

#### **Department of Agriculture**

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## Contra Costa County



To: KAREN ROSS, SECRETARY CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE and THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am pleased to submit the 2012 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Contra Costa County in accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report includes information on Organic Farming and Biological Control activities in our county.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products in 2012 was \$90,971,700, down \$1,947,900 from 2011. In general, demand and prices have remained strong for agricultural crops in Contra Costa County.

Brentwood and Byron sweet corn is recognized nationwide for having superior quality and flavor. Acreage and prices have remained relatively stable for Contra Costa County's most revered crop. Fresh market green beans continued to show an increase in acreage due to strong demand while providing an ideal companion buffer crop between sweet corn and urban areas. Plant diseases resulted in dramatic losses for fresh market tomatoes, and the cherry crop in the East County growing areas had in lower yields due to poor fruit set. Cattle stocking numbers were lower in 2012 due to drought that lowered native forage in our range land areas.

Organic production has shown an increase in acreage due to increased consumer demand. Farmers markets are expanding in numbers as consumer demand continues to shift toward high quality locally produced fruits, nuts and vegetables. In 2012 Contra Costa County certified farmers markets increased to a total of 36 markets.

Several crop categories exceeded \$1 million in value. These categories in decreasing order include cattle and calves, sweet corn, tomatoes, field corn, grapes, rangeland pasture, alfalfa, cherries, walnuts, peaches, beans and irrigated pasture.

It should be emphasized the values stated in this report are <u>gross</u> receipts and <u>do not</u> include the cost of production, transportation, or marketing of the products. The economic benefit of agricultural production is generally thought to be about three times the gross production value.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations who supplied us with the information to complete this report. Their cooperation is truly appreciated. I also would like to thank Ralph Fonseca and the rest of my staff for their diligent work in obtaining, compiling, and coordinating their efforts to put together our annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent & Luice

Vincent L. Guise Agricultural Commissioner

## **Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture**/ Weights & Measures

**Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights & Measures** Vince Guise

> **Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner /Sealer** Joseph Deviney

> > **Deputy Agricultural Commissioner**

Gene Mangini

Matt Slattengren

Larry Yost

**Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures** 

Steve Reymann

### **Agricultural Biologist/Weights & Measures Inspector III**

Chris deNijs Abdoulaye Niang Nancy Niemeyer **Beth Slate** 

Mariah deNijs Arthur Mangonon Gil (Joel) Rocha Jorge Vargas

Ralph Fonseca Ann McClure **Cecilie Siegel** 

#### **Agricultural Biologist II** Ivan Godwyn

## **Agricultural Biologist I**

William Schaub

#### Weights & Measures Inspector II

Gabriel Adebote

Patrick Bowen Keely Kirkman

Ngozi Egbuna

## **Administrative Support**

**Executive Secretary Roxann Crosby** 

## Information Technology

Susan Wright

Senior Clerk Sheree Nuxall

**Retiree Volunteer** Suzanne Maddux

#### Pest Detection/GWSS/Pest Management

Danilo Angcla Christine Buelna Louellen Kelly Rick Mata Christine O'Boyle Craig Shoener Greg Spurlock Erik Baxter Nancy Dennis Hardy Leopando Betsy Montgomery Lucas Pattie Lindsay Skidmore Tom Wright Ann Bloxsom Herb Gilmore Phyllis Lewis Mortay Mendoza Eldren Prieto Susie Somers Oscar Zaldua

#### **Plant Quarantine Detector Canines**

Bella (handler: Cecilie Siegel)

Bart (handler: Mariah deNijs)



Cattle ranching has been an important part of Contra Costa County's economy since the days of the first Mexican land grants. By the mid 19th century, much of the county was owned by ranchers such as Francisco Castro, Ignacio Martinez, Felipe Briones, Juana Pacheco, and Joaquin Moraga. Although their rancheros are gone, they are remembered in many local place names.

Ranching is still an important part of our economy today. In 2012, cattle and calves were the number one agricultural commodity in Contra Costa County with a gross value of nearly \$16 million. Another valuable product of ranching is managed grazing. Agencies that maintain open space lands use livestock grazing to reduce wildfires, control exotic weed populations, and improve habitat for wildlife, including endangered and threatened species. Ranchers who graze their livestock on public lands often maintain roads, fences, gates, etc. as a part of their lease agreements. This benefits the public and the environment by increasing public access and helping to fund park improvements and conservation projects.

