

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF INSPECTION SERVICES

**DIVISION OF
INSPECTION SERVICES
2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE**

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INTRODUCTION



Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

- Integrity:** We are truthful, trustworthy and operate in a fair and ethical manner.
- Transparency:** We conduct all operations in an open manner.
- Accountability:** We are responsible to ourselves and others for our actions and decisions.
- Thoughtful Communication:** We listen and share information openly and honestly with the goal of mutual understanding.
- Respect:** We treat everyone with courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Creativity:** We believe in fostering a creative environment.
- Balance:** We strive to maintain effective partnerships so that our decisions are fair to all our stakeholders.
- Diversity:** We are committed to maintaining a diverse workforce.

A Message from the Director

2012 proved once again that the only constant in life is change. Dear and trusted coworkers left for new challenges while new colleagues stepped in to bring fresh ideas, perspectives, and approaches to existing programs and procedures. And while the Division was not directly impacted by the General Fund cuts to the Department, Inspection Services programs and staff are always mindful of the impacts to our affected industry and worked diligently to be smarter, lighter, and more efficient.

As you read through the Annual Report, please pay particular attention to the Branch Highlights. This past year has brought about many new initiatives that have required extraordinary efforts by many individuals. The Center for Watershed Sciences report, "Addressing Nitrate in California's Drinking Water" (*Harter/Lund et al*) to the State Water Resources Control Board, not only brought a laser-like focus to nitrogen use and production agriculture, it also brought significant focus to the Fertilizing Materials Inspection and the Fertilizer Research and Education Programs. By doing so, it provided great opportunities to not only highlight past accomplishments, but also allowed them to demonstrate the incredible work being done on new efforts designed to help agriculturalists and regulators in meeting future challenges in a meaningful way.

Food safety continues to be a cornerstone of activities with the Division. With the pending roll out of the Food and Drug Administration's regulations for the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA), our involvement is becoming increasingly important. The Inspection and Compliance Branch's, Food Safety and Inspection Unit, continues to expand its Audit Verification activities. The Branch also developed a "Small Farm Food Safety Guidelines" booklet and successfully provided training to small and ethnically diverse farmers throughout the state.

The Feed Inspection Program (FIP) maintains its rightful place as a national leader and integral resource to the states livestock feed manufacturers and distributors by protecting against the inclusion of adulterated ingredients and maintaining the health of valuable livestock and milk supply. Please pay particular attention to the important role that FIP played in quickly resolving a case of "Mad Cow" disease.



Rick S. Jensen

The Safe Animal Feed and Education Program (SAFE), is expanding efforts and improving their systems to provide invaluable guidance to California feed manufacturers.

Inspection Services continues to embrace technology to improve systems, efficiencies, and capabilities. The Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) continues to amaze with their ability to identify and implement emerging technology into their operations. Not just in analytical services but in ways to reuse the CACs footprint on the environment.

I would like to take this moment to thank everyone here in Inspection Services for your continued dedication, hard work and professionalism displayed throughout the year. Without any one of you, we would not be what we are. I also want to provide a special acknowledgement to Corrine Madison and Fiona Mattson for diligently putting this report together, while many provided the pieces, the two of you managed to put it into something that we can be proud of, thank you!

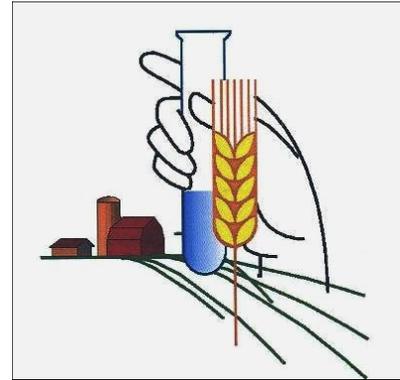
DIVISION BRANCHES



Division Branch Descriptions

Center for Analytical Chemistry

The Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) is a state-of-the-art chemistry laboratory with facilities located in Sacramento, and Anaheim, California. Their mission is to provide impartial, timely, accurate, and cost effective analytical services. The Center consists of two main sections - Food Safety, and Environmental Safety.



Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services

The Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch (FFLDRS) is designed to provide Californians with an abundant supply of clean and wholesome food and fiber. FFLDRS works to ensure that all feed, fertilizing materials, and livestock drugs sold in California are safe, effective, and meet the manufacturers' quality and quantity guarantees. FFLDRS also has a crucial role in the protection of the State's environment by regulating the manufacture and distribution of the fertilizing materials used in agriculture.

Inspection and Compliance

The Inspection and Compliance Branch (I&C) oversees the fair and orderly marketing of agricultural commodities in California. The six main programs of the branch are designed to protect producers, packers, shippers, and processors while ensuring the quality and integrity of both fresh and processed fruits and vegetables offered to California's consumers.



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Preface

Throughout 2012, the division branches have made huge strides in improving our service to California's agriculture industry, as well as its citizens. The Center for Analytical Chemistry, the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch, and the Inspection and Compliance Branch have all worked tirelessly to ensure our department's mission, goals, and values are not only met, but exceeded. This section is intended to highlight their achievements in five main focus areas: food safety, outreach and education, direct marketing, organic, and optimization of resources.

Center for Analytical Chemistry

Food Safety

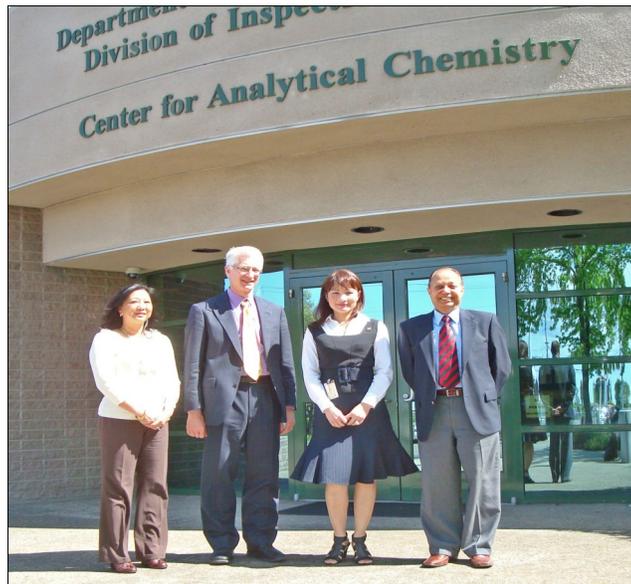
In the effort of optimizing our services and maintaining program relevance, the Food Safety (FS) laboratories continue to expand the scope of our analytical methods and improve work procedures. In July 2012, the Sacramento Pesticide Residue (PR) laboratory switched to using the QuEChERS ("Quick Easy Cheap Effective Rugged and Safe") extraction and instituted the Liquid and Gas-Chromatography-TandemMass-Spectrometry (LC and GC-MS/MS) detection system. This sample preparation approach uses little solvent, is easy to perform, takes less time, and provides good recovery for a broad scope of pesticides. The procedural change resulted not only in tremendous savings in analysis time and instrumentation but more importantly, the method expansion was necessary for the State Residue Monitoring (SRM) program to remain pertinent in the food safety surveillance arena.

Critical to the success of the method expansion is the data processing software that the FS laboratory incorporated. The software programs assist analysts to accurately detect and quantify for more than 330 compounds and their metabolites per analytical sequence of a twenty-minute run. Our staff worked with instrument vendors and their software developers to optimize the essential element of analytical method. Without assisted software, it would be a daunting task to monitor for a large pesticide screen such as CDFA -Multi-Residue Screen.

Another highlight of this year is the Specialty Crop grant of \$270,000 the PR laboratory received. The much needed grant money was used to purchase a GC-MS/MS and sample preparation equipment that would increase work throughput, provide faster samples turnaround time, and improve data accuracy. The immediate beneficiaries of the grant are California consumers as they can be assured the food supply is being monitored for harmful pesticides. Concurrently, with installing the new instruments, the Pesticide Residue section completed a major lab upgrade to bring in necessary power for the equipment, improve workflow; and comply with safety regulations. Our plan is to renovate another section next year to accommodate program expansion.

The Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) is customer service oriented, proactively works with our clients, and also reaches out to local schools and colleges to promote the interest in science in future generations. In 2012, the CAC hosted Lab tours to Folsom College and the University of Pacific chemistry students, volunteered as judges at a local science fair, and participated in State Science Day at the Capitol.

Another 2012 highlight that we are very proud of was successfully achieving ISO 17025- the International Standard for laboratories-accreditation for another two years. The entire staff of the CAC worked diligently to maintain the level of analytical excellence required to be an ISO accredited laboratory. In 2004, the CAC became the first State laboratory to achieve ISO 17025 accreditation and has maintained this accreditation for nine years.



Pictured from left to right: Elaine Wong (CDFA, CAC, Environmental Program Manager I), Brian Leahy (California Department of Pesticide Regulations, Director) Tiffany Tu (CDFA, CAC, Environmental Program Manager I), and Nirmal Saini (CDFA, CAC, Environmental Program Manager II).

Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drug Regulatory Services Branch

Fertilizing Materials Label Review Organic Input Materials

In 2012, the registration staff emphasized a direct engagement with the fertilizing industry in order to achieve a more complete and higher quality registration program. Each registration staff scientist visited one or more fertilizing material manufacturers in California and observed production processes. Each visit, accompanied by a CDFA field inspector, connected the manufacturing, production, and marketing by industry to the regulatory review process.

The connection to the regulated industry was furthered by a two-day registration workshop in Seaside, CA open to all aspects of the fertilizer industry. Formal presentations about the registration process were made by registration staff, including updates on regulations for both conventional and organic fertilizers. Registration specialists met individually with attending registrants to clarify issues specific to certain product types, which helped make registration more efficient in 2012.

During 2012, over 6,300 conventional fertilizing products were updated and/or approved along with nearly 700 organic input materials. The Program has continued to interact with the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) as it refines the Organic Input evaluation process. NOP staff presented at the FFLDRS yearly meeting and the Organic Input Materials (OIM) program is actively pursuing accreditation from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).



Organic Input Materials (OIM); Onsite inspections of OIM manufacturers.

Feed Inspection Program

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Investigation

On April 24, 2012 the U.S. Department of Agriculture detected a case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also known as “mad cow disease,” in Central California. This was an atypical case of BSE involving one animal and no material entered the human food supply.

BSE is a fatal disease of cattle first recognized in the United Kingdom in 1986. Most research suggests an abnormal protein, known as a prion, causes BSE. Scientific evidence shows the same disease agent that causes BSE in cattle also causes the new human disease, variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease. BSE spreads in cattle primarily through animal feed containing processed ruminant products.

Feed Inspection Program investigators worked closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to identify the sources of feed and feed ingredients consumed by the affected animal. The Program was able to trace the infected animal’s feed supply records from birth to slaughter. Eleven years of feed records were carefully audited and investigators verified that no prohibited material was fed to the infected animal. Based on the results of the Program’s investigation the FDA reported that animal feed was not the cause of BSE.

Inspection and Compliance Branch

Food Safety Highlights

CDFA, Inspection and Compliance, Food Safety Unit is working toward achieving ISO 65 accreditation. We have created and recently began implementation of a new quality control system to comply with ISO-65 guideline. This accreditation, once received, will allow CDFA to offer an audit choice to its customers or clients.

Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) audits and Harmonized audits have increased due to the tree fruit, citrus, and avocado industries need to implement an audited food safety program. In 2012 the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board industry came to us seeking our involvement in providing auditing services similar to the California Tomato Farmers and the Leafy Green Programs; because of this need, informational audits were conducted. During the upcoming 2013 season, we will conduct cantaloupe audits using the Cantaloupe Advisory Board Food Safety Matrix.

