



2016

IMPERIAL COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT





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Carlos Ortiz
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

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**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
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August 1, 2017

Karen Ross, Secretary

California Department of Food and Agriculture
and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Imperial

Supervisor Michael W. Kelley, Chairman, District 3

Supervisor John R. Renison, District 1

Supervisor Luis A. Plancarte, District 2

Supervisor Ryan E. Kelley, District 4

Supervisor Raymond "Ray" Castillo, District 5

I am pleased to present the 2016 Imperial County Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report in accordance with the requirements of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report summarizes the estimated acreage, yield, and gross value of Imperial County's agricultural production for the 2016 calendar year. Also included is a report on sustainable agriculture pursuant to Section 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

The values presented in this report represent the gross value for products and do not reflect the cost of production, marketing, storage, or transportation. No attempt is made to reflect the net income, profit, or loss to producers.

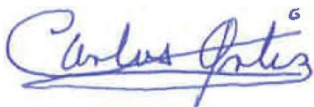
Gross production for 2016 was valued at \$2,063,214,000. This is an increase of \$138,080,000 (7.1%) compared to the 2015 gross value of \$1,925,134,000. The increase was mainly due to winter vegetables having better prices overall. Lettuce and spinach had much higher prices with generally good quality. Alfalfa seed production had an increase of 9,921 acres (31.77%) with a slightly higher yield when compared to last year.

Cattle again ranked as our #1 commodity with a gross value of \$400,614,000 despite a decrease of 10% from 2015. This was due to a 4% decrease in head count and an 11% decrease in market price. Spinach moved back into the Top Ten Commodities from #14 in 2015 to #7 in 2016 mainly due to more planted acres and higher prices. Romaine Lettuce also moved back into the Top Ten Commodities from #16 in 2015 to #9 in 2016 mainly due to higher prices.

In 2016, there was an increase of 7,275 in total harvested acres, up 1.36% from 2015. This increase occurred in the Vegetable Crop, Fruit Crop and Seed Crop categories. Spinach showed the largest increase in harvested acres, up 65% with an increase of 3,994 acres.

Thank you to all the growers, processors, industry groups, and agencies who provided the information and statistics for this report; your help in this effort is truly appreciated. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to all of the members of my staff for their continued hard work and dedication and particularly to Sandra Mendivil, Special Projects Coordinator, for her work in compiling this annual report.

Sincerely,



Carlos Ortiz
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures



2016 Production Summary

Category	Harvested Acres		Change in Harvested Acres	Gross Value		Change in Gross Value
	2015	2016		2015	2016	
Livestock				\$502,065,000	\$468,176,000	-6.75%
Field Crops	349,687	333,762	-4.55%	\$422,319,000	\$381,181,000	-9.74%
Vegetable & Melon Crops	121,284	133,593	10.15%	\$805,021,000	\$1,006,345,000	25.01%
Fruit & Nut Crops	8,778	9,443	7.57%	\$83,277,000	\$80,098,000	-3.82%
Seed & Nursery Crops	55,039	65,266	18.58%	\$107,673,000	\$123,057,000	14.29%
Apiary Products				\$4,779,000	\$4,357,000	-8.83%
Total	534,788	542,063	1.36%	\$1,925,134,000	\$2,063,214,000	7.17%

Total harvested acres include multiple cropping on individual fields throughout the year.

Top Ten Commodities

Rank 2016		Gross Value 2016	Rank 2015
1	Cattle	\$400,614,000	1
2	Alfalfa	\$148,915,000	2
3	Leaf Lettuce	\$133,212,000	5
4	Onions	\$128,476,000	3
5	Broccoli	\$120,562,000	6
6	Head Lettuce	\$119,236,000	4
7	Spinach	\$96,508,000	14
8	Alfalfa Seed	\$84,911,000	7
9	Romaine Lettuce	\$70,196,000	16
10	Carrots	\$62,038,000	10

Agricultural Production Areas

Imperial County has three areas of production: Imperial Valley, Bard/Winterhaven & Palo Verde

