



2025

ANNUAL REPORT
(FY 2024-25)



EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT



As we continue our public service, **Inspection Services sets this Strategic Direction as our guiding document.** For ourselves and our stakeholders, this document lays out our intention.”

Natalie Krout-Greenberg
Director
Inspection Services Division



SCAN / CLICK
TO VIEW



Work continued on creating a new **ISD Workforce Plan**, a strategic roadmap for Inspection Services to better address workforce changes in an efficient manner while keeping CDFA's Strategic Plan goals and ISD's Strategic Direction goals in the forefront.



Ten CDFA staff members graduate from the **Coaching for Personal and Professional Effectiveness Program**, a course that provides improved communication skills for work and life and prepares employees to take on leadership positions. The course is led by ISD Center for Analytical Chemistry Branch Chief Barzin Moradi, Ph.D.



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

Agriculture has always been built on resilience, stewardship and the people who show up every day to feed our communities. As director of this division, I am proud to share the progress we made over the past year in support of an industry that is both deeply rooted in tradition and constantly evolving.

Our efforts are guided by three vision pillars — **Workforce Development, Communication** and **Innovation** — which shape how we serve the public and collaborate with industry.

Workforce Development remains foundational to a strong and sustainable agricultural future. From production and research to policy and leadership, the success of agriculture depends on a skilled and prepared workforce. This year, we strengthened partnerships with industry, educators and community organizations to expand training, improve career pathways and support the next generation of agricultural professionals. We also worked internally to ensure we are doing everything possible to build a strong workforce. These efforts ensure that agriculture remains a viable, attractive and competitive career choice.

Clear and timely **Communication** is essential in an industry as diverse and dynamic as agriculture. We serve as a connector — between boards, industry partners, policy-makers and the public — working to translate complex

information into meaningful insights. We continued looking for ways to bring clarity to the government process, ensuring stakeholders have the tools they need to understand challenges, opportunities and outcomes.

Innovation drives agriculture forward, and our organization is committed to fostering thoughtful, practical innovation that supports productivity, sustainability and economic viability. By collaborating with industry leaders and research partners, we have supported data-driven solutions, modernized processes and explored new approaches that respond to changing environmental, regulatory and market conditions.

None of this work happens in isolation. We are fortunate to work closely with dedicated board members, industry partners and public servants whose expertise and commitment strengthen our mission. Reporting to eight boards brings both responsibility and opportunity, and we take seriously our role in providing accurate information, sound analysis and balanced recommendations.

As we look ahead, agriculture will continue to face both challenges and opportunities. Our organization remains committed to serving the public interest by supporting a strong **Workforce**, fostering open **Communication**, and encouraging **Innovation** that honors agriculture's past while preparing for its future.

Thank you for your continued engagement and trust.



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.

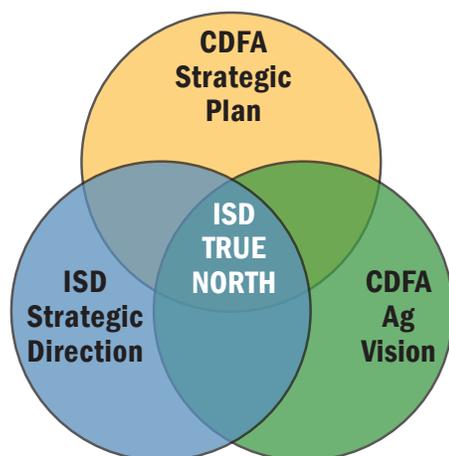
ISD VISION

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 capac-

ity 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

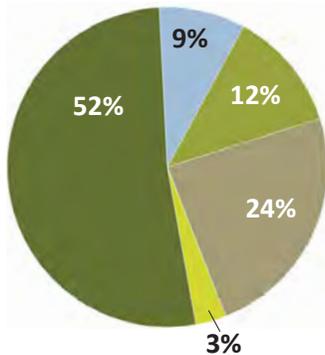
View Inspection Services Division board and committee notices, agendas and meeting minutes at

