

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

(FY 2021-22)







*This photo collage on the cover is of Ag Day in front of the State Capitol on March 24, 2022. Ag Day celebrates the bounty of California's agricultural community with statewide farmers, ranchers and agricultural enthusiasts. The photo at the top left shows Inspection Services Director Natalie Krout-Greenberg (right) and Inspection Services Assistant Director Carla Bocanegra-Sanchez pausing for a photo. Also shown (two photos at top right) are California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Office of Farm to Fork staff, (photo to right, third from top) CDFA Secretary Karen Ross and (bottom right) Krout-Greenberg speaking to a young author.*

Suggested citation:

California Department of Food and Agriculture. *CDFA Division of Inspection Services Annual Report 2022 (FY 2021-22)*. Sacramento, California, 2022.

Publication layout and design by Joshua W. Bingham, Public Information Officer II, Admin Unit.



California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Division of Inspection Services  
1220 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 900-5020  
Email: [inspection\\_services@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:inspection_services@cdfa.ca.gov)  
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/>

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# DELIVERING THE CDFA MISSION

## DIVISION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Here in the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Inspection Services Division (ISD), we serve a broad Mission (printed on p. 12), and a large portion of our funding to accomplish this Mission is from industry fees. The purpose of this annual report is to display to the industry and public how funding during fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 (July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022) was utilized to fulfill our ISD Mission.

At Inspection Services, 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.

At ISD, we are continuously called to assist on projects, where more often than not, we're navigating in a new space that requires creativity to address the ever-changing needs of California agriculture. Our Division efforts are broad – from helping Salinas Valley agricultural neighbors join resources for food safety that aim to stay on the cutting edge of innovation; to working with stakeholders to develop a California farm to school roadmap that reimagines and advances nutrition opportunities; all the way to consistently looking internally at ways to improve efficiency and customer satisfaction by upgrading laboratory processes, technology and equipment.

We have an amazing team of thinkers and innovators whose work I encourage you to explore in the following pages. As we reflect on the past and look ahead to the future, we make an ongoing commitment to do right by one another and to do right by the future generations to come.

With gratitude,

Natalie Krout-Greenberg, Director  
Division of Inspection Services

### Division of Inspection Services Leadership Team



**Natalie Krout-Greenberg**

*Director, Inspection Services Division*

**Carla Bocanegra-Sanchez**

*Assistant Director, Inspection Services Division*

**Marcee Yount**

*Branch Chief, Inspection and Compliance*

**Amadou Ba**

*Branch Chief, Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs  
Regulatory Services*

**Barzin Moradi**

*Branch Chief, Center for Analytical Chemistry*

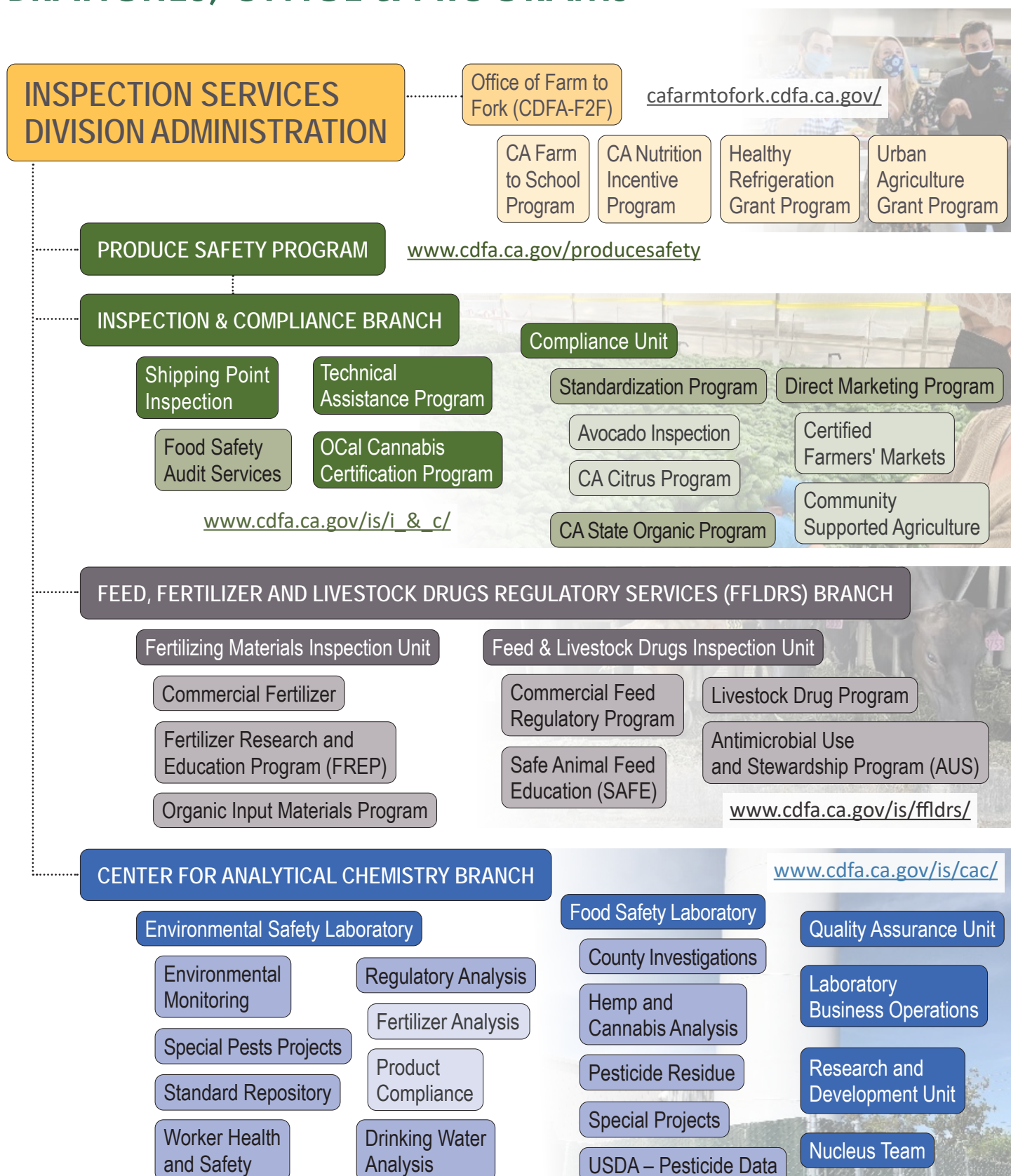
**Elysia Fong**

*Special Assistant, Office of Farm to Fork*



# DIVISION OVERVIEW

## BRANCHES, OFFICE & PROGRAMS



# DIVISION OVERVIEW

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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 (FAC).

### FEED, FERTILIZER AND LIVESTOCK DRUGS REGULATORY SERVICES (FFLDRS) BRANCH

#### *Feed Inspection Advisory Board*

- Nine industry members (eight board member licensees and one public member).
- Length of term is three years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 14971-14979.



#### *Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board*

- Nine industry members (eight board member licensees and one public member).
- Length of term is three years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 14581-14586.



#### *Feed Inspection Advisory Board Technical Advisory Subcommittee*

- This subcommittee provides technical and scientific advice to the Feed Inspection Advisory Board and CDFA on animal food nutrition, safety and efficacy data review of new and unapproved feed ingredients, research project oversight and other issues that will affect CDFA's Commercial Feed Regulatory Program, Livestock Drug Program and Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program.



#### *Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board Technical Advisory Subcommittee*

- This subcommittee serves as an expert scientific panel on matters concerning plant nutrition and environmental effects related to fertilizing materials use. It reviews all research and education proposals for the annual Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) Grant Program, and recommends to the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board which projects should receive funding.





# DIVISION OVERVIEW

If interested in serving on a CDFA board or committee, stay tuned for vacancy announcements ([www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/press\\_releases/press\\_releases.asp](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/press_releases/press_releases.asp)). To view notices, agendas and minutes of Inspection Services Division meetings, visit [www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/uploader/postings/hearings/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/uploader/postings/hearings/).

## INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE BRANCH

### Avocado Inspection Advisory Committee



- Six voting members: three avocado producers and three avocado handlers.
- Length of term is two years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 45011-45021.

### Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee



- Fourteen voting members: six certified producers, six certified farmers' market operators, one public member and one agricultural commissioner.
- Length of term is two years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 47010-47013

### California Citrus Advisory Committee



- Twelve voting members: eight citrus producers and four citrus handlers.
- Length of term is two years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 48000-48003.

