

COUNTY OF VENTURA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

WINTER 2026

NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION

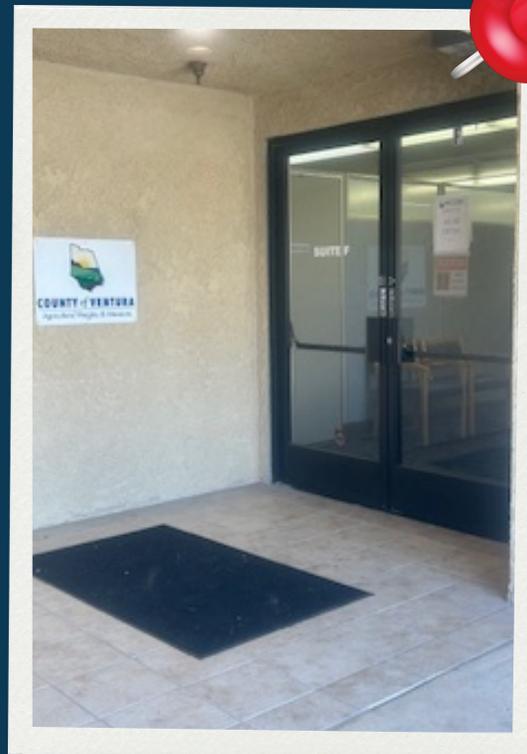
To protect and promote
agriculture and equity in the
marketplace, while ensuring the
welfare of the public the industry
and the environment.

Table of Content

Our Lobby Has Moved	01
Reminder, Please Submit Your Crop & Livestock Report by March 31st	02
Did You Remember to Register for the 2026 Calendar Year? John Mikesell, Deputy - Pesticide Use Enforcement	03
Agriculture & Consumer Protection Program Shravan Dasoju, Deputy - Consumer Protection	04
Traps Used in Ventura County Eddie Ventura, Agriculture/Weights & Measures Inspector II	05-09
Commercial Weighing & Measuring Devices John Beall - Sealer/Deputy-Weights & Measures	10-12
National Weights and Measures Week, March 1 st - 7 th	13
5th Annual Native Plant Fest David Wirta, Deputy - Pest Exclusion	14
Employee Spotlight - Molly Gonzalez, Supervising Pesticide Use Enforcement Inspector	15
March is National Agriculture Month Greta Varien, Chief Deputy	16
National Invasive Species Awareness Week, February 23-27th	17
Spray Safe Event Information	18
5th Annual Ventura County Wildflower & Weed Show	19
Notice To Growers	20
Attention Beekeepers!	21
Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) Program	22
Gold Spotted Oak Borer	23
Agricultural Rain Damage Survey	24
AG Pass Interest Sign-Up	25
Find a Certified Farmers' Market Near You!	26
Follow Us On Social Media	27
Upcoming Events	28

OUR LOBBY HAS MOVED!

SAME
LOCATION
NOW IN
SUITE F



Camarillo Office

555 Airport Way, Suite F
Camarillo, CA 93010

Monday to Friday 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Closed 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM daily
Closed on all federal holidays



<https://awm.venturacounty.gov/>



Camarillo Office
(805) 388-4222



Santa Paula Office
(805) 933-2926

01



REMINDER

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT BY MARCH 31ST!

The Ventura County Crop & Livestock Report is an annual summary of local agricultural production, including crop types, quantities, values, top crops, acreage, and market trends. Every Agricultural Commissioner's office is required to produce an annual crop report, making it a collaborative effort that reflects the region's agricultural landscape and contributions.

All data is kept confidential.

Click below to access any Crop & Livestock Report:

[Apiary & Beneficials](#)

[Cut Flowers](#)

[Field Crops](#)

[Fruit & Nut](#)

[Livestock & Poultry](#)

[Nursery Stock](#)

[Seed Crops](#)

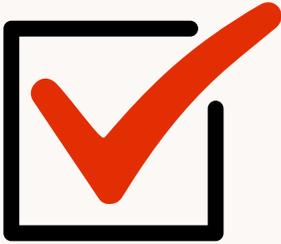
[Vegetable Crops](#)

Return to the Camarillo or Santa Paula offices.

Or email to: Sarah.Snow@venturacounty.gov

DID YOU REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR?

John Mikesell, Deputy - Pesticide Use Enforcement



Before conducting work in Ventura County in the 2026 calendar year, licensed pest control businesses, pest control advisors, pest control pilots, and farm labor contractors are required to register with the Ventura County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures.

Who Must Register?

The following licensed businesses and individuals must register each year in every county where they operate, provide required documentation, and pay the applicable registration fee.

- Agricultural Pest Control Businesses
- Maintenance Gardeners
- Pest Control Advisors
- Pest Control Pilots
- Farm Labor Contractors
- Structural Pest Control Branch
1 businesses
- Structural Pest Control Branch
2/3 businesses

Failure to register for the 2026 calendar year prior to performing work in 2026 is unlawful and may result in enforcement actions.