*On the Cover:* cattle at a barn owned by Jeff and Nancy Weideman in the Tassajara Valley

![](_page_4_Picture_0.jpeg)

## **Field Crops**

		Product	ion				Value
Crop	Year	Harvested	Per			Per	
-		Acreage	Acre	Total	Unit	Unit	Total
Field Corn	2012 2011	8,150 8,150	4.21 4.18	34,300 34,100	Ton Ton	220.00 197.00	7,546,000 6,718,000
Hay Alfalfa	2012 2011	3,510 3,220	5.24 5.10	18,400 16,400	Ton Ton	205.00 214.00	3,772,000 3,510,000
Grain	2012 2011	2,100 2,400	2.84 2.44	5,960 5,860	Ton Ton	144.00 135.00	858,000 791,000
Pasture Irrigated	2012 2011	5,450 5,450			Acre Acre	230.00 195.00	1,254,000 1,063,000
Rangeland	2012 2011	169,000 169,000			Acre Acre	23.10 20.90	3,904,000 3,532,000
Wheat	2012 2011	556 1,050	2.36 2.90	1,310 3,050	Ton Ton	208.00 209.00	272,000 637,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops*	2012 2011	5,900 4,060					2,431,000 1,520,000
Total	2012 2011	194,666 193,330					\$20,037,000 \$17,771,000

\* Barley, Forage Hay, Hay (Wild), Rye, Safflower, Silage, Straw, Sudan Grass

# Vegetable & Seed Crops

![](_page_5_Picture_1.jpeg)

		Product	tion				Value
Crop	Year	Harvested	Per			Per	
-		Acreage	Acre	Total	Unit	Unit	Total
Beans	2012	457	3.58	1,640	Ton	1,178.00	1,932,000
Fresh Market	2011	410	4.13	1,690	Ton	1,180.00	1,994,000
Squash	2012	41	3.95	162	Ton	850.00	138.000
	2011	19	3.04	58	Ton	1,200.00	69,600
Sweet Corn	2012	3.420	8.83	30.200	Ton	452.00	13.650.000
	2011	3,580	9.86	35,300	Ton	396.00	13,979,000
Tomatoes							
Total	2012	2.152		106.231	Ton		7.801.000
	2011	1,945		90,473	Ton		6,948,000
Fresh	2012	32	7.23	231	Ton	1,190.00	275,000
	2011	35	13.50	473	Ton	1,370.00	648,000
Processina	2012	2.120	50.00	106.000	Ton	71.00	7.526.000
5	2011	1,910	47.10	90,000	Ton	70.00	6,300,000
Miscellaneous	2012	1.018					6.824.000
Vegetable & Seed Crops*	2011	1,360					13,284,000
Total	2012	7,088					\$30,345,000
	2011	7,314					\$36,274,600

\* Asparagus, Artichokes, Beets, Cabbage, Cardoon, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Ginseng, Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Greens, Herbs, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes

# Fruit & Nut Crops

![](_page_6_Picture_1.jpeg)

		Producti	on				Value
Crop	Year	Harvested	Per			Per	
_		Acreage	Acre	Total	Unit	Unit	Total
		_					
Apricots	2012	91	4.56	415	Ton	2,990.00	1,241,000
	2011	97	2.64	256	Ton	1,930.00	494,000
Cherries	2012	561	1.84	1,030	Ton	3,370.00	3,471,000
	2011	413	3.08	1,270	Ton	4,570.00	5,804,000
Grapes	2012	1,800	5.36	9,650	Ton	782.00	7,546,000
	2011	1,950	4.35	8,480	Ton	704.00	5,970,000
Nectarines	2012	36	4.46	161	Ton	3,930.00	633,000
	2011	35	2.88	101	Ton	3,650.00	369,000
Olives	2012	183	2.12	388	Ton	1,060.00	411,000
	2011	206	1.07	220	Ton	1,190.00	262,000
Peaches	2012	146	4.78	698	Ton	3,020.00	2,108,000
	2011	140	2.84	398	Ton	1,860.00	740,000
Plums and Pluots	2012	35	5.88	206	Ton	3,160.00	651,000
	2011	34	3.36	114	Ton	2,510.00	286,000
Walnuts	2012	390	2.54	991	Ton	2,180.00	2,160,000
	2011	402	1.99	800	Ton	2,030.00	1,624,000
Miscellaneous	2012	161					1,386,000
Fruit & Nut Crops*	2011	195					2,101,000
Total	2012	3.403					\$19.607.000
	2011	3,472					\$17,650,000