### Shipping Point Inspection Advisory Committee (SPI)



- Nine voting members: nine shippers of fruit and vegetables who use the program inspection services.
- Length of term is two years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 40571-40577.5.

### California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC)



- Fifteen voting members: six producers, two processors, one wholesale distributor, one certifier, one consumer representatives, one environmental representative, two technical representatives and one retail representative.
- Length of term is three years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 46000-46003.

### Standardization Advisory Committee (STDZ)



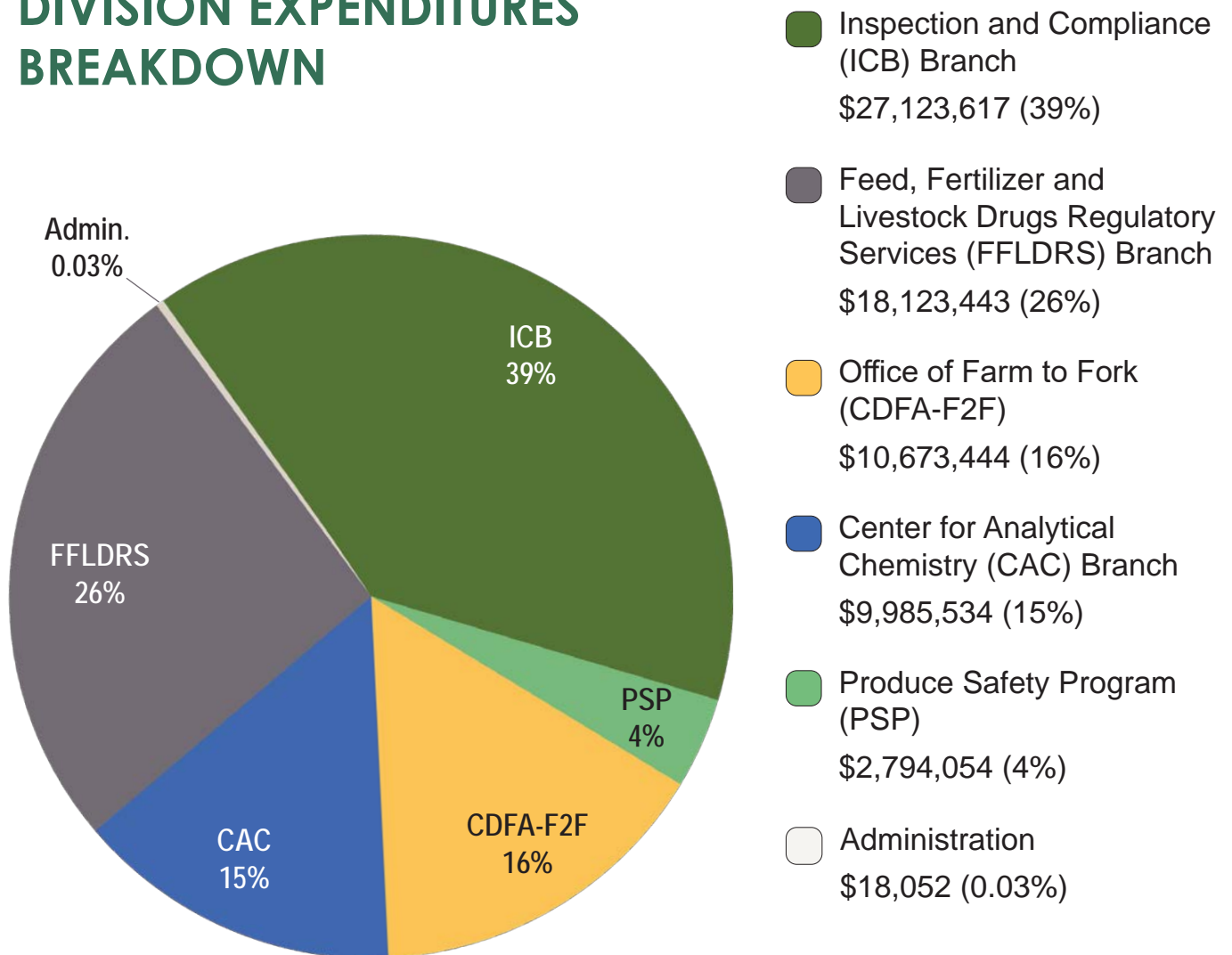
- Thirteen voting members: six representatives from fresh fruit commodity groups, six representatives from fresh vegetable commodity groups and one representative from any other fresh fruit or vegetable commodity group.
- Length of term is two years.
- Pursuant to FAC Sections 42809-42815.

# FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 SUMMARY

## DIVISION EXPENDITURES

**\$68,718,144**

### DIVISION EXPENDITURES BREAKDOWN

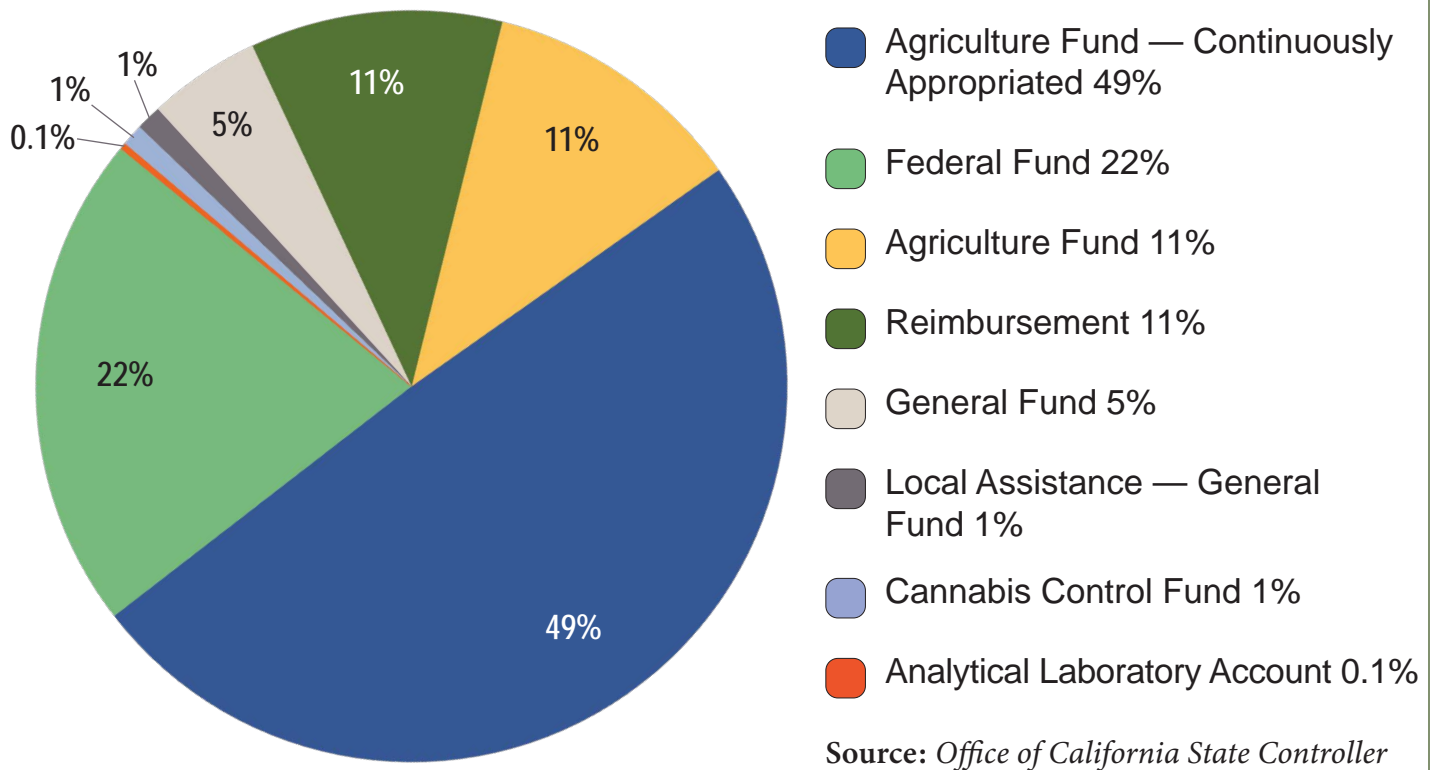


Source: Office of California State Controller

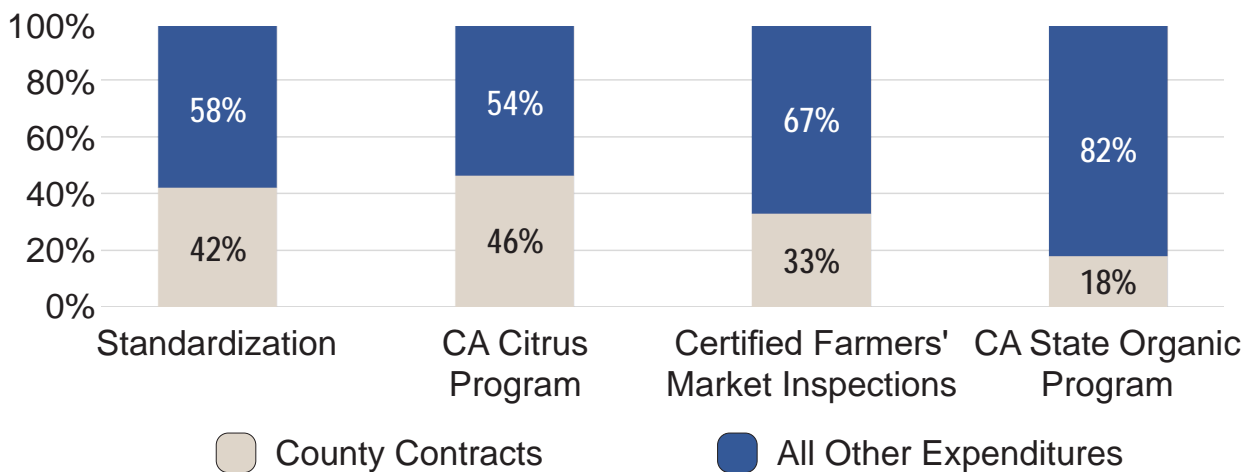


# FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 SUMMARY

## DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS PERCENTAGE



## PERCENTAGE OF INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE EXPENDITURES IN COUNTY CONTRACTS



Source: Office of California State Controller



# MISSION, VISION, GOALS

## CDFA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- 1 Promote and Protect:** Promote and protect the diverse local and global marketability of the California agricultural brand, which represents superior quality, value and safety.
- 2 Maximize Resources:** Optimize resources through collaboration, innovation and process improvements.
- 3 Engagement and Education:** Connect rural and urban communities by supporting and participating in educational programs that emphasize a mutual appreciation of the value of diverse food and agricultural production systems.
- 4 Customer Service:** Improve regulatory efficiency through proactive coordination with stakeholders.
- 5 Invest in Employee Development:** Invest in employee development and succession planning efforts.





# MISSION, VISION, GOALS

## CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL VISION

### Purpose Statement

Making California a better place to live because of what we grow and how we grow it.

### Vision Statement

Californians take pride in their innovative, thriving California farmers and ranchers for their contributions to a healthy population and planet.

### Goals

- 1 Better Health and Well-Being:** Meeting the nutrition and culinary needs of California's diverse population and consumers across the country and around the world.
- 2 A Healthier Planet:** Improving the health of the natural resources upon which California and food production depend.
- 3 Thriving Communities:** Food production and processing are drivers of sustainable California economic-growth.
- 4 Connection Between Farmers and the Consuming Public:** Citizens are agriculture and food literate, understanding and appreciating what it takes to bring food and fiber to market, and the people behind California agriculture.
- 5 A Diverse Set of Agriculture Entities are Thriving:** Ensuring agriculture has the land, water, human capital and access to the resources and legislative support it needs to remain profitable and competitive in the 21st century.

— Released by the California State Board of Food & Agriculture in Spring 2017



# MISSION, VISION, GOALS

## INSPECTION SERVICES 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.

## INSPECTION SERVICES 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.
- **MAXIMIZE RESOURCES AND SERVICES** through collaboration, innovation and process improvements.

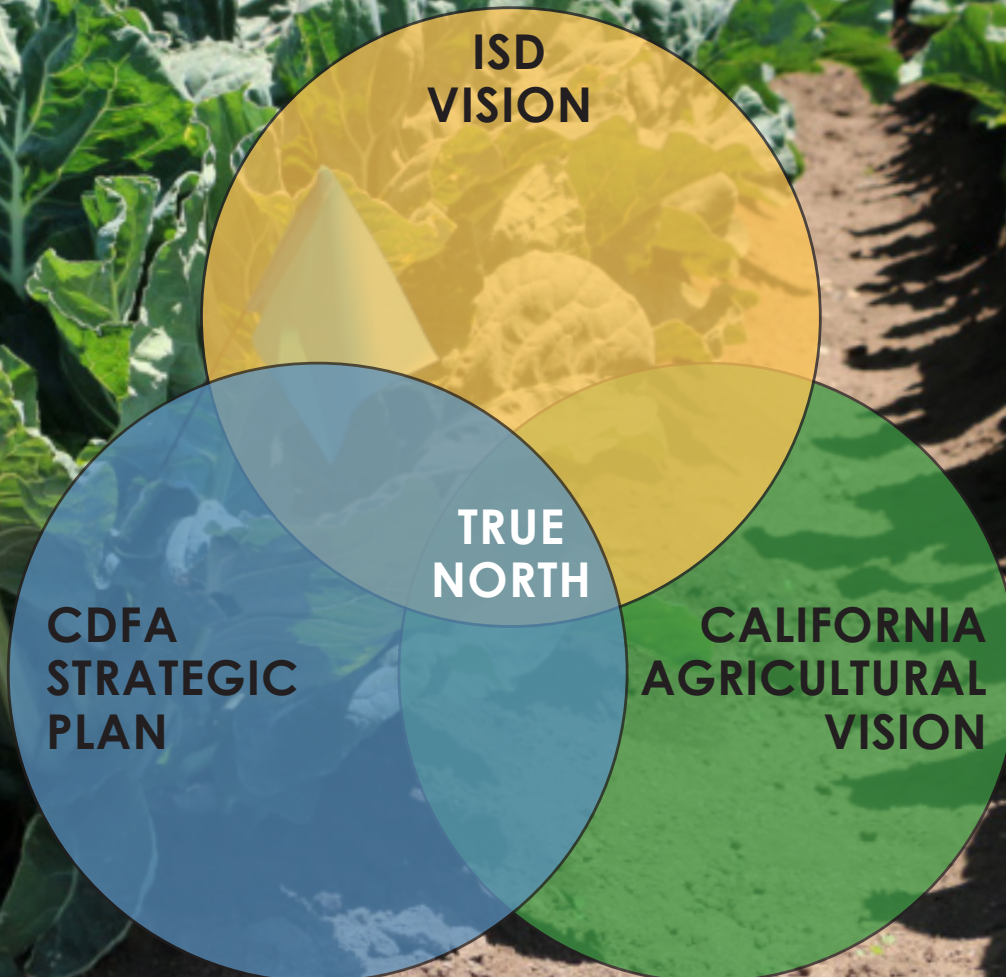


# MISSION, VISION, GOALS

## INSPECTION SERVICES 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









## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### GOAL: Invest in Employee Development

STRATEGY: Pilot a coaching program for staff.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Number of attendees and program evaluation.

### GOAL: Foster Development of Administrative Foundational Skill Sets

STRATEGY: Identify project-based opportunities for cross training led by subject matter experts.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Establish a division-wide administrative structural road map.



## COMMUNICATION

### GOAL: Division Engagement

STRATEGY: Conduct an annual employee satisfaction survey.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Review survey data and share outcomes with the ISD team.

### GOAL: Division Education

STRATEGY: Conduct quarterly brown bag sessions to bring awareness of branch/program activities across the division.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Four brown bag sessions conducted each year with summary information shared through the division communication channels.



### GOAL: Showcase ISD Program Contributions

STRATEGY: Convene periodic meetings with advisory boards, Ag commissioners, federal agencies and food access groups to maintain strong partnerships and showcase program contributions toward maintaining California's safe and environmentally sound food supply while ensuring food access and marketplace equity.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Quantify the number of outreach efforts conducted each year with a summary shared in Quarterly Quips and the division annual report.



