



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

DMS NOTICE  
QC-12- 01

January 20, 2012

Discard: Retain

TO: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Agriculture Production Materials Survey

The Division of Measurement Standards, in cooperation with California County Sealers of Weights and Measures has agreed that statewide Marketplace Commodity Surveys will be conducted on a regular basis. Due to budgetary and staffing restrictions, the schedule for marketplace surveys has been disrupted with the last survey being in 2004. Marketplace surveys are important to both consumers and businesses to maintain a fair and equitable economy. Despite continued challenges, we are pleased to announce that we will conduct a survey this year of Agriculture Production Materials.

In order to complete the survey in a timely manner, we ask that the assigned samples be obtained and tested between February 1, 2012 and March 23, 2012. If you believe you will be unable to complete the testing during this period, please contact your Area Specialist.

Attachment A provides the criteria to be used in selecting the samples and outlines the specifications that were used in designing the survey.

Attachment B explains the testing and recording procedure to be used and lists the subcategory commodities.

Attachment C lists the number of items in each subcategory to be sampled by each participating county. These assignments were made by random selection and grouped so that one type of area would not dominate the survey.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, or need assistance, please contact your Area Specialist Marianne Delperdang at (714) 342-8001, Sherry Estabrooks at (559) 285-8873, or Kathy de Contreras, Supervising Special Investigator for the Weighmaster and Quantity Programs at (916) 229-3047.

Sincerely,

Kristin J. Macey  
Director

Attachments

cc: Ed Williams, Director, County Liaison Office



**COMMODITY SURVEY****Agriculture Production Materials Survey – 2012****(PREPACKAGED OR WEIGHT/MEASURE DETERMINED IN ADVANCE OF SALE)****SAMPLE SELECTION**

For the purposes of this survey, agricultural production materials means the material inputs needed to produce agricultural commodities in the categories of field crops; livestock and poultry; vegetables and melons; fruits and nuts; and greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture, etc. The material inputs for agriculture vary by commodity. For example, dairy farmers and livestock operations use large amounts of feed and fencing materials, whereas vegetable and citrus growers' inputs include fertilizer, plastic pipe, and herbicides. Any agricultural input that matches the subcategory should be considered. Contact your area specialist or speak with local agriculturists to develop ideas of what to test based on the subcategories assigned to a county.

The selection of the establishments to be visited is to be made randomly by each county. The selection criteria are; (1) not more than three items from a single subcategory and (2) no more than 15 items overall shall be selected from the same retail or wholesale establishment. All types of stores carrying these items shall be considered for selection.

For subcategory X.50, Audits (point of pack) the number listed is the number of packers or packagers to be visited. The sample from each packer consists of a random selection of five items of any type or types of commodities from the category packed at that location. (If the packer only "puts-up" one particular commodity in one size, 5 packages of that commodity are to be tested.) A "packer" may include a retail outlet or distributor that receives product in bulk and puts it in packages or predetermined amounts for retail sale.

This survey consists only of items prepackaged, pre-weighed/measured or "put up" in consumer or non consumer units in advance of sale.

**SURVEY SPECIFICATION**

There are 17 retail subcategories (see list in Attachment B) selected for the Agriculture Production Materials Survey. Items chosen from these subcategories will be products used specifically to assist in agricultural production. Thirty items will be selected from each of the subcategories. This will result in a total sample of 510 items. One hundred twenty-five (= 5 packers x 5 items x 5 categories) items will be selected from the packer subcategory, X.50. The total sample size, retail, and point of pack will consist of 635 individual items.

Samples will be selected from the top 40 Counties that produce Agricultural Commodities in the State of California, as defined in the *2010-2011 California Agricultural Resource Directory*. Reducing the number of counties chosen to participate will help reduce the costs associated with the survey. The top 40 counties represent about 99 percent of all farm receipts.

**INSPECTION PROCEDURE**

Testing shall be done according to NIST Handbook 133 procedures for determining net contents. A packaged item must be opened and the net contents weighed or measured. An estimated tare or surveillance tare may **not** be used.

Commodity Test Report 49-005 (Rev. 1/90) is to be used to report the test results. Write "AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION MATERIALS SURVEY" on top of the report. If a labeling violation is observed, fill out a Labeling Violation Report 49-052 (Rev. 4/95) also and note the violation on the Commodity Test Report.

