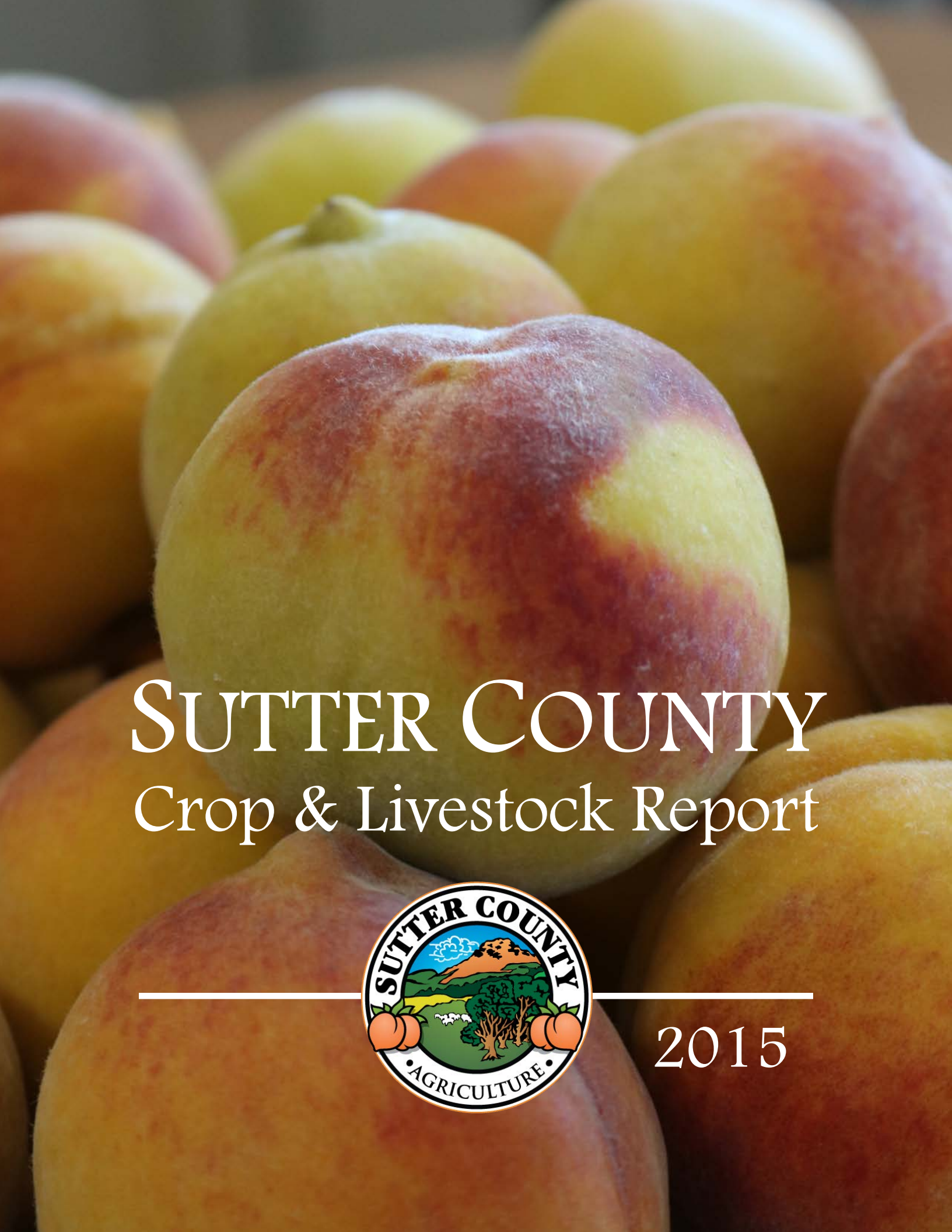

SUTTER COUNTY

Crop & Livestock Report

2015

That sweet taste

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story by **Monica Vaughn** / mvaughn@appealdemocrat.com
file photos by **Appeal-Democrat**

A look at the history of cling peaches in Yuba-Sutter

1846: A family of emigrants from Iowa stops at the local Sicard ranch and gives children some peach stones to play with. The stones are scattered about the yard and local farmers gather them to plant. Those trees begin to bear in 1855. The fruit is sold three for a dollar in Grass Valley.

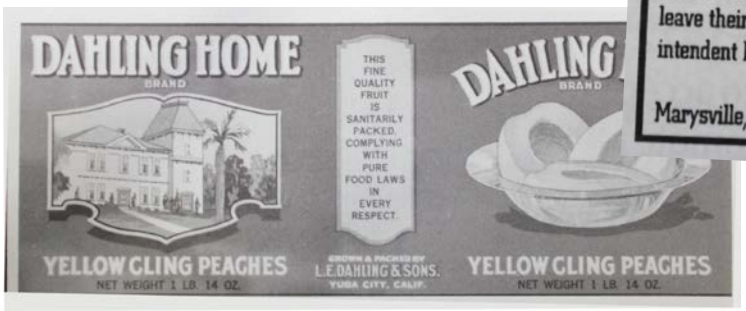
1856: 4,098 peach trees grow in Sutter County.