For registration forms, fees, or additional guidance, contact the Ventura County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures at:

Camarillo
555 Airport Way, Ste E
Camarillo, CA 93010

Santa Paula
815 E. Santa Barbara Street
Santa Paula, CA 93061

VCAWM 2025/26 Fee schedule:

<https://awm.venturacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Fee-Schedule-2025-VAWM-1.cleaned.pdf>



Certified Farmers' Markets

VCAWM Upgrades to State Certified Producer Certificate Program

Shravan Dasoju, Deputy - Agriculture & Consumer Protection

VCAWM is pleased to announce that the Agriculture & Consumer Protection (A&CP) division is transitioning to a statewide Certified Producer Certification (CPC) database facilitated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

A CPC is a required certificate issued in the county of production. The certification and issuance of CPCs require AWM inspectors to visit each site of production to verify that producers are growing the products they intend to sell. It authorizes Certified Producers to transport and sell certified agricultural products directly to consumers at Certified Farmers' Markets (CFMs).

The CPC database plays a key role in this process. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the program, we are moving from our in-house database to CDFA's Direct Marketing Program database for processing and issuing CPCs. This change will help us better serve our customers and certified producers, and it will allow for more efficient coordination with other counties statewide. While the new CPC format will look slightly different, the information and data reported will remain the same.

During the first year of implementation, our staff will enter all CPC data on behalf of producers. After that, each producer will be required to create an account and submit applications online. As with any transition, challenges may arise, and we appreciate your cooperation in helping ensure a smooth process with minimal disruption to CPC services.

For questions about applying for a new CPC, renewing an existing CPC, or submitting amendments, please contact Lauren Balthazor at (805) 388-4222 ext. 7144, or email Agriculture&ConsumerProtection@venturacounty.gov.

As a reminder to producers: please contact our office at least two weeks prior to your CPC's expiration date to begin the renewal/amendment process.

Thank you—we look forward to continuing to serve Ventura County's certified producers in 2026.



Direct Marketing Program

TRAPS USED IN VENTURA COUNTY

Eddie Ventura, Agriculture Weights & Measures Inspector II

Effective pest management depends on accurate information and reliable data. A key part of this process is understanding which pests are present and knowing their biology. Trapping plays a critical role by helping detect, capture, and identify agricultural pests within an area of concern. Once pests are collected and identified, appropriate management plans can be developed. Traps are deployed by VCAWM, CDFA, UC Cooperative Extension - Hanson, as well as pest control companies.

Trapping is also essential for detecting new or invasive pests. Specific traps can be deployed to attract targeted species, allowing for early detection and ongoing monitoring. This proactive approach helps protect both natural environments and agricultural production. When invasive pests are detected, established protocols are implemented to prevent their spread and safeguard crops and ecosystems.

One example is the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) Program. GWSS is known for damaging grapevines by vectoring Pierce's Disease. Most Southern California counties are infested with GWSS and are therefore under official quarantine. To prevent the introduction of GWSS into Northern counties, trapping is used to monitor populations in nurseries that ship plant material. When trap counts reach specific thresholds, shipments are placed on hold until required management steps are completed.

Trapping remains a vital component of pest management in our County. It enables us to protect the agricultural industry and preserve the health of our environment.

Trap information and office contact:

- Each of our traps will have an identification tag with targeted pest information.
- Contact information for our office is also posted so an individual can reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

This trap is part of a collaborative effort to mitigate the spread of Golden Spotted Oak Borer. GSOB is an invasive pest and poses a significant threat to California's oak trees (*Quercus* spp).

PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB THIS TRAP

Please report damage to this trap by calling: (805) 388-4222



COUNTY of VENTURA
Agriculture/Weights & Measures



MCPHAIL AND JACKSON TRAP: TRAPPING DONE BY CDFA

Both styles of these traps are used to help monitor fruit fly species that could be harmful to agriculture. In Ventura County this trapping is done by the CDFA.



For the Mcphail trap, an attractant is used, and the fruit flies enter through the bottom of the trap and get trapped inside. Mcphail traps are used to trap a broad array of fruit flies.



The CDFA also uses Jackson traps to detect fruit flies. These traps are triangular and coated with adhesive on all three sides. A pheromone lure is placed inside the trap, which attracts male fruit flies specifically, making this trap style effective for monitoring populations.



Green Delta Traps are used by the CDFA to monitor and survey Spongy moths (*Lymantria dispar*). These traps are designated to capture male moths as a pheromone lure is used to attract them into the trap.



Ventura County Traps Continued...



Yellow Panel Trap

This style trap is used for an array of different pests. In Ventura County, Glassy Winged Sharpshooters (GWSS) and Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) are two pests that are monitored using these types of traps. The insects will leap and fly onto the trap and get stuck on the adhesive.