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

FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BUDGET

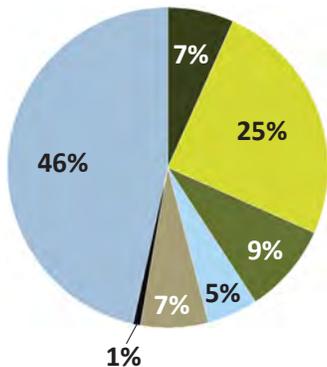
DIVISION EXPENDITURES

\$136,134,201



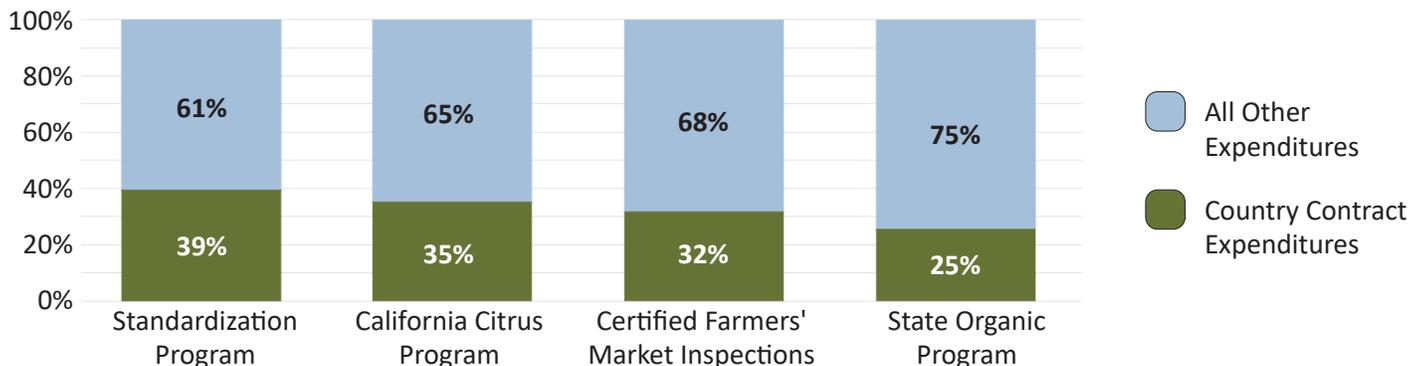
- Office of Farm to Fork
\$70,853,654 (52%)
- Inspection and Compliance Branch
\$32,650,034 (24%)
- Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch
\$16,568,514 (12%)
- Center for Analytical Chemistry
\$11,857,285 (9%)
- Produce Safety Program
\$4,181,652 (3%)
- Administration (too small to appear on pie chart) – \$23,063 (0.02%)

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS PERCENTAGE



- General Fund (Local Assistance) (46%)
- Agriculture Fund (Continuously Appropriated) (25%)
- Federal Fund (9%)
- General Fund (Reimbursement) (7%)
- Agriculture Fund (7%)
- General Fund (5%)
- Cannabis Control Fund (1%)
- Analytical Laboratory Account (too small to appear on pie chart) (0.08%)

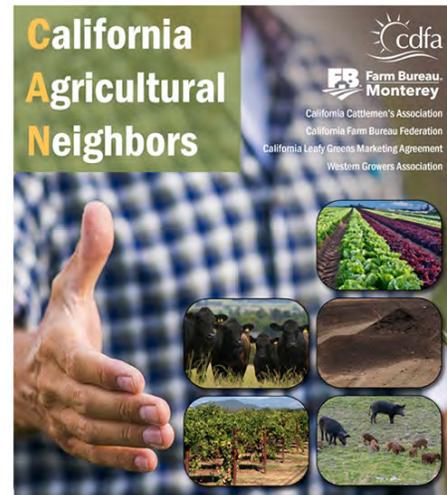
PERCENTAGE OF INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE EXPENDITURES IN COUNTY CONTRACTS





INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE

ISD's Inspection and Compliance Branch (ICB) 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.