## MAXIMIZE RESOURCES AND SERVICES

### GOAL: Lead and Strengthen ISD Reputation for Innovation

STRATEGY: Leverage technology and new ways of doing business.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Conduct internal and external surveys to assess and define business needs.

### GOAL: Optimize Services for California Farmers and Ranchers

STRATEGY: Connect California's farmers and ranchers to the division's suite of professional services.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Branch program reports and evaluations that also are published in the annual report.



# PROMOTE & PROTECT RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS



CDFA's Inspection Service Division **inspects** what our farmers grow to **ensure** quality, maturity, size, packaging and labeling meet **industry expectations**. We perform food safety inspections and verification audits to **ensure** **good handling** and agricultural practices that contribute to a **safe food supply**. We help **ensure** that fertilizer, animal feed and livestock drugs are safe and effective, as well as meet **quality** and **quantity standards**. We **conduct** chemical **analyses** to support and confirm these requirements.

## CALIFORNIA CITRUS

The **California Citrus Program** oversaw county inspections of **2,876** lots / **2.95 million** lbs. of Navel oranges and performed **2,897** maturity tests.



**cdfa**  
PRODUCE  
SAFETY  
PROGRAM

The **Produce Safety Program** inspected **261** farms and performed **22** On-Farm Readiness Reviews while working to help California produce farmers understand how to comply with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSM) Produce Safety Rule.

## AVOCADO INSPECTION

The **Avocado Inspection Program** certified **315.93 million** lbs. of avocados, performed **7,794** size count tests, **154** maturity tests on domestic avocados, **10** maturity tests on foreign avocados and **897** informational maturity tests.

## SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION



*(Pictured) A Shipping Point Inspection Program inspector examines cherries randomly picked from a packing house line to ensure they're the proper quality and color, as well as "row" size as indicated on the box the cherries were in.*

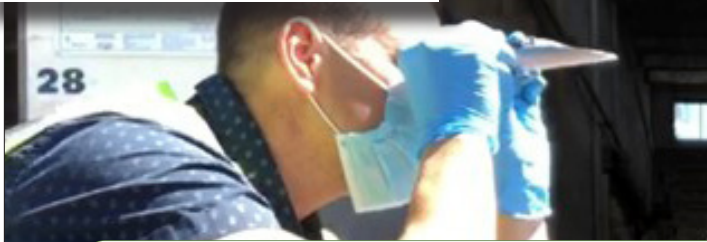
The **Shipping Point Inspection Program** inspected **192,640** lots / **3.81 billion** lbs. of fresh produce. Included were **614.92 million** lbs. of almonds, **598.78 million** lbs. of tomatoes, **400.23 million** lbs. of table grapes, **90.46 million** lbs. of cherries and **83.25 million** pounds of kiwifruit.

*Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.*



# PROMOTE & PROTECT RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

## STANDARDIZATION



The [Standardization Program](#) and county staff inspected **121,306** lots / **15.89 million** lbs. of produce through a Standardization cooperative agreement with **18** California counties.



*(Pictured) Various table grape varieties are inspected at the port by the Standardization Program. (Left) A county inspector checks table grape sugar content with a handheld refractometer to ensure minimum maturity requirements are met. (Right) An incoming ship offloads Chilean table grapes at the Port of Long Beach.*

## DIRECT MARKETING



The [Direct Marketing Program](#) reported **2,364** Certified Producer Certificates were issued and an average of **633** Certified Farmers' Markets operated in California.

*(Pictured) Direct Marketing Central District Supervisor Rene Mendoza conducts an inspection at Sacramento's Capitol Mall Certified Farmers' Market in July by reviewing the produce for sale is on the vendor's Certified Producer's Certificate.*

*Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.*



# PROMOTE & PROTECT RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS



## CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL NEIGHBORS



CDFA and the Monterey County Farm Bureau jointly released "California Agricultural Neighbors: Neighbor-to-neighbor best practices to help enhance local food safety efforts." California Agricultural Neighbors (CAN) was formed in January 2021 to bring together members of the Salinas Valley agriculture community to review what could be done to help reduce outbreaks of pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 associated with leafy greens.

CAN Webinar – 1 of 3 June 30, 2021

**Reservoirs of *E. coli* O157:H7 and other STEC**

A series of speakers share the research and current knowledge of *E. coli* O157:H7 in cattle and wildlife populations. They cover the challenges and opportunities to reduce shedding of *E. coli* in cattle populations and discuss the transference of pathogens among populations in a localized environment.

***E. coli* O157:H7 Harboring in Wildlife and Movement Among Populations**  
Dr. Michele Jay-Russell, UC Davis

**Case Studies: Two Epidemiological Surveys of *E. coli* O157:H7 in California Cow-Calf Operations**  
Dr. Rob Atwill, UC Davis

***E. coli* O157 Reduction in Beef Cattle: Challenges and Opportunities**  
Dr. Gaby Maier, UC Davis



(Above) Inspection Services Director Natalie Krout-Greenberg moderates a California Agricultural Neighbors (CAN) webinar. Natalie is co-leader of the CAN initiative, along with Monterey County Farm Bureau Executive Director Norm Groot. To view the webinar series, search for "CAN Webinar" on [www.youtube.com/@CDFAtoday](https://www.youtube.com/@CDFAtoday).

(Right) Visit [www.cdca.ca.gov/is/docs/CAN\\_Actions\\_Flyer.pdf](https://www.cdca.ca.gov/is/docs/CAN_Actions_Flyer.pdf) to view this flyer that links to the CAN Report and outlines its actions for food safety.

## California Agricultural Neighbors Actions for Food Safety

### Action 1: Foster Neighbor-to-Neighbor Interactions and Conversations

- 1.1 Sharing California Agricultural Neighbors (CAN) glossary of terms to foster a common understanding.
- 1.2 Collaborating with partnerships in CAN Outcomes Table that engender goodwill among vested agricultural stakeholders.
- 1.3 Creating a Discussion Template to support neighbor-to-neighbor dialogue.

### Action 2: Build a Research Roadmap for the Salinas Valley based on the following processes

- 2.1 Introduction of pathogenic *E. coli* to host populations, and re-introduction into the environment in a cycle that leads to continuing exposure and outbreaks.
- 2.2 Amplification of pathogenic *E. coli* within host populations, following introduction, and through conditions that may allow for regrowth in produce-growing lands and adjacent lands.
- 2.3 Survival and persistence of pathogenic *E. coli* under various conditions that do not allow for amplification, but which do allow more time for transport opportunities and intersection with leafy green crops.
- 2.4 Mechanisms of movement and transport of pathogenic *E. coli* across the landscape, including by air, water, animals, and machinery.

### Action 3: Create a Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) Framework

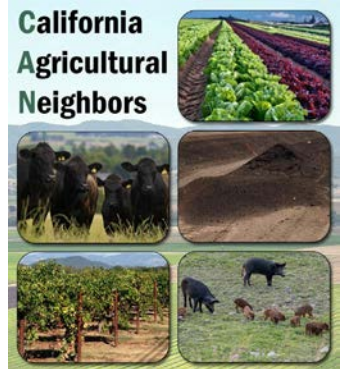
- 3.1 Assess the current state of knowledge and sponsored research underway and supported by various entities.
- 3.2 Apply a QMRA framework to organize data, both existing and upcoming through the research pipeline, as a means to prioritize data needs and research gaps for a completely populated QMRA foundational data set.

### Action 4: Build and Maintain Capacity to Transfer Knowledge from Research into Applied Practice

- 4.1 Research Capacity. Right-size the needed depth and breadth of experts to fully support farmers, ranchers, and agriculture neighbors in the Salinas Valley. Experts will need to have a multidisciplinary approach to collectively foster food safety, food security, and environmental sustainability with a One Health goal of achieving target health outcomes.
- 4.2 Research Funding Sources. Typical and non-typical funding sources and partnerships need to be pursued to support produce-specific research efforts. Researchers from allied fields of study / specializations should be actively engaged, particularly specialists in climate and weather patterns that might impact produce safety in the Salinas Valley and researchers who are able to study wildlife populations, migration patterns, and STEC carriage rates.
- 4.3 Capacity to Transfer Knowledge. Agricultural extension partners at land-grant universities, particularly including historically Black State colleges and universities and Tribal colleges, are valuable partners in providing research capacity and translating research findings into applied, science-based recommendations to industry. Non-traditional partners such as industry trade organizations should continue to be encouraged to fulfill this role.