1859: Pioneer orchardist George Briggs grosses more than $100,000 selling to miners fruit from his orchards along the Yuba, Feather and Sacramento rivers. In his last days, he says, "The lands on the Yuba and Feather river are the best fruit land in the state."

1860: 6,800 pounds of peaches are shipped by boat from Briggs' orchard.

Sutter County:
8,425 acres yielded 184,086 tons, selling at $377 per ton for a total value of $69,400,000.

Yuba County:
3,143 acres yielded 55,945 tons, selling at $382 per ton for a total value of $21,371,000.



"Sutter County is naturally the home of the peach. In no place in the United States can that fruit be grown in greater profusion, or to greater perfection; and this is particularly true as to the high-grade canning clings."

– California State Agricultural Society, 1905

California Peach Growers, 1919

1861: As farming interests clash with mining interests, floods drop muck and residue from hydraulic mining upstream in Briggs' orchard, wiping out 58,000 fruit trees. He picks up and moves to Santa Barbara.

1866: 15,321 peach trees grow in Sutter County.

1870: 11,784 peach trees grow in Sutter County.

1883: Pioneer horticulturist Joseph Phillips and A.F. Abbott enter into partnerships and plant 60 acres of peaches 10 miles south of Yuba City. Two or three years later, they bear 200 tons of peaches, selling for $80 a ton. Acreage grows to 400 of an assortment of varieties in the years following.

1884: Sutter Canning and Packing Company opens the Yuba City Cannery, the earliest packing plant.

1887: James Bogue purchases 105 acres three miles south of Yuba City to start his own nursery including peach stock.

1888: The Phillips Cling peach is developed in the Abbott orchard through mixed pollination of various peach varieties. The large peach boasts a small pit, perfect coloring, thin skin and firm flesh.

1888: The Marysville Canning Company opens.

1900: Canneries in Yuba City, Woodland and Lincoln unite as the California Fruit Canners Association.

1904: The California Fruit Canners' Association processes several hundred thousand cases annually on average, and employs more than 500 men and women.

1916: Fifty-three canneries, including all those in Yuba-Sutter, merge to form the California Packing Company.

1918: Marysville Cannery closes, to be destroyed by fire the next year.

1922: Sutter County Farm Bureau forms the California Canning Peach Growers' Association, which spreads across the state.

1925: The Sutter Co-Operative Growers forms to own and operate a factory and can Sutter-Pak peaches.

1928: The Harter Packing Company is established, with a cannery close to the orchard so sun-ripened fruit could be canned the day it is picked.

1929: The Stock Market Crash of October marks the beginning of the Great Depression, leading to a new era of peach canners and growers losing money. In the following years, acres of peach orchards are torn out, and thousands of tons of peaches, destroyed.

Sourches: "History of Sutter County" by Thompson & West and published in 1879; "History of Cling Peach Varieties in California" by Steve Maxey, Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation; "Transactions of the California State Agricultural Society During the Year 1904," published in 1905; exhibits of the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County; "Peaches Made Yuba & Sutter Counties the Peach Bowl of the World, The Beginning Years," by Henry Delamere.

California by far produced more peaches than any other state in the union in 2014, and Yuba-Sutter produced 38 percent of the state's haul, according to county and federal data.

While still a staple agricultural product for local farmers, peaches provided Yuba-Sutter with decades of fortune juiced from the fruit of peach-farmer's labor in the first quarter of the 20th century. Area farmers played key roles in developing the cling peach industry, and Yuba-Sutter became known as the Peach Bowl.

The region, at one time, produced more than half of the world's peach supply.

Peach varieties still used today were developed in Yuba-Sutter from as early as the 1860s to as recent as the 1953. Hauss, Dahling, Walton, Stabler, Rio Oso Gem and the Chandler are just some created by local horticulturists.

A goal in diversity was to expand the ripening season, as to spread out labor over a larger period of time. It worked. By the first quarter of the century, the harvest and canning season was active from May to September.

That approach is still used today.

While imported peaches from China and Greece are increasingly serving domestic consumers, according to the California Canning Peach Association, the United States remains a net exporter of peaches.

As with most agricultural work, industrialization and technology altered the way peaches are grown, harvested and processed. But some things still need the gentle touch of a human hand.

Kulwant Johl has a machine to harvest peaches, but he doesn't use it much on his couple hundred acres of peach orchard in District 10 on Highway 70.

"I keep it ready in case I need it, but I use people," Johl said. "I think picking by hand is a little easier on the trees."

A machine, however, "grabs the tree and shakes it like hell."

With a machine, harvesting is done at night.

"At night, peaches are cooler. When they're cooler, they don't get bruised as much," Johl said.

It is useful though to help relieve pressure for laborers at harvest time. For the last few years, peach growers struggled to find enough workers to till, prune and harvest, Johl says.

He grows 13 cling varieties of peaches for canning. Diversity in varieties spans out harvest time to about two months, he said.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to serve the public's interest by ensuring equity in the marketplace, promoting and protecting agriculture, assuring environmental quality, and protecting the health, safety and welfare of Sutter County's citizens.