2016 Total County Farmable Acres

Imperial Valley	472,593
Bard/Winterhaven	14,452
Palo Verde	7,668
Total	494,713





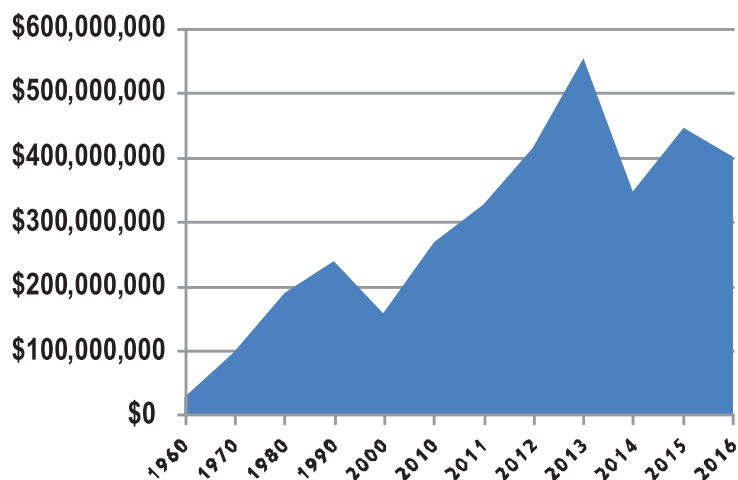
Livestock

Item	Year	Production			Unit	Value	
		Head	Unit Gain	Total Gain		Per Unit	Gross Value
Cattle (Feedlot)	2016	337,286	10.06	3,394,630	Cwt	\$118.01	\$400,614,000
	2015	352,870	9.51	3,356,993	Cwt	\$132.53	\$444,887,000
Sheep (Feeders)	2016	62,000	0.54	33,700	Ctw	\$136.11	\$4,587,000
	2015	84,000	0.47	39,750	Cwt	\$169.46	\$6,736,000
Sheep (Wool)	2016	62,000	6.60	409,200	Lb	\$1.50	\$614,000
	2015	84,000	3.50	294,000	Lb	\$1.55	\$456,000
Aquatic Products	2016						\$12,298,000
(Fish & Algae)	2015						\$10,550,000
Misc. Livestock	2016						\$50,063,000
	2015						\$39,436,000
Total 2016						Value	\$468,176,000
Total 2015						Value	\$502,065,000

Misc. Livestock may include: Calves, Replacement Cattle, Dairy Animals, Milk, Manure/Compost, California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta Show Animals
Cwt = 100 Pounds

#1 Commodity Trend

Cattle has consistently been the #1 commodity for Imperial County since 1957





Field Crops

Crop	Year	Production			Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Total Units		Per Unit	Gross Value
Alfalfa Hay	2016	154,861	7.19	1,114,002	Ton	\$133.68	\$148,915,000
	2015	140,663	7.54	1,061,183	Ton	\$158.84	\$168,561,000
Bermuda Grass Hay	2016	50,704	7.89	399,959	Ton	\$135.28	\$54,107,000
	2015	51,928	7.61	394,983	Ton	\$164.50	\$64,973,000
Cotton (Lint) ^{1/}	2016	2,004	3.90	7,817	Bale	\$356.79	\$2,789,000
	2015	1,875	3.68	6,906	Bale	\$343.63	\$2,373,000
Cotton (Seed)	2016			2,722	Ton	\$155.39	\$423,000
	2015			2,454	Ton	\$213.98	\$525,000
Klein Grass Hay	2016	14,590	10.00	145,900	Ton	\$164.94	\$24,065,000
	2015	16,002	8.28	132,422	Ton	\$160.00	\$21,188,000
Pastured Crops ^{2/}	2016	36,834			Acre	\$36.87	\$1,358,000
	2015	49,227			Acre	\$37.38	\$1,840,000
Straw (Baled)	2016			104,512	Ton	\$37.35	\$3,904,000
	2015			129,861	Ton	\$38.62	\$5,015,000
Sudan Grass Hay	2016	43,267	5.66	244,805	Ton	\$150.00	\$36,721,000
	2015	45,151	4.66	210,597	Ton	\$143.55	\$30,231,000
Sugar Beets	2016	24,634	44.75	1,102,333	Ton	\$46.93	\$51,732,000
	2015	22,485	43.62	980,796	Ton	\$45.64	\$44,764,000
Wheat	2016	33,685	3.21	108,129	Ton	\$287.12	\$31,046,000
	2015	64,447	3.23	208,116	Ton	\$292.54	\$60,883,000
Misc. Field Crops	2016	10,017					\$26,121,000
	2015	7,136					\$21,966,000
Total 2016	Acres	333,762				Value	\$381,181,000
Total 2015	Acres	349,687				Value	\$422,319,000

