



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE AND WEIGHTS & MEASURES NEWSLETTER

2021 Santa Barbara County Crop Report

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The 2021 Santa Barbara County Agricultural Crop Report was released in July by the County Agricultural/Weights & Measures Department.

The 2021 crop year continues to reflect the County’s major producing industry with a gross production value of \$1,918,186,000. This is an increase of \$98,988,000 or 5.1% when compared with the 2020 figure.

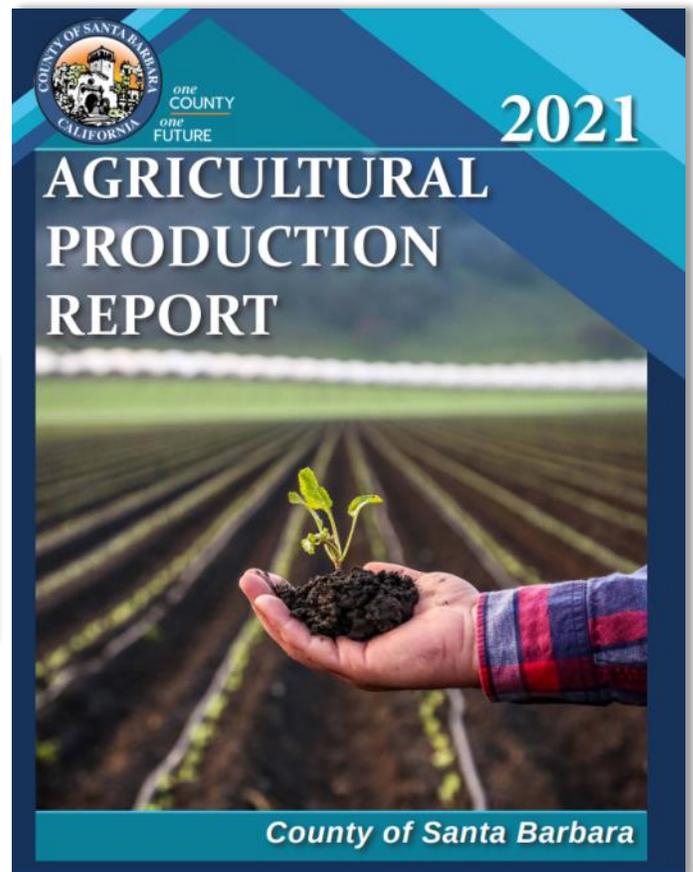
The annual report documents the acreage, yield, and gross dollar value of agricultural commodities produced in Santa Barbara County.

Strawberries remain the leading crop with a gross value of \$849,729,000 resulting from increases in total acreage and production.

It is always important to note that the figures provided in the crop report are gross values and do not represent or reflect net profit or loss experienced by individual growers, or by the industry as a whole.

The 2021 report, as well as other reports since 1916, can be found online at:

[Crop Reports | Santa Barbara County, CA - Official Website \(countyofsb.org\).](http://countyofsb.org)



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Personal Protective Equipment is Available for Agricultural Stakeholders

The Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office has received a temporary supply of surgical masks which are to be made available for agricultural workers. These are designed to help prevent the spread of infection or illness. They are not a replacement/substitute to personal protective equipment (PPE) for pesticide use. If you are interested in surgical masks for your agricultural workers please call one of our offices. The Agricultural Commissioner will continue to offer PPE to the agricultural industry while supplies last.



In addition, the department also has a temporary supply of N95 masks. These masks have been in short supply and are not for COVID-19 protection; these masks are personal protective equipment for pesticide handlers and are to be made available for pesticide handlers in production agriculture. **Please remember it is your responsibility to ensure you are utilizing the correct type of mask as directed by the pesticide label and in compliance with laws and regulations.** If you are interested in the N95 masks for your pesticide handlers please call any of our district offices listed on the last page of our newsletter.

Farmer and Farmworker Mental Health Resources

California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Davis AgrAbility, CSU Fresno, and the CalHOPE campaign are teaming up to offer virtual trainings on Farmer and Farmworker Mental Health and Stress. Stressors unique to the agricultural community have led to increased mental health challenges in agricultural producers and workers, contributing to increased rates of suicide in rural areas. Find out more at [CDFA - Farmer & Farmworker Mental Health Resources \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdffa.org/mental-health-resources)

Cachuma RCD is Offering Free Irrigation Evaluations

Article by: Anna Olsen, Executive Director, Cachuma Resource Conservation District

The Cachuma Resource Conservation District is currently offering free irrigation evaluations and nutrient management training.

CRCD's Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) helps farmers and managers save water, energy and money. We provide onsite irrigation system analysis and technical assistance to improve water use efficiency. This service is free to agricultural growers.



Our experienced irrigation technicians will review your irrigation operation and inspect your system to evaluate the performance. Measurements of pressure and flow can determine your Distribution Uniformity with calculations that will indicate how to improve efficiency.