We fulfill our mission through the following programs: Pest Exclusion, Pesticide Use Enforcement, Pest Detection, Fruit and Vegetable Standardization, Egg Quality Control, Pest Management, Nursery Inspection, Pest Eradication, Seed Inspection, Weights and Measures Enforcement, Predatory Animal Control, and other non-regulatory and special services programs.

Harjit Takhar

OFFICE OF THE
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

LISA D. HERBERT
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

August 2016

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Sutter County
Larry Munger, District 3, Chairman
Ron Sullenger, District 1
Dan Flores, District 2
Jim Whiteaker, District 4
Barbara LeVake, District 5

I am pleased to present the 2015 Crop and Livestock Report for Sutter County. The report is prepared pursuant to Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code and is a statistical compilation of agricultural production representing estimated acreage, yield and gross values. This report represents gross values only and does not reflect net profits or loss to the producers.

The gross value of Sutter County agriculture production for 2015 was $544,044,000. This is a decrease of $182,022,000 or 25% below 2014's value of $726,066,000. Rice returned to the top ranking crop in 2015 with a total value of $142,210,000, which was a 5% decrease. After holding the top crop spot for 24 years, but being replaced by walnuts in 2014, rice is back to number one. Walnuts decreased 60% compared to the record setting 2014 values with a value of $77,454,000. Walnuts suffered decreases in bearing acreage, production and value all of which contributed to the decrease of $114,136,000. Dried prunes continue to hold the third spot at $54,507,000, a decrease of 49%. Processing tomatoes took fourth place with an increase in acreage and production yet slight drop in price to $49,400,000. Processing peaches fell from fourth to fifth with decreases in acreage, production and value to $48,836,000, a decrease of nearly 30%. Nursery products remained steady at sixth place but showed a strong 24% increase to $39,596,000. Notable decreases were in almonds (-27%), alfalfa (-23%) and sunflower (-54%) while dried beans (1.8%) and corn (21%) increased.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation of all the growers, organizations and individuals who provided us the data that allows this report to be compiled. Thank you to all my staff, especially Nick Oliver for compiling and analyzing the data and Allyson Wadkins for the graphic design and photographs.

To learn more about the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the services we provide including crop reports dating back to 1940, please visit our website at http://www.co.sutter.ca.us/doc/government/depts/ag/aghome.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa D. Herbert
Agricultural Commissioner

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FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds, Meats	2015	7,152	0.45	3,218	Ton	$7,088	$22,809,000
	2014	7,435	0.73	5,428	Ton	$5,722	$31,059,000
Almonds, Hulls	2015			4,023	Ton	100	402,000
	2014			6,785	Ton	128	868,000
Kiwifruit	2015	87	5.46	475	Ton	1,007	478,000
	2014	84	7.29	612	Ton	1,686	1,032,000
Olives	2015	883	6.66	5,881	Ton	625	3,676,000
	2014	1,144	2.67	3,054	Ton	444	1,356,000
Peaches, Clingstone	2015	6,555	16.41	107,568	Ton	454	48,836,000
	2014	8,425	21.85	184,086	Ton	377	69,400,000
Persimmons	2015	166	8.46	1,404	Ton	457	642,000
	2014	145	8.46	1,227	Ton	408	501,000
Prunes, Dried	2015	14,150	1.86	26,319	Ton	2,071	54,507,000
	2014	18,442	2.38	43,892	Ton	2,451	107,579,000
Walnuts, English	2015	26,496	1.66	43,983	Ton	1,761	77,454,000
	2014	29,851	1.81	54,030	Ton	3,546	191,590,000
Miscellaneous [1]	2015	682		3,284	Ton		3,471,000
	2014	691		2,152	Ton		2,499,000
Orchard By-Products	2015						4,428,000
	2014						8,465,000
TOTAL	**2015**	**56,171**					**$216,703,000**
	2014	**66,217**					**$414,349,000**

CROP	BEARING ACRES		NON-BEARING ACRES	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Almonds	7,152	7,435	975	919
Kiwifruit	87	84	0	0
Olives	883	1,144	0	72
Peaches, Clingstone	6,555	8,425	1,439	468
Persimmons	166	145	13	3
Prunes, Dried	14,150	18,442	1,382	938
Walnuts, English	26,496	29,851	6,623	7,042
Miscellaneous [1]	682	691	68	69
TOTAL	**56,171**	**66,217**	**10,500**	**9,511**

1 Includes Apples, Apricots, Berries (Blackberries, Boysenberries & Raspberries), Cherries, Chestnuts, Citrus (Grapefruit, Lemons, Limes, Mandarines, Oranges, Tangerines), Feijoa, Figs, Grapes, Jujubes (Chinese Date), Nectarines, Peaches (Freestone), Pecans, Pears, Pistachio Nuts, Plums, Pomegranates, Strawberries, Walnuts (Black) and other miscellaneous fruit and nut crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	FIELD ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD	UNIT	TOTAL
Trees and Vines	2015	183	8,081,000	Each	$39,090,000
(Fruit and Nut, Bareroot and Potted)	2014	272	5,248,000	Each	$31,532,000
Miscellaneous [1]	2015	7	48,000	Each	506,000
	2014	6	39,000	Each	411,000
TOTAL	**2015**				**$39,596,000**
	2014				**$31,943,000**

1 Includes Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and other Nursery Stock.

Carolyn Cling Peach

The Carolyn cling peach, like its namesake, was born in Sutter County. Officially, the variety is known as Carolyn G and is listed as originating in Palo Alto, CA, in 1942 by W.F. Wight, USDA and the California Agricultural Experiment Station. Mr. Wight worked with Live Oak grower Ed Mock, to develop the variety, which was a cross between Libbee and Lovell. At the conclusion of the process, Mr. Mock was given naming rights. He and his wife Irma chose to name the new variety after their daughter Carolyn.