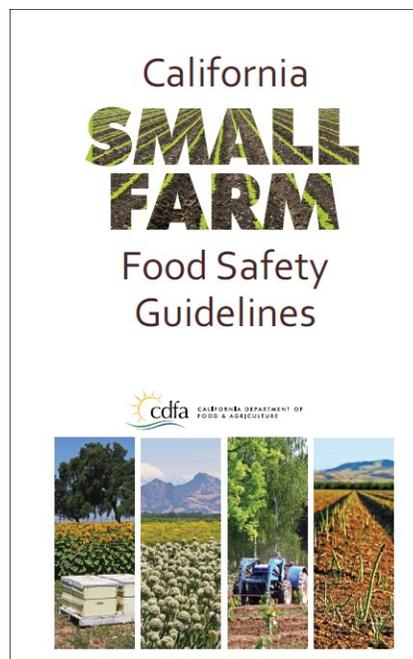
Food Safety Grant

Outbreaks of food borne illness and the increasing popularity of small farmers selling specialty crops at farmers’ markets has made small farm food safety an important emerging concern. New food safety regulations to be enacted at the federal level are targeted toward large scale farming operations. However, there were no comprehensive farm food safety educational materials targeted toward small specialty crop growers.

In response to these concerns the Shipping Point Inspection Program received two grants in 2012. Phase I was designed to increase the food safety knowledge of California’s small specialty crop farmers by creating educational materials tailored to meet their unique needs. The materials were aimed to inform small specialty crop farmers of the benefits and importance of enacting a food safety program, as well as teach them how to develop and implement their own programs. As a result a food safety booklet was produced in seven languages; English, Spanish, Hmong, Lao, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Tagalog.

The second grant, or Phase II, was implemented to distribute the multimedia education materials to small specialty crop farmers and provide a series of workshops on food safety practices. The goal of the workshop series was to provide a set of tools and guidelines for farmers to build a foundational knowledge to increase their food safety practice standards. As a result there were 15 workshops held in 11 locations throughout California and presented in four languages. In addition, a Cost Share program was created with applications available to all workshop attendees and other interested parties. The Cost Share program would reimburse, up to \$200, to any small farm who inputs food safety measures such as Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices audits, water testing, soil testing, etc.

Food Safety booklet which is currently in the following seven languages: English, Spanish, Hmong, Lao, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Tagalog.



Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drug Regulatory Services Branch

Fertilizing Material Inspection Program

Outreach activities are an integral part of the Fertilizing Material Inspection Program (FMIP) activities. In 2012, the program engaged in outreach activities to share program's achievements with stakeholders by holding meetings with:

- Accredited certifying agents
- Grower Communities in Napa, Apple Valley, and Alexander Valley
- Material Review Organizations
- California Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) Area Groups: San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, Sacramento, and Central Coast Area Groups
- United States Department of Agriculture– National Organic Program (USDA-NOP)
- Registration workshop for fertilizing material licenses

The Feed Inspection Program

Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law by President Obama on January 4, 2011. It aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination, to preventing it. Without formal FSMA regulations in place for the production of animal feed for industry to comply with, the SAFE program has taken voluntary proactive measures to help feed mills in California. SAFE, by means of voluntary feed quality assurance audits has provided industry with a three-tier approach to food safety compliance. Audits are performed at a manufacturer's facility and the Program provides the facility with a detailed report after each audit.

With this approach the Program has seen a 40% decrease in the number of high violating firms in 2012 compared to 2011. The SAFE Program remains focused on feed safety.

California Feed Industry Workshop

On November 15, 2012 in Modesto, California, SAFE conducted an industry workshop designed to educate industry on steps to take for a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points approach to animal feed production. CDFA Undersecretary Sandra Schubert addressed the participants and shared the Department's "Global Perspective" on food and feed safety. Industry experts discussed feed production methods utilized at the feed production facilities. The workshop attendance was 125 and included nutritionists, plant managers, and regulators.

CDFA/Fertilizer Research Education Program (FREP) Coordination with the University of California Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) – Workshops

In June 2012, FREP partnered with the University of California Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) California Institute of Water Resources (CIWR) to hold a series of forums titled “Managing Agricultural Nitrogen.” Held in Sacramento and Tulare, the forums were free and open to the public and were geared toward growers, dairy operators, agency representatives, agricultural commissioners, policymakers, and other concerned community members. The goals of these forums were to discuss the role of policy in nitrogen management, explore solutions to nitrates in groundwater, and cover the need for additional research and education.

Nitrogen Management Training Program

FREP, in collaboration with the University of California Department of Agricultural and Natural Resources (UC ANR) is developing a voluntary nitrogen management training program for CCAs. Several Regional Water Quality Control Boards in California are implementing new nitrogen fertilizer use reporting requirements on growers in nitrate sensitive areas. The CCA program has been identified as an ideal resource to assist growers with addressing these emerging regulations. The additional training provided by the nitrogen management training program will enhance CCAs’ ability to advise growers on nitrogen management issues, specific to the unique regions and agricultural practices across California.

Database Improvements

FFLDRS utilizes an online database that is accessible to its clients. The database is used for licensing, product registration, and for tonnage and mill tax reporting. Process improvements include increasing the systems load capacity for better processing capability. The system can now handle multiple users at faster speeds, resulting in quicker processing times for our clients. Approximately 4,563 license holders are currently registered users that within the FFLDRS online system.



Inspection and Compliance Branch

Market Manager Grant

In 2012, a grant was awarded to the Certified Farmers' Market (CFM) Program to create and implement a market manager training curriculum. CFM managers are the first line of enforcement and are statutorily mandated to ensure that certified producers follow the rules, regulations, and statutes governing the CFM Program. While many CFM Managers are industry professionals, a substantial number are volunteers who may be unaware of the rules and regulations governing CFMs. Beginning in April 2013, there will be eleven market manager training sessions held throughout California.

Direct Marketing Ad Hoc Committee

Secretary Karen Ross commissioned a broad based association of Direct Marketing stakeholders in October, 2011. This Ad-Hoc Committee was charged with examining all direct marketing activities occurring within the state of California and suggesting improvements. The areas of focus were: Certified Farmers Markets; community supported agriculture; approved source definition; increasing access to fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and identifying potential regulatory barriers.

This was the first time all the direct marketing community participants had convened to discuss the issues. There was representation from CDFA; California Department of Public Health; local Environmental Health Agencies; California Agricultural Commissioners; California Farm Bureau; Western Growers Association; Buy California; California Certified Producers and Market Managers; California Alliance for Family Farmers, and various legislative aides.

The committee provided the Secretary with its report in December 2012. The biggest conclusion was that the term "Direct Marketing" is not a one-size-fits-all industry. There are differences both philosophically and regulatory among the various entities that sell their products directly to the consumer. There was consensus on the need to improve communication amongst all participants and to share enforcement activities between markets themselves. Participants supported the current structure of Certified Farmers' Markets but wanted improved and increased enforcement. In addition, there was agreement on definitions of who may claim to be a Community Supported Agriculture organization.

The committee's larger success was to shed some light on the individual challenges each group brought forward and foster a greater understanding of their goals, objectives and hurdles they face moving forward.

Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drug Regulatory Services Branch

Highlights For Fertilizing Materials Label Review

Organic Input Material Inspections (OIM)

In 2012, the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) began annual Organic Input Material inspection audits for manufacturers who produce fertilizing material for use in organic food and crop production. These detailed inspections ensure compliance with the USDA's National Organic Program and these inspection audits are vital to ensure the organic integrity of agricultural inputs. CDFA achieved their goal by performing inspections at all Organic Input Material manufacturers in California. A total of 131 licensed locations were inspected for Organic Input Materials in 2012. This number is expected to grow by 10-20% in 2013.

This year, FMIP also initiated civil penalty enforcement actions as a tool to generate better compliance in critical areas of risk.

Inspection and Compliance

Organic Cost Share

In summary, the State Organic Program (SOP) received a grant of \$1.05 million of which 10% would include overhead costs to the SOP for the organic cost share contract. An amended contract amount of \$350,000 was requested increasing the funding amount to \$1.4 million. The National Organic Program (NOP) recognizes different categories of certification: crops, wild crops, livestock, and processing/handling.

Operations may receive one reimbursement per certificate or category of certification per year. The increase in grant funding was due to additional applications received and payment of categories of work performed as opposed to one category in previous years. Of the 3,818 certified organic operations with organic facilities within the State of California, 1,848 filed a cost share application with 1,814 receiving reimbursement for a total of \$1,307,042.79. The remaining balance was to reimburse the program for the cost of implementation.

Center for Analytical Chemistry Branch

Energy Efficiency Projects

In 2012, with the assistance of Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the CAC implemented several energy efficiency projects. These projects included the replacement of the HVAC system, the boilers and the chiller unit for Building B, with new energy efficient, higher capacity models. In addition, thirty-six motion sensor lights were installed throughout the Center to cut down on energy usage. Implementing these changes will save the Center more than 120,000 kilowatts of power, translating to a savings of more than \$16,000 annually and reducing CO₂ emissions by 106,000 pounds each year.

Additionally, CAC has enrolled in SMUD's Greenergy Program, to support 37% of its annual energy needs with renewable power and SMUD's Voluntary Emergency Curtailment Program. The Curtailment Program contacts participants during expected communitywide power shortages to have them reduce electricity usage. During these power shortages, the lab will turn off non-essential equipment and lighting, without causing any impact to critical work assignments.

As a result of these energy saving improvements, the lab was recognized for its commitment to energy efficiency and environmental health and was presented with the 2012 Community Energy Award by SMUD.



Pictured left: Wanda Yee (SMUD), and Nirmal Saini (CDFA, CAC) during a tour of the lab.

Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch

Fertilizer Research Education Program (FREP) Research Database

In partnership with researchers at UC Davis, FREP has developed a searchable, web-based database of FREP research projects. This database aims to make the wealth of information contained in FREP research reports readily available, easily understandable, and convenient for growers and crop advisors to implement. Phase I of the project was completed in July; all 120 completed FREP projects have been summarized and entered in the database. New records will continue to be added to the database as additional projects are completed.

FREP Special Request for Proposals

In 2012, FREP released its first-ever Special Request for Proposals. The purpose of this Special RFP was to specifically address the issue of nitrates in groundwater in California's environmentally sensitive areas. The Special RFP called for proposals focusing on research that utilized the "pump and fertilize" method in concert with nitrogen budget worksheets to show proof-of-concept. Two projects were selected for funding and are currently in the development stages. The projects will demonstrate if the "pump and fertilize" is an effective method in reducing use of nitrogen fertilizer based on the nitrates available in the ground water, and subsequently reduces nitrate levels in groundwater aquifers.

CDFA Collaboration with Central Valley Water Board/Eastern San Joaquin Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR)

CDFA has engaged in discussions with the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board staff on the Eastern San Joaquin Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) by providing agronomic expertise and addressing the feasibility of some of the requirements. CDFA has also been engaged in discussions with coalition staff on providing scientific expertise on potential practical solutions to address nitrates in groundwater systems. The FREP CCA nitrogen management training initiative was designed to train CCAs to help growers with nitrogen management plans which will be required in some areas according to the WDR.

Inspection and Compliance

Organic Program Database

This project began in August 2011, although its original conception was in 2003. It began with the thought of replacing the current antiquated and dysfunctional database system with a robust, web-based system that would allow all users (CDFA, reporting operations, county enforcement staff, certifying agents, and to a lesser degree the public) access to information collected for management and statistical reporting purposes. It is designed to allow sharing of real time data between state and county enforcement agents.

This new system allows for online input and reporting of:

Registration Activities: new applications, amendments, and renewals by organic operators: a registrant can go online and manage his or her account without needing to print or mail anything to CDFA.

Complaint reporting and handling: CDFA has incorporated its complaint handling program into the new database to provide more flexibility and ease of management to the program.

Enforcement Activities:

The new system allows for information and documentation related to enforcement activities to be collected, issuance of violations, corrective actions, investigative reporting and other related activities. Operation inspections, as well as samples and analysis results, may be tracked through the database. Users can make online credit card payments, and access statistical reports based on data collected, crop, acreage, geographical location, and value.