\* Almonds, Apples, Apriums, Asian Pears, Berries, Citrus, Figs, Melons, Pears, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Prunes, Pomegranates, Quinces, Strawberries

# Nursery Products

![](_page_7_Picture_1.jpeg)

		Production	n Area	Value	
Crop	Year	House	Field		
		Sq. Ft.	Acres	Total	
Bedding Plants	2012	45,500	1.40	504,000	
	2011	35,000	0.50	492,000	
Herbaceous	2012	50.000	3.40	921.000	
Perennials	2011	40,000	2.00	719,000	
Indoor	2012	69 800	0 10	51 700	
Decoratives	2011	84,800	0.25	95,000	
Vegetable Plants	2012	27 300	0.80	410 000	
	2011	27,000	0.80	406,000	
Miscellaneous	2012	11.600	21.60	542.000	
Nursery Crops *	2011	3,700	32.20	781,000	
Total	2012	204,200	27.30	\$2,428,700	
	2011	190,500	35.75	\$2,493,000	

\* Christmas Trees, Cactus, Ground Covers, Propagative Materials, Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Fruit Trees, Cut Flowers.

# Livestock and Livestock Products

![](_page_8_Picture_1.jpeg)

	_	Product	tion		Value		
ltem	Year	No. of	Total			Per	
		Head	Liveweight	Unit	Unit	Total	
Cattle & Calves	2012	19,100	129,000	Cwt	124.00	15,967,000	
	2011	26,000	147,000	Cwt	111.00	16,317,000	
Apiary Products*	2012					687.000	
	2011					514,000	
Miscellaneous	2012					1,900,000	
Livestock and Livestock Products**	2011					1,900,000	
Total	2012					\$18,554,000	
	2011					\$18,731,000	

\* Honey, Wax, Pollination,

\*\*Chickens, Ducks, Emus, Goats, Hogs, Llamas, Ostriches, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep, Turkeys, Milk, Wool, Eggs

# Recapitulation

![](_page_9_Picture_1.jpeg)

	<u>Gross Value/Mil</u>	Ranking		
Category	2012	2011	2012	2011
Vegetable & Seed Crops	30.3	36.3	1	1
Field Crops	20.0	17.8	2	3
Fruit & Nut Crops	19.6	17.7	3	4
Livestock & Livestock Products	18.6	18.7	4	2
Nursery Products	2.4	2.5	5	5
	Gross Value			Change
Category	2012	2011		_
Vegetable & Seed Crops	30,345,000	36,274,600		-5,929,600
Livestock & Livestock Products	18,554,000	18,731,000		-177,000
Field Crops	20,037,000	17,771,000		2,266,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	19,607,000	17,650,000		1,957,000
Nursery Crops	2,248,700	2,493,000		-64,300
Total	\$90,971,700	\$92,919,600		

Total Acres in County	482,000
Population in County July 2012	1,069,803
Land in Farms - Acres (2007 Census)	146,993
Harvested Cropland - Acres (2007 Census)	23,876

![](_page_9_Figure_4.jpeg)

# Million Dollar Crops

![](_page_10_Picture_1.jpeg)

	Gross Value/Million Dollars		Ran	king
Category	2012	2011	2012	2011
Cattle & Calves	16.0	16.3	1	1
Sweet Corn	13.7	14.0	2	2
Tomatoes, All	7.8	6.9	3	3
Field Corn	7.5	6.7	4	4
Grapes	7.5	6.0	5	5
Rangeland Pasture	3.9	3.5	6	7
Hay - Alfalfa	3.8	3.5	7	8
Cherries	3.5	5.8	8	6
Walnuts	2.2	1.6	9	10
Peaches	2.1	0.7	10	
Beans	1.9	2.0	11	9
Irrigated Pasture	1.3	1.1	12	11

