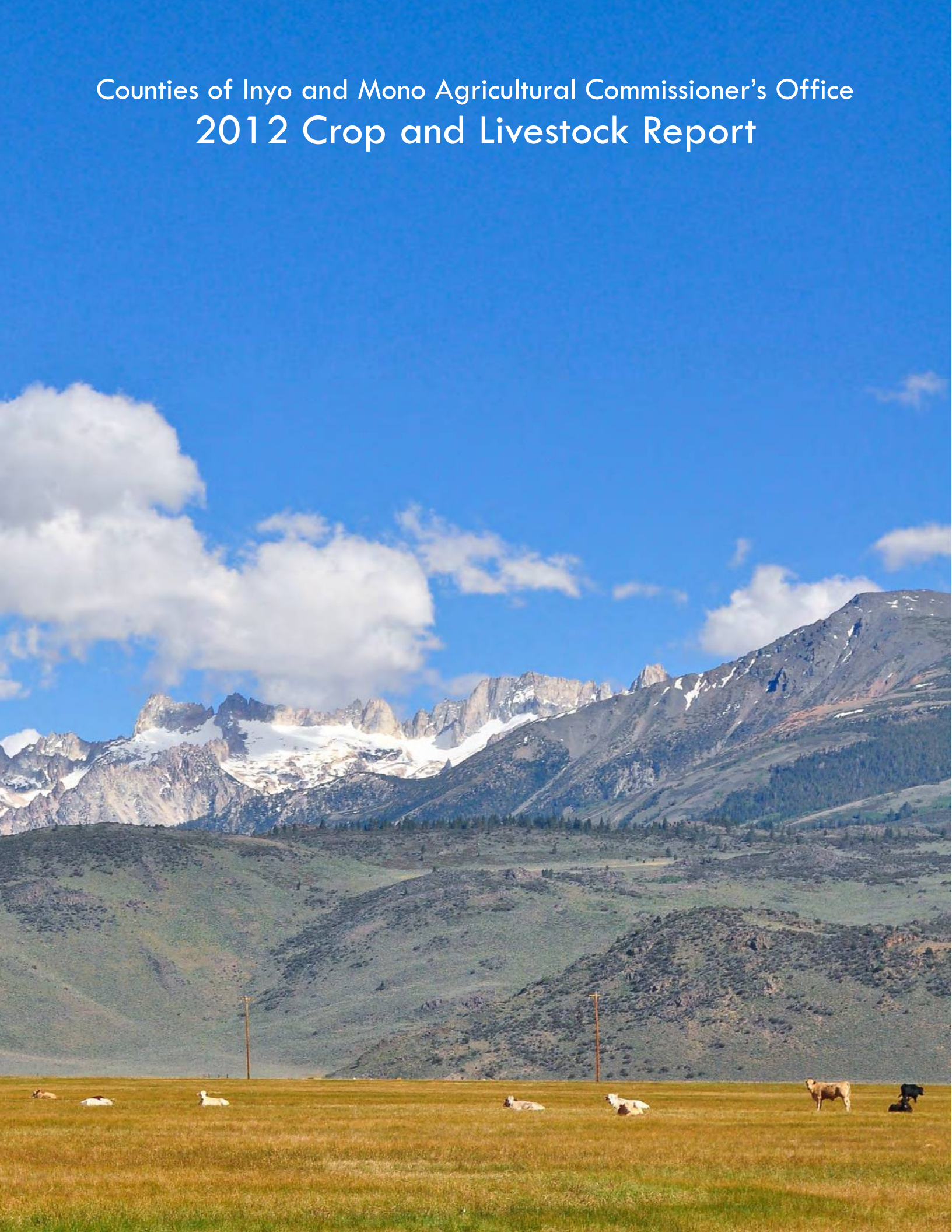


Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office
2012 Crop and Livestock Report



Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office

2012 Crop and Livestock Report

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Agriculture and Weights & Measures Departments