The Carolyn G peach is described as having medium to large, highly uniform fruit with red blush or streaks covering half the fruit or more. There is some tendency for the fruit to drop at maturity. The trees are vigorous and highly fruitful. It is known to be firm and juicy with a distinct vinous flavor.

With a peach variety bearing her name, it was probably not much of a surprise when Carolyn was named Miss Peach at the Yuba-Sutter Fair a few years later in 1947.

Carolyn Mock Oswald passed away in 2007, but her family has honored her memory with a memorial planting at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds. Installed in 2013, the planting consists of three beautiful bearing peach trees in a ring in the center of a roundabout at the fairgrounds. A plaque within the circle shares details of the story of the woman and the peach with the fair's 45,000 annual visitors.

In 1942, the year the peach was named, the County of Sutter Tree Planting Record showed 115 acres planted to Carolyn or Libbee-Lovell. Many thousands of acres have been planted locally since then. As industries change, however, so has the cling peach business. Carolyn G is no longer a commercially popular variety. In fact, Carolyn's daughter Nancy had some trouble finding a nursery to produce the trees for the planting. She eventually found the trees, which allowed this multi-generational Sutter County farming family to share Carolyn's story and her memory.

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beans, Dried, Edible [1]	2015	6,323	0.81	5,122	Ton	$1,475	$7,555,000
	2014	7,718	0.76	5,866	Ton	$1,265	$7,420,000
Corn, Field Grain	2015	8,936	6.99	62,463	Ton	207	12,930,000
	2014	11,266	6.14	69,173	Ton	155	10,722,000
Hay, Alfalfa	2015	5,496	6.64	36,493	Ton	201	7,335,000
	2014	5,666	7.03	39,832	Ton	238	9,480,000
Hay, Grain	2015	4,855	2.94	14,255	Ton	145	2,067,000
	2014	3,563	2.33	8,302	Ton	180	1,494,000
Pasture, Irrigated	2015	10,000			Acre	140	1,400,000
	2014	10,050			Acre	185	1,859,000
Pasture, Range Dry [2]	2015	63,450			Acre	20	1,269,000
	2014	63,900			Acre	20	1,278,000
Rice [3]	2015	88,591	4.53	401,317	Ton	342	137,250,000
	2014	75,903	4.49	340,804	Ton	419	142,797,000
Rice, Wild	2015	1,347	1.08	1,455	Ton	2,014	2,930,000
	2014	1,149	1.08	1,241	Ton	1,842	2,286,000
Safflower	2015	3,321	1.17	3,886	Ton	520	2,021,000
	2014	2,119	1.18	2,500	Ton	498	1,245,000
Wheat, Grain	2015	6,695	2.75	18,411	Ton	204	3,756,000
	2014	7,134	2.52	17,978	Ton	227	4,081,000
Miscellaneous [4]	2015	9,542		13,623	Ton		3,185,000
	2014	7,498		42,230	Ton		2,358,000
Field Crops By-Products	2015			61,825	Ton		2,906,000
	2014			62,315	Ton		2,929,000
TOTAL	**2015**	**208,556**					**$184,604,000**
	2014	**195,966**					**$187,949,000**

1 Includes all varieties of edible Dried Beans, including Lima, Blackeye, Garbanzo, Light and Dark Red Kidney Bean, and other miscellaneous Beans of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