As a result of the evaluation, you will learn how well your irrigation system is functioning. We also provide recommendations on how to improve your system performance and irrigation scheduling to increase your water use efficiency. An irrigation system assessment can help to improve crop quality and yield, lower energy costs, reduce water usage and loss, lower pesticide costs, reduce pollution and runoff, and decrease leaching of plant nutrients.

For more information and to request an audit please visit: <https://www.rcdsantabarbara.org/irrigation-evaluations>.



Urban & Community IPM Webinar Series

Join UC IPM Urban & Community Program for a monthly webinar series that is free and open to the public. Every third Thursday, presenters will share helpful pest management information for California residents. Topics will vary each month, covering pest management in landscapes, household pests, rodent identification, understanding pesticides, weed management, invasive pests and more. Webinars will begin at 12:00pm and run for one hour. See the [webinar website](#) for more information.

August 18, 2022: Pesticides and Water Quality

Presenter: Karey Windbiel-Rojas, Associate Director for Urban & Community IPM/Area IPM Advisor

[Click here to register](#)

September 15, 2022: Arachnophobia

Presenter: Dr. Lynn Kimsey, UC Davis Dept. of Entomology and Nematology and Bohart Museum of Entomology

[Click here to register](#)

UC Ag Experts Talk Webinar Series

Join us for a monthly series of 1-hour webinars designed for commercial agricultural growers and pest control advisers that highlights various pest management and subtropical horticultural topics. During each webinar, a UC Expert presents and answers questions. To check upcoming topics, register for the webinars, and view past webinars visit the [UC Ag Experts Talk website](#).

Pesticide Safety Workshops

Instructor Training Workshops via Zoom

If you are looking to become a certified trainer, this is the workshop for you. Participants who complete this training will become qualified to provide pesticide safety training to fieldworkers and pesticide handlers, as required by California state regulations and the EPA revised Worker Protection Standard. This training is approved by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Each participant will receive a certificate and 6 CE is available.

Wednesday September 7, 2022 in ENGLISH 8am to 5pm

Wednesday September 28, 2022 in SPANISH 8am to 5pm

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Train-the-Trainer Refresher Workshops via Zoom

This workshop is a train-the-trainer refresher. It reviews the required annual training topics for fieldworkers and handlers. This workshop does NOT certify you as trainer. (3 CE L&R available)

Wednesday Oct 12, 2022 in ENGLISH 9am to 12 pm

Wednesday Oct 29, 2022 in SPANISH 9am to 12 pm

Wednesday Nov 29, 2022 in ENGLISH 9am to 12 pm

Wednesday Nov 30, 2022 in SPANISH 9am to 12 pm

Registration is now open. Click [HERE](#)

Want to know when registration opens up for trainings? Please fill out the [Training Needs Survey](#) and you will receive an email notification.

We also offer private pesticide safety trainings. Please contact pesticidesafety@ucanr.edu for more details.

Santa Barbara County Citrus Updates

Article by: Cressida Silvers, CA Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program, ACP/HLB Grower Liaison

- **ACP numbers** - ACP trap finds are increasing near commercial citrus from Carpinteria to Goleta. This is consistent with a similar uptick in ACP observed in other counties this year. Keeping ACP levels to a minimum is the best way to reduce the risk of HLB in your orchard. Stay vigilant with monitoring of your citrus and well-timed treatments effective against ACP. Refer to Resources at the end of this message for more information.
- **Coordinated area wide grower treatment window is September 4 - 24.** For both conventional and organic groves, recommended treatment protocols and lists of ACP-effective insecticides are available at these University of California websites: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/ACP/> and <https://www2.ipm.ucanr.edu/agriculture/citrus/asian-citrus-psyllid/>. Remember to check your citrus regularly for signs of increasing ACP populations and conduct a [Bee Check on Bee Where](#) if using a pesticide that is toxic to bees.
- **Resources**

-Monitoring - Instructions for monitoring your trees for ACP can be found here: [https://ucanr.edu/sites/ACP/Grower Options/Grower Management/Monitoring 15/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/ACP/Grower%20Options/Grower%20Management/Monitoring%2015/)

-To see a map of the current HLB quarantine areas, and other details of locations and numbers of HLB detections, please visit maps.cdfa.ca.gov/WeeklyACPMaps/HLBWeb/HLB_Treatments.pdf.

-CDFA's [Information for Citrus Growers/Grove Managers](#), [Action Plan for ACP and HLB](#) or this [summary flyer](#).

-Sign up for CDFA ACP/HLB updates [here](#).

-To find out about the recent CLAs positive ACP finds in San Diego go to [here](#) to Citrus Insider.