The wealth of information collected with this new system will help identify areas, conditions, or trends that need closer focus for industry outreach and enforcement activity. The information can also help identify areas within the organic industry that might be in jeopardy due to damage by disease or contamination.



Standardization Program Database

The Standardization Program's new database will include user-friendly web access available to industry, counties, and other state agencies. The new database will improve the accounting systems at CDFA and will also increase the services available to the industry and the County Agricultural Commissioners.

Similar to the Organic Program, this unprecedented database will allow enhanced interaction between the Standardization Program, industries, and partnering counties. The database will also permit our registered handlers to submit monthly remittance forms online. In addition, the new system will allow a registered handler to view his/her account information online and will provide them with an electronic payment option as an added convenience. The database will allow our partnering counties the ability to submit enforcement work reports and monthly invoices online. County personnel will have the ability to access shared inspection information, thereby providing a standardized, uniform, statewide enforcement program.



OVERVIEW OF BRANCHES



Center for Analytical Chemistry

Pages 28-41

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

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Inspection and Compliance

Pages 56-62

CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY



Center for Analytical Chemistry *Branch Summary*

The Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) is a state-of-the-art chemistry laboratory with facilities located in Sacramento and Anaheim, California. The Center consists of two main sections - Food Safety, and Environmental Safety. The Center also has an independent Quality Assurance unit that is responsible for the Center's Quality Management System. The CAC is ISO-17025:2005 accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) organization (fulfilling the General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories).

The mission of the CAC is to provide impartial, timely, accurate, and cost effective analytical services. To establish and maintain the highest possible quality of our services, our staff regularly receive training from experts in the fields of chemical analysis. In addition, the CAC also keeps abreast of issues that affect our clients' missions to ensure the program's relevance. Each year, the CAC hosts many meetings and workshops, and receives visitors from not

only California, but across the country and around the world. These events and visits spotlight the CAC and provide opportunities for our staff to share their expertise and exchange ideas with colleagues, as well as learn from the experts of the analytical chemistry world. Staff members are also invited to speak at local colleges.

Our philosophy embraces the belief that an organization is only as strong as its individual members. Our employees are valued for their input. We strive to foster a spirit of continuous learning and cooperation and the idea of excellence in service. Our on-going goals are to: continually improve data quality and system efficiency; strengthen our collaboration efforts and involvement with other food safety organizations; enhance infrastructure; and, attain clients' complete satisfaction. These goals align with our mission of providing high quality and cost effective analytical services.



Food Safety Laboratory

The primary role of the Food Safety (FS) Laboratory at the CAC is to provide testing to local, state, and federal agencies that work to protect the nation's food supply. The program consists of Pesticide Residue (PR), USDA-Pesticide Data Program (PDP) and a dairy laboratory. Besides its contract work, the FS laboratories voluntarily participate in the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN). FERN is a national organization comprised of governmental food-testing laboratories that respond to emergencies involving biological, chemical, or radiological contamination of food. The PR section is also a member of the FDA-Electronic Laboratory Exchange Network (eLEXNET), which is the data capture and communication system for FERN.



Pesticide Residue Laboratories

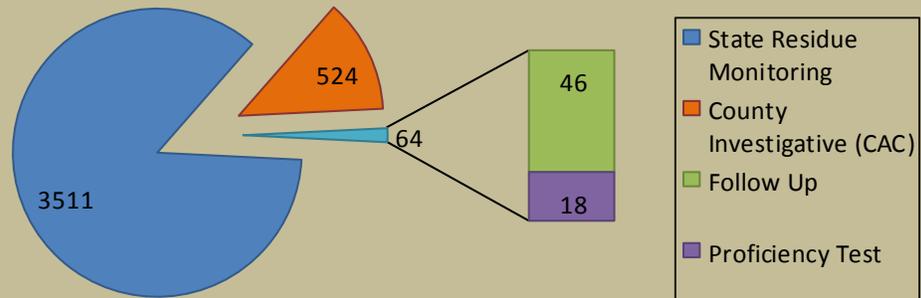
The Pesticide Residue (PR) laboratories, in the Food Safety section of CAC, provide agrochemical analyses on food and environmental samples to support California's growers and County Agricultural Commissioners, as well as several state and federal regulatory agencies.

The PR Laboratories provide analytical support to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) for its mandates to perform comprehensive pesticide risk assessment and to promote effective enforcement of state and federal pesticide regulations. Through the State Residue Monitoring (SRM) program, laboratories analyze pesticide residues in fresh produce to ensure industry's compliance with the tolerance standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Samples for the PR labs arrive from all California counties, as well as the global market. The

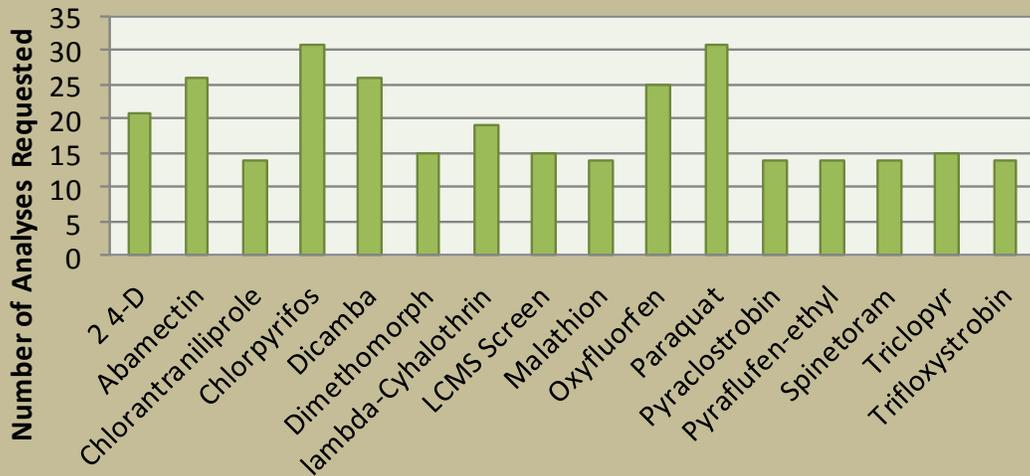
PR laboratories also perform analytical testing for California's County Agricultural Commissioners in their investigative programs. These include the monitoring of field workers for pesticide exposure, investigations of incidents of pesticide drift, and illnesses related to the misuse of pesticides.

The analyses provided by the PR laboratories ensure that our food supply is among the safest in the world. The most commonly found residues are Fludioxonil, Thiabendazole, and Boscalid. See the graph for the top fifteen pesticides detected in produce in the SRM program on page 32. PR laboratories also conducted a total of 661 analyses on 524 samples in the County Investigative (CI) program (see graph on following page). The majority of samples were foliage. The most requested analyses this year were Chlorpyrifos and Paraquat.

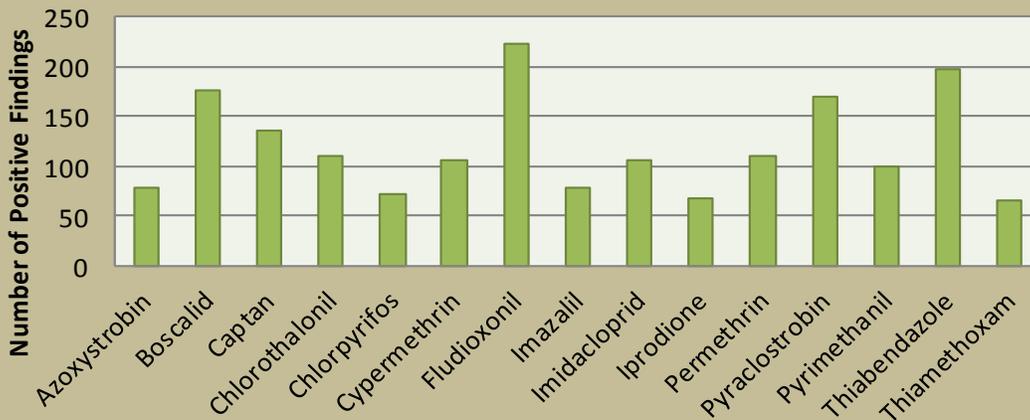
Pesticide Residue Laboratory Total Samples Completed By Each Project



County Investigative Analyses Requested in 2012



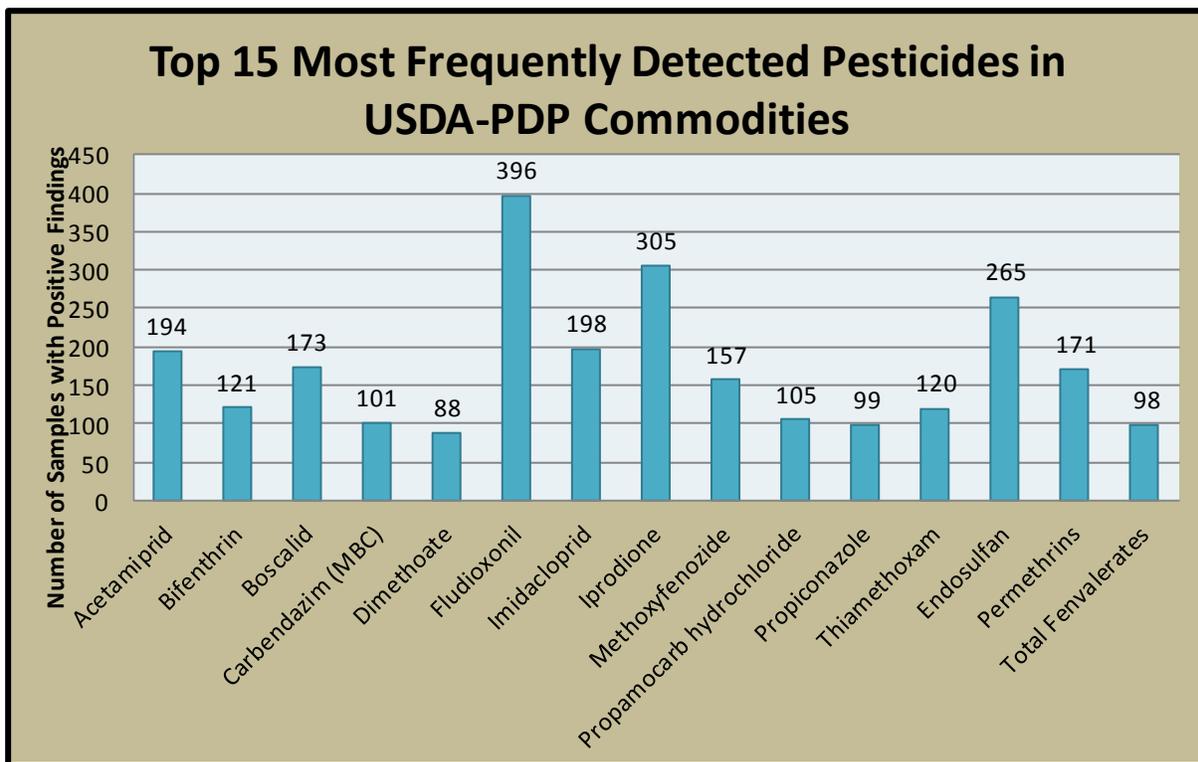
Top 15 Most Frequently Detected Pesticides in Residue Laboratory Commodities



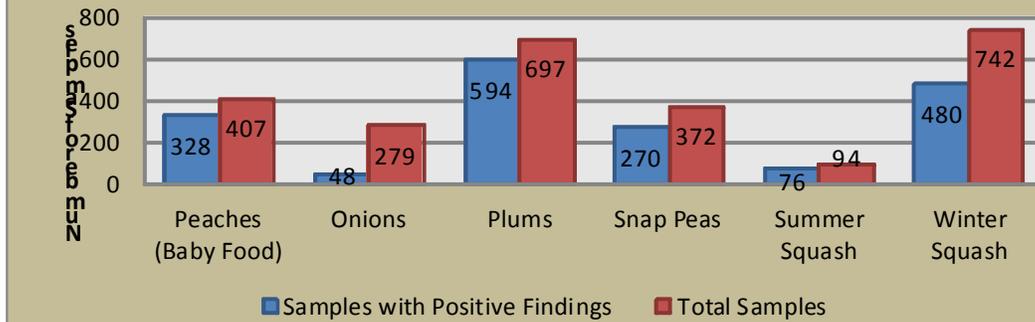
USDA Pesticide Data Program

California has been one of many participating states in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Pesticide Data Program (PDP) since 1991 and was one of the first states to join this program. PDP has evolved from a cursory survey of a few commodities to being the primary source for real-world pesticide residue data, which is essential for the dietary exposure component of risk assessments performed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (USDA-PDP 2009 report). Unlike other

enforcement programs such as the State Residue Monitoring program, PDP provides pesticide residue data for washed, ready-to-eat produce from representative nationwide sampling over significant time periods. PDP's data is also used by other governmental agencies and the agricultural community to better understand the relationship of pesticide residues to agriculture practices, to improve integrated pest management practices, and to provide information to support the export of U.S. commodities.