Misc. Field Crops may include: Barley, Corn Silage, Field Corn, Mixed Grasses, Oat Hay, Rye Grass Hay, Sesbania, Sorghum Silage, Sugar Beet Pulp, Sugar Beet Molasses, Sugarcane

^{1/} Cotton Bales = 500 Pounds

^{2/} Pastured Crops may include: Alfalfa, Bermuda Grass, Permanent Pasture, Rye Grass

Pastured Crops: pastured once and the acreage is not included in total





Fruit & Nut Crop

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Production		Unit	Value Per Unit	Gross Value Total
			Yield Per Acre	Total			
Dates	2016	2,136	2.75	5,878	Ton	\$3,243.90	\$19,069,000
	2015	2,034	3.80	7,731	Ton	\$3,150.62	\$24,358,000
Grapefruit	2016	818	12.89	10,540	Ton	\$413.64	\$4,360,000
	2015	1,220	6.48	7,906	Ton	\$613.61	\$4,851,000
Lemons	2016	4,413	11.97	52,805	Ton	\$859.07	\$45,363,000
	2015	3,745	12.90	48,301	Ton	\$782.78	\$37,809,000
Tangelos	2016	520	3.66	1,906	Ton	\$621.06	\$1,184,000
	2015	530	8.26	4,380	Ton	\$801.13	\$3,509,000
Tangerines	2016	510	5.31	2,710	Ton	\$673.68	\$1,826,000
	2015	729	7.67	5,590	Ton	\$878.41	\$4,910,000
Misc. Citrus, Fruit & Nut Crops	2016	1,046	6.37	6,657	Ton	\$667.37	\$4,443,000
	2015	521	11.47	5,972	Ton	\$986.72	\$5,893,000
Citrus By-Products	2016			9,707	Ton	\$396.95	\$3,853,000
	2015			11,761	Ton	\$165.54	\$1,947,000
Total 2016	Value	9,443				Value	\$80,098,000
Total 2015	Value	8,779				Value	\$83,277,000
Misc. Fruit & Nut Crops: May include Grapes, Jujubes, Limes, Mangos, Olives, Oranges							

Apiary Products

Crop	Year	Hives	Production		Unit	Value Per Unit	Gross Value
			Yield Per Hive	Total Units			
Honey	2016	17,312	16.13	279,193	Lbs	\$1.63	\$456,000
	2015	42,489	8.15	346,255	Lbs	\$2.09	\$723,000
Wax	2016	14,150	1.69	23,900	Lbs	\$3.81	\$91,000
	2015	22,050	0.52	11,500	Lbs	\$2.17	\$25,000
Pollination	2016	62,591			Colony	\$60.87	\$3,810,000
	2015	71,113			Colony	\$56.68	\$4,031,000
Total 2016						Value	\$4,357,000
Total 2015						Value	\$4,779,000