Large White Panel Traps:

Large White Panel Traps are used in Ventura County for trapping Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB). The trap is a large white sheet with an adhesive glue. ISHB is attracted to the trap with a pheromone lure and once it lands on it will become stuck to the trap.



Japanese Beetle Trap:

This trap is used to monitor for Japanese Beetles. The beetles enter the top of the trap and fall into a container. In Ventura County we do not have any confirmed cases of Japanese Beetles but the CDFA monitors so that we can keep the pest out of the county.



Ventura County Traps Continued...

Bucket Traps

This style trap is used in Ventura County to trap for Boxwood Tree Moth (BTM). There is a lure and vapor tape that are placed inside the trap. The moth will enter the top of the bucket and die due to the vapor tape.



Red Delta Traps:

This style trap is a triangular shape with a hollow center. The inner walls are covered in a thick adhesive. With the use of a lure insects are attracted to it and climb in and get stuck to the adhesive. In Ventura County the delta traps are used to monitor for Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM).

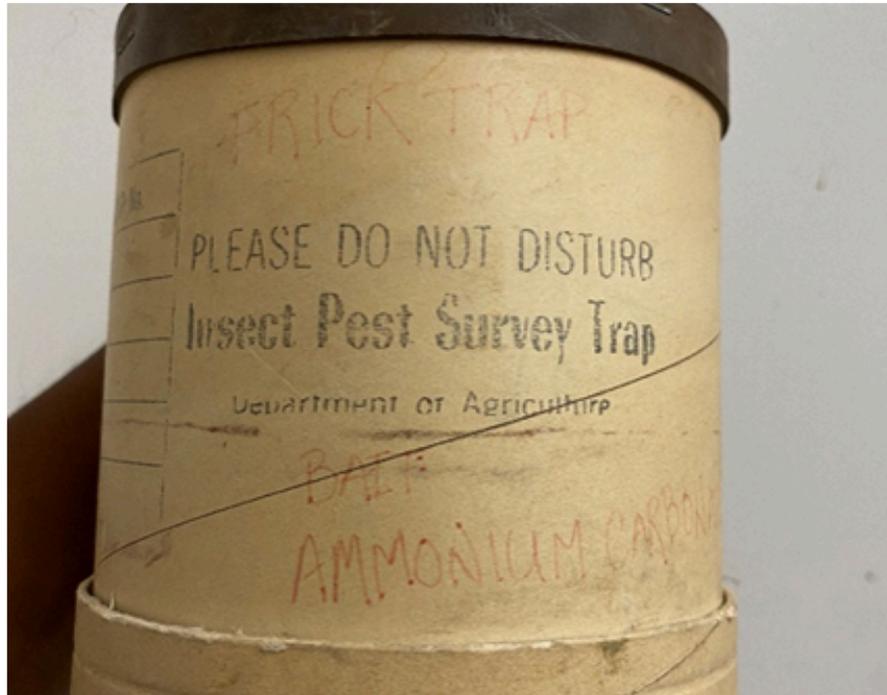


Funnel Traps

This trap is used to catch different flying beetles. In Ventura County it was previously used to catch Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB). A lure is used to have the beetle fly towards the trap and upon trying to land the beetle falls through the funnels and lands in the catching cup.



Traps no longer used in Ventura County



Over time trap models change to become more efficient as research and technology advances. However, keeping some older style traps can help see the progression of the development of traps and give some insight into what certain areas were trapped for. The following are some traps that the Ventura County Agriculture/Weights and Measures Office has for educational / outreach purposes.





Commercial Weighing & Measuring Devices

John Beall - Sealer/Deputy-Weights & Measures

If you need to buy a scale or some kind of measuring or weighing device for your business, how do you know if you can use it commercially?

You don't want to spend \$25 online for a scale to sell produce and find out later that it is "not legal for trade". Some devices are not legal for trade and may even have that stamped on them, others may not. Weighing and measuring devices must go through a "type evaluation" process or you can't use them commercially.



The type evaluation process verifies the design, performance and repeatability of a weighing or measuring device to ensure it meets the legal standard for commercial use. It ensures that equipment is accurate, reliable and designed in a way that the manufacturer of the device, the user and consumer have confidence that the device complies with Weights and Measures laws and regulations.



Commercial Weighing & Measuring Devices

John Beall - Sealer/Deputy-Weights & Measures



Key aspects of type approval include:

- **Certification Requirements:** It is unlawful to use a weighing or measuring device for commercial purposes (such as selling goods by weight) unless the device has been type evaluated.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Design and performance standards for devices applying for certification are tested against specific technical standards to comply with the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44 Specifications and Tolerances and other technical requirements in the United States. The actual evaluation of each device proposed to be used for commercial purposes is done by authorized labs, one of which is the California Department of Food and Agriculture Division of Measurement Standards (CDFA-DMS) lab in Sacramento.
- **Approval Process:** A manufacturer must submit a prototype of a commercial weighing or measuring device model to an authorized laboratory for testing. If it passes the type evaluation, a certificate is issued allowing that specific model to be sold and used for trade.
- **Device Information on a Type Evaluation Certificate**



