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ANNUAL REPORT
(FY 2023-24)



**Inspection
Services**





WHO WE ARE INSPECTION SERVICES

At the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Inspection Services Division (ISD), we inspect fruits, vegetables and nuts to ensure quality, maturity, size, packaging and labeling meet industry quality expectations; we perform food safety inspections and verification audits to ensure good handling and agricultural practices; we help ensure fertilizer, animal feed and livestock drugs are safe and effective, as well as meet the quality and quantity guaranteed by the manufacturer; we conduct chemical analyses in support of food and environmental safety in a state-of-the-art chemistry laboratory; and we are committed to helping all Californians access healthy and nutritious California-grown food.

WWW.CDFA.CA.GOV/IS

OVERVIEW

In the Inspection Services Division (ISD), we are guided by the Purpose described on the following page (p. 5) of this Annual Report (covering fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024). We fulfill our Mission through implementing our Vision, as guided by the ISD True North.

We value our team members and continue to invest in their success today and into the future. During the year highlighted in this report, Workforce Development has been strengthened by improved onboarding and encouraging opportunities via the CDFA Upward Mobility Program, mentoring and the ISD Coaching Program, among others.

Communication has remained strong through our eight advisory boards and their subcommittees, as well as consistent outreach and education through the ISD Blog (blogs.cdfa.ca.gov/CDFAInspectionServicesBlog/), as well as outreach-centric programs in fertilizer, feed, food safety and farm to fork. Especially of note are our 16 new farm to school regional advisors throughout the state.

We're attentive to Innovation in the agriculture space. For example, in a fast-paced nine months, our Produce Safety Program was able to take advantage of state funding and utilize creative problem solving to debut a web portal where farmers may now view their inspection records online and conveniently engage with ISD staff. Innovation has remained strong through our Center for Analytical Chemistry's development of methodologies for emerging issues. Also, enteric methane reduction products are now available thanks to modernized science.

At Inspection Services, we're invested in creating and maintaining diverse, local resilient food systems. Ingrained in that focus is our investment of grant funding and time with partners and projects in the California agricultural community.

We're big believers in collaboration, including with other CDFA programs, sister state agencies and agricultural stakeholders. Collaboration is cornerstone to progress and overall success.



NATALIE KROUT-GREENBERG
DIRECTOR,
INSPECTION SERVICES DIVISION

PURPOSE

ISD MISSION

To provide professional services that support and contribute to a safe and quality food supply, environmentally sound agricultural practices, an equitable marketplace for California agriculture and increased access to healthy, California-grown food.

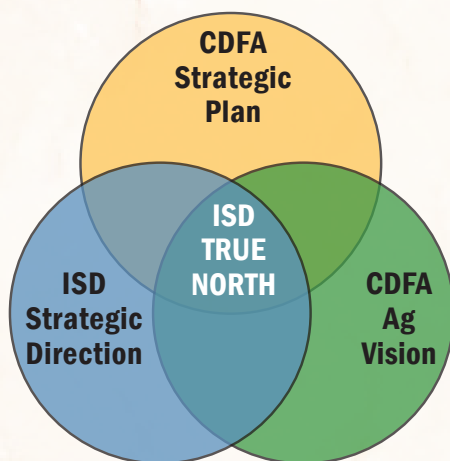
ISD VISION

Create a lasting, thriving division by providing **Workforce Development** and meaningful careers in the delivery of services to our stakeholders.

Provide open and transparent **Communication** with all stakeholders, internal and external.

Encourage **Innovation** for the best results, collaboration and process improvements.

ISD TRUE NORTH



“Whether performing daily activities or establishing long-term work goals, True North represents the most straightforward direction we should pursue to fulfill our mission.”

— Natalie Krout-Greenberg,
ISD Director

Learn more about Inspection Services Division's Mission, Goals, Strategic Direction and more at

WWW.CDFA.CA.GOV/IS/MISSION.HTML

ADVISORY

Advisory boards and committees are the voices of California agriculture.

Members have the opportunity to make a difference through direct involvement in the enforcement and rulemaking that govern their industry. Advisory committee and board members serve in an advisory capacity

to the CDFA Secretary and make recommendations on inspection and enforcement programs, research and education, the annual budget, necessary fees to provide adequate inspection services, and regulations required to accomplish the purposes of the Food and Agricultural Code.

INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE BRANCH

Avocado Inspection Advisory Committee

California Citrus Advisory Committee

California Organic Products Advisory Committee

Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee

Shipping Point Inspection Advisory Committee

Standardization Advisory Committee

FEED, FERTILIZER AND LIVESTOCK DRUGS REGULATORY SERVICES BRANCH

Feed Inspection Advisory Board

Feed Inspection Advisory Board Technical Advisory Subcommittee

Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board

Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board Technical Advisory Subcommittee

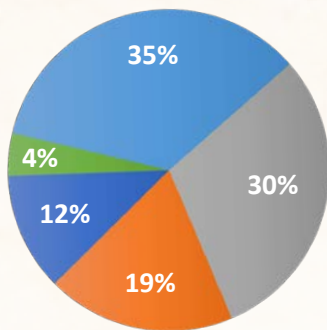
View Inspection Services Division board and committee notices, agendas and meeting minutes at

WWW.CDFA.CA.GOV/IS/UPLOADER/POSTINGS/HEARINGS

FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 BUDGET

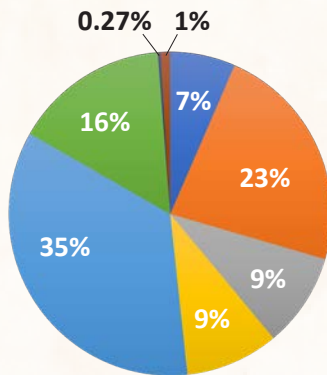
DIVISION EXPENDITURES

\$96,903,547



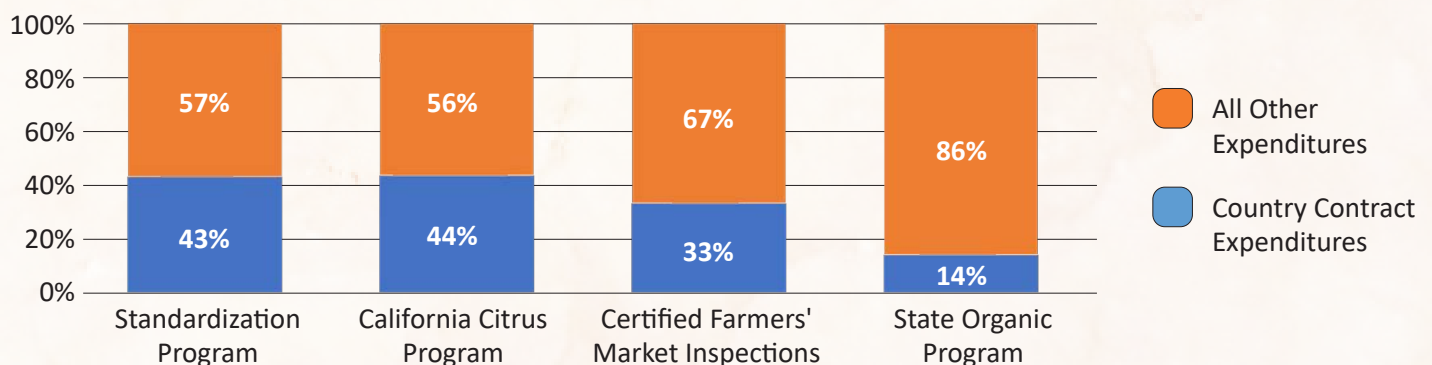
- Office of Farm to Fork
\$33,761,005 (35%)
- Inspection and Compliance Branch
\$29,109,204 (30%)
- Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch
\$18,377,299 (19%)
- Center for Analytical Chemistry
\$11,496,003 (12%)
- Produce Safety Program
\$4,136,035 (4%)
- Administration (not on pie chart)
\$24,000 (0.025%)

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS PERCENTAGE



- Agriculture Fund (Continuously Appropriated) (35%)
- General Fund (Local Assistance) (23%)
- Federal Funds (16%)
- General Fund (Reimbursement) (9%)
- Agriculture Fund (9%)
- General Fund (7%)
- Cannabis Fund (1%)
- Analytical Laboratory Account (0.27%)

PERCENTAGE OF INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE EXPENDITURES IN COUNTY CONTRACTS



OFFICE OF FARM TO FORK

ISD's Office of Farm to Fork is committed to helping all Californians access healthy and nutritious California-grown food. The Office of Farm to Fork connects school districts and community members directly with California's farmers and ranchers, and provides information and other resources.





INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE

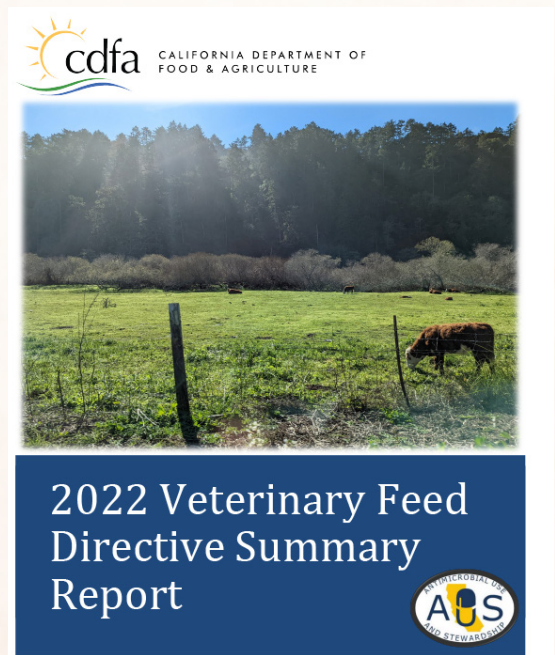
ISD's Inspection and Compliance Branch enforces state and federal laws for fruit, nut and vegetable production, as well as verifies on-farm good agricultural practices. It also investigates fraudulent organic claims and provides consumer protection at Certified Farmers' Markets.





FEED, FERTILIZER & LIVESTOCK DRUGS REGULATORY SERVICES

ISD's Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch works to ensure a clean and wholesome supply of meat and milk, and to promote environmentally safe and agronomically sound use and handling of fertilizer materials. This is performed through regulating manufacturing, labeling and use of fertilizing materials, feed and livestock drugs.