Building a proactive food safety culture

Fall 2024



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ICB'S TOP 3

1

After five years of strategic planning, an independent **Food Safety Auditing Unit** (FSAU) was made part of ICB's Shipping Point Inspection Program. In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), FSAU conducted a variety of USDA food safety audits that allowed an added layer of protection for farms, handlers and suppliers of CA-grown fruits, vegetables and nuts that may or may not be covered by the federal Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule.

2

The **Produce Safety Program** (PSP) launched a series of no-cost Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Trainings to help meet federal Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule training requirements. PSP performed eight trainings with over 137 attendees.

3

New legislation for ICB's **Direct Marketing Program** went into effect allowing California producers to sell agricultural products through **Certified Mobile Farmers' Markets** (CMFMs). This allows fresh, California-grown agricultural products in geographical areas that may be considered food deserts or for those members of the public who may not have accessibility to a Certified Farmers' Market. ICB is currently promulgating regulations for the CMFMs.



FEED, FERTILIZER & LIVESTOCK DRUGS REGULATORY SERVICES

ISD's Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS)

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.



Jenna Leal named Branch Chief of Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services



FEED, FERTILIZER & LIVESTOCK DRUGS REGULATORY SERVICES



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FFLDRS' TOP 3

1

Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program: Passed legislation (SB 1522, August 2024) that defined plant biostimulants and beneficial substances, thereby aligning California with the rest of the nation for improved uniformity. This established a beneficial substances product classification (*combining the previous classifications of auxiliary soil & plant substance and packaged soil amendments*). It also extended the product registration cycle from two years to four years to allow for less disruption in the channels of trade.

2

Commercial Feed Regulatory Program: Promulgated robust and extensive regulations in May 2025 to overhaul and modernize feed ingredient definitions to align with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Association of American Feed Control Officials.