### California Agricultural Neighbors



Neighbor-to-neighbor best practices to help enhance localized food safety efforts

Action Report – June 2022

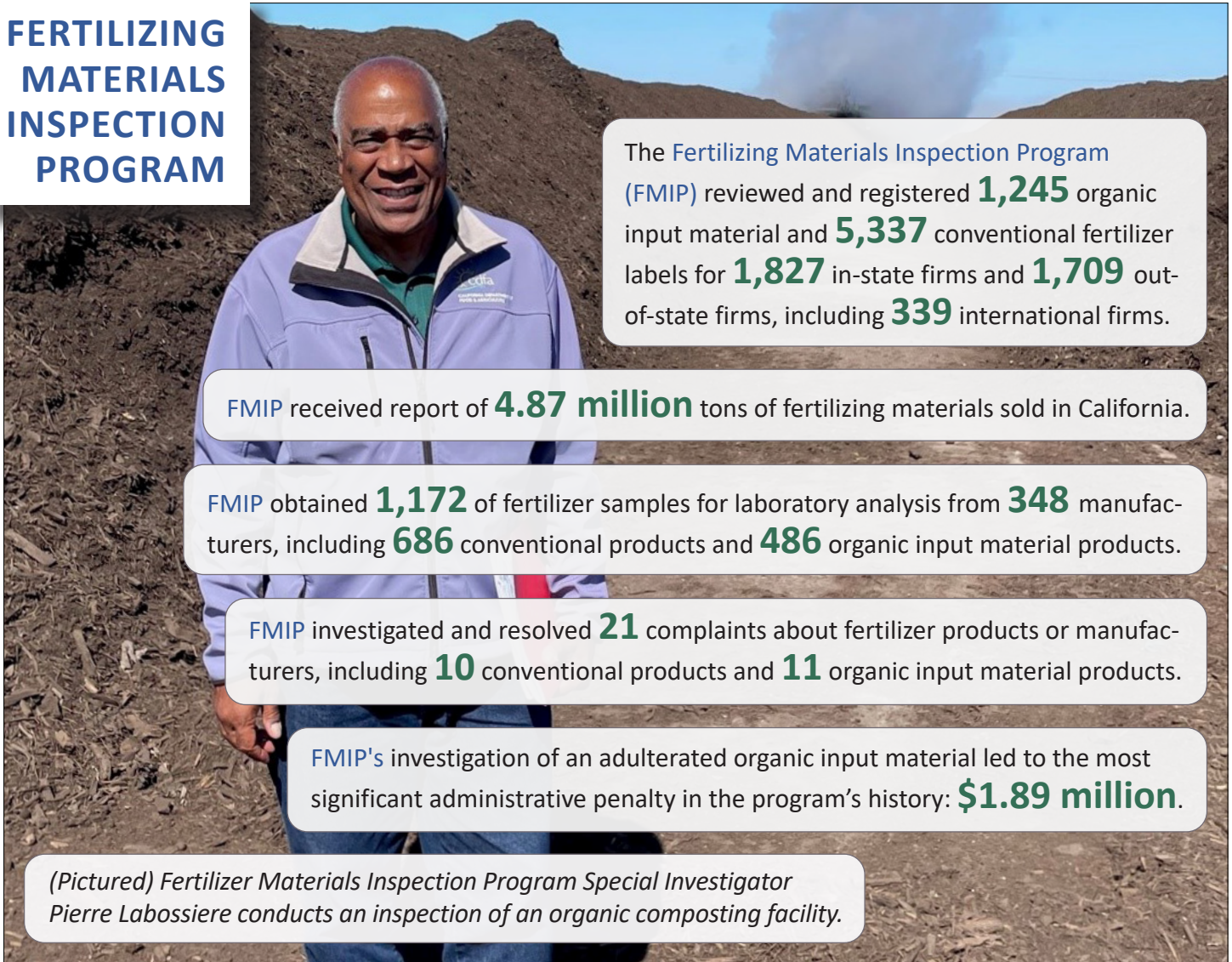
[Click here](#) to view full details in the pictured report.

Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.



# PROMOTE & PROTECT RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

## FERTILIZING MATERIALS INSPECTION PROGRAM



The Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) reviewed and registered **1,245** organic input material and **5,337** conventional fertilizer labels for **1,827** in-state firms and **1,709** out-of-state firms, including **339** international firms.

FMIP received report of **4.87 million** tons of fertilizing materials sold in California.

FMIP obtained **1,172** of fertilizer samples for laboratory analysis from **348** manufacturers, including **686** conventional products and **486** organic input material products.

FMIP investigated and resolved **21** complaints about fertilizer products or manufacturers, including **10** conventional products and **11** organic input material products.

FMIP's investigation of an adulterated organic input material led to the most significant administrative penalty in the program's history: **\$1.89 million**.

*(Pictured) Fertilizer Materials Inspection Program Special Investigator Pierre Labossiere conducts an inspection of an organic composting facility.*

The Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (CFRP) performed **49** routine California feed inspections and took **729** samples of feed products, including **514** for food safety and **215** for label compliance. The food safety samples included **11** heavy metal screens, **103** mycotoxin screens and **92** medicated feed samples.

CFRP received report of **23.73 million** tons of feed sold in California.



The California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP) distributed **\$7.85 million** in incentives available for California-grown fresh produce at **275** CNIP grantees throughout California.

## CALIFORNIA NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM



CDFA OFFICE OF  
**FARM to FORK**  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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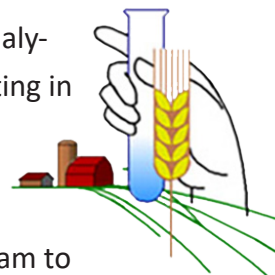
# PROMOTE & PROTECT RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

## CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

The Center for Analytical Chemistry completed **14** operational improvements and **23** infrastructural improvements.

*(Pictured) CAC's new Agilent Intuvo 9000 gas chromatograph improves the delivery time of critical, time-sensitive results to clients and stakeholders.*

CAC ran **18,635** laboratory analyses on **10,599** samples, resulting in **6.22 million** data points.



CAC assembled a **CoResponse** team to handle urgent analytical testing requirements that may arise due to emergencies, including wildfires. CoResponse's first task was setting up instruments and validating the smoke-taint method in preparation for the possibility that assistance is requested by the wine grape industry and commercial labs to test grapes for the presence of smoke from wildfires, as occurred in 2020.

The **CAC Food Safety Laboratory** conducted a major method validation to lower detection limits for more than **330** out of **520** pesticides on the Food Safety Multi-Residue Screen method.

The **CAC Environmental Safety Laboratory** implemented U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Method 533 for analysis of **25** per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water and developed an analytical method to screen for the same PFAS compounds in fertilizer samples.

The **CAC Food Safety Laboratory** celebrated the 30th anniversary of partnering with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Pesticide Data Program. Partnering in this project helped the **CAC Food Safety Laboratory** model its quality system framework into one that generates the highest quality data for enforcement and regulatory purposes.



*Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.*



# PROMOTE & PROTECT RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

**91** posts on the Inspection Services Blog: [blogs.cdafa.ca.gov/CDFAInspectionServicesBlog](https://blogs.cdafa.ca.gov/CDFAInspectionServicesBlog)