Top 15 Crops 50 Years Ago					
Сгор	Value in 1962	1962 Value Adjusted For Inflation	2012 Value		
Cattle	5,390,000	40,532,800	15,967,000		
Lettuce	4,394,000	33,042,880	*Misc.		
Walnuts	2,951,000	22,191,520	2,160,000		
Apricots	2,820,900	21,213,168	1,241,000		
Asparagus	2,008,000	15,100,160	*Misc.		
Almonds	2,000,000	15,040,000	*Misc.		
Milk	1,662,200	12,347,840	*Misc.		
Cut Flowers	1,327,000	9,979,040	*Misc.		
Tomatoes	1,242,000	9,339,840	7,801,000		
Rangeland Pasture	975,000	7,332,000	1,254,000		
Barley	898,000	6,752,960	*Misc.		
Field Corn	489,000	3,677,280	7,546,000		
Pears	469,800	3,532,896	*Misc.		
Alfalfa	341,000	2,564,320	3,772,000		
Irrigated Pasture	297,000	2,233,440	1,254,000		

\* Combined in a Miscellaneous category due to small production or few producers.

![](_page_11_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Pest **Exclusion**

Plum Cucurlio

#### Red Imported Fire Ant

Japanese Beetle

Every day, shipments of plant material and live animals are brought into California by way of package delivery services such as UPS, Fed-Ex, and others. These shipments can contain nursery stock, fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, seeds, bulbs, firewood, hay, soil, etc. They also can contain exotic plant pests, diseases and weeds that threaten California's agriculture and natural environment. The Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture sends biologists daily to local UPS, Fed-Ex, and others that receive these types of shipments from other states and counties.

<b>Shipments Inspected</b> Mail/UPS/Fed Ex/Express Carriers Truck shipments from within California Truck shipments from other states Household Goods	54 1	,888 ,622 221 39
Quarantina Raiaatiana	T-4-1	Canine
Live Pests	10tal 17	Program" 2
Jananese Beetle	13	2
Burrowing Nematode	12	
Citrus Pests	9	3
Colorado Potato Beetle	9	-
Plum Curculio	7	
Cedar-Apple Rust	5	
Ozonium Root Rot	3	
Reasonable Cause	3	
Live Animals	2	1
European Corn Borer	1	
Glassywinged Sharpshooter	1	
Gypsy Moth	1	
Nursery Stock Certificate	1	
Origin/Markings	137	11
Total	221	17

\*Contra Costa County has two canine detection teams that work in the Bay Area. The canine program values represent finds not marked as containing plant material in the Contra Costa County portion of the program only.

# A & Q Pest Interceptions

![](_page_12_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_4.jpeg)

Magnolia White Scale

![](_page_12_Picture_6.jpeg)

Cycad Wax Scale

#### Banana Mealybug

#### "A" and "Q" Rated Pests

While inspecting plant material shipments, Contra Costa County biologists may find live plant pests that are especially dangerous to California's agriculture and environment. Pests vary as to the level of potential harm they can do, so it is necessary to have a rating system to represent the statewide importance of the pest. Of special interest are pests that are rated "A" or "Q". These organisms have the potential to cause serious harm and require enforcement action when they are found. "A" rated pests, such as the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, are known to cause serious harm. "Q" rated pests are those that are suspected to cause serious harm but their status is uncertain because of incomplete information about the species.

	Rating	Rejections
ANTS	_	-
Technomyrmex albipes / White-footed Ant	Q	1
Pheidole megacephala / Bigheaded Ant	Q	1
Pheidole sp. / Ant	Q	3
SCALES		
Coccus viridis / Green Scale	A	1
Pinnaspis strachani / Lesser Snow Scale	A	1
Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli / Magnolia White Scale	A	1
Aulacaspis yasumatsui / Cycad Wax Scale	Q	1
Ceroplastes sp. / Wax Scale	Q	1
Milviscutulus sp. / Scale	Q	1
OTHER INSECTS, MITES, & MOLLUSCS		
Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi / Jack Beardsley Mealybug	A	1
Delottococcus confusus / Bougainvillea Caterpillar	Q	2
Pseudococcus elisae / Banana Mealybug	Q	2

![](_page_13_Picture_0.jpeg)

Medfly

Mexican Fruit Fly

Oriental Fruit Fly

Infestations of exotic pests are a serious concern to both California and to the Federal Government. Exotic plant pests that became established in California could spread into other states and threaten their agriculture industries and environment. California and the rest of the nation could face enormous losses in export markets as a result of quarantines established by our international trading partners. These quarantines can restrict or eliminate the ability of local growers to market and ship their agricultural commodities.