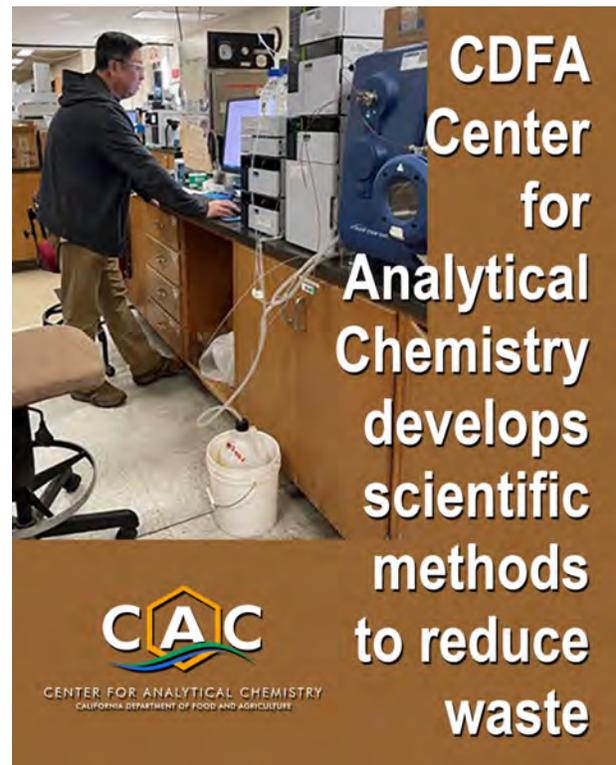
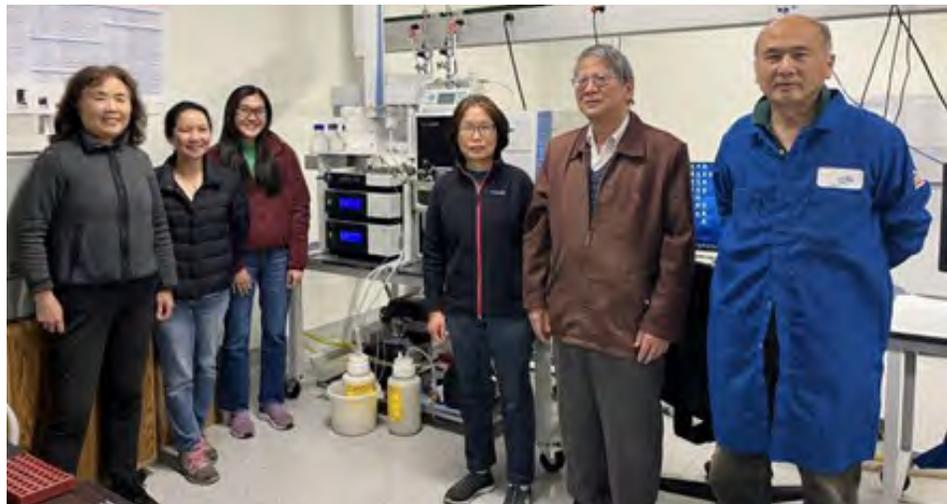
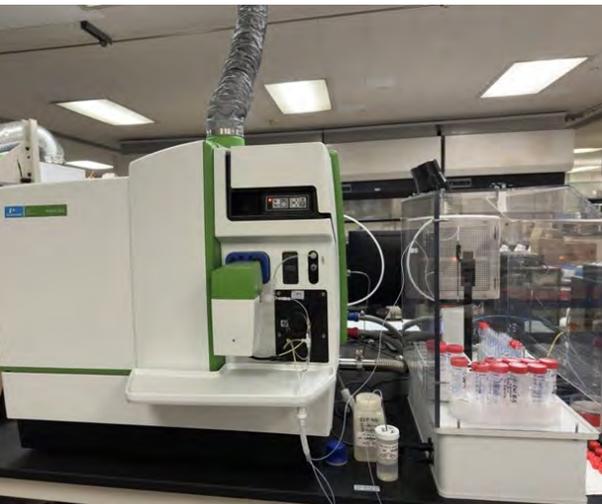
3

Organic Input Material Program: Passed the International Organization for Standardization internal audit as an Organic Material Review Organization. No noncompliance issues were identified and represented a rare, perfect audit by the accrediting body of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation.



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, farmworker health and safety, and investigational analysis.

CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY



**CDFA
Center
for
Analytical
Chemistry
develops
scientific
methods
to reduce
waste**



CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAC'S TOP 3

1

Upgraded and improved facilities both in Sacramento and Anaheim for operation efficiency, productivity, and laboratory and staff safety by completing multiple infrastructure and technology implementation projects.

2

Improved data quality and analytical services to clients through multiple improvements in technology, laboratory processes and management systems. These improvements were made with the aim of tailoring analytical services to the ever-changing current and future needs of client regulatory programs.

3

Developed 21 innovative analytical methodologies that helped state, federal and local agencies protect the food supply, environment, drinking water and well-being of farmworkers. These advanced methodologies have been presented and published in multiple regional and national scientific venues.

**California Farm to School
Incubator Grant Program
Evaluation: 2021 Progress Report**



OFFICE OF FARM TO FORK

ISD's Office of Farm to Fork (CDFA-F2F) 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.

Nutrition Incentive Grants help CalFresh recipients purchase more CA-grown fruits and vegetables

CALIFORNIA NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

12 projects benefiting farmers & shoppers @ 303 locations statewide!