## Inspection Services Blog

**253** Inspection Services social media posts

**#1** Twitter post with **392** impressions [@CDFA\\_ISD](https://twitter.com/CDFA_ISD)



**#1** Facebook post that reached **323** accounts [@CDFAISD](https://www.facebook.com/CDFAISD)

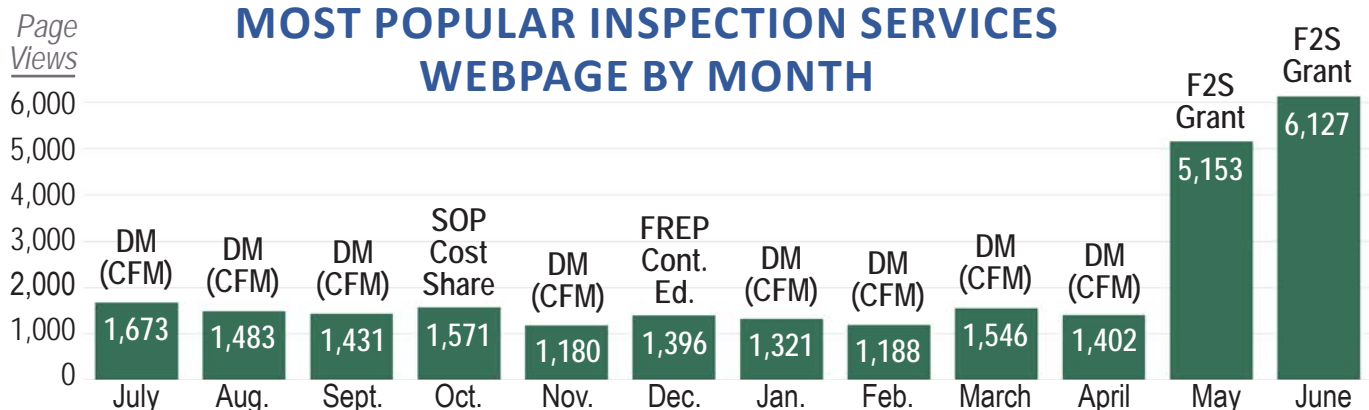


**#1** Instagram post that reached **162** accounts [@cdfa\\_isd](https://www.instagram.com/cdfa_isd)



**260,780** page views of the Inspection Services website: [www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/](http://www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/)

### MOST POPULAR INSPECTION SERVICES WEBPAGE BY MONTH



DM (CFM) Direct Marketing (Certified Farmers' Market) ([www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/i\\_c/cfm.html](http://www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/i_c/cfm.html))

SOP Cost Share CA State Organic Program Cost Share Information ([www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/organicprogram/costshare.html](http://www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/organicprogram/costshare.html))

FREP Cont. Ed. Fertilizer Research and Education Program Cont. Ed. ([www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/continuing\\_education.html](http://www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/continuing_education.html))

F2S Grant Farm to School Incubator Grant Program ([www.cdafa.ca.gov/cafs2grant](http://www.cdafa.ca.gov/cafs2grant))

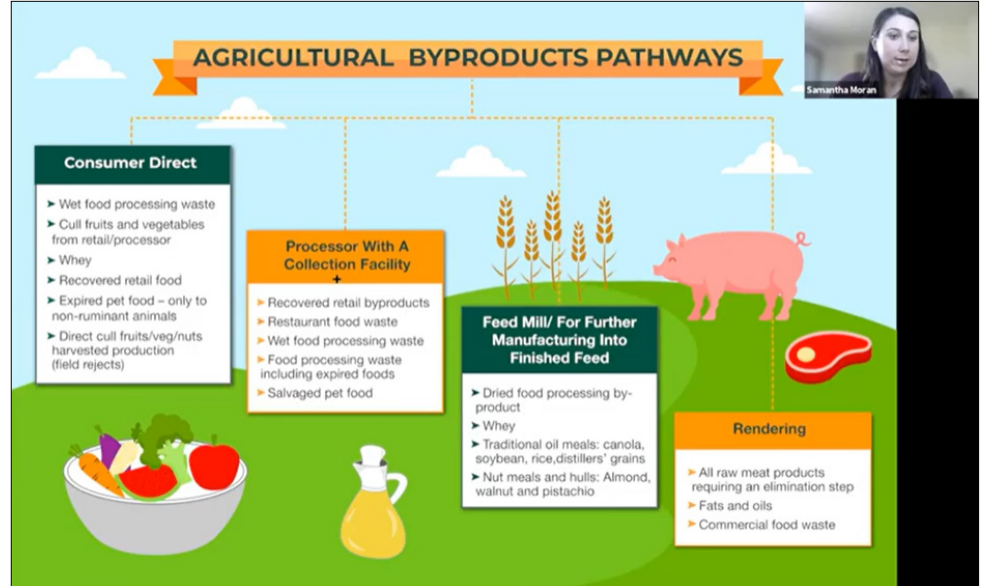
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# ENSURE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AG PRACTICES



The Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (CFRP) collaborated

with the feed industry to develop changes to Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations that became effective March 29, 2022. The changes include tonnage tax and licensing incentives for firms diverting eligible human food by-products to commercial feed.



CFRP Environmental Scientist Samantha Moran-Defty describes in a webinar how upcycling agricultural byproducts to livestock feed helps divert products from landfills to their highest and best use

## LIVESTOCK DRUGS PROGRAM

The [Livestock Drugs Program](#) examined research about *Asparagopsis taxiformis* (red seaweed) intended to be used as a digestive aid, which is considered a livestock drug product for cattle.



(Pictured) A commercial dairy feeding research trial evaluates the safety of *Asparagopsis taxiformis* (red seaweed) meal. Samples were obtained by staff from the Safe Animal Feed Education Program and evaluated for safety of analytes such as Bromoform, heavy metals, iodine and others.



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# ENSURE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AG PRACTICES

## FERTILIZER RESEARCH & EDUCATION PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE



The Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) participated in **6** agricultural conferences and events and helped coordinate **6** nitrogen and/or irrigation management training events for **340** growers and **89** Certified Crop Advisors, resulting in **74.5** hours of continuing education credits.

### Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)

#### What:

FREP funds and facilitates research and education to advance the environmentally safe and agronomically sound use and handling of fertilizing materials.

#### Why:

Significant nitrate in groundwater, believed to result from fertilizer application, was the impetus for the establishment of the program in 1990.

#### How:

Through a mill assessment (\$0.001 per dollar) on fertilizer sales.

*(Pictured) FREP Supervisor Mark Cady participates in the CDFA Earth Day webinar.*

FREP awarded **\$4.14 million** in grant funding

to agricultural organizations and universities to conduct nitrogen and irrigation outreach and research projects.



FREP received a **\$750,000** grant from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to assist specialty crop farmers implement efficient nitrogen application and irrigation practices to comply with water quality regulations in the Central Valley and Central Coast regions of California using a collaborative approach to outreach, education and training.

FREP received a **\$2 million** grant from the USDA for a research consortium to implement a demonstration and outreach approach to help farmers improve nitrogen fertilization and irrigation practices. The three-year project will deploy seven UC Cooperative Extension personnel to the San Joaquin Valley.

*Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.*



# ENSURE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AG PRACTICES

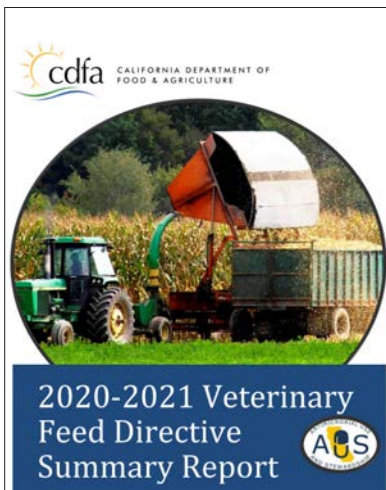
## CA STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM

The [California State Organic Program](#) and county staff conducted **1,514** inspections at farms, handling facilities, retail stores, farmers' markets and other areas of the supply chain where organic products are handled.

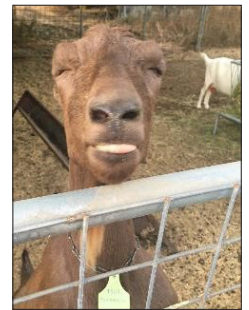


*(Pictured) Calves peek at visitors during organic dairy / livestock inspections.*

The [Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship Program](#) released an annual report highlighting efforts to reduce the development of antimicrobial resistance in animal agriculture. Included are updated goals for education and outreach.



## SAFE ANIMAL FEED EDUCATION (SAFE) PROGRAM



A research trial coordinated by the Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program to determine the viability of feeding hemp (bottom right) to livestock found through testing urine and blood samples (left) that tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) was found in the goats' milk and blood, although no THC was in the hemp. More research is required.

*Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.*



# ENSURE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AG PRACTICES

Through the [Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program](#), **190** climate-smart refrigeration units were installed, **3** refrigerated trucks were purchased and **1** grant round was opened for technical assistance providers.

## HEALTHY REFRIGERATION GRANT PROGRAM

(Pictured L-R) The before and after of the installation of a climate-smart refrigeration unit funded through the Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program at La Perla do Occidente in Orland.



The [Center for Analytical Chemistry](#) developed **40** new scientific methods while satisfying the regulatory and monitoring needs of **30** public agencies.



The [OCal Cannabis Certification Program](#) officially became part of the [Inspection Services Division](#). OCal establishes comparable-to-organic standards and ensures that cannabis products bearing the OCal seal have been certified to consistent, uniform standards comparable to the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Program.

## FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM



California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom (sitting) and CDFA Secretary Karen Ross (standing) join a farm to school tour at Mt. Diablo Unified School District in Contra Costa County in December. The Farm to School Program coordinated the tour to demonstrate the importance of school programs that connect climate-smart, California-produced food in cafeterias to food education in classrooms and school gardens.

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# EQUITY BUILDS CALIFORNIA FOR ALL



## FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom released “Planting the Seed: Farm to School Roadmap for Success,” which featured the efforts of CDFA’s [Office of Farm to Fork Farm to School Program](#), at a Farm to School Advisory Council and Interagency Working Group in May. View the roadmap at [www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Farm\\_To\\_School\\_Report\\_20220222-small.pdf](http://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Farm_To_School_Report_20220222-small.pdf).

The California State Budget allocated\* the [Office of Farm to Fork](#):

- \$60 million to sustain and expand Farm to School
- \$20 million to sustain the California Nutrition Incentive Program
- \$20 million to sustain and expand the Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program
- \$15 million to create a Farm to Community Food Hubs Program
- \$12 million to create an Urban Agriculture Program

*\*These figures were updated in the 2023-24 state budget proposal issued by Gov. Newsom in January 2023.*

## CALIFORNIA NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM



The [California Nutrition Incentive Program \(CNIP\)](#) announced seven new grantees will receive \$750,000 in grant funding to support shoppers using the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition programs.

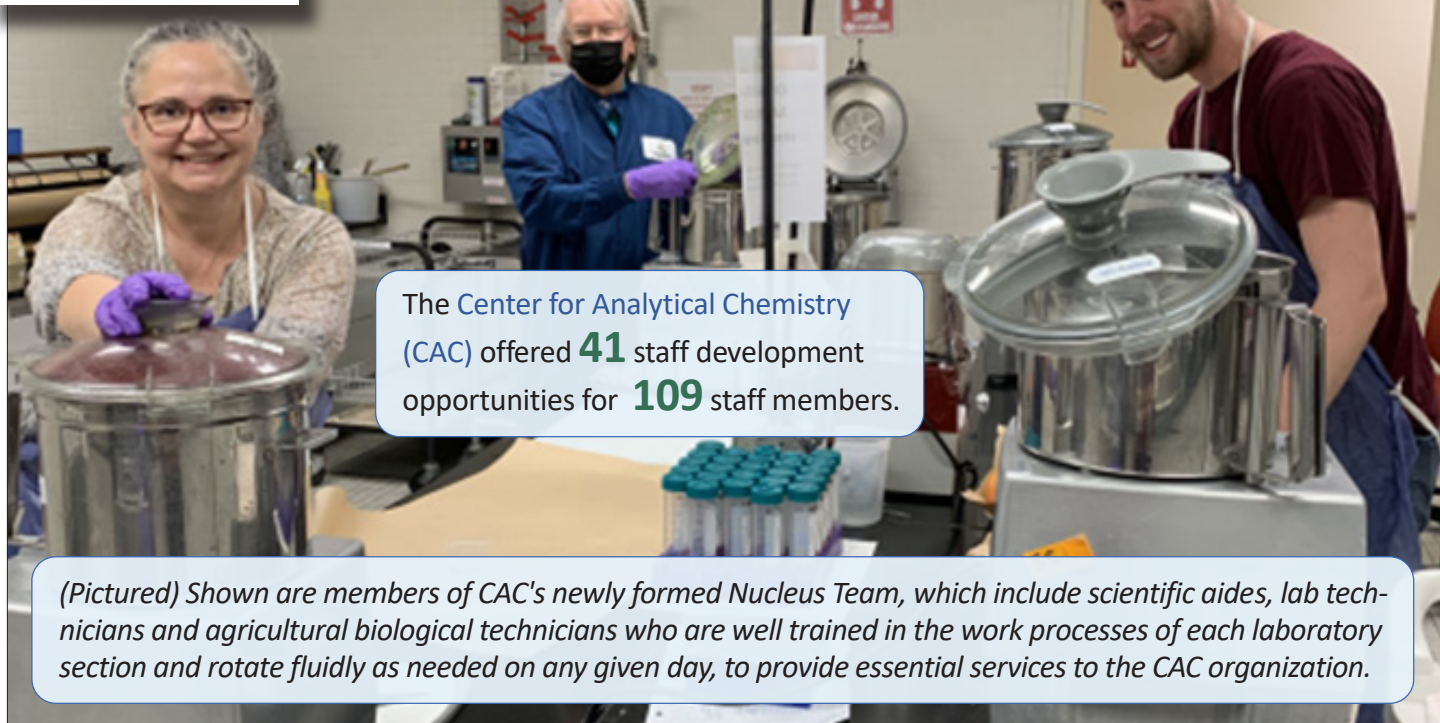
The USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture awarded [CNIP](#) a Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program COVID Relief and Response (GusCRR) grant of \$6,325,464 to support low-income shoppers throughout California.

*Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.*



# EQUITY BUILDS CALIFORNIA FOR ALL

## CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY



The Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) offered **41** staff development opportunities for **109** staff members.

*(Pictured) Shown are members of CAC's newly formed Nucleus Team, which include scientific aides, lab technicians and agricultural biological technicians who are well trained in the work processes of each laboratory section and rotate fluidly as needed on any given day, to provide essential services to the CAC organization.*



*(Pictured) SOP conducts enforcement training with San Francisco County staff at the Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market in San Francisco.*

The California State Organic Program (SOP) contracts with **54** county agricultural commissioner offices to conduct registration and enforcement activities on behalf of the SOP.



Mayze  
Fowler-Riggs

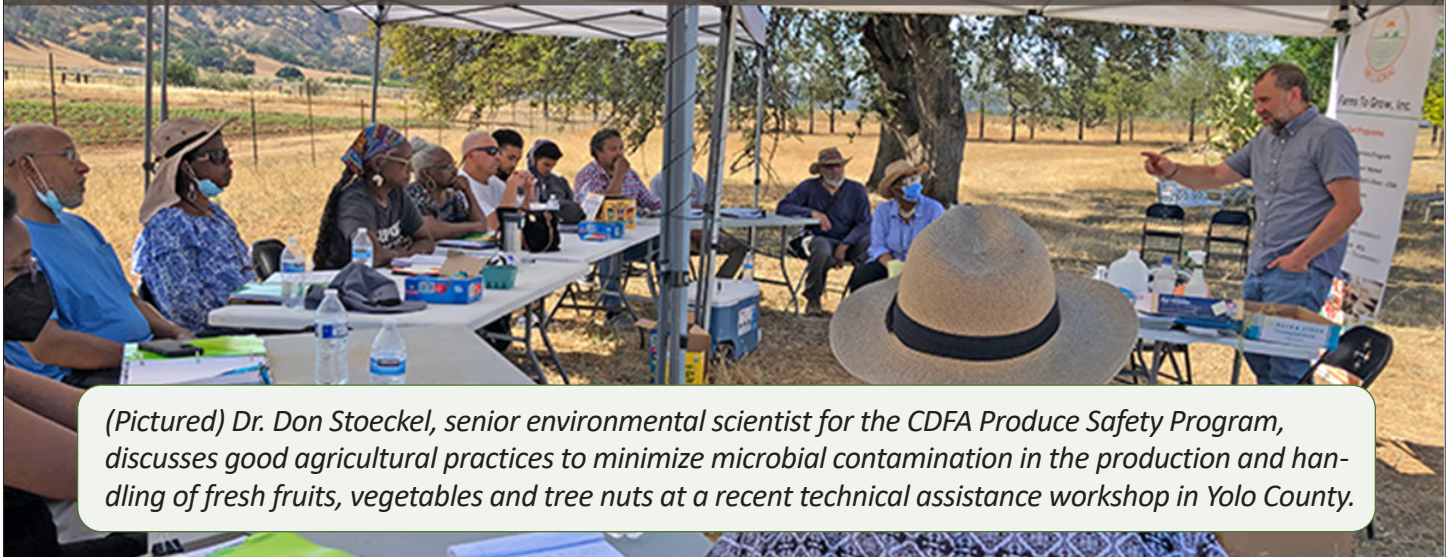
SOP Special Investigator Mayze Fowler-Riggs was elected as one of three steering members of the CDFA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

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# EQUITY BUILDS CALIFORNIA FOR ALL

## CDFA environmental scientist offers technical assistance at Farming to Grow California's Black Specialty Crop Farmers workshop



*(Pictured) Dr. Don Stoeckel, senior environmental scientist for the CDFA Produce Safety Program, discusses good agricultural practices to minimize microbial contamination in the production and handling of fresh fruits, vegetables and tree nuts at a recent technical assistance workshop in Yolo County.*



Fertilizer Research and Education Program staff attended a listening session organized by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by small, diversified growers who must comply with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

### Technical Assistance Program

FOOD SAFETY RESOURCE for small and very small produce farms



The [Technical Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) assisted with a Hmong Produce Safety Alliance Training in Fresno November 9-10.