It is important to detect exotic plant pest infestations as soon as possible. The longer a pest population exists, the greater the chance it will spread and become permanently established. Small populations can also be controlled and eradicated more successfully than large ones. Contra Costa County Pest Detection trappers monitor insect traps throughout the county to find these pests before they grow into infestations that can cost California hundreds of millions of dollars to eradicate.

Pest	Trap Туре	# Traps	# Servicings
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Jackson	867	11,080
Various	McPhail	822	22,447
Oriental Fruit Fly	Jackson	866	11,017
Melon Fly	Jackson	875	8,661
Glassywinged Sharpshooter	Yellow Panel	829	7,669
Light Brown Apple Moth	Jackson	44	91
Gypsy Moth	Delta	538	1,122
Japanese Beetle	Funnel	312	554
Pine Shoot Moth	Wing	11	16
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Wing	3	24
Various	Champ	42	112
Apple Maggot	Yellow Panel	2	21
Asian Citrus Psyllid	Yellow Panel	85	4,614
Vine Mealybug	Delta	54	54
European Grapevine Moth	Delta	206	545
Oriental Fruit Moth	Wing	15	651
Khapra Beetle	Trogo	14	6

## Pest Eradication/ Management

![](_page_14_Picture_1.jpeg)

Exotic weeds can hurt agriculture and the environment by choking out both crops and native plants, degrading natural habitat, and increasing the risk of wildfires. Infestations that became established here could spread to other counties and beyond. Contra Costa County staff use integrated pest management methods including surveying, monitoring, release of biological control agents, and directed chemical applications to eradicate or control certain invasive exotic weed pests on public and private lands. The overall goal of the Department is to eradicate the weed species in the list below with the exception of the species marked with \*. For these four species, the Department's goal is to contain existing populations and prevent their spread into new areas.

Pest	#Sites Surveyed	#Sites Eradicated	Method	Acres Surveyed	Acres Treated
Artichoke Thistle	501	96	Chemical	185,524	104.87
Purple Starthistle	218	45	Chemical	27,089	61.15
Oblong Spurge*	12	1	Chemical	167	1.03
Hoary Cress	6	2	Chemical	193	6.59
Barb Goatgrass*	4	1	Chemical	100	10.00
Perennial Pepperweed	d* 26	1	Chemical	1,601	12.50
Kangaroo Thorn	1	0	Mechanical	3	0.01
Pampas Grass*	6	1	Chemical	93	0.17
White Horsenettle	16	0	Chemical	173	0.43
Russian Knapweed	7	4	Chemical	620	36.08
Purple Loosestrife	3	1	Chemical	1,125	0.33
Japanese Knotweed	2	0	Chemical	7	0.08
Smooth Distaff Thistle	1	0	Mechanical	55	0.03
Wooly Distaff Thistle	1	0	Mechanical	1	2 plants
Red Sesbania	14	5	Mechanical	41	4,293 plants
Japanese Dodder	49	46	Mechanical	17	0.071

Biological Control							
Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program					
Yellow Starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis)	Hairy Weevil ( <u>Eustenopus villosus</u> ) YST Flower Weevil ( <u>Larinus curtus</u> ) Rust Pathogen ( <u>Puccinia jaceae var. solstitialis</u> )	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing					
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid ( <u>Glycaspis brimblecombei</u> )	Encytrid Parasitoid Wasp (Psyllaephagus bliteus)	Ongoing					

## **Certified Farmers' Markets**

Certified Farmers' Markets allow growers to sell their agricultural products directly to consumers. This gives growers an alternative to large volume distribution marketing by allowing the sale of smaller amounts of produce as well as varieties that are too tender for large commercial production. Certified Farmers' Markets also give consumers a chance to meet the growers and gain a better understanding of the challenges growers face in producing the food we eat.