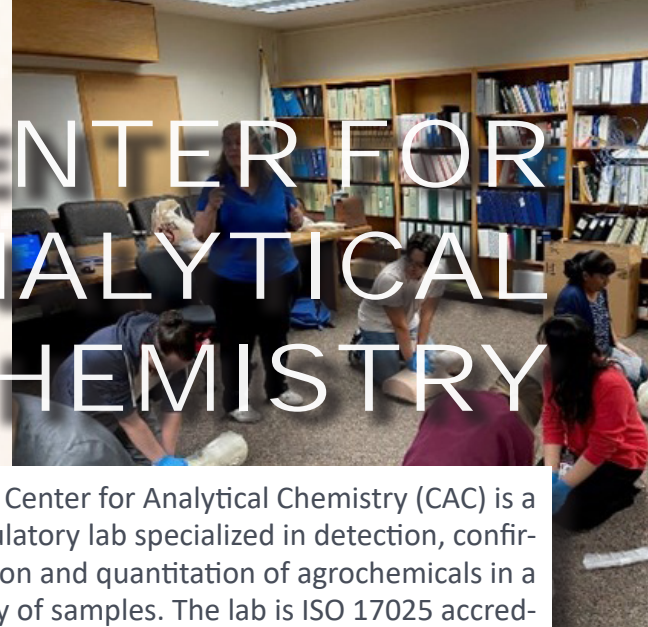


2022 Veterinary Feed Directive Summary Report

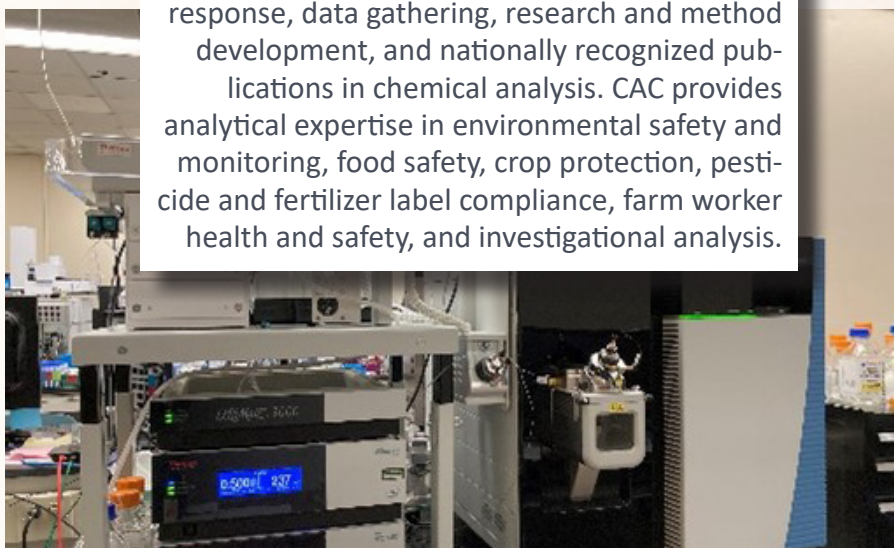




CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY



ISD's Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) is a regulatory lab specialized in detection, confirmation and quantitation of agrochemicals in a variety of samples. The lab is ISO 17025 accredited with capabilities that include emergency response, data gathering, research and method development, and nationally recognized publications in chemical analysis. CAC provides analytical expertise in environmental safety and monitoring, food safety, crop protection, pesticide and fertilizer label compliance, farm worker health and safety, and investigational analysis.



BY
THE

NUMBERS

INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE

Shipping Point Inspection Program	Total produce inspected	Almonds lbs.	Table Grapes lbs.	Tomatoes lbs.	Cherries lbs.	Kiwifruit lbs.
	5.2 billion lbs.	2.7 billion	1.5 billion	611.8 million	161.4 million	100.6 million
Standardization Program & County Staff		Containers / lots inspected		Counties with Standardization cooperative agreements		
		79,836 / 9.5 million		18		
California Citrus Program		Containers / lots of Navel oranges inspected				Maturity Tests
		3,947 / 4.3 million				3,765
Avocado Inspection Program		Size / count tests	Domestic avocado maturity tests	Foreign avocado maturity tests	Informational maturity tests	Avocados certified
		7,231	41	15	1,233	307.9 million lbs.
CA State Organic Program		Inspections	Complaints investigated	Samples collected for pesticide residue testing	Cost Share Program applications approved to reimburse part of organic certification costs	
		1,654	94	388	1,435	
Direct Marketing Program & County Staff		Certified Farmers' Market (CFM) inspections	Production site inspections	CFM Certificates issued in calendar year 2023	Certified Producer's Certificates issued in calendar year 2023	
		400	543	699	2,216	
Produce Safety Program		Produce Safety Rule farm inspections			On-Farm Readiness Reviews	
		1,525			35	
Technical Assistance Program		Farmers receiving 1-on-1 food safety assistance			Multilingual food safety workshops / participants	
		250			8 / 96	
OCal Cannabis Certification Program			New companies certified to sell cannabis with an OCal seal, signifying being produced comparable to organic			Total companies certified OCal
			10			36
Learn more about Inspection & Compliance Branch programs at www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&c						

CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

Laboratory analyses	Samples analyzed	Data points resulting from analyses	Scientific methods developed	Operational improvements	Infrastructural improvements	Staff development opportunities
23,340	11,354	3.2 million	12	16	25	38
Learn more about Center for Analytical Chemistry Branch programs at www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/cac/						

FEED, FERTILIZER & LIVESTOCK DRUGS REGULATORY SERVICES

Commercial Feed Regulatory Program		Finished feed reported sold in CA		Byproducts reported diverted to livestock feed instead of landfills		Routine feed inspections	Feed safety inspections	Samples taken of feed products
		23.2 million tons		1.4 million tons		22	13	665
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program	Fert. materials reported sold in CA		Fert. samples obtained for laboratory analysis		Conventional fert. labels reviewed / registered		Organic fert. labels reviewed / registered	Complaints about fert. products or manufacturers investigated & resolved
	7.3 million tons		1,303		4,527		1,572	19
Fertilizer Research & Education Program		Outreach events	Online Irrigation & Nitrogen Mgmt. Plan (INMP) courses			Hours of Continuing Education offered		Growers who became eligible for self-certification in INMP training
		14	41			65		117

Learn more about Feed, Fertilizer & Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch programs at www.cdffa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/

OFFICE OF FARM TO FORK

California Nutrition Incentive Program	Incentives distributed for nutrition benefit shoppers to purchase California-grown, fresh produce		CNIP grantees	California sites where CNIP incentives may be used
	\$9.4 million		16	343
Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program		Funds awarded	Number of projects receiving an award	
		\$9 million	103	
Urban Agriculture Grant Program		Funds awarded	Number of projects receiving an award	
		\$11.7 million	33	

Learn more about Office of Farm to Fork programs at <https://cafarmtofork.cdffa.ca.gov/>



SUSTAINABLE

FOOD SYSTEMS



The Commercial Feed Regulatory Program and Safe Animal Feed Education Program continued to incentivize the diversion of human food byproducts to livestock feed and educate the industry about this important action to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions.