[TAP](#) assisted with a consumer survey to establish Asian vegetables that are "rarely consumed raw." The data was included in National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition public comment to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for inclusion of some of these crops on the rarely consumed raw list.

[TAP](#) began contracts with six multilingual University of California Cooperative Extension specialists to offer technical assistance to farmers across California for food safety, compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), on-farm treatment for pre-harvest and post-harvest ag water and more.

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# EQUITY BUILDS CALIFORNIA FOR ALL

## Next Generation



(Left) CDFA Undersecretary Christine Birdsong (second from left) and ISD Director Natalie Krout-Greenberg (right) stand with students in a scholarship program supported by CDFA and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to increase minority college students' exposure to employment, education and business in state departments of agriculture. (Right) ISD Director Krout-Greenberg (back row, center) meets with CA Future Farmers of America (FFA) students participating in the Sacramento Leadership Experience during #FFAweek.



The **Inspection Services Division** coordinated **35** board / committee / subcommittee meetings, including **20** in the **Inspection & Compliance (ICB) Branch** and **15** in the **Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS) Branch**.

### ICB COMMITTEE / SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

8/9/21	California Organic Products Advisory Committee Fund Condition Subcommittee
8/24/21	Avocado Inspection Committee Regulatory Subcommittee
9/14/21	Avocado Inspection Committee
9/23/21	California Organic Products Advisory Committee
10/4/21	Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee
10/26/21	Standardization Advisory Committee
11/1/21	Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee (CFMAC) Database Subcommittee
11/16/21	California Citrus Advisory Committee
12/6/21	Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee
12/7/21	California Citrus Advisory Committee
1/27/22	California Organic Products Advisory Committee
2/7/22	CFMAC Regulations Subcommittee
3/7/22	Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee
3/8/22	Avocado Inspection Committee
3/10/22	Standardization Advisory Committee
3/15/22	California Citrus Advisory Committee
3/21/22	CFMAC Regulations Subcommittee

4/4/21 CFMAC Database Subcommittee

5/10/22 California Organic Products Advisory Committee

5/24/22 Shipping Point Inspection Committee

### FFLDRS BOARD / SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

7/1/21 Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board

7/19/21 Feed Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB (Feed)) Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)

7/22/21 Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB (Fertilizer))TASC

7/28/21 Feed Inspection Advisory Board

9/22/21 FIAB (Feed) Regulatory Subcommittee

9/29/21 Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board

10/22/21 FIAB (Feed) TASC

10/27/21 Feed Inspection Advisory Board

11/12/21 FIAB (Fertilizer) TASC

1/13/22 Feed Inspection Advisory Board

2/17/22 Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board

3/8/22 FIAB (Fertilizer) TASC

4/13/22 Feed Inspection Advisory Board

6/6/22 FIAB (Fertilizer) TASC

6/21/22 Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board

*Above is a selection of highlights from the work ISD completed in FY2021-22; it is not comprehensive.*

# STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Justin Petty

### PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE FOOD SUPPLY

**NAME, TITLE, PROGRAM:** Justin Petty, Special Investigator, Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program

**YEARS AT CDFA:** 13

**HOW DO YOU WORK FOR THE CALIFORNIA FOOD SUPPLY?** *I educate and regulate producers of fertilizing materials to assure safe and effective products are available to growers of California's precious commodities. Sampling of fertilizer products and audits of manufacturers are daily activities that contribute to the quality and effectiveness of fertilizers sold and distributed in California.*

**NAME, TITLE, PROGRAM:** Roland Carlson, Senior Environmental Scientist, Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) Food Safety (FS) Laboratory

**YEARS AT CDFA:** 15

**HOW DO YOU WORK FOR THE CALIFORNIA FOOD SUPPLY?** *Our FS laboratories ensure the safety of produce sold in California by monitoring fruits and vegetables through a unique combination of our expertise and top-of-the-line technology. Our high-quality analyses and data points also are used to demonstrate the high quality of California's food supply nationwide and in international markets.*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Roland Carlson

### PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE FOOD SUPPLY

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Amy Garfinkel

### PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE FOOD SUPPLY

**NAME, TITLE, PROGRAM:** Amy Garfinkel, Farm to School Network Lead, Farm to School Program

**YEARS AT CDFA:** 2

**HOW DO YOU WORK FOR THE CALIFORNIA FOOD SUPPLY?** *Our team helps to support California farm to school programs, which connect California food producers and schools, increase students' access to California-grown food in school meals, and engage students in hands-on learning opportunities about food.*

**NAME, TITLE, PROGRAM:** Anna Carrasquillo, Fruits & Vegetables QC Supervisor II

**YEARS AT CDFA:** 7

**HOW DO YOU WORK FOR THE CALIFORNIA FOOD SUPPLY?** *As part of the Standardization team, I work inspecting fresh fruits and vegetables by preventing any substandard product reaching any channels of commerce and protecting the nation's food chain.*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Anna Carrasquillo

### PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE FOOD SUPPLY



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## RETIREMENTS

Inspection Services Division recognizes with gratitude these staff members who retired during FY21-22:

**Jorge Hernandez** (CAC), after 39 years of state service

**Amy Cook** (CAC), after 32 years of state service

**Danny Parks** (FFLDRS), after 20 years of state service

**Nelida Castillo-Padron** (CAC), after 13 years of state service

**Paul Wooley** (CAC), after 5 years of state service

## CONTRIBUTING INDIVIDUALS

The following individuals contributed to this publication:

**Cecilia Baumann** (Admin)

**Joshua Bingham** (Admin)

**Carla Bocanegra-Sanchez** (Admin)

**Natalie Krout-Greenberg** (Admin)

**Nick Anicich** (CDFA-F2F)

**Mai Err Chang** (CDFA-F2F)

**Rachel Finkes** (CDFA-F2F)

**Elysia Fong** (CDFA-F2F)

**Elisa Gollub** (CDFA-F2F)

**Sarah Hanson** (CDFA-F2F)

**Carly Long** (CDFA-F2F)

**Irene Vera** (CDFA-F2F)

**Karrie Batchelor** (ICB)

**Kevin Batchelor** (ICB)

**Sarah Cardoni** (ICB)

**Mayze Fowler-Riggs** (ICB)

**Charlene Graham** (ICB)

**Stacey Hughes** (ICB)

**Danny Lee** (ICB)

**Jennifer Leidolf** (ICB)

**Lina Nguyen** (ICB)

**Laura Oliver** (ICB)

**Steve Patton** (ICB)

**Samuel Santander** (ICB)

**Marcee Yount** (ICB)

**Wendy Hoag** (PSP)

**Geetika Joshi** (PSP)

**Sarah Standiford** (PSP)

**Amadou Ba** (FFLDRS)

**Martin Burger** (FFLDRS)

**Jennifer Harmon** (FFLDRS)

**Angelia Johnson** (FFLDRS)

**Jenna Leal** (FFLDRS)

**Erika Lewis** (FFLDRS)

**Cathryn McCandless** (FFLDRS)

**Maria Tenorio Alfred** (FFLDRS)

**Suzanne Turcotte** (FFLDRS)

**Brittnie Williams** (FFLDRS)

**Nick Young** (FFLDRS)

**Stacy Aylesworth** (CAC)

**Sarva Balachandra** (CAC)

**Poonam Chandra** (CAC)

**Suzanne Conrad** (CAC)

**Maryam Khosravifard** (CAC)

**Barzin Moradi** (CAC)

**Jacob Oaxaca** (CAC)

**John Pedigo** (CAC)

**Tiffany Tu** (CAC)

**Ed Williams** (former employee,  
photo above)



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
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DIVISION OF INSPECTION SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

(FY 2021-22)