- Approval Number
- Device model and description
- Applicant information
- Standard features and options
- Effective date
- Application for the device
- Identification placement and description
- Sealing
- Operation
- Test Conditions
- Evaluating technicians



- In the U.S., the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP), managed by the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM), issues Certificates of Conformance (COC). Look up a COA> <https://www.ncwm.com/ntep-certificates>
- California (and several other states) has its own program: the California Type Evaluation Program (CTEP) which issues Certificates of Approval (COA) Look up a COA> <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/ctep.html>

Commercial Weighing & Measuring Devices

John Beall - Sealer/Deputy - Weights & Measures



- Marking Requirements: Information about the type evaluated device must be placed on the device in a permanent, weather-resistant plate and include:
- Manufacturer's name and address.
- Model designation and unique serial number.
- Accuracy class.
- Also-additional Marking requirements depending upon the specific kind of device.
- A CDFA-DMS licensed Registered Service Agent (RSA) is required to follow Weights & Measures laws and regulations and install only commercial Weighing and Measuring devices which are type approved.
(<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/rsa/rsa.html>)
- Testing and Sealing: Once a commercial device is type approved and installed by an RSA, it must be registered with Ventura County Agriculture/Weights and Measures.

For registration and fees <https://awm.venturacounty.gov/weights-measures/>

The commercial device will be periodically inspected and tagged (if inaccurate/out of compliance) or "sealed" by weights and measures officials to ensure it remains accurate and has not been tampered with.

NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

MARCH 1ST - 7TH, 2026

JOHN BEALL - SEALER/DEPUTY-WEIGHTS & MEASURES

These dates are designated every year to commemorate President John Adams's signing of the first United States weights and measures law on March 2nd, 1799.

In January 1790, President George Washington urged Congress to turn its attention to weights and measures in his first address to that body: "Uniformity in the Currency, Weights and Measures of the United States is an object of great importance, and will, I am persuaded, be duly attended to."



Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 of the United State Constitution

(<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>) grants Congress the power to "fix the Standard of Weights and Measures". This clause was designed to ensure uniformity in trade and commerce across the states. It enables the National Institute of Technology ([NIST Office of Weights and Measures](#)) to set standards, develop regulations, and cooperate with states.

5th Annual NATIVE PLANT FEST

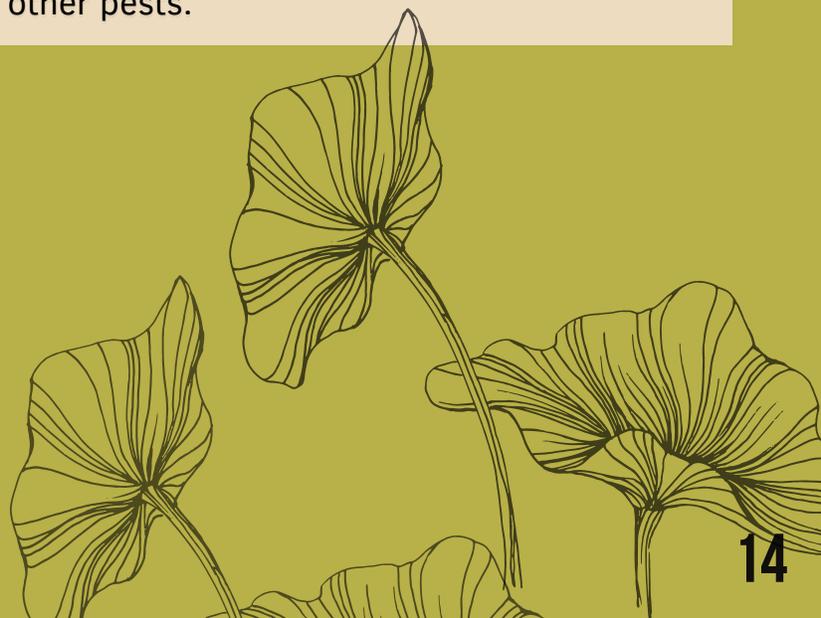
David Wirta
Deputy - Pest Exclusion

On January 24, 2026, the Oxnard Performing Arts Center hosted its 5th annual Native Plant Festival which showcased local plant-inspired culture, food, traditions and creativity. This festival is a community led event led by plant enthusiasts of diverse backgrounds who shared their plants, services, artwork, culinary creations, products and educational resources. This event takes place every year at an optimal time of year for native plant planting during California's cool wet season.



VCAWM staff hosted an informational booth highlighting education on Nursery Licensing and Services, Exotic Pest Prevention and Exclusion, Invasive Weed Management, pesticide safety, and other programs managed by the Department. Ventura County is the third-highest-grossing nursery county in the state, making it essential for VCAWM to support the local community and its strong horticultural interest. However, many hobbyists are unaware of the risks associated with buying, selling, or trading plants that may carry unwanted pests or plant diseases.