![](_page_15_Picture_2.jpeg)

Tuesday	Concord (	County Hospita	al Martinez	El Cerrito	Walnut Creek Kaiser			
Wednesday	Vet. Hospital San Ramon	Martinez P W	leasant Hill E alnut Creek I	BART Point BART	Richmond Richmond			
Thursday	Kaiser Antioc San Ramon	h Conc	ord Ma	artinez	Kaiser Martinez			
Friday	Rossmoor Walnut Creek							
Saturday	Brentwood Hercules San Ramon	Clayton Orinda Sun Valley N	Danville Pinole ⁄Iall	Diablo Valle Pittsburg	ey El Cerrito Pleasant Hill			
Sunday	Antioch Lafayette BA	Concord High RT Martii	n School nez Mo	Discovery Ba raga Wal	y Kensington nut Creek			

For more information about the Certified Farmers' Markets in Contra Costa County, visit our website at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us and click on Departments, then Agriculture/Weights & Measures.

## **Organic Farming**

Since 1990, organic production in the United States has more than doubled. Over two-thirds of U.S. consumers buy organic foods at least occasionally. As a result, organic food sales have gone from \$3.6 billion in 1997 to \$18.9 billion in 2007. Organic products are no longer available only in specialty markets, but have spread to mainstream supermarket chains nationwide. This makes organic farming increasingly attractive to California growers. California is one of the few states in the nation with a state-run organic program. The County Departments of Agriculture do much of the enforcement of the laws that apply to fresh agricultural products marketed as organic.

![](_page_15_Picture_7.jpeg)

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	Apricots	Cherries	Nectarines	Peaches	Pears	Pistachios	Plums	Fruit, other	Herbs	Peas/Beans	Sweet Corn	Tomatoes	Vegetables, le	Vegetables, ro	Vegetables, ot	Nursery produ	Livestock pro
No. of Farms	4	4	3	3	2	1	3	9	4	5	3	5	5	5	8	4	2
Estimated Acres	27.5	29	17.2	40.2	18	36.8	12.6	17.7	2.3	228.2	35	9.1	9	3.1	11.7	0.6	
Total Acres Organically Farmed 501.0							1	Numbe	er of	Orga	nic F	arm	S	16			

## Weights & Measures

The Contra Costa County Division of Weights & Measures protects buyers and sellers by promoting fair packaging and by checking commercial weighing, measuring, and timing devices for accuracy. Accurate devices help ensure that the sale of harvested crops, livestock, animal feed, vehicle fuel, and other business commodities are based on an honest measurement. Inspectors test a wide variety of devices. There are scales ranging from those used for gemstones and gold all the way up to scales that can weigh a fully loaded railroad car. There are many different types of meters used to measure liquids, gases, electricity, time, distance, lengths, etc. Devices and businesses are inspected in time intervals that can vary from one to several years, depending on the program.

	Registered	Inspected
Measuring Devices		
Vehicle Fuel Station Meters	7,601	4,175
Electric Submeters	7,112	595
Water Meters and Submeters	5,958	222
Vapor/LPG Meters and Submeters	s 4,450	335
Taxi Meters	283	450
Other Measuring Devices	229	165
Weighing Devices		
Light Capacity Retail Scales	2,201	1,680
Heavy Capacity Retail Scales	238	212
Vehicle/Railway Scales	110	113
Prescription/Jewelers Scales	75	47
Livestock/Animal Scales	23	22
Other Weighing Devices	42	7
Petroleum Gas Stations	286	253

Weights & Measures inspectors register and inspect price look-up scanner systems on a regular basis. These devices electronically retrieve the price of commodities when a code is scanned. The most common type are store scanners that read the bar code printed on the product label. While inspecting a store that uses scanners, inspectors check that the scanner system is giving the customer the lowest price that is quoted, advertised, or displayed for that item. In 2012, Contra Costa County inspectors registered 1,208 scanner locations and inspected 279.

![](_page_16_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_5.jpeg)

Service agents must report to the County when they install new or repaired weighing and measuring devices. County inspectors then have the option to check the device and verify that the service agent's work is correct. Weighmasters weigh, measure, or count products for hire and issue a certificate as to the quantity. Businesses that use weighmasters include public scales, recyclers, lumber yards, moving companies, construction material suppliers, etc. Inspectors audit weighmasters to ensure they follow proper procedures when keeping records and issuing certificates. In 2012, Contra Costa County inspectors verified 803 devices installed/repaired by service agents and inspected 13 weighmaster locations.