2 The valuation is not an animal production figure but a land value (rental equivalent).

3 Includes USDA Support Price.

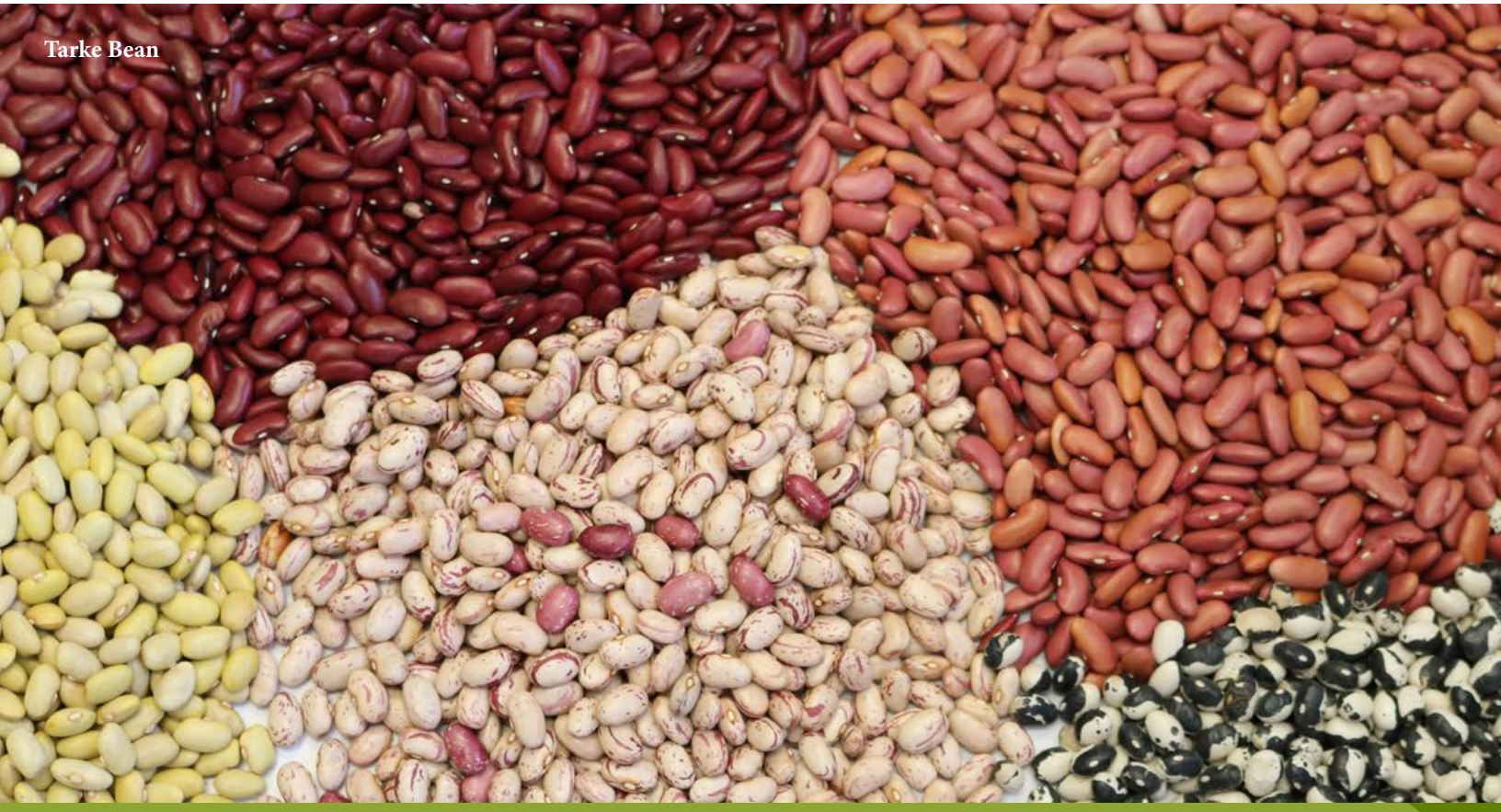
4 Includes Barley, Corn (Silage), Cotton, Grass Hay, Oats (Silage), Popcorn, Triticale, Vetch, Sorghum and other miscellaneous field crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

Triple C Farms

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cucumbers	2015	488	181	88,328	Lb	$9.42	$832,000
	2014	350	181	63,350	Lb	$13.58	$860,000
Pumpkins & Squash	2015	268	434	116,308	Lb	6.35	739,000
	2014	168	562	94,416	Lb	5.96	563,000
Rice	2015	2,671	9,284	24,798,000	Lb	0.20	4,960,000
	2014	3,180	8,820	28,048,000	Lb	0.22	6,170,000
Safflower	2015	391	3,180	1,243,000	Lb	0.24	298,000
	2014	455	1,800	819,000	Lb	0.27	221,000
Sunflower	2015	5,976	759	4,536,000	Lb	1.52	6,895,000
	2014	10,156	1,455	14,777,000	Lb	1.02	15,073,000
Watermelons	2015	999	229	228,771	Lb	18.72	4,283,000
	2014	583	211	123,013	Lb	35.38	4,352,000
Wheat	2015	1,087	6,000	6,522,000	Lb	0.30	1,957,000
	2014	732	6,000	4,392,000	Lb	0.12	527,000
Miscellaneous [1,2]	2015	1,116		1,287,000	Lb		2,258,000
	2014	1,901		4,307,000	Lb		3,049,000
TOTAL	**2015**	**12,996**					**$22,222,000**
	2014	**17,525**					**$30,815,000**

1 Dried Beans included under miscellaneous for 2014 and 2015 due to insufficient data.

2 Includes Alfalfa, Arugula, Basil, Fresh Beans, Dried Beans (Blackeye, Cowpea, Cranberry, Lima, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red Kidney), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Coriander, Gourds, Kale, Lettuce, Onions, Peppers, Mixed Melons, Okra, Radishes, Sugar Peas, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Tomatillos, Triticale, Wild Rice and other miscellaneous seed crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.