For example, Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*), found in quarantined areas of Northern California, could inadvertently be spread through uncertified native plant nursery stock brought into Southern California. California-licensed nurseries are regularly inspected by local VCAWM inspectors and remain the safest source of nursery stock to help limit the spread of diseases like SOD and other pests.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Please Meet our Newest Supervisor

Molly Gonzalez



What do you enjoy most about working with the department?

I love the blend of office and field work—no two days are ever the same, and that variety is a big reason I enjoy what I do. Another part of the job I really value is the people I work with. My background in agricultural education allows me to approach challenges faced by inspectors, industry members, and the public through the lens of education. I'm constantly learning whether it's new regulations or industry practices I haven't encountered before, and problem-solving through education is the most rewarding part of my job.

What does your typical day look like in your role?

My typical day focuses on supervision, training, and supporting inspectors. While my role is primarily supervisory, I still spend time in the field, conducting inspections and providing in-the-field training. I also help facilitate training opportunities and coordination with partner agencies such as the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to ensure our inspectors have the tools and knowledge they need to perform their work effectively and consistently.

What projects or accomplishment are you most proud of during your time here?

One of the projects I'm most proud of is coordinating the 2025 Pesticide Disposal Event. It was a lot of work, but it was fulfilling to know it provided a helpful service to the agricultural community. I'm also currently working on the department's ability to accept card payments, which will make things more efficient and convenient for the industry we serve.

How does your work contribute to the mission of our department?

Protecting and promoting agriculture is the part of the Department's mission that means the most to me. As a supervisor in the Pesticide Use Enforcement (PUE) division, I get to share my passion for agriculture while helping make sure our work supports compliance and long-term sustainability. My background is in agricultural education, so a lot of my job is really about educating inspectors, industry members, and the public. When people understand the "why" behind the regulations, it helps protect agriculture in Ventura County for the future.

National Agriculture Month

MARCH

Greta Varien - Chief Deputy

March marks National Agriculture Month, a time to recognize the people, industries, and resources that make agriculture one of Ventura County's most valuable assets. Here at home, agriculture is more than an economic sector; it is a defining part of our community's identity, landscape, and quality of life. Ventura County consistently ranks among the top agricultural counties in the nation. In fact, Ventura County is a state leader in many specialty crops, ranking:

- 1st in avocados, raspberries, and cilantro
- 2nd in lemons, celery, peppers, blackberries, cabbage, and beets
- 3rd in nursery products, kale, strawberries, and Brussels sprouts

Agriculture is a cornerstone of the County's economy. Tens of thousands of jobs, on farms, in nurseries, in packing houses, transportation, research, regulation, education, and agricultural services, depend on a strong and stable agricultural sector. These jobs support families, sustain local businesses, and contribute significantly to the county's economic health. At the same time, the beauty of Ventura County's agricultural landscape is a gift we often take for granted. Fields of strawberries, rows of citrus, and vibrant nurseries contribute to the scenic character that residents and visitors cherish, while helping preserve natural esthetics, maintain biodiversity, and support environmental stewardship across the region.

This remarkable productivity is made possible by fertile soils, a temperate coastal climate, and the passion of skilled farmers. The work done by the Ventura County Department of Agriculture / Weights & Measures helps strengthen the integrity of Ventura County as a production county. The department administers more than two dozen contracted programs that protect consumers, support growers, and safeguard the environment. These include enforcement of federal, state, and local regulation in programs such as air monitoring, Asian citrus psyllid and bulk citrus inspections, certified farmers' market oversight, detection trapping for invasive pests, fuels and lubricants testing, glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) control, high-risk pest exclusion, industrial hemp regulation, citrus maturity testing, noxious weed management, nursery and organic inspections, petroleum product verification, Phytophthora ramorum monitoring, Williamson Act administration, APAC, Ag Advisory support, egg quality inspections, seed certification, invasive shot-hole borer (ISHB) and Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) response, standardization enforcement, Weighmaster program oversight, disaster assistance coordination, crop reporting, agricultural components in the County General Plan, GIS data services, and many others. Together, these programs ensure fair commerce, healthy crops, and a safe, transparent marketplace for all Ventura County residents.

As we celebrate National Agriculture Month, we here at VCAWM want to recognize and thank the growers, farmworkers, inspectors, educators, scientists, and community partners who make Ventura County agriculture strong. Their dedication ensures that fresh food remains available locally, that our landscapes remain vibrant, and that our local economy continues to flourish. Agriculture is woven into the fabric of Ventura County, and this month offers a meaningful opportunity to honor the people and programs that keep this essential industry thriving.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

February 23rd-27th

What are invasive species?

An invasive species is a non-native organism which can cause significant harm to the environment and/or agriculture.

How Pest Exclusion mitigates Invasive Species:

The Ventura County Agriculture/ Weights & Measures Department prevents the spread of invasive species through the Pest Exclusion Division.