Vegetable & Melon Crops

Crop	Year	Production			Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Total Units		Per Unit	Gross Value
Broccoli (Market)	2016	14,579	472	6,885,855	26 Lb Ctn	\$17.51	\$120,562,000
	2015	14,738	538	7,925,923	26 Lb Ctn	\$11.39	\$90,265,000
Cabbage (Market)	2016	1,653	777	1,283,903	45 Lb Ctn	\$11.48	\$14,733,000
	2015	1,218	768	935,295	45 Lb Ctn	\$12.87	\$12,035,000
Carrots							
Market	2016	4,642	706	3,277,906	50 Lb Bag	\$3.29	\$10,780,000
	2015	4,920	948	4,665,136	50 Lb Bag	\$1.86	\$8,696,000
Processing & Other	2016	10,830	29.07	314,873	Ton	\$162.79	\$51,258,000
	2015	11,479	31.73	364,272	Ton	\$132.50	\$48,266,000
Total Carrots	2016	15,472					\$62,038,000
	2015	16,399					\$56,962,000
Cauliflower (Market)	2016	4,428	787	3,484,515	23 Lb Ctn	\$10.35	\$36,053,000
	2015	3,694	694	2,565,451	23 Lb Ctn	\$9.69	\$24,859,000
Head Lettuce							
Naked Pack	2016			2,466,093	50 Lb Ctn	\$8.50	\$20,962,000
	2015			2,401,096	50 Lb Ctn	\$7.66	\$18,834,000
Wrap Pack	2016			7,398,278	40 Lb Ctn	\$8.75	\$64,735,000
	2015			7,203,288	40 Lb Ctn	\$8.33	\$59,990,000
Bulk	2016			3,945,748	50 Lb Ctn	\$8.50	\$33,539,000
	2015			3,841,754	50 Lb Ctn	\$7.66	\$29,414,000
Total Head Lettuce	2016	18,031		13,810,119	Ctn	\$8.63	\$119,236,000
	2015	18,078		13,446,138	Ctn	\$8.02	\$107,788,000
Leaf Lettuce	2016	14,310	560	8,013,191	35 Lb Ctn	\$16.62	\$133,212,000
	2015	13,132	705	9,262,432	35 Lb Ctn	\$10.77	\$99,738,000
Spring Mix	2016	2,973	11,381	33,835,713	Lb	\$0.83	\$28,013,000
	2015	2,830	18,052	51,088,835	Lb	\$0.51	\$26,157,000

Spring Mix may include: Green, Red, and Baby Leaf Lettuce; Beet Tops, Mizuna, Mustard

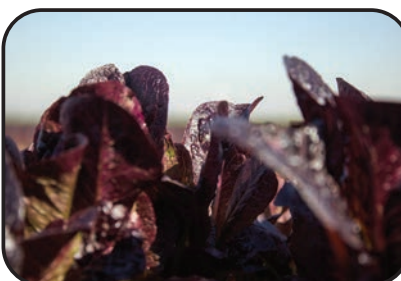




Vegetable & Melon Crops

Crop	Year	Production			Unit	Value	
		Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Total Units		Per Unit	Gross Value
Onions							
Market	2016	3,924	1,702	6,678,648	50 Lb Sack	\$9.19	\$61,396,000
	2015	4,192	2,492	10,447,093	50 Lb Sack	\$11.35	\$118,575,000
Processor	2016	9,813	24.41	239,569	Ton	\$280.00	\$67,080,000
	2015	8,439	19.66	165,932	Ton	\$159.38	\$26,447,000
Total Onions	2016	13,737					\$128,476,000
	2015	12,631					\$145,022,000
Potatoes	2016	2,243	367	822,732	Cwt	\$26.19	\$21,544,000
	2015	2,009	548	1,100,262	Cwt	\$11.32	\$12,460,000
Spinach	2016	10,165	10,246	104,145,699	Lb	\$0.93	\$96,508,000
	2015	6,171	11,413	70,427,155	Lb	\$0.45	\$31,991,000
Sweet Corn	2016	7,407	445	3,296,115	50 Lb Ctn	\$12.50	\$41,201,000
	2015	6,410	438	2,804,375	50 Lb Ctn	\$14.00	\$39,261,000
Romaine Lettuce	2016	8,122	589	4,787,842	35 Lb Ctn	\$14.66	\$70,196,000
	2015	6,590	732	4,825,857	35 Lb Ctn	\$6.50	\$31,372,000
Misc. Vegetables	2016	13,349					\$96,907,000
	2015	10,098					\$77,568,000
Cantaloupes	2016	5,068	620	3,142,582	40 Lb Ctn	\$6.93	\$21,789,000
	2015	5,185	877	4,545,023	40 Lb Ctn	\$6.99	\$31,747,000
Honeydew & Misc. Melons	2016	1,283	691	886,553	40 Lb Ctn	\$9.34	\$8,280,000
	2015	851	850	723,350	40 Lb Ctn	\$8.88	\$6,423,000
Watermelons	2016	773	27.00	20,871	Ton	\$364.00	\$7,597,000
	2015	1,250	23.75	29,688	Ton	\$383.09	\$11,373,000
Total 2016	Acres	133,593				Value	\$1,006,345,000
Total 2015	Acres	121,284				Value	\$805,021,000