New Technology Offers Fighting Chance Against Grapevine Killer

Article by: Jules Bernstein, University of California, Riverside (May 3, 2022)

New gene-editing technology represents hope for controlling the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), *Homalodisca vitripennis*, a serious pest of grapes. Scientists at UC Riverside demonstrated they can use CRISPR technology to do gene manipulation with the goal to modify the mouth parts of the sharpshooter so they can't pick up the bacteria. Scientists use CRISPR like "molecular scissors" to target specific DNA sequences. This technology can make permanent physical changes in the insect and these changes were passed down to three or more generations of insects. The full article about the promising technology can be found at <https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2022/05/03/new-technology-offers-fighting-chance-against-grapevine-killer>. GWSS does not cause direct damage to the crop, but rather spreads Pierce's Disease, a bacterium which kills grapevines by clogging their water-conducting vessels, and has no known cure. In general, GWSS is readily found in southern California counties and limited infestations of GWSS have occurred in some northern California counties. Santa Barbara County is designated as a partially infested county and with two distinct programs. The program in the south county is focused on suppressing GWSS populations through the certification of horticultural and agricultural commodities. The program in the north County is focused on detection through the inspection of horticultural nursery stock that arrives from GWSS-infested areas in California to ensure they are free from GWSS. To find out more about GWSS and Pierce's Disease visit: [CDFA - Pierce's Disease Control Program \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pests/Pierce/Pierce%20Disease%20Control%20Program)



Modified sharpshooter with cinnabar colored eyes. (Inairara de Souza Pacheco/ UCR)

CA & 2023 Farm Bill

California Department of Food and Agriculture

It's that time again. CDFA, in partnership with the California Department of Public Health, California Natural Resources Agency and Cal EPA, is leading listening sessions with all farm bill stakeholders to inform California's priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill.



The 2023 Farm Bill is an opportunity for California farmers and ranchers to influence national agricultural policy to maximize the benefits for all Californians – from farmers and ranchers to consumers. Although California agriculture traditionally leads the country in production value and sustainable agriculture, we are currently facing a wide range of challenges and your input on farm bill programs and policies is more important than ever.

Please help ensure as many voices and perspectives are included as possible by forwarding this email to your members and partner organizations.

Calendar of listening sessions below. For more information, farm bill resources and the option to submit comments online, please go to https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Farm_Bill/

Comments or questions may also be emailed to farmbill@cdfa.ca.gov

Please feel free to contact CDFA Undersecretary Christy Birdsong if you have questions at (916) 654-0433 or Christine.Birdsong@cdfa.ca.gov.

Virtual Listening Session August 10, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Spanish translation provided.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtde2qrDivGtB0krzFikOl1BXPhlZ0qsy->

Live / Virtual Hybrid August 16, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Neighborhood House

Copley Conference Room

5660 Copley Drive

San Diego, CA 92111

Spanish translation provided.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkceCqqTIuHtWb_GA2JQ3PuK9WyHuUws1A

Live Only August 23, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Fresno County Farm Bureau

1274 W. Hedges Avenue

Fresno, CA 93728

Live Only September 7, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Urban Tilth (North Richmond Farm)

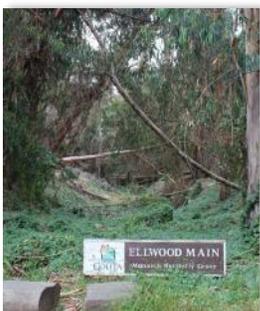
323 Brookside Drive

Richmond, CA 94801

Weed Management Workshop and Site Visit- A Success!

Article by Stephanie Stark, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

The Department, in conjunction with the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area, hosted a free Weed Management Workshop on May 18th. Continuing education credits were provided and topics included prescribed herbivory, steam treatments for weed management, pesticide safety, vertebrate control and rangeland weeds. Over 40 people attended and a recording of the event can be found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZONk1E1vMM>. The follow day members of the SBCWMA met with the City of Goleta Parks and Open Space Manager, George Thomson, at the Goleta Butterfly Grove on the Ellwood Mesa to learn about their monarch butterfly habitat management efforts.



Stories from the Field

Article by Stephanie Stark, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Sometimes our work takes us to some amazing places! For example when the USDA or CDFA issues a permit to allow the movement of pests or plant material into the state or country, we are the local boots on the ground to inspect the receiving facility is following the permit requirements and they are following the federal or state regulations. For example, we inspect the Sprague Butterfly Pavilion, the butterfly enclosure for the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum's Butterflies Alive! Exhibit. We inspect the enclosure to ensure it is secure to prevent the butterflies from escaping. If they do escape, we are notified and investigate how the butterfly escaped.

Some of the butterflies are non-native or may carry foreign diseases or parasites that are deleterious to agriculture.