Inspections are conducted at:

- **FedEx and UPS locations**

Interception of Plant Material, Vegetables, or Fruit that may carry invasive pests

- **Nurseries**

Incoming and Outgoing shipments of Nursery Stock

- **Incoming Shipments**

Fruits, Vegetables, and Plant Material subject to pest quarantines.

- **Retail Stores**

Incoming Nursery Stock from out of state

If you suspect you have found an invasive species, please report it to our office.

(805) 933-2926

(805) 388-4222

COUNTY of VENTURA
Agriculture/Weights & Measures

<https://awm.venturacounty.gov>



Pink Hibiscus Mealybug



Spotted Lanternfly



Spongy Moth



Attention Ventura County Agricultural Community:

Growers, Pest Control Advisors, Applicators, Field Mangers, Farm Labor Contractors, Field Supervisors, & Foremen-this event is for YOU!

Join us for the **8th Ventura County SpraySafeEvent** and gain valuable insights directly from industry experts. Learn from your peers as they share their experiences with the SpraySafe program in their own operations and hear from regulators and elected officials about the critical role of SpraySafe in advancing safe and sustainable practices.

Thursday, March 5, 2026 • Ventura County Fairgrounds (Santa Cruz Hall)

Don't miss this opportunity to network, learn, and reinforce your commitment to safety in agriculture. Register today to reserve your spot! Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Agenda

7:30-8:45 a.m. Registration & Trade Show Exhibition

8:45- 9:15 a.m. Opening Session

9:15-10:15 a.m. Morning Speakers

10:30- 12:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Break Out Sessions - 15 Minutes Each

- Spray Safe Checklist - Communication
- VC Ag Commissioner's Office -Mock Inspection
- Ca. Strawberry Commission - Spray Calibration
- Ag Spray Equipment - Nozzles/Enclosed Systems
- VC Fire Department - Decontamination/Haz Mat
- CSTC – Pesticide Safety Training
- DPR- PPE Equipment

12:15 p.m. -1:00 p.m. Lunch (Marshall's BBQ)

1:00-1:30 p.m. - Closing Session

Speakers:

Maureen Maguire- CEO, Farm Bureau of Ventura County

Korinne Bell- VC Agricultural Commissioner

Cornelio Blanco-Farm Manager -Rio Farms LLC

Danny Pereira- General Manager- Rio Farms LLC

Keynote Speakers:

Brian Benchwick–CEO, Tri-Tech Ag. Products

Jason Sharrett – Director of Grower Education, California

Strawberry Commission

RSVP by Tuesday, February 27th, 2026 to allow for lunch planning.

To register, simply scan the QR code provided to complete your online registration or email this form to spraysafeventura@gmail.com.

Remember, attendance is free, but advance registration is required to secure your spot.



Company: _____

Preferred Language

Attendees: _____ English Spanish

_____ English Spanish

_____ English Spanish

_____ English Spanish

Total Number of Attendees: _____

(Use an attached sheet if necessary)

5th Annual Ventura County Wildflower & Weed Show

California Native Plant Society Channel
Island's Chapter Spring Plant Sale

11TH APRIL | **SATURDAY** | 10 AM TO 3 PM

LEARN . LOVE . PROTECT

Agriculture Museum of Ventura County
926 Railroad Ave., Santa Paula, Ca 93060



COUNTY of VENTURA
Agriculture/Weights & Measures



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources
UC Master Gardener Program





NOTICE TO GROWERS

You MUST query for and notify beekeepers within a 1 mile radius 48 hours advance every time you apply a pesticide that is...



being applied to blossoming plants

AND

stated to be toxic to bees on the pesticide label



How to obtain beekeeper contact information (within 1 mile):

1. Query the BeeWhere system using your CalAgPermits login **or**
2. Contact our office to request beekeeper information within 1 mile of the application site.

Once obtaining beekeeper information, the notification must include:

- Date, time, and location of application
- Crop and acreage to be treated
- Method of application
- Active ingredient(s) and dosage rate
- Contact information for the person performing pest control

Questions?

- Visit: <https://beewhere.calagpermits.org/>
- Call Us! (805) 933-2926 | (805) 388-4222

SCAN HERE



ATTENTION BEEKEEPERS!

New Apiary regulation changes went into effect on March 20, 2025.

ALL HIVES IN THE COUNTY MUST BE REGISTERED

The apiary registration assessment fee in the schedule below shall be paid on January 1 of each year for each beekeeper, apiary owner, apiary operator or person in possession of any apiary within the previous 12 months of the calendar year. The broker fee shall be assessed as a flat rate annually regardless of the number of colonies managed and is valid through December 31 of each year.