Misc. Vegetables may include: Artichoke, Arugula, Asparagus, Basil, Beans, Beets, Bok Choy, Brussel Sprouts, Celery, Cilantro, Collard, Cucumber, Daikon, Dill, Endive, Fennel, Garbanzo Beans, Garlic, Kale, Mint, Mustard, Napa Cabbage, Okra, Parsley, Peas, Peppers, Radish, Rapini, Rutabaga, Squash, Swiss Chard, Tomato, Turnip





Seed Crops & Nursery Products

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Production		Unit	Value Per Unit	Gross Value Total
			Yield Per Acre	Total			
Alfalfa Seed							
Non-Certified	2016	10,479	584.37	6,123,618	Lb	\$2.53	\$15,480,000
	2015	10,782	576.94	6,220,594	Lb	\$2.67	\$16,613,000
Certified	2016	30,670	667.27	20,465,255	Lb	\$3.39	\$69,431,000
	2015	20,446	658.59	13,465,537	Lb	\$3.71	\$49,979,000
Total Alfalfa Seed	2016	41,149	646.16	26,588,873	Lb	\$3.19	\$84,911,000
	2015	31,228	630.40	19,686,131	Lb	\$3.38	\$66,592,000
Bermuda Grass Seed							
Non-Certified	2016	17,085	270.00	4,612,950	Lb	\$3.00	\$13,839,000
	2015	16,858	391.40	6,598,221	Lb	\$3.58	\$23,605,000
Certified	2016	3,675	481.04	1,767,840	Lb	\$3.50	\$6,188,000
	2015	3,902	435.65	1,699,904	Lb	\$3.87	\$6,587,000
Total Bermuda Grass Seed	2016	20,760	307.36	6,380,790	Lb	\$3.14	\$20,027,000
	2015	20,760	399.72	8,298,125	Lb	\$3.64	\$30,192,000
Onion Seed	2016	684	220.83	151,050	Lb	\$9.43	\$1,424,000
	2015	348	352.17	122,554	Lb	\$9.42	\$1,155,000
Misc. Seed & Nursery							
Misc. Non-Certified Seed	2016	1,108					\$10,088,000
	2015	1,197					\$4,140,000
Misc. Certified Seed	2016	972					\$533,000
	2015	949					\$1,447,000
Misc. Nursery Products	2016	593					\$6,074,000
	2015	557					\$4,147,000
Total 2016	Acres	65,266					\$123,057,000
Total 2015	Acres	55,039					\$107,673,000
Misc. Seed and Nursery Products may include: Artichoke Seed, Broccoli Seed, Coriander Seed, Carrot Seed, Kale Seed, Rape Seed, Sunflower Seed, Watermelon Seed, Wheat Seed, Cut Flowers, Palm Trees, Vegetable Transplants							

California Agricultural Statistics—2015

California Agricultural Statistics are compiled annually from County Agricultural Commissioner Crop Reports