If the items are purchased or tested at retail it is not necessary to fill in the "BUSINESS NAME" and "ADDRESS," just check the "RETAIL" box. Tests of retail purchases from more than one establishment may be combined and the data recorded on the same report.

If tested from or at the point of pack or distribution, fill in the "BUSINESS NAME" and "ADDRESS" and check the appropriate box.

**COMPLETE ALL THE INFORMATION IN EACH COLUMN  
FOR EACH ITEM TESTED AS FOLLOWS**

"CAT. NO.": Category Number - Since items are from different categories it is necessary to enter the Category and subcategory number. See the following list for the types of commodities included in the survey

"BRAND NAME": The make of the commodity; e.g., for a package labeled "Quetzal Organic Phosphorous Fertilizer," the brand name would be "Quetzal."

"COMMODITY": The complete identity of the product under test; i.e., "Quetzal Organic Phosphorous Fertilizer," not just "Fertilizer."

"RESPONSIBLE PARTY & ADDRESS": The statement of responsibility on the package.

"CODE(S)": Any code, "sell-by" date or other identifying marks on the package designating the part of the production this package is from.

"PRICE": The selling price when, or if, purchased at this location.

"LABELED NET CONTENTS": Write the content statement exactly as it is written on the label; i.e., 12 oz (340 g) not 0.75 lb or 3/4 lb.

"UNIT OF MEASURE": The weight or measure value used to record errors and other information in whole numbers. The unit must be identified: 0.01 lb not just .01, 1 ml, not just 1.

## ATTACHMENT B (CONT.)

"RECORD IN UNITS OF MEASURE": The values in the next three columns are to be recorded only in whole units of measure.

"LABELED NET CONT.": The content statement converted to whole units of measure.

"MEASURED NET CONT.": The actual weight or measure of the contents of the package as found by testing recorded in terms of whole units of measure.

"ERROR" "+" or "-": This is the difference between the "LABELED NET CONTENT" and the "MEASURED NET CONTENT." It is "+", if the "MEASURED NET CONTENT" is greater than the "LABELED NET CONTENT" and it is "-", if the "MEASURED NET CONTENT" is less than the "LABELED NET CONTENT."

"TARE WEIGHT": The weight of the package or container not including the "MEASURED NET CONTENT." Not all items will be weighed and this may be left blank.

"OTHER INFORMATION": Any other information pertinent to the commodity.

### COMMODITY SUBCATEGORIES

11.06 Economic Poisons (Not Elsewhere Classified, NEC)

11.07 Phosphatic & Superphosphate Fertilizer

11.08 Organic Fertilizers & Mixed Fertilizers

11.10 Poultry Feed

11.11 Livestock Feeds; Including Salt Licks

11.15 Vegetable and Agricultural Seeds

11.18 Garden tools & Related Products

11.19 Herbicides

11.40 Garden, Farm & Pet Supplies NEC

12.02 Bolts, Nuts, Washers, & Screws

12.15 Molding and Lumber

12.22 Fencing, flashing, wire products & posts

15.04 Rope, Cordage, Twine

15.40 Plastic Products NEC

16.17 Tents & Tarps

17.12 Welding equipment and supplies

17.16 Pressurized Gasses

11.50, 12.50, 15.50, 16.50, and 17.50 (Point of Pack) Packages are to be tested from any of the above subcategories that are inspected at the location where they are weighed or measured AND labeled.

**ATTACHMENT C**

**County Sub Category Assignments: Agriculture Production Materials Survey – 2012**

	11.06	11.07	11.08	11.10	11.11	11.15	11.18	11.19	11.40	12.02	12.15	12.22
Fresno	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	3
Tulare	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	3	2	2
Monterey	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0
Kern	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Merced	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0
Stanislaus	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	0
San Joaquin	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	2
Ventura	0	1	2	2	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
San Diego	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Imperial	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Kings	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1
Santa Barbara	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	0
Riverside	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Madera	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2
Sonoma	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
San Luis Obispo	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Colusa	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	3	0
Butte	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Napa	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Santa Cruz	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Glenn	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	2
Sutter	2	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	3	1
Yolo	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1
Sacramento	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
San Bernardino	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Solano	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1
San Benito	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Siskiyou	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Yuba	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	2	3	0	0
Orange	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	2	1
Los Angeles	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0
Tehama	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
San Mateo	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Humboldt	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Mendocino	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0
Modoc	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Shasta	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	0
Placer	3	1	0	1	1	3	0	1	1	2	3	1
Lassen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