Samples With Positive Findings for Pesticides Compared with Total Samples Received for PDP-USDA Commodities



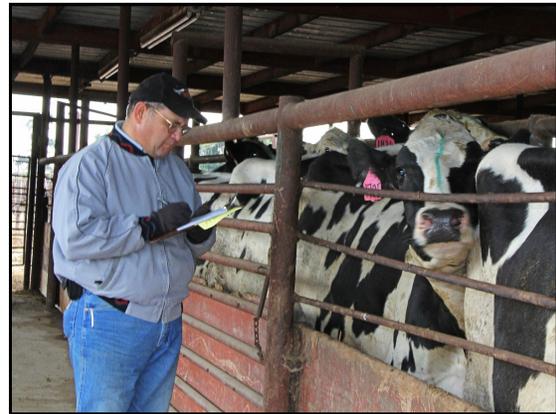
More than 2700 samples were analyzed in the first three quarters of the year. Each sample was screened for more than 300 different pesticides and metabolites. See the chart highlighting the samples by commodity, along with the percentage of each commodity's positive findings above.

2012 PDP Commodities	Most Common Pesticide Found
Peaches (Baby Food)	Acetamiprid
Onion	Bocalid
Plums	Boscalid
Snap Peas	Dimethoate
Summer Squash	Endosulfan
Winter Squash	Endosulfan

Dairy Chemistry Laboratory

The Dairy Chemistry Laboratory (DCL) supports both California's dairy industry and the CDFA's Dairy Food Safety Branch. Routine sample assays test the composition of dairy and imitation dairy products for compliance with California criteria. The Infrared Milk Analysis (IRMA) program analyzes raw milk samples for use as instrument calibration reference samples. Each week, program staff prepares and distributes analyzed samples to participating dairies all over the nation. These dairies use these reference samples

in determining the amounts of fat, protein, moisture, lactose, and total solids in raw milk samples. Milk prices are set according to the composition of the samples, so the IRMA reference standards play an important role in the nation's dairy industry.



Environmental Safety Laboratory

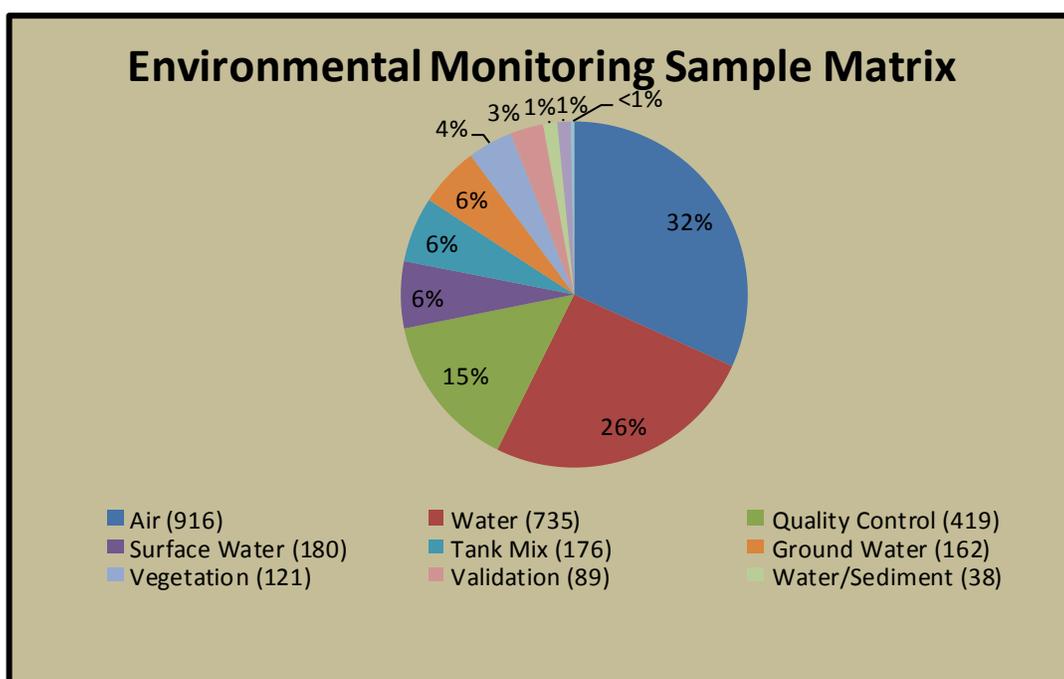


The Environmental Safety Laboratory provides analytical services to local, state, and federal agencies to protect farm workers, the environment, and consumers from exposure to agrochemicals. The Laboratory's testing monitors pesticides and their metabolites in air, soil, water and other matrices. The Laboratory is comprised of five sections: the Environmental Monitoring Section; the Worker Health and Safety Section; the Feed and Fertilizer Section; the Product Compliance Section; and other CDFA support programs.

Environmental Monitoring Section

The Environmental Monitoring (EMON) section provides analytical testing to monitor the environmental fate of pesticides and their metabolites in all matrices, other than food. As the chart below shows, a variety of both pesticide screens and single analyte assays are performed. The wide range of sample matrices includes air sampling tubes and filters, ground and surface water, soil and sediments, foliage, and swabs. In

addition, the EMON section performs testing of air and water samples to monitor the amounts of pesticides potentially contributing to air quality problems from volatile organic compounds (VOCs), as well as surface, and ground water contamination issues under an interagency agreement with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR).



Worker Health and Safety Section

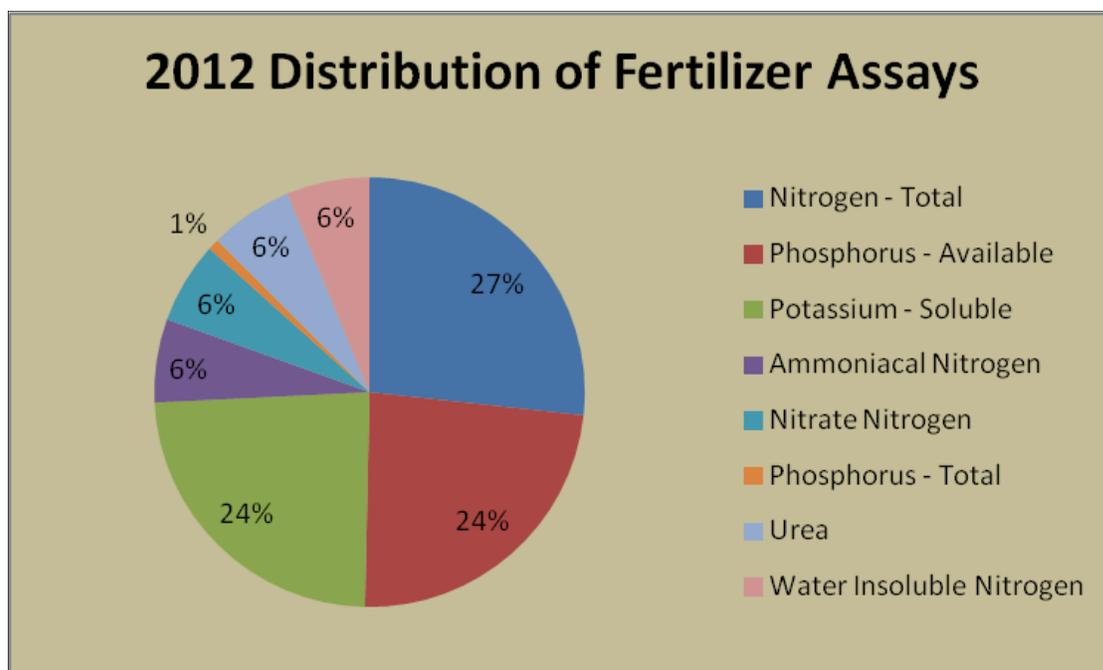
The Worker Health and Safety (WH&S) Section provides analytical testing for the CDPR for farm and nursery worker protection studies, and exposure incidents. The results of these studies are used to help determine pesticide exposure limits for farm workers and to set field re-entry times after pesticide

applications. The lab is also accredited for the analysis of dislodgeable foliar residues that might result in worker exposure.

Feed and Fertilizer Section

The Feed and Fertilizer section provides microscopy and chemical analyses for the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch (FFLDRS) and the Inspection and Compliance Branch (I&C) of the CDFA. These range from traditional wet chemical analyses to advanced instrumental methods such as atomic absorption and inductively coupled plasma spectrometry for metals to state-of-the-art liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry methods for pesticides, mycotoxins, and feed additives. Multiple assays are performed on most samples.

Over sixty different microscopy and chemical analyses may be performed on feed samples to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations governing the feed industry. These tests include proximates (protein, fat, fiber, etc.), minerals, drugs, vitamins, and mycotoxins. Microscopic analysis of samples is used to detect the presence of foreign matter such as insect debris and materials prohibited in animal feed. The Feed group also analyzes the omega-3 fatty acid content of shell eggs for the Egg Quality Control Program at CDFA. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of fertilizer assays analyzed in the fertilizer lab.



Product Compliance Section

The Product Compliance Section analyzes pesticide products sold to the public to ensure that the label information matches the content of the package (label guarantee) and to check for adulteration or contamination based on the guidelines set by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Products tested include samples collected at production facilities and retail outlets, as well as concentrates and tank mixes used by professional Pesticide Control Applicators, and samples related to human or animal hazards. Samples are analyzed at concentration ranges from percent levels down to parts per million (ppm), depending

on the requirements of a particular assay. One very important responsibility of the Product Compliance laboratory is the testing of pesticide formulations and quaternary ammonium chlorides (cleaning agents) for label compliance, since product labeling is the primary enforcement mechanism for FIFRA.

The section operates under an interagency agreement with the CDFR and U.S. EPA to test up to 50 samples annually for a range of products, including cans of insect sprays, mosquito repellent wipes, insecticidal chalk, and citronella oil.