- In 2015, Imperial County ranked #11 out of 58 California Counties with a gross value of agricultural production at \$1,925,134,000.
- According to the 2015-16 review of the 2015 Ag Statistics by CDFA, Imperial County was the sole producer of sugar beets; #1 producer of alfalfa hay, onion, wheat, corn, alfalfa seed and Sudan grass hay; and among the top five producers of cattle, lettuce, broccoli, celery, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, potatoes, cantaloupes, salad greens, cabbage, watermelon, grapefruit, sheep, honeydew melon and dates.
- In 2015, California remained the leading state in cash farm receipts with the leading crops being fruits, nuts and vegetables. California is the sole exporter of many agricultural commodities supplying 99 percent or more of the following: almonds, artichokes, dates, dried plums, figs, garlic, kiwi, olives and olive oil, pistachios, raisins, table grapes, and walnuts.

Export Commodities^{1/}



2016 Federal Export Certificates

19,002 federal certificates issued to 96 countries

92.7% of the certificates issued to 7 countries

235 seed samples drawn for export certification

Countries				Commodities Exported ^{2/}	
Japan	35.4%	Canada	4.3%	Hay & Straw	40.4%
Mexico	34.0%	Taiwan	2.2%	Vegetables	32.9%
Republic of Korea	8.1%	United Arab Emirates	2.1%	Seed	13.9%
China	6.6%	Other Countries	7.3%	Other	12.8%



2016 State Certificates

1,061 state certificates issued to 8 states and 3 territories

95.2% of the certificates issued to 2 states



States or Territories	
Hawaii	53.7%
Florida	41.5%
California	2.6%
Texas	0.9%
Other States	1.3%
Commodities Exported ^{2/}	
Vegetables	87.9%
Nursery	11.2%
Other	0.8%
Seed	0.1%

^{1/}Based on USDA Phytosanitary Certification Program

^{2/}Not all commodities originated in Imperial County



Pest Detection, Eradication & Management

This program is mandated to monitor agricultural and urban areas for harmful exotic pests using trapping and visual surveys, and to control or eradicate exotic pests as appropriate in order to protect the local agricultural industry, environment, the public and landscaping. Surveys continue for the Mediterranean fruit fly, Mexican fruit fly, oriental fruit fly, melon fly, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, glassy-winged sharpshooter, Asian Citrus psyllid, and red imported fire ant. The department also provides field inspection services for growers that wish to export commodities, pest identification services, and enforcement of pest related laws and regulations intended to protect the local agricultural industry.

Pest Detection Trapping

Target Pest	Pest Detection Method	Number of Traps	Annual Trap Services	Host Crops
Asian Citrus Psyllid	Yellow Sticky Trap	165	6,087	Citrus
ACP population monitoring	2 mile delimitation from the International Border — finds result in state treatment			
European Corn Borer	Pheromone	12	84	Corn & Sorghum
Various Exotic Fruit Flies	Feeding Attractant	110	1,322	Fruit Trees & Vegetables
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter	Yellow Sticky Trap	479	9,836	Crops & Ornamentals
Gypsy Moth	Pheromone	59	433	Shade Trees
Japanese Beetle	Pheromone	59	433	Turf & Flowers
Khapra Beetle	Feeding Attractant/Pheromone	36	379	Stored Food Products
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Pheromone	121	5,265	Fruit Trees
Melon Fruit Fly	Pheromone	121	4,464	Vegetables
Mexican Fruit Fly	Feeding Attractant	121	5,262	Fruit Trees
Oriental Fruit Fly	Pheromone	121	5,262	Fruit Trees