Tarke Bean

APIARY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Pollination	2015	37,280	Colony	$81	$3,020,000
	2014	50,866	Colony	$63	$3,205,000
Miscellaneous [1]	2015				1,244,000
	2014				1,465,000
TOTAL	**2015**				**$4,264,000**
	2014				**$4,670,000**

1 Includes Package Bees, Queen Bees, Honey and Wax.


McPherrin Ranch

LIVESTOCK

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER	LIVE WEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle & Calves [1]	2015	4,720	38,575	Cwt.	$148	$5,709,000
	2014	4,720	34,762	Cwt.	$180	$6,257,000
Sheep & Lambs	2015	6,489	7,353	Cwt.	122	897,000
	2014	10,506	12,952	Cwt.	151	1,956,000
Miscellaneous [2]	2015					8,980,000
	2014					3,755,000
Livestock By-Products	2015					3,000
	2014					3,000
TOTAL	**2015**					**$15,589,000**
	2014					**$11,971,000**

1 Includes USDA Support Price.

2 Includes Alpaca & Angora Fur, Aquaculture, Chickens, Chicken Eggs, Ducks, Fish Bait, Geese, Goats, Hogs, Milk (Market), Game Birds, Musk Oxen, Pheasants, Pigeons, Rabbits, Rabbit Hides, Turkeys, Water Buffalo, Wool and other miscellaneous livestock and poultry of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Melons, Honeydew	2015	640	12.82	8,205	Ton	$454	$3,725,000
	2014	516	10.92	5,635	Ton	$572	$3,223,000
Tomatoes, Processing	2015	12,654	48.80	617,500	Ton	80	49,400,000
	2014	10,000	45.13	451,300	Ton	85	38,361,000
Miscellaneous [1]	2015	563		7,644	Ton		7,941,000
	2014	171		5,154	Ton		2,785,000
TOTAL	**2015**	**13,857**					**$61,066,000**
	2014	**10,687**					**$44,369,000**

1 Includes Artichoke, Asparagus, Basil, Beets, Bitter Melons, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chard, Cilantro, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Gourds, Green Beans, Herbs, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Melons (Mixed), Mustard, Okra, Onions, Parsnips, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes, Rhubarb, Rutabagas, Shallots, Spinach, Sprouts, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes (Fresh), Turnips, Watermelons, Winter Squash, Zucchini and other miscellaneous vegetables of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

ORGANIC FARMING

Taylor Brother Farms

California is the only state with its own organic program. Organic agriculture in California accounts for more than twenty percent of all organic production in the nation.

Thirty-six farms, totaling approximately 10,336 acres of crop land were registered as organic in Sutter County in 2015. Utilizing organic principles defined in the Federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, and the California Organic Product Act of 2003, these farms produce a wide array of commodities such as almonds, stone fruit, beans, herbs, corn, popcorn, miscellaneous vegetables, apples, grapes, pears, pomegranates, melons, squash, oats, peas, prunes, rice, seed crops, tomatoes, walnuts, and wheat. The total estimated value of organic production in Sutter County in 2015 was $21,429,614. In comparison, 2014 had 10,723 production acres with an estimated value of $24,294,636.

Sutter County Agricultural Biologists assist organic growers with their registration and cost-share applications. They also inspect registered organic products at point of production, certified farmers' markets, and retail locations. Our biologists also obtained five random produce samples from our producers and retail locations for submission to the State Laboratory for assuring organic production standards.

TEN LEADING CROPS

CROP	2015	CROP	2014
RICE [1]	$142,210,000	WALNUTS	$191,590,000
WALNUTS	$77,454,000	RICE [1]	$148,967,000
PRUNES, DRIED	$54,507,000	PRUNES, DRIED	$107,579,000
TOMATOES, PROCESSING	$49,400,000	PEACHES, PROCESSING	$69,400,000
PEACHES, PROCESSING	$48,836,000	TOMATOES, PROCESSING	$38,361,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	$39,596,000	NURSERY PRODUCTS	$31,943,000
ALMONDS	$22,809,000	ALMONDS	$31,059,000
CORN, FIELD	$12,930,000	SUNFLOWER, SEED	$15,073,000
BEANS, DRIED	$7,555,000	CORN, FIELD	$10,722,000
ALFALFA	$7,335,000	ALFALFA	$9,480,000

1 Includes Seed, does not include Wild Rice.

Frye & Giampaoli Farms

GROSS PRODUCTION VALUE

CATEGORIES	2015	2014
FRUIT & NUT CROPS	$216,703,000	$414,349,000
FIELD CROPS	$184,604,000	$187,949,000
SEED CROPS	$22,222,000	$30,815,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	$61,066,000	$44,369,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	$39,596,000	$31,943,000
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	$15,589,000	$11,971,000
APIARY PRODUCTS	$4,264,000	$4,670,000
TOTAL	**$544,044,000**	**$726,066,000**

YEAR	VALUE	YEAR	VALUE	YEAR	VALUE
1956	$49,381,000	1976	$178,554,000	1996	$302,706,400
1957	41,313,000	1977	200,878,000	1997	277,169,700
1958	38,786,000	1978	220,502,000	1998	268,323,100
1959	50,707,000	1979	258,666,900	1999	347,939,000
1960	50,536,000	1980	299,014,700	2000	340,176,000
1961	55,585,000	1981	316,465,900	2001	264,673,000
1962	57,322,000	1982	247,784,100	2002	291,061,100
1963	55,155,000	1983	205,335,300	2003	307,322,300
1964	66,740,000	1984	262,285,500	2004	299,219,300
1965	64,564,000	1985	255,449,600	2005	305,190,190
1966	71,627,000	1986	229,364,800	2006	358,845,200
1967	69,313,000	1987	216,183,600	2007	377,940,800
1968	80,275,000	1988	201,345,800	2008	498,195,200
1969	74,006,000	1989	243,940,200	2009	475,691,100
1970	77,238,000	1990	217,400,000	2010	521,640,570
1971	82,209,000	1991	268,941,900	2011	518,198,460
1972	95,118,000	1992	285,622,700	2012	528,253,000
1973	159,204,000	1993	292,108,300	2013	597,530,000
1974	179,719,000	1994	340,171,300	2014	726,066,000
1975	187,517,000	1995	330,170,500	2015	544,044,000