Groundbreaking Farm to School Program awards \$52.8 million for projects across California

195 projects serving:

- 1.65 million students
- 199 school districts & educational entities
- 60 farms & food hubs
- 5 CA Native American Tribes

CDFA Farm to Community Food Hubs Program accepting grant applications

CDFA OFFICE OF FARM to FORK

\$13.75 million available for organizations developing and expanding new and existing community food hubs to increase the purchasing of local, climate-smart and nutritious foods by schools and other CA institutions

Apply by April 14

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CDFA-F2F'S TOP 3

1

Food Hubs: The Office of Farm to Fork (CDFA-F2F) received 165 applications for the Farm to Community Food Hubs Grant, collectively requesting more than \$148M, almost 11 times more than what was available to award. To support applicants during the solicitation period, CDFA-F2F staff hosted six webinars with 429 attendees, spent almost 16 hours on 63 phone calls with applicants, and provided one-on-one feedback on draft applications for 29 applicants.

2

California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP): CDFA-F2F selected 12 award recipients for the 2025 CNIP grant with a total of \$33M to distribute CNIP incentives to CalFresh shoppers, and seven award recipients for the 2025 CNIP Expansion grant with a total of \$750K in funds to distribute incentives to Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) participants and to provide technical assistance to support the electronic benefit transition for the FMNP program.

3

Farm to School: As part of California's nation-leading investment in farm to school programs, CDFA-F2F awarded \$52.8 million in funding for 195 farm to school projects across the state. Collectively, these projects serve 1,650,985 students, 199 school districts and educational entities, 52 farms, eight food hubs and five California Native American Tribes.

BY
THE

NUMBERS

INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE

Shipping Point Inspection Program	Total produce inspected	Almonds lbs.	Kiwifruit lbs.	Tomatoes lbs.	Table Grapes lbs.	Cherries lbs.	Food Safety Audits
	198,942 lots	3.5 billion	1.2 billion	733.5 million	406.9 million	84 million	568
Standardization Program & County Staff	Containers / lots inspected		Counties with Standardization cooperative agreements				
	11 million / 105,631		18				
California Citrus Program	Containers / lots of Navel oranges inspected					Maturity Tests	
	2.3 million / 2,340					2,214	
Avocado Inspection Program	Size / count tests	Domestic avocado maturity tests	Foreign avocado maturity tests	Informational maturity tests	Avocados certified		
	8,514	222	116	1,756	368.3 million lbs.		
CA State Organic Program	Inspections	Complaints investigated	Samples collected for pesticide residue testing	New registrations with the State Organic Program			
	1,561	164	365	350			
Direct Marketing Program & County Staff	Certified Farmers' Market (CFM) inspections	Production site inspections	CFM Certificates issued in calendar year 2024	Certified Producer's Certificates issued			
	568	261	698	1,838			
Produce Safety Program	Produce Safety Rule farm inspections			On-Farm Readiness Reviews			
	602			14			
Technical Assistance Program	Farmers receiving 1-on-1 food safety assistance		Multilingual food safety workshops / participants				
	602		13 / 296				
Ocal Cannabis Certification Program	New companies certified to sell cannabis with an Ocal seal, signifying being produced comparable to organic				Total companies certified Ocal		
	17				50		

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 / attendees
20,625	10,442	3 million	21	19	35	73 / 404

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	Feed reported sold in CA	Byproducts reported diverted to livestock feed instead of landfills	License inspections	Feed safety inspections	Samples taken of feed products
	21.9 million tons	2.1 million tons	164	32	650
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program	Fert. materials reported sold in CA	Fertilizing material samples	Conventional fertilizer labels approved	Organic fertilizer labels approved	Complaints about fert. products or manufacturers investigated & resolved
	5.3 million tons	1,215	4,419	1,416	26
Fertilizer Research & Education Program	Grant funding awarded	Grower outreach events / participants	Grower consultations	Farm trials	Hours offered of Continuing Education Units
	\$1.2 million	32 / 1,216	273	48	103

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

OFFICE OF FARM TO FORK

California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program	Funds awarded	Number of projects funded	
	\$52.8 million	195	
California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP)	Incentives distributed for nutrition benefit shoppers to purchase California-grown, fresh produce	CNIP grantees	California sites where CNIP incentives may be used
	\$16.8 million	22	342

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









CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF INSPECTION SERVICES

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