Small Beetle, Big Problem

Article by: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

With the help of a CAL-FIRE grant, the Department is continuing to educate the public about the Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB) and remove severely infested trees in public spaces. ISHB is a beetle that tunnels into trees and introduces a fungus that they use as their food source. The fungus causes a disease called Fusarium dieback that disrupts the flow of water and nutrients in trees. We continue to monitor ISHB by maintaining over 60 traps throughout the county and support local jurisdictions and the public by conducting visual surveys, taking samples and providing outreach and education. For more information about ISHB contact one of our [offices](#) or visit UCANRs ISHB webpage with a 5 minute video, blog and flyers <https://ucanr.edu/sites/pshb/>.



Black Fig Fly– New Invasive Pest in California Figs

Article by: Valeh Ebrahimi, Ph.D. and Houston Wilson, Ph.D. (Dept. Entomology, UC Riverside)

The black fig fly (BFF), *Silba adipata* McAlpine (Diptera: Lonchaeidae), is a new invasive pest of figs in California. It is Mediterranean in origin, and was first reported in North America in 2020, when it was recovered from infested figs in Mexico. The following year, in June 2021, figs infested with BFF were reported from southern California. California accounts for almost all the domestic fig production in the United States. While most of these commercial fig orchards are located in the Central Valley in Madera and Merced Counties, there are many hobby and small-scale fig growers throughout southern California who have been reporting BFF infestations. To date, figs infested with black fig fly have been reported from the following counties: Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego. To prevent further spread of the BFF, especially into the Central Valley, movement of figs from the currently infested counties is not recommended.

The adult black fig fly is a glossy black fly, 3-4 mm in length, with reddish eyes and brown legs (Figure 1). The adults feed on sap or milky latex exudates from the fig plant, its only known host. Females oviposit (i.e. lay eggs) into the ostiole (eye) of green/unripe fig fruits (Figure 2), and the larvae subsequently feed internally on the fruit tissue. This damages the fruit tissue (Figure 3) and causes the infested fig to prematurely drop from the tree. As the larvae approach maturity, they exit the fruit, which leaves a small (1 mm) hole (Figure 4), and drop to the soil to pupate.

If your fig tree has a lot of green/unripe fruit that has recently dropped to the soil and you can see the larval exit holes in some of them, it could be that your fruit are infested with BFF. A good way to determine infestation is to cut open suspect fruit and look for signs of larval feeding (Figure 3).

Black fig fly can be monitored with a McPhail-type trap baited with torula yeast lures. Biological control of BFF is limited, so orchard sanitation is critical and fig growers should make sure to remove and destroy any fruits infested with BFF. In some instances, hobby and small-scale fig growers have used small mesh bags to protect individual fig fruits from the black fig fly.

The University of California has developed a website about black fig fly identification, monitoring, and management. Researchers will continue to post updates as new information becomes available. You can access the website here: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/BFF/>

If you find infested fruit or suspect that BFF may be attacking fruits in your orchard or yard, please contact your local UCCE Farm Advisor (<https://ucanr.edu/About/Locations/>) and County Agricultural Commissioner (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>). You can also report this pest to CDFA's Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899 (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/>).



Figure 1. Adult female black fig fly (Photo. M. Hauser, CDFA).



Figure 2. Adult female BFF deposit eggs into the ostiole (eye) of the fig (Photo: H. Wilson, UCR).



Figure 3. Black fig fly larval feeding damages internal fig tissue (Photo: V. Ebrahimi, UCR).

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**

1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 206

Carpinteria, CA 93103

Phone: (805) 681-5600

FAX: (805) 681-5603

Hours: M-F 2:00PM to 3:00pm

Buellton

185 W. Highway 246 Suite 101

Buellton, CA 93427

Phone: (805) 688-5331

FAX: (805) 681-5334

Hours: M-F 8:00AM to 4:00PM

News & Announcements

Office Closures:

Labor Day– Monday, September 5th

Permits, OINs and PAC Exams:

Please call and make an appointment with your local office for Permits and Operator ID numbers. Group private applicator exams are scheduled regularly in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Buellton. Individual exam times are available in Lompoc and Carpinteria.

www.agcommissioner.com

Staff Highlights

Ramon Ramos has joined the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and will be working out of the Santa Maria office as an Agriculture/Weights & Measures Inspector. Ramon majored in history and political science while in college at University of California San Diego. Prior to starting with us, he worked at the State of California Employment Development Department. His hobbies and interests include reading, meditating, listening to music (his favorite band is Metallica) and playing guitar. We are excited to welcome Ramon as a new addition to our team!



Irelinn Dalton has joined the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and will be working out of the Santa Maria office as an Extra Help staff. Irelinn will primarily be working in the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) program. She has over 10 years experience in 4-H and she was involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) throughout high school. Irelinn is a committee chair for the Fresno State FFA Field day and a member of the sorority Sigma Alpha. We are excited to welcome Irelinn as a new addition to our team!