

AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



John Gardner
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

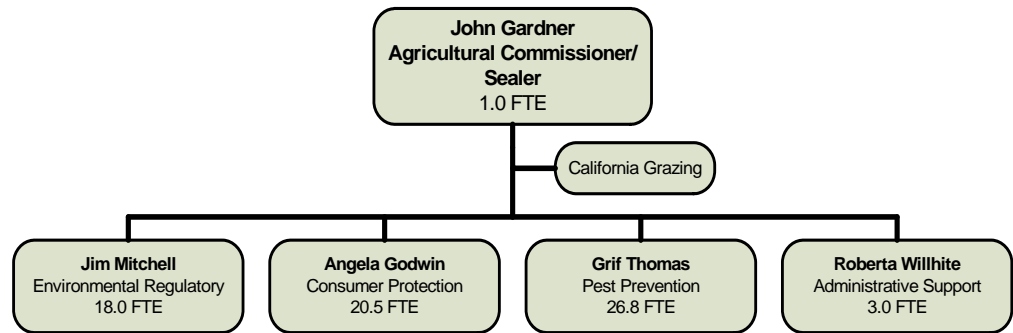
Mission Statement

The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures protects the environment, agricultural industry, businesses and consumers of this state and county through regulation and satisfies its customers by providing services that promote the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the customers it serves.

GOALS

PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT BY PREVENTING FOREIGN PEST INFESTATIONS & MISUSE OF PESTICIDES

PROTECT COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM BEING OVERCHARGED BY PURCHASE OF MEASURED COMMODITIES & PRICES CHARGED USING BARCODE SCANNING EQUIPMENT



DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES

The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures protects the environment, public health, worker safety and the welfare of the public by enforcing state and local agricultural and consumer protection laws. The department enforces plant quarantines, detects and eradicates unwanted foreign pests, regulates pesticide use, verifies pricing accuracy of goods, and regulates all business transactions based on units of measures such as weight or volume. Additional duties include, inspecting eggs, produce and nursery stock, certifying plant shipments for export, controlling vegetation along state and county right-of-ways and flood control channels, manufacturing rodent baits for sale to the public and other miscellaneous services provided to businesses and the general public.

The department also administers the California Grazing budget which funds rangeland improvements on federal land within the county.

2008-09 SUMMARY OF BUDGET UNITS

	Appropriation	Revenue	Local Cost	Fund Balance	Staffing
General Fund					
Agriculture/Weights and Measures	6,548,707	4,075,133	2,473,574		69.3
Total General Fund	6,548,707	4,075,133	2,473,574		69.3
Special Revenue Fund					
California Grazing	137,779	2,000		135,779	-
Total Special Revenue Fund	137,779	2,000		135,779	-
Total - All Funds	6,686,486	4,077,133	2,473,574	135,779	69.3

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

GOAL 1: PROTECT THE PUBLIC’S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY PREVENTING FOREIGN PEST INFESTATIONS AND THE MISUSE OF PESTICIDES IN LIGHT OF INCREASES IN COUNTY POPULATION.

Objective A: Inspect all common land and airfreight carriers receiving shipments of plant material for compliance with quarantines and freedom from foreign pests that arrive in the county.

Objective B: Maintain insect detection traps and servicings throughout areas specified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Objective C: Increase inspection activity for general agricultural pesticide applications to improve the level of compliance.

MEASUREMENT	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Target	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Target
1A. Percentage of terminals inspected on a daily basis (number of terminals).	N/A	N/A	100% (10)	100 % (10)	100% (10)
1B. The average number of trap placements per month.	5,764	6,300	6,100	6,200	6,200
1C. Percentage increase of inspections for pesticide applications that are performed by agricultural companies (actual number of inspections).	N/A	N/A (baseline of 362)	New	3% (373)	3% (384)

Status

Measuring the percentage of terminals inspected on a daily basis is an indicator of the daily workload of the pest prevention program. These inspections of plant material prevent foreign pests from gaining access to the California environment.

Measuring the number of trap placements per month allows the department to accurately monitor the commitment to meeting contractual obligations with the State of California and preventing the establishment of foreign pests. The estimate for 2008-09 of 6,200 trap placements/month is 100/month higher than the 6,100 target number because the state required additional trap placements (and provided additional funding) to detect the Light Brown Apple Moth, which was otherwise not required when the 2008-09 target number was originally established.

The department revised this performance measure from the prior year by shifting the emphasis of inspections away from structural pest control to agricultural pest control. Previous efforts to increase compliance for structural pest control have raised the compliance level to a satisfactory level. Refocusing inspection activity to agricultural pest control is intended to have a similar increase in the compliance level resulting in a greater degree of public health and environmental protection.

2007-08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ Made 3,769 premise visits to shipping terminals inspecting over 41,482 plant shipments and intercepting foreign pests 51 times
- ❖ Certified over 1,787 shipments of goods for export
- ❖ Averaged 6,300 trap placements per month
- ❖ Achieved a 99.7% compliance rate for structural and field fumigations
- ❖ Checked the accuracy of prices on 39,476 items, helping businesses maintain an overall price error rate under 4%
- ❖ Verified the quantity of 31,010 lots of packaged goods, rejecting 33,845 packages
- ❖ Resolved 775 consumer complaints



“CC” alerting on an unmarked box of fruit

GOAL 2: PROTECT COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM BEING OVERCHARGED FOR PURCHASED GOODS BY ENSURING ACCURACY IN THE WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENT OF COMMODITIES SOLD, AND PRICES CHARGED BY RETAIL BUSINESSES THAT UTILIZE BARCODE SCANNING EQUIPMENT.

Objective A: Inspect all registered businesses using commercial weighing and measuring devices, price scanners and packing commodities, to ensure accurate measurement and pricing of goods.

MEASUREMENT	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Target	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Target
2A. Percentage of all registered businesses inspected that require a weights and measures inspection (# of businesses inspected).	99% (3,564)	100% (3,600)	100% (3,650)	95% (3,467)	95% (3,467)

Status

The Consumer Protection Division realized a growth in new registered businesses requiring an inspection. Due to growth and a vacant position, the estimate of inspected 2008-09 businesses is set at 95%. Consumer protection remains a priority and the department will strive to meet the 2009-10 target of inspecting 95% or more of the registered businesses; however, meeting the 2009-10 target is predicated upon no further inspector position deletions.

A new measure that was set in 2007-08, offering consultation services to businesses with pricing errors exceeding 5%, has been removed; the service will continue to be offered without the emphasis of measurement. This will allow department resources to be redirected in order to achieve the objective of inspecting all registered businesses using a commercial weighing and measuring device, price scanners, and packing commodities.

2009-10 REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND FINANCING

The department is not requesting any additional general fund financing for 2009-10.

2009-10 PROPOSED FEE ADJUSTMENTS

DESCRIPTION OF FEE REQUEST
1. Departmental billing rates will be reviewed and proposed increases will be made based on charge rates to better reflect current costs of providing services.

SERVICE IMPACTS
Services will not be interrupted. Charge rates will better reflect current cost, allowing the department to lower their dependency on general fund financing.



Vehicle Scale Inspection



Price accuracy (scanner) inspection

If there are questions about this business plan, please contact John Gardner, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, at (909) 387-2115.



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