Fees Due January 01, 2026

Number of Colonies	Fee
1-9	\$10.00
10-50	\$100.00
51+ Colonies	\$250.00
Broker	\$250.00

*Fee is based on the total number of colonies and not a per colony basis

For legislative information, visit:

[2025.https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=FAC&division=13.&title=&part=&chapter=&article=&nodetreepath=14](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=FAC&division=13.&title=&part=&chapter=&article=&nodetreepath=14)

Or scan the QR code



Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is providing \$1 billion through a one-time bridge payment for specialty crops, sugar, and commodities not covered through the previously announced Farm Bridge Assistance (FBA) program. ASCF payments are based on reported 2025 planted acres.

Eligible specialty crops include:

A

Almond, Apple, Apricot, Aronia berry, Artichoke, Asparagus, Avocado

M

Macadamia, Mango, Melon (All Types), Mushroom (Cultivated), Mustard and Other Greens

B

Banana, Bean (Snap or green; Lima; Dry edible), Beet (Table), Blackberry, Blueberry, Breadfruit, Broccoli (including Broccoli Raab), Brussels Sprouts

N

Nectarine

O

Okra
Olive
Onion
Opuntia

C

Cabbage (including Chinese), Cacao, Carrot, Cashew, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Cherimoya, Cherry, Chestnut (for Nuts), Chive, Citrus, Coconut, Coffee, Collards (including Kale), Cranberry, Cucumber, Currant

P

Papaya, Parsley, Parsnip, Passion Fruit, Pea (Garden; English or Edible Pod; Dry edible), Peach, Pear, Pecan, Pepper, Persimmon, Pineapple, Pistachio, Plum (including Prune), Pomegranate, Potato, Pumpkin

D

Date, Dry Edible Beans & Peas*

E

Edamame
Eggplant
Endive

Q

Quince

R

Radish (All Types)
Raspberry
Rhubarb
Rutabaga

F

Feijou
Fig
Filbert (Hazelnut)

G

Garlic
Gooseberry
Grape (including Raisin)
Guava

S

Salsify, Spinach, Squash (Summer and Winter), Strawberry, Suriname Cherry, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Swiss Chard

H

Horseradish

K

Kiwi, Kohlrabi

T

Taro, Tomato (including Tomatillo), Turnip

L

Leek, Lettuce, Litchi

W

Walnut, Watermelon

Important Dates

March 13, 2026 (by 5 p.m. ET) Deadline to ensure 2025 crop acreage reports are factual and accurate for eligible ASCF crops. To ensure your acreage has been reported, please contact the USDA - Farm Services Agency.

Santa Maria Service Center
Farm Service Agency Office
[\(805\) 928-9269](tel:(805)928-9269)

Physical Address
920 E Stowell Rd
Santa Maria, CA 93454-7008
[Get Directions](#)

Contact
Daisy Banda
daisy.banda@usda.gov

For more information visit: [USDA Farmers.gov](https://www.usda.gov/farmers)

Burn Firewood Locally:

PROTECT OUR OAKS & STOP THE GOLDSPOTTED OAK BORER SPREAD

"Burn It Where You Buy It"



GSOB

Goldspotted Oak Borer

The adult is a small, bullet-shaped beetle about 1/4 in. long and has 6 golden yellow spots on its dark green forewings.



HOSTS

California Black Oak, Coast Live Oak, Canyon Live Oak
These are common oak species around Ventura County and common trees used for firewood.



EXIT HOLE

They are typically D-shaped and are 3mm in width. The presence of adult exit holes indicates GSOB activity has occurred in that particular area of the tree.

WHY?

GSOB larvae grow in infested, dying, and dead oak trees, along with logs and firewood from freshly cut trees. To limit the spread of GSOB, it is crucial to handle oak firewood with care. Refrain from moving oak firewood from infested regions to prevent the pest from spreading to new places. Failure to address the larvae in the wood can present an ongoing risk to other oak trees.



SCAN

Goldspotted Oak Borer Symptoms Electronic Reporting Form

County of Ventura Ag/Weights & Measures Website



SCAN



Visit gsob.org for more information about GSOB



COUNTY of VENTURA
Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Call us!
Camarillo: 805-388-4222
Santa Paula: 805-933-2926



Agricultural Rain Damage Survey

With the significant rain we have received and more on the way, the USDA is investigating whether damage has occurred to agricultural operators in our County.

If you have suffered damage to your agricultural crops, structures, land, or equipment due to excessive rain this month please complete the form linked below and return it to our office.

1

Complete the form linked and return it to our office. Then...



[NOV 2025 Rain Damage Report](#)

Receiving sufficient reports of damage helps USDA declare a disaster has occurred. Once a disaster is declared, the USDA can then open applications to their farmer aid programs. We thank all growers who's reporting makes this work and the release of aid funds possible.

2

If you need relief funding, you must also apply directly at the QR code below.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA):
Damage Report 2025 - Winter Rain Storms



Click or scan the link to access the application.

AG PASS INTEREST SIGN-UP

Please scan the QR code below
for a quick and easy sign up.

SCAN ME



SCAN ME

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

There are currently NO Training dates scheduled.