Pest Detection Surveys

Target Pest/Survey Sites	Area Surveyed	Inspections & Finds	Actions
Noxious Weeds/Ag & Urban:	970 Total Miles	11 Total Positive Sites:	
Puncture Vine, C-rated		5 Positive Sites	1 Site Mechanical Removal
Johnson Grass, C-rated		5 Positive Sites	
Cucumis melo var. Dudaim. A-rated		1 Positive Site	1 Site Mechanical Removal
Karnal Bunt/Wheat	10 Fields	No Finds	No Action Needed
Red Imported Fire Ant	43 High Risk Sites	No Finds	No Action Needed
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter	Retail Nursery Stock Shipments	1,443 Inspections	5 Finds: Returned to Origin
		23 Rejections	121 Rejections not due to finds
	Bulk Citrus Fruit	132 Inspections	No Finds—No Action Needed
Pathogens of Concern for Seed Export	Seed Fields	447 Fields Surveyed (By Request Only)	293 Target Pest of Concern (Listed on Field Walk Report)

Plant Quarantine, Exclusion & Certification



The division is mandated to exclude exotic agricultural, urban, and environmental pests and to prevent movement of newly discovered pests within the state. This is accomplished through inspection of incoming agricultural products and enforcement of quarantines that prohibit or restrict the movement of plants, seeds and other items capable of harboring harmful pests. In addition, certificates of quarantine compliance and phytosanitary certificates are issued for commodities originating here, in order to assist growers in moving their products to other counties, states or countries.

Plant Quarantine Pest Exclusion Inspections ~ Shipments Entering Imperial County

Type of Inspection	Inspections	Pounds	Origin
Field & Vegetable Seed	770	15,954,264	Argentina, Arizona, California, Chile, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Nebraska, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wyoming
Plants	159	-	Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, Iowa, New Jersey, Mississippi, California
	82	-	
Bees	5	-	Arizona, Montana

Nursery & Seed Inspection

The goals of the nursery inspection programs are to prevent the introduction and spread of agricultural pests through nursery stock and to protect agriculture and the consumer against economic losses resulting from the sale of inferior, defective, or pest-infested nursery stock. The seed law enforcement program protects seed consumers by regulation of the marketing of seed, inspection of seed grown or sold locally, verification of purity and germination, investigation of seed complaints, and prevention of the spread of noxious weed seeds through seed products. Also included in this program is the California Certified Seed Program in which superior varieties of seed are grown, processed and distributed under close supervision.

Nursery Inspections

Type of Inspection	Locations	Production Acres	Nursery Stock Type
Production Nursery	20	541	Palms, Bamboo, Vegetable Transplants, Ornamentals, Cut Flowers, Succulents
Retail Nursery	39	-	Retail Flowers, Trees and Shrubs

California Crop Improvement Association Inspections & Certification

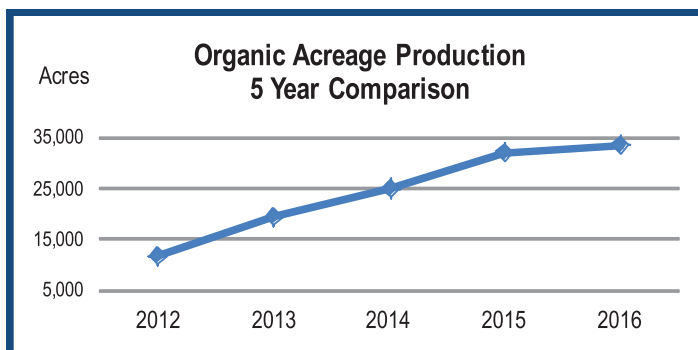
Type of Inspection	Inspection
Harvest Equipment	56

Seed Transfer Certification	Number of Certificates
In-State	63
Out of State	72

Organic Grower Program

The Organic Program is responsible for enforcement of the Federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 and the California Organic Products Act of 2003. These statutes protect consumers, producers, handlers, processors and retailers by monitoring and inspecting fresh commodities grown, labeled or sold as organic.

Year	Growers	Acres	Gross Value
2016	48	33,505	\$242,404,000
2015	36	31,934	\$275,382,000
2014	28	25,156	\$159,938,000
2013	26	19,433	\$80,904,000
2012	26	11,989	\$39,396,000





Mission Statement

To promote and protect our agricultural industry by providing clear direction and appropriate regulatory oversight while protecting our citizens and the environment through the enforcement of pesticide laws, weight and measurement standards, the detection and eradication of pests harmful to our agricultural industry, human health, and other plant resources.