◆

Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area

◆

Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program

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David Miller
Robert Miller

Front Cover: Cattle grazing near Bridgeport, Mono County

Current year as well as previous year's crop reports can also be viewed online at:
<http://www.inyomonoagriculture.com/reports.html>



Counties of Inyo & Mono



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California Department of Food and Agriculture

Brian Leahy, Director
California Department of Pesticide Regulation

**The Honorable Board of Supervisors,
County of Inyo**

**The Honorable Board of Supervisors,
County of Mono**

Linda Arcularius, Chairman

Byng Hunt, Chairman

Jeff Griffiths

Matt Kingsley

Tim Alpers

Tim Fesko

Rick Pucci

Mark Tillemans

Larry Johnston

Fred Stump

It is my pleasure to present the 2012 Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report. The figures herein are in accordance with section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, and only represent gross agricultural values.

The combined agricultural production for 2012 is \$77,281,297, which is a decrease of 2.7% from 2011 totals. Agriculture continues to be an integral part of the economics of the Eastern Sierra region, and over the years one of its most stable components.

The value of Inyo and Mono Counties' two largest crops, cattle and alfalfa, remained stable; however, drought conditions contributed to the decrease from the previous year. Other agricultural production was also affected by the shorter season due to drought conditions. A second year of drought is upon us, which will further challenge our agricultural resources in the year to come.

It has been my privilege to serve Inyo and Mono Counties for the last 36 years, and I thank all of the agricultural producers and my staff for many years of support of not only providing data for this report, but also for the great working relationship we have maintained.

Sincerely,

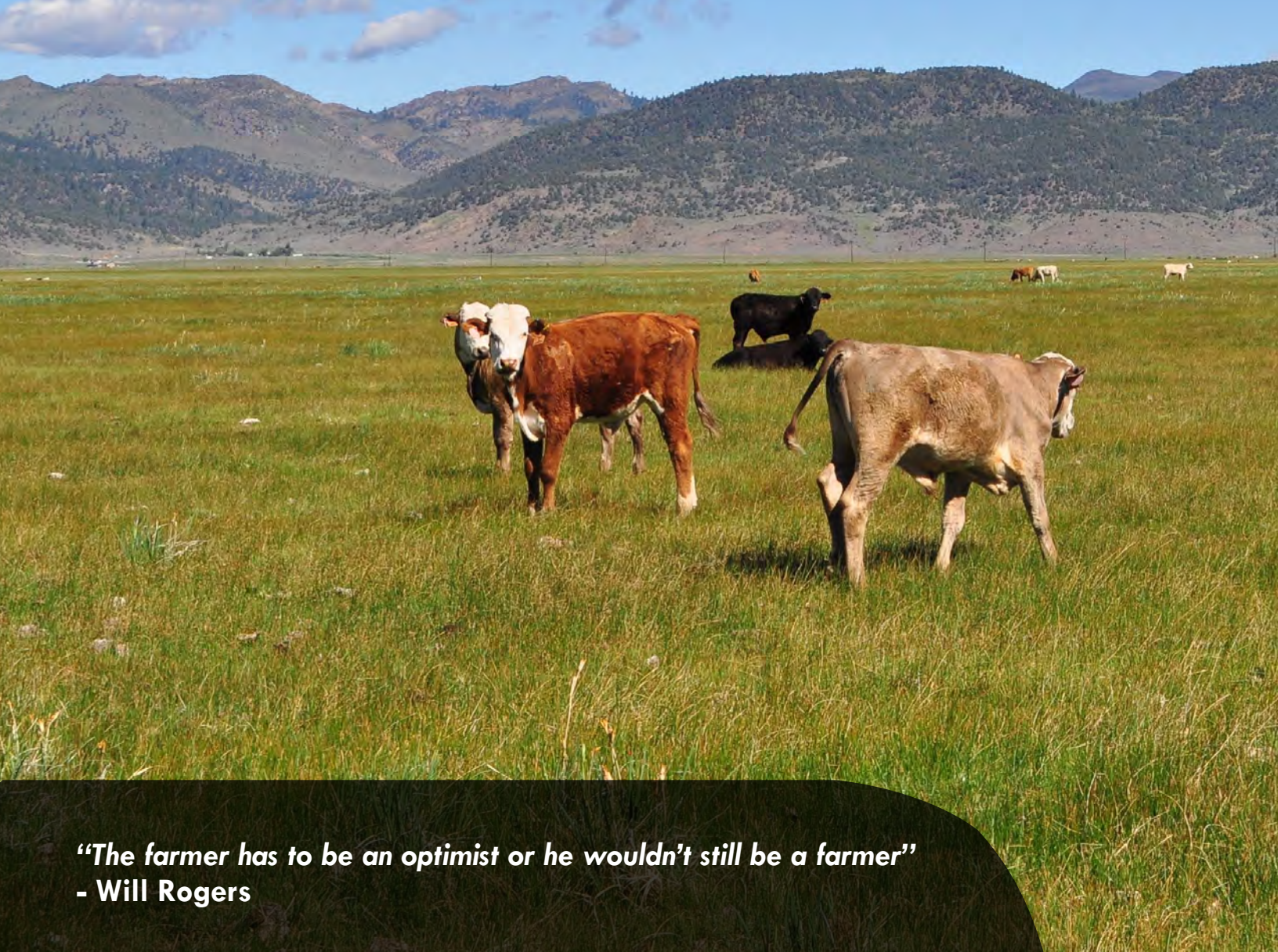
George L. Milovich
Agricultural Commissioner