The class will be scheduled once we receive interest from at least 50 participants. Once the minimum number is met, we'll finalize the date and share the class details with all respondents.

Find a Certified Farmers' Market Near You!

1 Ojai Community Farmers' Market
Thursday 3pm-7pm, Year Round

414 E. Ojai Ave, Ojai, CA 93023
ojaicomunityfarmersmarket.com

2 Ojai Certified Farmers' Market
Sunday 9am-1pm, Year Round

300 E. Matilija St, Ojai, CA 93023
ojaicertifiedfarmersmarket.com

3 Saticoy Farmers' Market
Sunday 10am-2pm, Year Round

11321 Violeta St, Ventura, CA 93004
saticoyfarmersmarket.org

4 Simi Valley Certified Farmers' Market
Friday 11am-3:30pm, Year Round

2757 Tapo Canyon Rd, Simi Valley, CA 93063
coastalpacificmarkets.com/locations/simi-valley

5 Westlake Village Farmers' Market
Sunday 10am-2pm, Year Round

2797 Agoura Rd, Westlake Village, CA 91361
rawinspiration.org

6 Adventist Health Simi Valley Farmers' Market
Tuesday 11am-3pm, Year Round

3000 Sycamore Dr, Simi Valley, CA 93065
adventisthealth.org/simi-valley/about-us/farmers-market/

7 Downtown Ventura Certified Farmers' Market
Saturday 8:30am-12pm, Year Round

200 Block Main St, Ventura, CA 93001
vccfm.org

8 Midtown Ventura Certified Farmers' Market
Wednesday 9am-1pm, Year Round

3301 E. Main St, Ventura, CA 93003
West Parking Lot
vccfm.org

9 Thousand Oaks Certified Farmers' Market
Thursday 12pm-5pm, Year Round

350 W Hillcrest Dr, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
The Oaks Shopping Center, Corners of Wilbur Dr and Oaks Mall Dr
vccfm.org

10 Camarillo Hospice Certified Farmers' Market
Saturday 8am-12pm, Year Round

2220 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo, CA 93010
camarillofarmersmarket.com

11 Downtown Oxnard Farmers' Market
Thursday 9am-1:30pm, Year Round

500 S. C St, Oxnard, CA 93030
Downtown Plaza Park
downtownoxnard.org/farmers-market/

12 Channel Islands Farmers' Market
Sunday 10am-2pm, Year Round

3350 S. Harbor Blvd, Oxnard, CA 93035
@ Cabezone Way, Harbor Side
rawinspiration.org



Scan to access
interactive map!



COUNTY of VENTURA
Agriculture/Weights & Measures

FOLLOW US ON *social media*



SCAN ME

@VCAgComissioner

FACEBOOK



SCAN ME

@vc_awm

INSTAGRAM



SCAN ME

<https://awm.venturacounty.gov>

WEBSITE



COUNTY *of* **VENTURA**

Agriculture/Weights & Measures

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 23-27

NATIONAL
INVASIVE SPECIES
AWARENESS WEEK

FEB 25-27

CASAP
CONFERENCE

MARCH 1-7

WEIGHTS AND
MEASURES WEEK

MARCH 5

SPRAY SAFE EVENT

**SPRAY SAFE**
A FARMER TO FARMER COMMITMENT TO YOU

MARCH

NATIONAL
AGRICULTURE
MONTH



MARCH 12-14

TOMATOMANIA
(OTTO & SONS)



APRIL 11

FARM DAY

farm day

APRIL 11

5TH ANNUAL V.C
WILDFLOWER +
WEED SHOW
(10 AM-3 PM)



APRIL 19

EARTH DAY



KORINNE BELL
Agricultural Commissioner

JOHN BEALL
Sealer /Deputy- Weights & Measures

GRETA VARIEN
Chief Deputy

JOHN MIKESELL
Deputy - Pesticide Use Enforcement

DAVID WIRTA
Deputy - Pest Exclusion

SHRAVAN DASOJU
Deputy - Agriculture & Consumer Protection



#1 Strawberries | 2023 Value: \$733,257,000



#2 Nursery Stock | 2023 Value: \$208,169,000



#3 Lemons | 2023 Value: \$207,542,000



Our mission is to protect and promote agriculture and equity in the marketplace, while ensuring the welfare of the public, the industry and the environment.



Quick Links

- Home
- Our Department
- Divisions
- Forms & Records
- Updates
- Crop Reports
- Contact Us

Camarillo

555 Airport Way, Suite E
Camarillo, CA 93010

(805) 388-4222
Mon-Fri 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
See calendar for closures

Santa Paula

815 E. Santa Barbara Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

(805) 933-2926
Mon-Fri 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
See calendar for closures

Saticoy Meter Lab

11201 B Riverbank Drive
Ventura, CA 93003

(805) 672-2190
Tuesdays 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Thursdays 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM
See calendar for closures

This articles in this newsletter may have been created or proofread by AI.

Editors

Marlene Ridge
Jackie Yeppez