SUTTER COUNTY EXPORTS BY COUNTRY

Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belgium
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cyprus
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Fiji
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Isreal
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Russia
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syria
Taiwan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen

In 2015, the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office issued 1,763 Federal Phytosanitary Certificates for international shipments to 89 countries and 58 State Phytosanitary Certificates for shipments within the United States.

Pest Exclusion

This program provides the first line of defense for California agriculture and the environment against the invasion of exotic pests. Inspections provide protection from the introduction of plant and animal insect and disease pests that may be introduced into the state through the movement of legal or illegal trade. This program also involves inspections of plant material being delivered to other states and countries and the issuance of certificates documenting compliance with their entry requirements.

A total of 330 premise visits were conducted in 2015. A total of 2,049 shipments of plant material were inspected during these visits. Inspections occurred at express carriers, nurseries and other farms. There were three rejections of plant material issued, which is a 70 percent decrease from 2014. Rejected plant material may be returned to the shipper, reconditioned and released or destroyed. To assist our industry, we issued 1,763 federal phytosanitary certificates for international shipments and 58 state phytosanitary certificates for shipments to other states.

Total Hours Expended 2015: **6,113**

Pest Detection

This program provides the second line of defense against exotic pests through the early detection of new introductions before they become widely established. Through early detection the likelihood of these pests becoming established in the state is lessened and the cost and environmental impact of eradication is minimized.

There were 656 traps placed for the detection of exotic insect pests including Mediterranean, Oriental and Melon fruit flies, Gypsy Moth, Japanese beetle, European Pine Shoot Moth, Khapra beetle, Vine Mealybug, European Grapevine Moth, Light Brown Apple Moth and Asian Citrus Psyllid. Over the course of the season a cumulative total of 6,505 servicings were performed.

Total Hours Expended 2015: ***1,977***

Pest Management

The County Agricultural Commissioner is charged with the responsibility of managing nuisance pests of agriculture and human health. Many of these pests are introduced species that have become established despite our best pest exclusion efforts. If promising, programs are established to distribute biological agents for troublesome pests.

To prevent the spread of Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), Sutter County inspected 131 shipments of nursery stock arriving from infested areas in California. There were zero shipments of plant material rejected for the presence of GWSS egg masses or other life stages. There were 121 traps placed in nurseries and urban areas for the detection of GWSS, which were serviced a total of 1,296 times.

The Biological Control program utilizes natural enemies to suppress populations of pests to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Following establishment, the agents are self-sustaining, reducing the need for chemical controls. A number of biological control agents are of general distribution or locally established, including agents for Puncturevine (Tribulus terrestris) and Yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis). The Puncturevine agents include Puncturevine seed weevil (Microlarinus lareynii) and Puncturevine Stem Weevil (M. lypriformis) and are distributed Countywide. There are 6 Yellow starthistle agents present in Sutter County. Additionally, the Lerp Psyllid wasp (Psyllephagus bliteus) is present, which acts as a biocontrol for the Redgum Lerp Psyllid (Glycaspis brimblecombei), a pest of Eucalyptus.

The Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office facilitates the local management of vertebrate pests by selling vertebrate baits to growers with restricted materials permits. In 2015, a total of 450 pounds of anticoagulant bait and 625 pounds of Zinc Phosphide bait were sold.

The Weed Management Area program spent 13 hours treating 8 sites and a total of 2 acres for Arundo donax L.

Total Hours Expended 2015: ***646***

Nursery Inspection

Through this program inspections are performed at the growing, propagation, production and sales sites to ensure cleanliness from pests, varietal trueness and stock vigor prior to consumer sales. In 2015, 65 hours were spent performing inspections at 42 locations, consisting of 327 acres.

Total Hours Expended 2015: ***240***

DEPARTMENT STATISTICS ~ GENERAL

Measurement Standards

County Weights and Measures officials ensure the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices, verify the quantity of both bulk and packaged commodities; and enforce the quality, advertising and labeling standards for most petroleum products.

Total Hours Expended 2015: 3,230

Pesticide Use Enforcement

This is a complex legislatively mandated program that provides for the proper, safe, and effective use of pesticides essential for production of food and fiber and for protection of the public health and safety. It also protects the environment from potentially harmful pesticides by prohibiting, regulating or ensuring proper stewardship of pesticides. An important component of the program focuses on agricultural and pest control workers, ensuring safe working conditions, use of proper protective equipment and training for employees who work with or around pesticides. Other components of the program include pesticide use reporting, incident investigations, outreach activities promoting best management practices, and monitoring applications in the field.