Additional CDFR Programs

Integrated Pest Control (IPC)

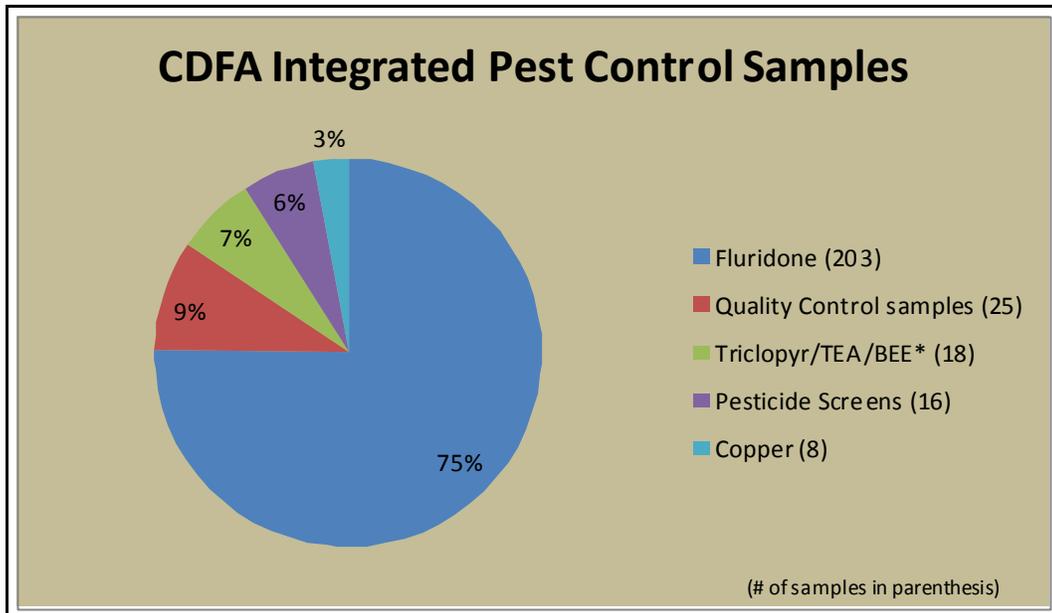
Pest Detection and Emergency Projects (PD/EP)

Monitoring of chemicals introduced to the environment must be performed for all eradication programs per state and federal laws and regulations. All measurements for this testing are in parts per billion (ppb) and parts per trillion (ppt) for the highest levels of public and environmental safety.

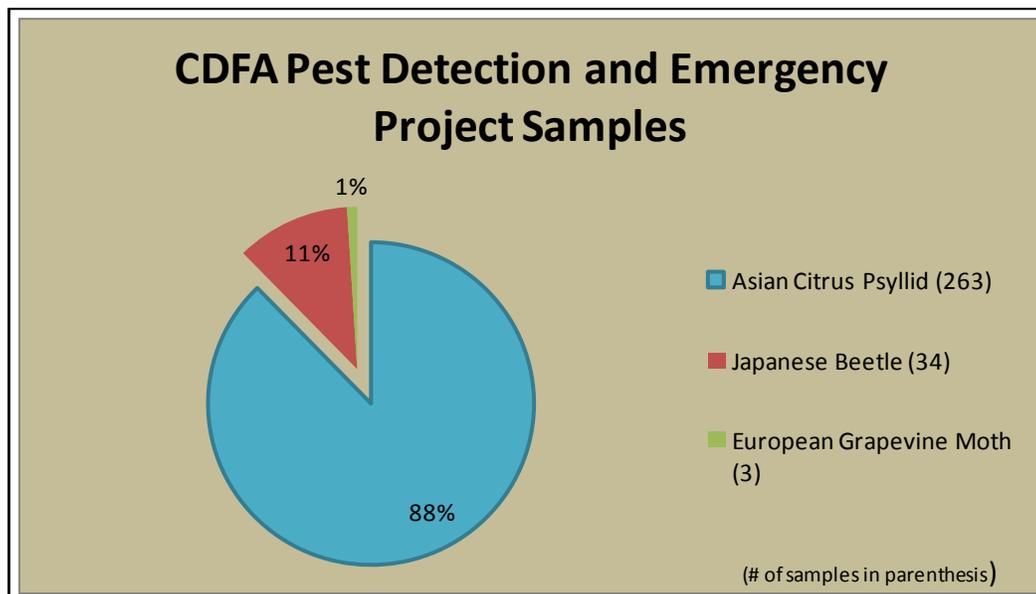
The Environmental Safety Lab provides analytical support to other CDFR Programs such as IPC and PD/EP. IPC has a Hydrilla Eradication Program which uses pesticides to control several aquatic weeds such as hydrilla. The ESL provides accredited testing of water samples during the treatment season for these weeds following the National Pollutant

Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. The graph on the following page shows the percentage of samples from IPC and the type of pesticides used. Seventy-five percent of testing is for monitoring the aquatic herbicide fluridone.





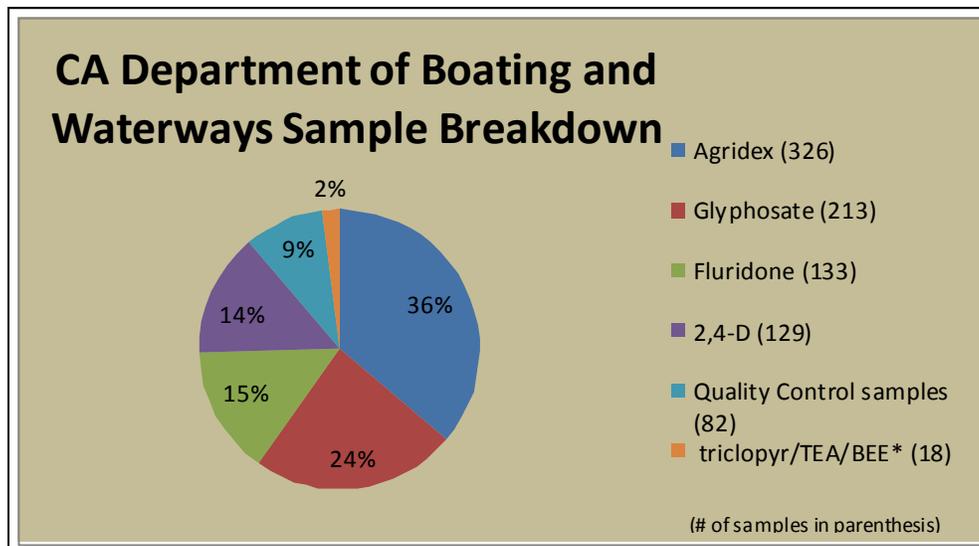
PD/EP is responsible for helping the state control the spread of invasive species and must periodically deploy emergency pesticide spraying or treatments. The ESL lab provides testing of a variety of matrices, such as water, soil, air, and foliage in areas which are being treated during these efforts. All pesticides and pesticide equipment used from spray tanks to insect traps are checked for proper concentration and are free of contaminants before and during treatment efforts. Most of the samples are from the Asian Citrus Psyllid Project. The graph below shows the percentage of samples from PD/EP efforts.



Interdepartmental Contracts

Under an interdepartmental contract with the California Department of Boating and Waterways, the Environmental Analysis Section provides analytical support during treatment of aquatic weeds following the guidelines of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination system (NPDES).

Measurements are made down to the parts per billion (ppb) levels to provide the highest possible level of protection for California's waterways. Monitoring includes the herbicides 2, 4-D, glyphosate, fluridone, the adjuvant Agridex, and is performed both pre- and post-application. The chart pictured below shows the number of samples of aquatic herbicides used by the Department of Boating and Waterways to control weeds impeding waterways.



Quality Assurance Unit

The Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) monitors the work product quality throughout the CAC to ensure that its facilities, equipment, personnel, methods, practices, records, and controls are all in conformance with established policies and procedures. The QAU also reviews both data and the validation of the test method for all commodities analyzed by the PDP program. In addition, the QAU reviews data for the Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) projects and for other CAC sections as needed. All CAC

sections' records and operations are audited by the QAU on a regular schedule. The QAU monitors compliance with the ISO 17025:2005 standard (General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories).

Throughout the year, the QAU provides Proficiency Evaluation (PE) Samples in coordination with the USDA/PDP and the AOAC International.

Proficiency Evaluation Sets Prepared by the Quality Assurance Unit in 2012

Month	Program	Matrix	# of Chemicals
January	QA-Blind spikes	Winter Squash	8
February	AOACI	Bananas	9
March	USDA-PDP	Cherry Tomatoes	11
April	USDA-PDP	Tangerines	13
June	AOACI	Zucchini	9
July	QA-Blind spikes	Plums	7
September	QA-PDP Study	Plums	5
October	AOACI	Cantaloupe	9
November	USDA-PDP	Snap Peas	12
December	USDA-PDP	Apples	7
December	USDA-PDP	Pears	7
December	USDA-PDP	Peaches	7



**FEED, FERTILIZER, AND LIVESTOCK
DRUGS REGULATORY SERVICES**



Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services

Branch Summary

The Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS) Branch is designed to provide Californians with an abundant supply of clean and wholesome food and fiber. FFLDRS works to ensure that all feed, fertilizing materials, and livestock drugs sold in California are safe, effective, and meet the manufacturers' quality and quantity guarantees. FFLDRS also has a crucial role in the protection of the State's environment by regulating the manufacture and use of fertilizing materials used in agriculture.

Our branch supports California's agricultural industries through a wide range of programs.

The Commercial Feed and Livestock Drug Inspection Programs are responsible for the enforcement of state law and regulations covering the labeling, manufacture, distribution, and use of commercial livestock feed and drugs in California. Inspection and testing programs help prevent toxins and contaminants from entering the food chain.

The industry-funded Safe Animal Feed and Education (SAFE) Program works to improve the safety of commercial livestock feed by fostering a cooperative relationship with the livestock industry. Outreach and education activities of the SAFE Program promote voluntary compliance with the State's laws and regulations that apply to animal feed.

The Commercial Fertilizing Materials

Inspection Program is responsible for regulating the manufacture and distribution of fertilizing materials in California, as well as the registration of fertilizing material package labels. Effective January of 2010, Assembly Bill 856 was introduced and a new program to review Organic Input Material (OIM), used for organic food and crop production, was implemented in the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program.

The Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) funds research to advance agronomic practices for fertilizing materials that maximize efficiency while protecting the environment. The FREP also disseminates fertilizer educational materials and information to ensure that California growers have access to the latest information and guidelines.



Feed and Livestock Drugs Inspection Program

The Feed and Livestock Drug Inspection Program (FLDIP) is responsible for the enforcement of state law and regulations pertinent to the manufacturing, distribution and labeling of commercial livestock feed in California while preventing adulterated feed from being consumed by livestock and poultry. Additionally, the program maintains registration of livestock drugs, their proper use and safe handling procedures. The Feed and Livestock Drugs Programs are industry funded. Feed and Livestock Drug Inspectors and Special Investigators located throughout the state conduct routine sampling and inspections, quality assurance inspections of manufacturing facilities, respond to consumer complaints, and enforce the feed laws and regulations.

Another primary focus of the inspection program is feed safety. Analyses are run for mycotoxins such as aflatoxins, medication residues, heavy metals, pesticides, toxic minerals, and mammalian protein that is prohibited under the BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) regulations.

The Livestock Drug Program regulates over-the-counter livestock drugs. A Livestock Drug Registration Certificate must be obtained for each over-the-counter livestock drug before it is offered for sale in California. Livestock drug labels are also reviewed for regulatory compliance. The labeling requirements specifically identify route, dosage, and withdrawal information to eliminate any drug residue in food products

derived from livestock animals. Each location that offers restricted livestock drugs for sale must hold a license with the State of California and maintain records of drug sales.

The FLDIP also conducts federal tissue residue investigations stemming from the improper use and administration of livestock drugs.