**ATTACHMENT C (Cont.)**

**County Sub Category Assignments: Agriculture Production Materials Survey – 2012**

	15.04	15.40	16.17	17.12	17.16	11.50	12.50	15.50	16.50	17.50
Fresno	2	0	0	0	3	1				
Tulare	0	1	0	1	0			1		
Monterey	1	1	1	1	2	1				
Kern	2	0	0	1	0					1
Merced	0	0	0	0	3					
Stanislaus	0	0	0	1	1				1	
San Joaquin	0	1	1	0	3			1		
Ventura	0	0	1	2	2		1			
San Diego	1	0	0	0	0					1
Imperial	1	1	0	0	1	1				
Kings	1	0	2	0	0					
Santa Barbara	1	0	0	0	1				1	
Riverside	0	0	1	0	0			1		
Madera	1	1	0	1	0		1			
Sonoma	1	0	0	0	0					1
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0				1	
Colusa	0	2	2	3	0					
Butte	1	0	0	2	1		1			
Napa	1	2	1	1	3		1			
Santa Cruz	0	2	0	2	1					
Glenn	0	2	1	0	1					
Sutter	2	1	1	0	1			1		
Yolo	1	1	0	1	1	1				
Sacramento	0	2	1	0	0					1
San Bernardino	1	4	2	2	2			1		
Santa Clara	1	0	1	0	0					
Solano	1	2	2	1	0					
San Benito	2	0	1	1	0					
Siskiyou	1	1	1	1	0					
Yuba	0	0	1	1	0					
Orange	2	2	1	0	0				1	
Los Angeles	1	2	1	1	1				1	
Tehama	1	1	3	2	0		1			
San Mateo	0	0	0	0	0					
Humboldt	1	0	1	0	1					
Mendocino	1	0	1	3	0					1
Modoc	1	0	1	0	0	1				
Shasta	1	1	0	2	1					
Placer	0	0	1	0	0					
Lassen	0	0	1	0	1					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

Agriculture Production Materials Survey

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
 DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS  
 COMMODITY TEST REPORT  
 49-005 (Rev. 1/90)  
 County: GOLDEN

BUSINESS NAME: Mack's Farm Supply  
 ADDRESS: 1679 Southern Drive  
Splendid, CA 98899  
 Retail  Wholesale  Packer/ Manufacturer

DATE PURCHASED: February 6, 2012  
 DATE INSPECTED: February 6, 2012

NOTE IF SLACK FILL OR DECEPTIVE PACKAGE

CAT. No.	Brand Name	Commodity	Responsible Party & address	Code(s)	Price	Labeled Net Contents	Unit of measure	Gross Weight	Record in units of measure				Tare Weight	Other Information
									Labeled Net Cont.	Measured Net Cont.	Error			
									+	-				
11.06	Kills Dead	Aphid Growth Hormone	Super Duper Labs Garveyville, NJ 00200	Mfr 101511 EPA-xx23xx2	\$14.00	100 lb (45.37 Kg)	0.01 lb	102.05	10000	10195	195		0.55lb	
11.08	Hydro Gro	Liquid Fertilizer	Hydro Gro Jefferson, CA www.Hydrogro.net	None	\$13.00	1 qt/32 oz	1 dr	n/a	256	257	0	1	n/a	Label violations observed; company notified
12.15	Generic Forest Products	Limb Prop	Generic Forest Products Lawford, OR 97998 800-800-0000	None	\$3.00	2in x 3in x 8ft	1/8 in	n/a	12 20 768	12 19 768	0	1	n/a	Follow-up with lot, 1 PIR-60 props off sale

SAMPLE ONLY

Comments :

Used county scale and certified weight: kit 59-012, caliper 59-450, glassware to test products.

Tested by: *Laura Crawford*  
*Ag State Biologist II*