Department Description

The County Agricultural Commissioner is charged with enforcing the laws of the California Food and Agricultural Code. These laws and the regulations of the California Code of Regulations address the many aspects and complexities of agricultural production in California. The Agricultural Commissioner must carry out the mandated duties required by the above mentioned codes.

Significant activities include Pesticide Use Enforcement, Pest Detection and Eradication, Pest Exclusion and Quarantine Certification of Agricultural Produce for Export, Pest Management, Seed Law Enforcement, Nursery Inspection, and Crop Statistics. Additional activities may include Fruit and Vegetable Quality Control, Inspections of Imported Produce at the Port of Entry Calexico-East, and Egg Quality Control.

The Agricultural Commissioner is also mandated to enforce the Weights and Measures laws in the Business and Professions Code. These activities include the inspection and certification of all commercial weighing and measuring devices in the County. Inspection of all gasoline pumps, water meters, truck scales and retail scales are a few examples of the activities in this area.



Meet our Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

In December 2016, Carlos Ortiz was named Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures. He began his position following a nearly 30-year-career in the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

The son of a field worker who immigrated to the United States under the Bracero program, Ortiz grew up between two countries, Mexico and the United States, and he spent his youth - after school and during summers - working



with his father in the fields of Southern California and on his father's own ranch in Mexico.

In his current role, Ortiz leads a staff of 38 dedicated men and women. For Ortiz and his staff, partnerships are critical to the success of the County's billion-dollar agricultural economy with crops grown on some 400,000 farmable acres. He and his staff are there to serve and support growers, businesses, and the public.

Excerpt by Darren Simon: Imperial-San Diego Currents

Agricultural Commissioner's Staff



Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer



Jolene Dessert

Clerical



Left to Right:
Monica Shelton, Office Supervisor II
Adriana Anguls, Office Assistant III
Samantha Bogenholm, Account Clerk III
Cesar Marron, Office Assistant II
Maria Luera, Accounting Technician (not pictured)

Pest Detection & Eradication Division



Top Left to Right:
Nicolas Berg, Agricultural Biologist III
John Molina, Agricultural Assistant
Heriberto Sanchez, Agricultural Biologist III
Bottom left to right:
Robert Japp, Agricultural Assistant
Margo Sanchez, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
Germania Salazar, Agricultural Biologist I

Kelley Jackson, Agricultural Biologist I
Laura Arellano, Plant Pathologist/Entomologist
Eduardo Gonzalez, Agricultural Assistant
Rene Peinado, Agricultural Assistant
Jaciel Lainez, Agricultural Assistant
Jose Luis Encalada, Agricultural Biologist III
Reyes Triviso, Agricultural Biologist IV

Pest Exclusion/Weights & Measures Division



Left to Right:
David Claverle, Agricultural Biologist III
Paul Deol, Agricultural Biologist III
Ramon Ortega, Agricultural Biologist III
Frank Duarte, Agricultural Biologist III
Nelson Perez, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Antonio Venegas, Agricultural Biologist I
Baldev Singh, Agricultural Biologist III

Pesticide Use Enforcement Division

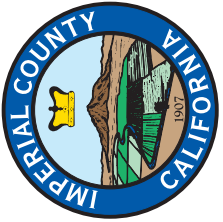


Top Left to Right:
Julian Lopez, Agricultural Biologist IV
Joseph Andreotti, Agricultural Biologist III
Jeffrey Lopez, Agricultural Biologist III
Bottom left to right:
Francisco Rodriguez, Agricultural Biologist I
Brenda Suarez, Agricultural Biologist II
Sandy Pereda, Data Entry Operator
Cynthia Paz, Agricultural Biologist III
Lupe Orozco, Office Technician
Rachel Garewal, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
Hiram Rocha, Agricultural Biologist III

Special Projects Coordinator



Sandra Mendivil



Carlos Ortiz
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
852 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243-2850