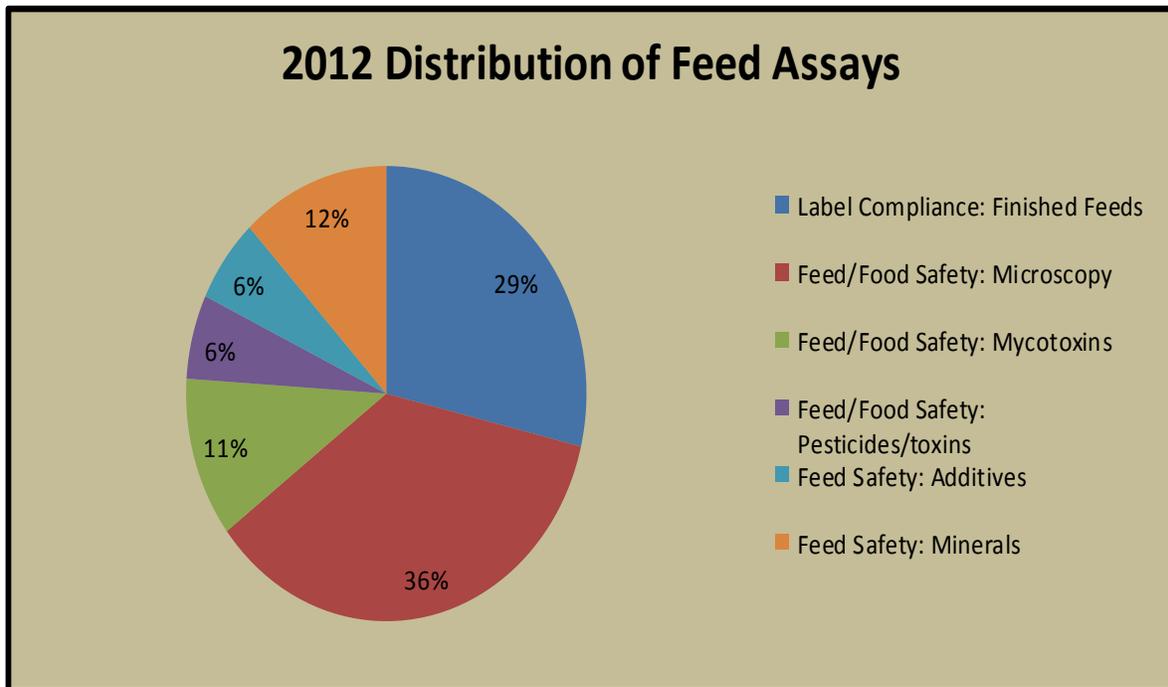
Enhanced communication efforts between the Feed and Livestock Drugs Program and other CDFA branches, such as Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS), and Meat and Poultry Inspection, have enhanced intra-agency efforts to maximize the effectiveness of food safety measures. The FLDIP also contracts with the U.S. FDA each year to perform BSE and tissue residue investigations.



Feed Analyses at the Center for Analytical Chemistry

The Feed group at the Center for Analytical Chemistry performs over sixty different microscopic and chemical analyses on feed samples submitted by FIP inspectors. Microscopic analysis of samples is used to detect the presence of foreign matter, damage, and materials prohibited in animal feed. Chemical analyses include nutrients, toxins, pesticides, and heavy metals. A majority of feed analyses are routinely completed within 21 days.

Several different assays are typically requested for each sample. For the year 2012, Feed group staff performed 6,836 different assays on 1,113 samples.



SAFE Animal Feed Education Program

Within the Feed Program is the Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program, established in 2005. The program was developed in collaboration with the commercial feed industry to promote a cooperative relationship to ensure the safety of animal feed in California.

The SAFE Program consists of two components: Outreach and Education, and Comprehensive Voluntary Feed Quality Assurance Audits.

To maximize industry outreach and education, SAFE Program staff work with the California feed industry in assuring proper use and handling of medicated feed and concentrated feed supplements. In addition, staff inform the industry of new state and federal regulations affecting the feed industry, specifically the Food Safety Modernization Act which was signed into law January 2011.

The second component of SAFE is the 385-point voluntary feed quality assurance audit. The review of operations includes evaluation of manufacturing practices, quality assurance protocols, process controls, ingredient storage, record keeping, product labeling, and compliance with laws and regulations.

SAFE Program staff develops High Violator Firm reports for those firms who have a violation rate over 30% from the Official Samples obtained. SAFE Program staff then meet with the identified firms, present the programs findings, and develop a strategic plan of how to lower the violation rate to assist the firm reach regulatory compliance.

Distribution of Feed Licensees		
Location	Number	Percentage
California	865	51%
Other US States	777	46%
International	57	3%
Total	1699	100%

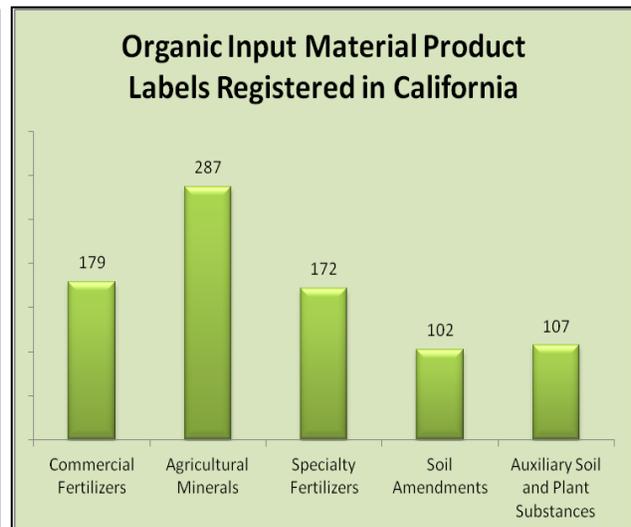
Distribution of Fertilizer Licensees		
Location	Number	Percentage
California	1407	55%
Other US States	965	37%
International	212	8%
Total	2584	100%

Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program

The Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) is responsible for regulating the manufacture, distribution, and sale of fertilizing materials in California. Fertilizing materials are sold and distributed with a product label containing information about the product such as weight, grade, and analysis. The FMIP is responsible for reviewing and registering product labels, and ensuring fertilizing materials are safe, effective, and meet the standards guaranteed by the manufacturer. The program ensures that consumers receive fertilizing materials that are safe and effective and meet the manufacturer's quality and quantity guarantees. Producers of packaged fertilizing materials less than 110 lbs (agricultural minerals, auxiliary soil

and plant substances, commercial fertilizers, soil amendments, specialty fertilizers, and organic input materials) are statutorily mandated to register with the FMIP, and all manufacturers and distributors of fertilizing materials are required to obtain a license from the program prior to engaging in any fertilizer-related activities.

The charts below show the product labels reviewed and registered for the different categories of products, and the chart on the previous page shows the distribution of fertilizer licensees. In 2012, 6037 product labels were registered with CDFA.



Organic Input Material

In 2010, Assembly Bill (AB) 856 was introduced in response to CDFA's investigation of an organic fertilizer manufacturer that was adulterating a liquid fertilizer with an unapproved ingredient. In consultation with the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB), CDFA reviewed the incident and identified gaps in its authority to regulate organic input materials (OIM) used for organic crop and food production. AB 856 addressed industry concerns about fertilizing materials used in the production of organic food and crops. The main goal of AB 856 was to ensure the integrity and composition of OIM that are used for organic food and crop production in California. This new law fills gaps in CDFA's authority to regulate fertilizing materials used for organic food and crop production. It provides CDFA with enhanced enforcement authority to achieve regulatory compliance.

The FMIP staff reviews both conventional fertilizer labels and OIM labels used for organic food and crop production. OIM requires review by FMIP registration staff for compliance with the National Organic Program (NOP) Standards. Registrants are required to provide the following supporting documents:

- Complete formula of material (both active and inactive ingredients);
- Complete description of the manufacturing process for each ingredient;
- Complete description of the final product;
- Intended use of the product;
- Supplier of ingredients;
- Alternate formulation;
- Third-party formulated ingredients; and,
- Any additional information supporting compliance with the NOP standards.

Fertilizer Sampling and Inspection

The Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) has been mandated by the California State Legislature to inspect and sample fertilizer products, and to verify that label nutrient guaranteed analyses are met and products do not contain excessive levels of non-nutritive metals. The majority of samples obtained are selected by specific factors; not at random. The risk factor criteria includes: noncompliant labeling, unregistered products, products from unlicensed manufacturers, lab analysis history, or products new to the marketplace. In 2012, a total of 49 fertilizing material products were quarantined.

In addition to regular sampling of fertilizing materials, the FMIP's field staff also:

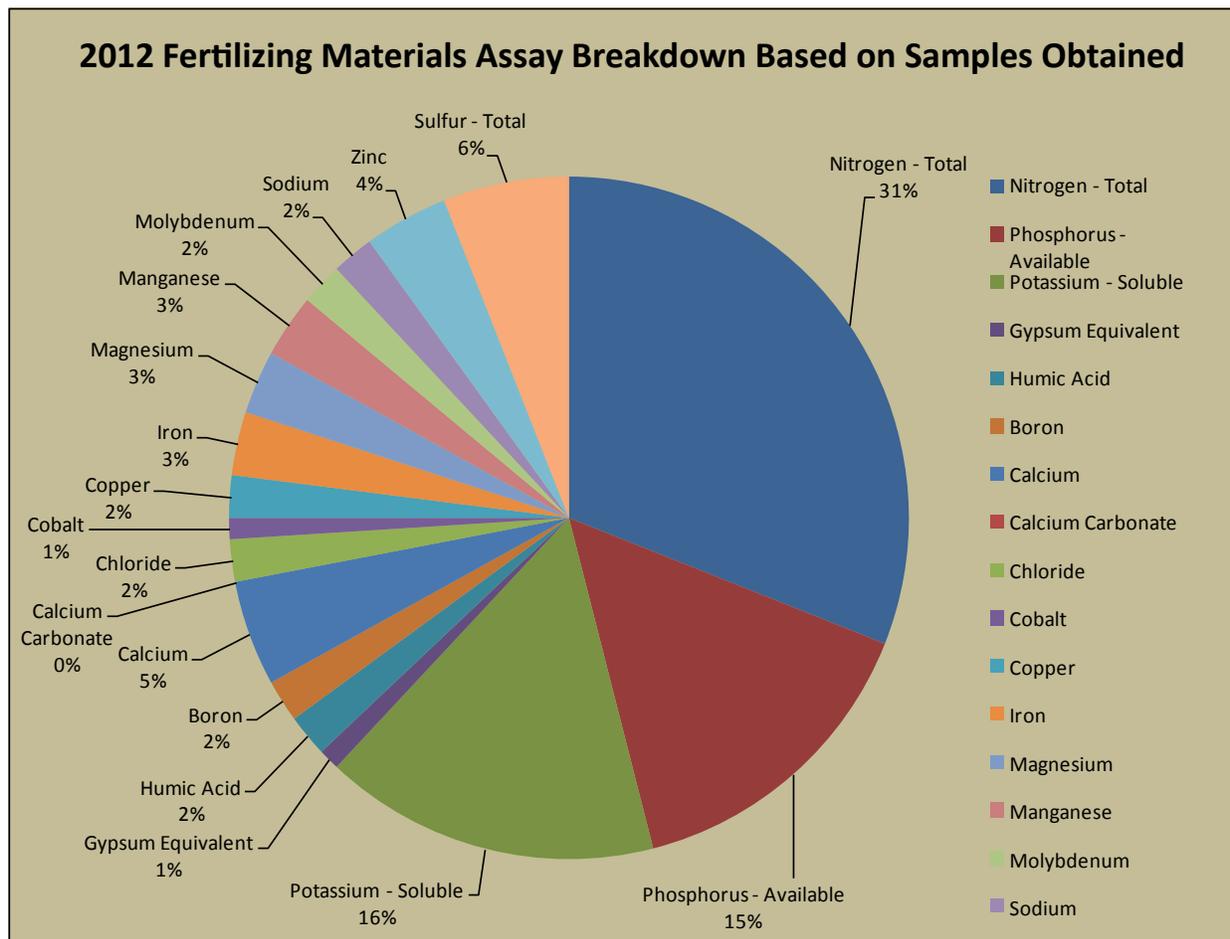
- Verify manufacturer licensing and product registration;
- Communicate and coordinate with registration staff regarding manufacture licensing and fertilizing material labeling;
- Ensure labeling compliance;
- Perform fertilizing material facilities inspections;
- Sample fertilizing materials and request test for guarantees on label;
- Review test results and issue violation notices (if any);

- Work with manufacturer to correct any deficiencies/problems in product guarantees;
- Respond to industry and consumer complaints;
- Conduct investigations of alleged fertilizer-based violations;
- Examine heavy metal analysis and remediate products with excessive levels;
- Educate the industry on licensing, registration and labeling requirements;
- Ensure labeling compliance; and
- Quarantine non-compliant products and issue citations using regulatory authority.