Total Hours Expended 2015: 11,865

Seed Certification

Inspections are performed at retail and wholesale establishments that sell seed. Samples are drawn for germination and purity testing, and labeling is inspected for compliance with state requirements. Through this program certification services are also available for growers and processors in cooperation with the California Crop Improvement Association.

Total Hours Expended 2015: 316

Top Left: Kevin Putman testing a livestock scale at McPherrin Ranch

Below: Janet Kirkman sampling seed at Bonanza Seed

Fruit, Nut, and Vegetable Standardization

This program ensures compliance with California's minimum standards regarding quality and marketing of all produce commercially grown and/or marketed in the state. Regulation of three certified farmers' markets and 29 certified producers as well as Organic law enforcement are part of a program that provides for local protection to growers, marketers and consumers.

Total Hours Expended 2015: 1,391

Apiary Inspection

A program that emphasizes the registration and site location of honeybee colonies in the county. At the request of beekeepers or growers, the County Agricultural Commissioner inspects colonies for strength and health to ensure effective pollination.

Total Hours Expended 2015: 67

Crop Statistics

As required by the California Food and Agricultural Code, the gross production and value of the county's commodities are compiled and recorded in the annual crop report. This valuable information helps associated businesses while promoting the production and prosperity of agriculture in California.

Total Hours Expended 2015: 664

Kill the Bug, Recycle the Jug

This program is funded by a grant from the Feather River Air Quality Management District with the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office making an in kind contribution of approximately 190 man-hours annually. Growers are encouraged to bring their empty pesticide containers to permanent recycling locations or recycling events held throughout the year. In 2015 we recycled 145,507 pounds of used pesticide containers, an increase of 68% over 2014 numbers. A total of 682,496 pounds have been recycled since the program began in 2007.

Above: Melon testing at Oji Brothers

Below: Recycling containers at Bear River Supply

STAFF RETIREMENTS

This edition of the Crop Report is dedicated to Mark P. Quisenberry, who was the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer during this crop report period. Mark retired as Sutter County's Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer after 20 years of service to the agricultural community and citizens of Sutter County. Prior to taking his post in Sutter County, Mark served in Riverside County for 15 years beginning as a Biologist during the controversial 1980 multi-county Mediterranean fruit fly outbreak, and in due course as Deputy Ag Commissioner. Mark received his Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Science and Management from UC Davis, served in several officer positions including President for his Agricultural Leadership Program, Class 36. As Commissioner, Quisenberry grappled with extremely complex issues and formulated policies that continue to shape the County's position on agriculture, pesticide use, water managment, and wildlife services. Mark was a true believer in community service and served in many capacities with 4-H, FFA, United Way, Camp Fire USA, Yuba-Sutter Jr. Livestock Committee, Youth in Ag, and Early Risers Kiwanis. Mark's retirement plans include pursuing his hobbies, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

The Sutter County Department of Agriculture also bid farewell to Mark Brown and Margaret Stelmok this year.

Mark retired as the Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer in December after 29 years of service with Sutter County including a brief spell at Butte County. Mark graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and began his career as a Weights and Measures inspector as well as monitoring rice burning. He took on the role of Assistant Agricultural Commissioner in 2001. As Assistant, Mark "The Magic Man" was responsible for the budget, managing the Department and worked hard to improve working conditions for staff. Mark received a proclamation from the Sutter County Board of Supervisors upon his retirement, which recognized his dedicated service to this County. His stories will be missed. We hope that his retirement will be filled with laughing grandkids, beautiful sunsets by the RV and tasty chili cook-offs!

Margaret Stelmok retired in April after 21 years of service as an Agricultural & Standards Biologist III. Graduating from Chico State University, she began work with the Department of Agriculture in 1995. Over her career, Margaret worked in most of the programs we are responsible for, including Nursery Inspection, Phytosanitary Certification and GIS mapping, but she will be perhaps best remembered for her work identifying insects. Her knowledge and service oriented approach made her an asset to the community for many years. She continues her work with insects and plants with the Yuba-Sutter UC Master Gardeners and at the UC Davis arboretum. Margaret's retirement leaves her with more time to pursue hobbies such as gardening and travelling.

We wish Mark, Mark and Margaret the very best and offer thanks for their many years of dedicated service.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
Mark P. Quisenberry

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
Mark Brown

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
Lisa Herbert

DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
Stephen Scheer

SUPERVISING AGRICULTURAL & STANDARDS BIOLOGIST
Nicolas Oliver

AGRICULTURAL & STANDARDS BIOLOGIST III
Hardeep Bains
Michael Berry
Scott Bowden
David Brown
Kim Hicks
Janice Kendel
Janet Kirkman
Kevin Putman
Margaret Stelmok

AGRICULTURAL & STANDARDS BIOLOGIST I
Rebecca Mendonza

AGRICULTURAL FIELD ASSISTANT II
Paul Schwall
Sandra Schwall

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL SPECIALIST
Jim Kincaid

SUPPORT STAFF
Tara Cole - Account Clerk III
Gina Krog - Secretary
Allyson Wadkins - Secretary

Bal Bains

Ohri Farms