it does have useful information for all olive growers including a list of companies that supply detection and control materials. For a copy of this handout, or for more information, contact the UCCE at (707) 565-2621, or the Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (707) 565-2371. Information is also on the web at: <http://cesonoma.ucdavis.edu>



Olive Fruit Fly



Yellow Sticky (Champ) Trap

### **Opportunity to Comment on Organic Program (SUBMITTED BY PRISCILLA LANE)**

The following is a summary of the Federal Register (7 CFR Part 205, Vol. 70 No.116, Friday, June 17, 2005) regarding the Organic Foods Production Act.

As required by the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), the allowed use of 165 synthetic and non-synthetic substances in organic production and handling will expire on October 21, 2007. In addition, prohibitions on the use of nine non-synthetic substances will expire in organic production on October 21, 2007. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is publishing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to make the public aware of this OFPA requirement. AMS believes that public comment is essential in the review process to determine whether these substances should continue to be allowed or prohibited in the production and handling of organic agricultural products.

## OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ORGANIC PROGRAM (CONT.)

For more information and how to comment on the proposed rule access the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service by utilizing a link located on the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's website [www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/organic.htm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/organic.htm). Note that comments must be submitted on or before August 16, 2005. On our website you will also find a link for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic program. From the CDFA's organic program page you may sign up to receive organic news by email. This email service is offered by the California Organic Program and is free of charge.

If you don't have access to the internet and want further information contact the National

Organic Program located in Washington, DC at (202) 720-3252.



## REGULATION COMPLIANCE EDUCATION PROJECT FOR PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

On September 8, 2005, the Agricultural Commissioner in conjunction with California Secretary of Agriculture AG Kawamura will

introduce a workshop that will help producers manage the burden of regulations. The new tool, called AgComplyIT helps farmers create a unified plan for dealing with state and federal regulations. The workshops will be presented throughout California simultaneously in a least 20 locations by 31 county Agricultural Commissioners assisted by 15 small Business Development Centers. Kawamura's introduction will be part of a DVD that opens each workshop. The new Excell TM-based tool will be distributed free on CD to producers attending the workshops. It will privately identify the state and federal production agriculture related regulations that may apply to a particular enterprise and helps growers create a plan to comply with them. After the introduction, agency representatives at the local sites will join growers in a facilitated discussion.

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2005

Time: To be determined

Where: 133 Aviation Blvd, Ste 110  
Santa Rosa, CA

For more information, or RSVP please call (707) 565-2371.