The laws that govern the FMIP require the program to maintain and publish an annual report on the distribution of fertilizing

materials within the state. The program publishes the tonnage distribution report in the state every six months.

The FMIP established a Material Review Program for OIMs with staff that quickly mastered organic standards and input materials issues. OIM program scientists have completed the review of 700 OIM product labels. The program conducted OIM-focused workshops for manufacturers and distributors, and program staff presented information to stakeholders at several conferences. The purpose of the outreach activities was to educate stakeholders about the state laws and regulations, including the provisions of OIM law and the regular functions of the program.



Fertilizer Research and Education Program

The Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) funds and facilitates research to advance the environmentally safe and agronomically sound use and handling of fertilizing materials. FREP serves farmers and other users of fertilizing materials, agricultural service professionals, university extension personnel, public agencies, agricultural consultants, and other members of the public. One of FREP's key goals is to ensure that research results generated from the program are distributed to and used by farmers and the fertilizer industry.

The Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC) of the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) serves as an expert scientific panel on matters concerning plant nutrition and environmental effects related to fertilizing materials use. TASC assists in setting FREP's annual research priorities, evaluates research proposals, and makes recommendations to the FIAB and Secretary on project funding. Members of the TASC include growers, fertilizer industry professionals, state government scientists, and university extension and research personnel.

Each year, FREP and TASC work together to determine specific research priorities for the annual Request for Proposals. In 2012, the following research priorities were identified:

- **Emerging Issues:** Support FREP's mission, such as water quality, air quality, tillage, crop rotation, economics of fertilizer use and cropping systems towards developing methodologies for minimizing fertilizer losses.

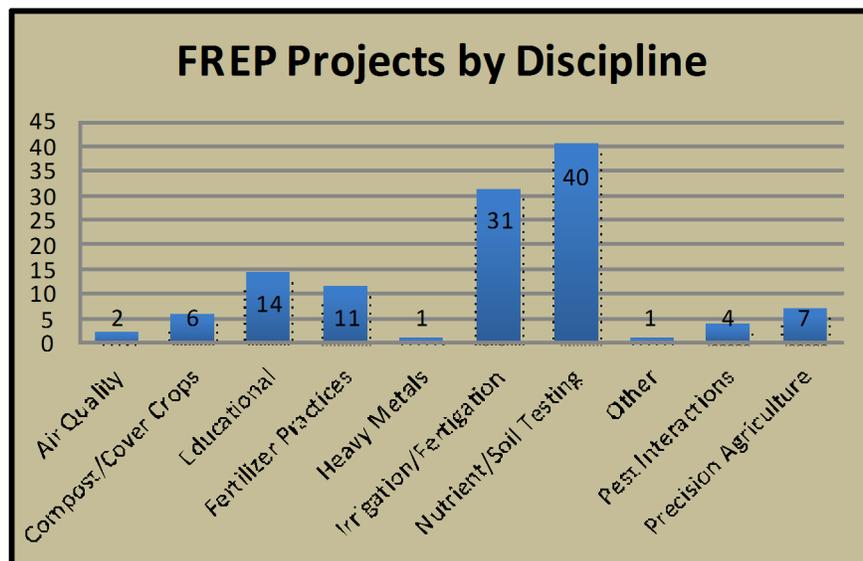
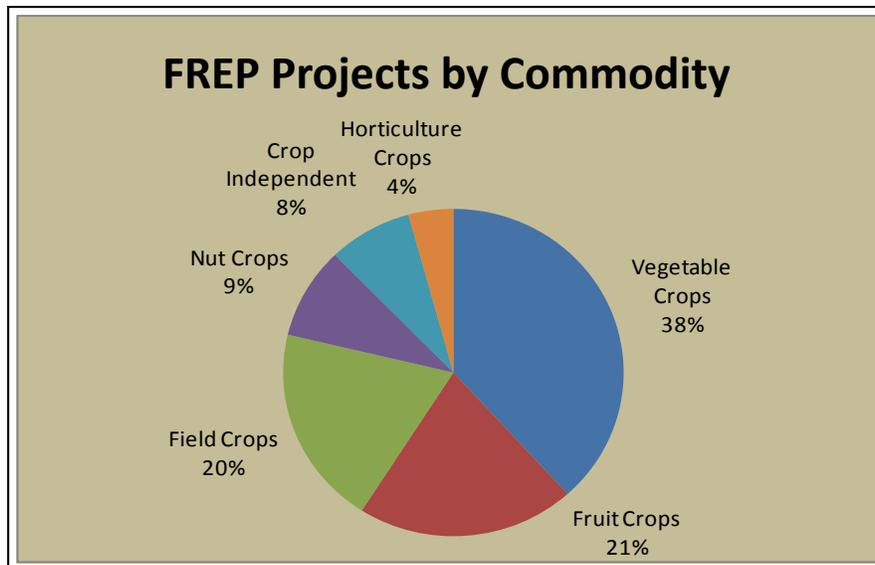
- **Education and Outreach:** Develop and implement educational activities that result in on-farm changes to more efficient fertilizer use and handling of fertilizer management, practices and technologies.
- **Crop Nutrients:** Determine and update crop nutrient requirements and uptake rates.
- **Improving Efficiency:** Developing efficient fertilizing practices to ensure the right rate, right time, right source and product and the right place of application.
- **Precision Crop Management:** Demonstrate and quantify fertilizer applications for precision crop management and practice of best available technologies.
- **Developing Tools:** Develop field and laboratory tests for crop nutrient response to aid in fertilizer recommendations.
- **Pest Interactions:** Demonstrate and communicate timely information to growers on nutrient/pest interactions.

In addition to the annual Request for Proposals, FREP released its first-ever Special Request for Proposals (RFP) in July 2012. The purpose of this Special RFP was to specifically address the issue of nitrates in groundwater in environmentally sensitive areas of California. The Special RFP called for proposals focusing on research that utilized the "pump and fertilize" method in concert with nitrogen budget worksheets to show proof-of-concept.

FREP Research Projects

Since 1990, FREP has over 160 research and education projects. Projects have been funded throughout the state and have ranged widely in scientific discipline and agricultural commodity. The two primary areas of study, nutrient testing and irrigation/fertigation, account for over fifty percent of the projects funded to date. The distribution of projects across the various agricultural commodities is more evenly

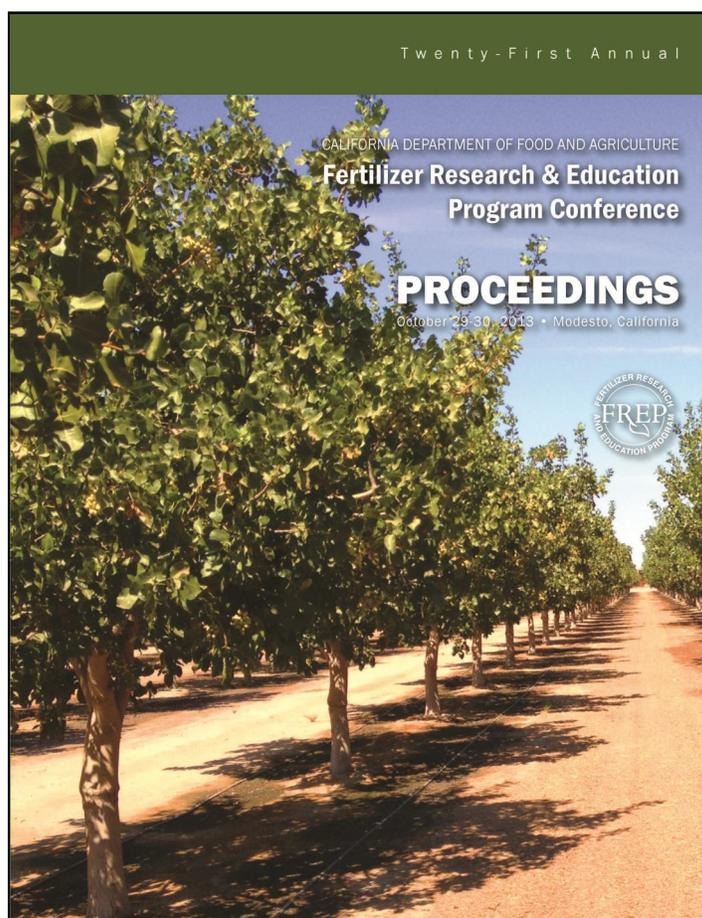
distributed. Vegetable crop projects have received the most funding, while field, fruit, and multiple crop projects have all been funded in nearly equal proportion. The following pie charts (above and on the following page) show the distribution of FREP funded projects among geographic regions, scientific disciplines, and agricultural commodities since FREP was established in 1990.



Education and Outreach

Annual Conference

The 2012 FREP conference set an all-time attendance record, with over 260 farmers, certified crop advisors, regulators, and fertilizer industry representative in attendance. Each year, the FREP conference features a diverse panel of speakers who share their perspectives on a variety of topics including new advances in research and key issues facing the fertilizer industry. In an effort to appeal to a wide audience, presentations consist of a well-balanced mix of general and technical information, current research data, and practical applications. The annual conference exemplifies FREP's ongoing commitment to provide education and outreach to the agricultural community.





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INSPECTION AND COMPLIANCE



Inspection and Compliance

Branch Summary

The Inspection and Compliance Branch oversees the fair and orderly marketing of agricultural commodities in California. The six main programs of the branch are designed to protect producers, packers, shippers, and processors while ensuring the quality of both fresh and processed fruits and vegetables offered to California's consumers.

The Shipping Point Inspection Program provides third-party grading and certification services to California's fruit, nut, and vegetable industries. This industry-funded program provides a nationally and internationally recognized grading and certification service to producers, packers, shippers, and processors. In this way, the program maintains a structure for the orderly and fair marketing of agricultural commodities in California.

The Standardization Program enforces the laws and regulations governing minimum standards for maturity, quality, size, and packaging for more than thirty major agricultural commodities.

The Direct Marketing Program (formerly named the California Farmers' Market (CFM) Program) provides opportunities for certified producers to directly market their agricultural products at certified farmers markets (CFMs) throughout the state. The Direct Marketing Program permits the sale of produce directly to the public without disruption of the normal flow of commercial wholesaling.