Twenty ongoing research projects funded by the Fertilizer Research and Education Program in the Central Valley, Central Coast and low desert regions focused on novel irrigation and nutrient management practices contributing to more sustainable food production systems.



The California Nutrition Incentive Program supported farmers selling healthy, California-grown produce directly to consumers by providing \$9.4 million in nutrition incentives.



The Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) ensured a sustainable food system through monitoring the fate and transport of pesticides to assist in proper application. CAC analyzed food commodities for 500+ chemicals to ensure what is sold at market is safe and nutritious. CAC also tested fertilizers and pesticides for safety and product label claims.



The Technical Assistance Program offered workshops and one-on-one consultations with farmers – including in the languages of English, Spanish, Mien and Hmong – to maintain on-farm food safety.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The Office of Farm to Fork (CDFA-F2F) benefited resilient communities through administering \$12 million to support urban agriculture production and improved access to resources for urban farmers. CDFA-F2F also provided \$9 million through the Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program to put climate-friendly refrigeration and freezer units in approximately 250 stores and food pantries to increase access to healthy foods in low-income, low-food access neighborhoods.



The Inspection and Compliance Branch fostered resilient communities through addressing small farm conferences about organic certification, overseeing the issue of Certified Farmers' Market (CFM) Certificates and conducting in cooperation with county staff 400 CFM inspections to foster community markets where farmers may sell what they grow directly to area consumers.



The Center for Analytical Chemistry's Environmental Analysis section protected the wellbeing of farmworkers, disadvantaged and agricultural communities throughout California by providing tests and data for monitoring any potential and incidental exposure of chemicals. This included the analyses of ambient air and dislodgeable foliar residues.



The Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program defended organic integrity through a \$1.89 million penalty (the biggest judgment in the program's history) being upheld by a judge against a company for pesticide adulteration within an organic input material.



INNOVATION



The Produce Safety Program (PSP) developed a Farm Data Repository website for California farms and farm inspections to support statewide compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. Also known as the PSP Portal, it provides California producers and handlers the ability to view their own inspection reports online, digitally respond to inspection-related items and communicate conveniently with PSP staff.



The Center for Analytical Chemistry's Environmental Analysis section transitioned to a safer and simpler methodology for the analysis of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in ambient air. This new method no longer requires large, liquid nitrogen dewars.



The Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program led efforts through the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials to establish a uniform definition for plant biostimulants and beneficial substances, as well as develop a clean, simple and standardized label format that will be adopted across all states.



The Farm to School Program hired regional staff across the state to align farm to school efforts, share resources and bring food producers, school nutrition services departments, educators, distributors and advocates together to collaborate and engage in peer-to-peer learning.



KC Gutenberger,
Environmental Scientist,
Safe Animal Feed Education

How do you work for the California food supply? *The supply of safe and quality feed to our dairy, poultry and livestock industries is a critical aspect of food safety and nutrition of the meat, milk and eggs they produce. I work to provide educational resources specific to the California feed industry to help ensure feed and food safety.*



Debbie Cordova,
Sr. Environmental Scientist,
Center for Analytical
Chemistry

How do you work for the California food supply? *As part of the Research and Development team here at the Chem Lab, we work toward improving or developing methods that the Chem Lab or other agencies will use to test chemicals in food, water and the environment.*



Rene Mendoza,
Ag Program Supervisor I,
Direct Marketing

How do you work for the California food supply? *By helping ensure compliance in the Direct Marketing Program's Central District area that allows California farmers with an opportunity to sell their produce directly to consumers, bypassing additional costs such as packaging and sizing requirements / regulations. Furthermore, it enables customers to engage with farmers, gain insight into their farming methods and appreciate the origins of the food they consume.*



Winnie Crouch,
Budget Analyst,
Office of Farm to Fork

How do you work for the California food supply? *Our grants help further a lot of entities' farm to fork mission. Whether it be supplying new equipment, Market Match or helping build new infrastructure, I help grantees get their reimbursement (or advance funds) as quickly as possible.*

RETIREMENTS

Inspection Services Division recognizes with gratitude these staff members who retired during FY23-24:

Param Singh (FFLDRS) with 18.5 years of state service

Martin Burger (FFLDRS) with 6 years of state service

Patrick Barbree (FFLDRS) with 6 years of state service







CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF INSPECTION SERVICES

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