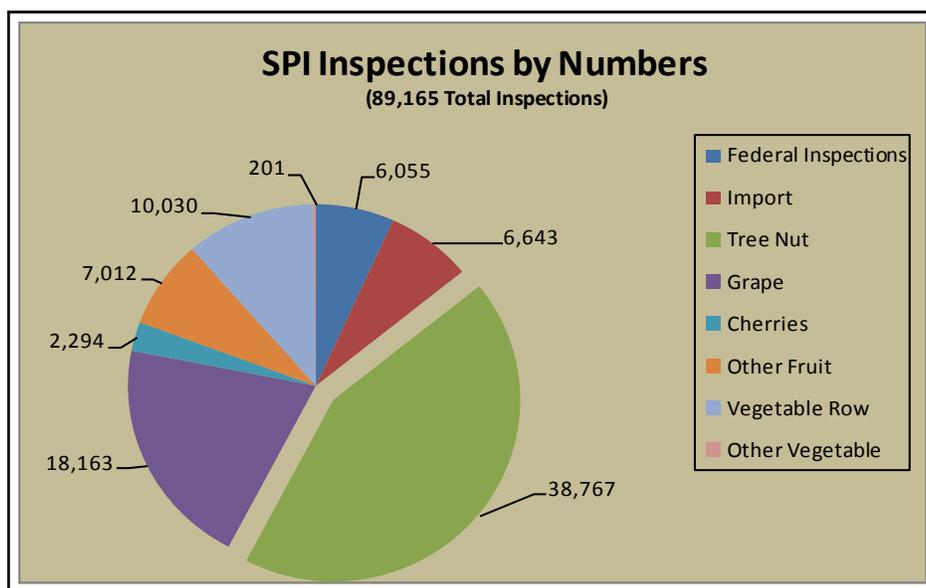
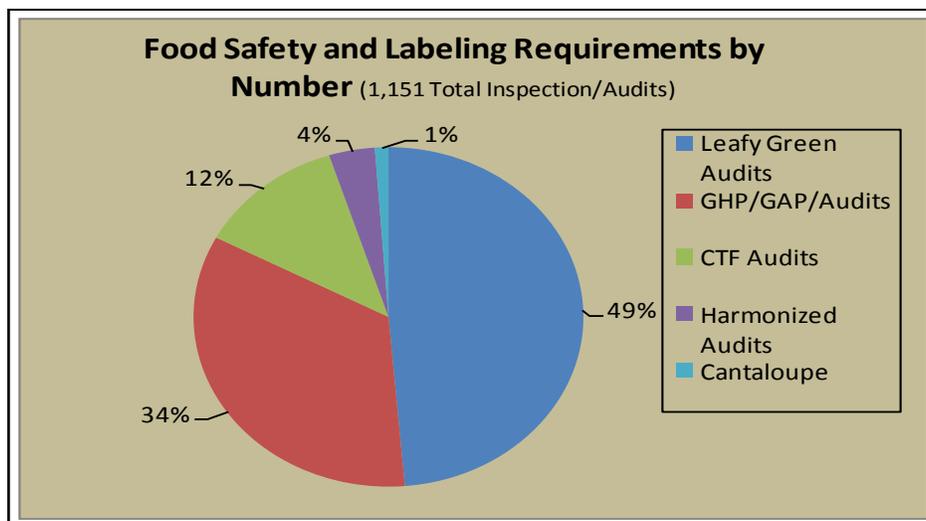
The California State Organic Program (SOP) is responsible for enforcing state and federal statutes and regulations governing the production, handling, labeling, and sale of agricultural products labeled as organic. The SOP facilitates the sale of organic products within the State of California through spot inspections, investigations, and sampling. Sufficient regulatory control ensures that organic agricultural products are produced, handled, labeled, and sold in compliance with the provisions of the California Organic Products Act of 2003, federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, National Organic Program regulations, and other state regulations.

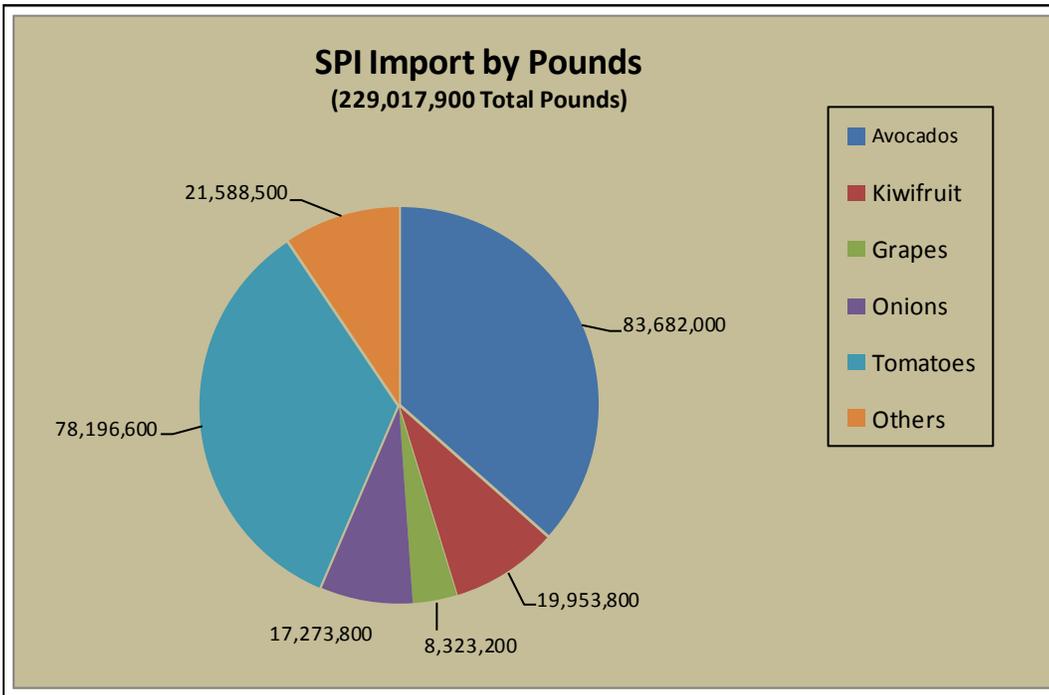
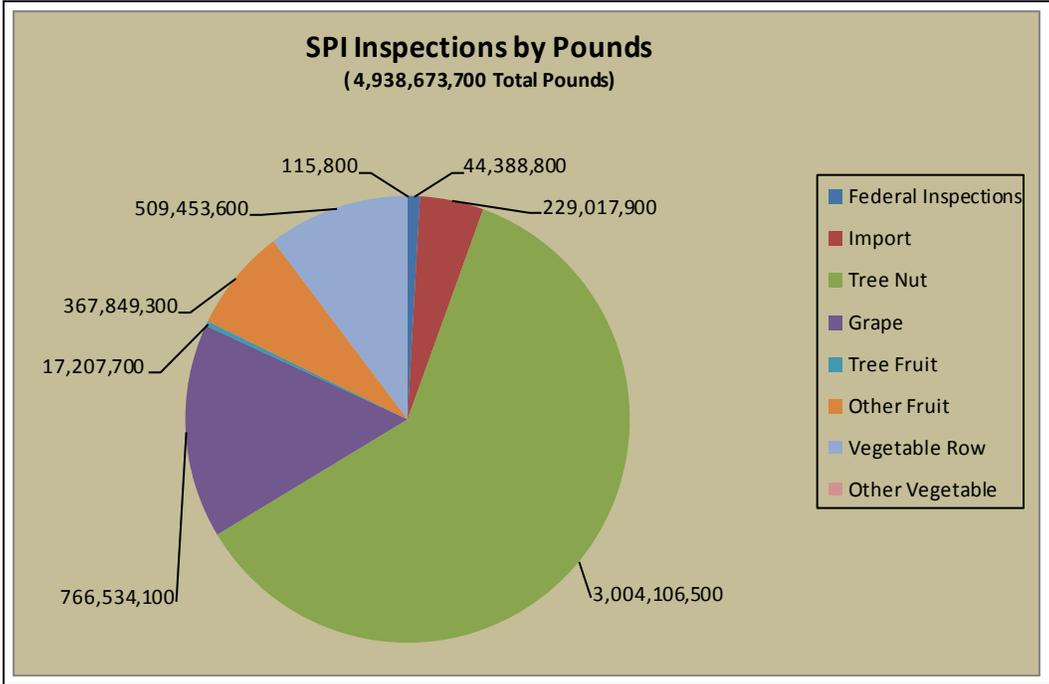
The California Citrus Program and the Avocado Inspection Program are responsible for the enforcement of standards for size, weight, maturity, and other requirements for their respective commodities. Their goal is to protect both the industry and consumers by providing uniform inspections to ensure that all products comply with minimum standards of quality.

Shipping Point Inspection Program

The Shipping Point Inspection (SPI) Program provides optional third-party grading, certification service, and food safety verification audits to the fruit, nut, and vegetable industries throughout California. A Federal-State Cooperative Agreement with the USDA authorizes CDFA inspectors to use federal grade standards for fresh produce and to issue federal-state inspection certificates that are nationally and internationally recognized.

In addition, food safety services are offered to growers and handlers of agricultural products. Federal-State Inspection Services personnel review participating companies' facilities, agronomic practices, and documentation to determine whether Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Handling Practices (GHPs) are maintained.





Standardization Program

Standardization statutes establish minimum standards for maturity, quality, size, standard container and pack, and container markings. The Standardization Program ensures enforcement of quality standards, container, labeling, sizing, and maturity requirements at packing, storage, field distribution centers, certified farmers markets, and port of entry facilities. The Standardization Program provides a regulatory framework to assist industry efforts to increase consumer confidence in the food supply. Standardization inspections take place in fields, packinghouses, wholesale markets, retail distribution centers, retail outlets, and highway inspections stations.

Standardization program personnel and counties performed inspections at the following locations last year: Long Beach Port in Los Angeles County; Port Hueneme in Ventura County; Otay Mesa and Calexico border crossings; wholesale facilities; field packing operations; farm stands; certified farmers’ markets; flea markets and swap meets located throughout the state.



Avocado Inspection Program

Avocado Inspection Program (January 1-December 31, 2012)			
Inspection Type	Number of Test	Non-Compliances	Cartons Rejected
Weight Test	41,190	287	20,113
Size/Count Test	4,962	26	1,250
Maturity Test	306	31	568

The Avocado Inspection Program ensures enforcement of quality standards, container, labeling, sizing, weight, maturity, and proof of ownership requirements. Quality standard checks are taken at packing, storage, field distribution centers, and port of entry facilities. The goal is to protect the industry and consumers by providing uniform inspection to ensure that all avocados comply with minimum standards.



Direct Marketing

The Direct Marketing Program is responsible for enforcing the statutes governing certified farmers markets (CFMs) and produce sold at or near the point of production.

Standardization Program exemptions are provided to producers for minimum size, labeling, and standard and containers. These exemptions allow the sale of produce directly to the public without disrupting the normal flow of commercial wholesaling. The Direct Marketing Program provides opportunities for certified producers to directly market their agricultural products at approximately 800 CFMs throughout the state and enables producers, non-profit organizations, and local government agencies to operate CFMs in both rural and urban areas.

Traditionally, direct marketing opportunities were available through certified farmers markets and farm stands. However, as interest in local food movements has increased, additional direct marketing opportunities have flourished with the increasing popularity of community supported agriculture (CSAs), community and school gardens, etc.

Convened at the request of the CDFA Secretary, the Direct Marketing Ad Hoc Committee was tasked with reviewing and analyzing the various business functions of the Direct Marketing Program from October 2011 through September 2012. As a broad-based assembly of industry and public stakeholders, the Ad Hoc Committee was

intended to create a transparent and inclusive process to reenergize the Direct Marketing Program. Ad Hoc Committee participants spent considerable time and effort assessing the role of direct marketing in California agriculture and reviewing opportunities for improving CDFA's efforts in facilitating the sale of agricultural products through direct marketing channels, while maintaining sufficient regulatory control to prevent misrepresentation and fraudulent selling activities.



Citrus Program



The Citrus Program is responsible for protecting the industry and general public from substandard products and ensuring that the established minimum maturity and quality standards are met. In addition, the Citrus Program is responsible for providing industry members with current and accurate data regarding the state's citrus acreage and citrus crop information.

California State Organic Program

The State Organic Program (SOP) is responsible for enforcing the federal Organic Food Production Act of 1990 as amended; National Organic Program regulations [Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations §205 et seq.]; the California Organic Products Act of 2003 [Food and Agricultural Code §46000 et seq.]; and Title 3, §1391 et seq. of the California Code of Regulations. These laws and regulations protect consumers, producers, handlers, processors, and retailers by establishing standards under which agricultural products and food may be labeled and /or sold as “organic.” California is the only state in the Union with a proactive enforcement program providing the following: market surveillance and residue sampling; a spot inspection program for producers, handlers, and retail operations; a network of county agricultural commissioners with contracts to carry out

state enforcement activities; and, a registration program serving as a mechanism to identify companies engaged in organic production, handling, and marketing.





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Division of Inspection Services

2012 Annual Report

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FOOD & AGRICULTURE