THE EVOLUTION OF AGRICULTURE and WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The California Agricultural Commissioners trace their origins back 131 years. The goal of the Agricultural Commissioners is to protect the State's crops from the ravages of pests both domestic and imported. Then, as now, one of the principle weapons employed was a legal device called a "quarantine", which is derived from the French word "quarante", meaning "forty". The quarantine came about as a detention device, its first use being in the year 1340 when passengers on ships bound for Venice, Italy, were detained on board ship for 40 days. This was considered a long enough period to determine whether or not those passengers carried with them the Black Plague, which was killing many people in Europe in the mid-14th century.

California's first statewide program, which was the beginning of the present Department of Food and Agriculture, began with "An Act For the Promotion of Viticultural Industries of the State" on April 5, 1880. It provides for the appointment of a Board of State Viticultural Commissioners whose duties included the study of the grape root rot disease, *Phylloxera*. The Act specified that the University of California was responsible for instruction and experiments - a concept still existing today - giving the University the authority for research and the Department the regulatory functions. The Act provided for seven viticultural districts.

Until the year 1911, the duties of the State Board of Horticulture, the State Commissioner of Horticulture, county boards of horticulture commissioners and the county horticulture commissioners were limited to just a few obligations. These obligations consisted of preventing the introduction into the state of the pests from outside its boundaries, prevention of spread of insect pests and plant diseases through the media of nursery stock, fruit boxes, and other containers, and the inspection of nurseries. The years that followed would find the duties not only intensified in the same areas, but expanded into many other aspects of agriculture.



"The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer"
- Will Rogers

In the beginning the regulatory concern was to protect the California farmer from the depredations of exotic pests. After 1911, these duties were to be expanded to include concerns of the market place (standardization), and such cultural aids as assistance to the farmer in weed control and control of rodents and other damaging creatures. Later, they would enlarge to assure the farmer honest weights and measures, and protection from unscrupulous middlemen. Finally, the regulations would blossom into the full relationship of the farmer and the consumer.

Today, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and County Agricultural Commissioners are as busy helping the consumer as they are the farmer. They keep exotic pests away from the farmer's fields by fighting them in city gardens, where they nearly always are found first in the State. By so doing, they are affording city people as much protection as farmers, for these pests generally can wreak as much havoc in the city as in the country. They provide for, and oversee, standardization practices, thus insuring the farmers good markets for their products and insuring quality for consumers. They promote marketing of goods in a variety of ways, also assuring quality and quantity to consumers. They look after the health of livestock and plants, and the same benefits accrue to the consumer. They insist on measurement standards that also have dual blessings; and they assure the consumer and the farmer protection against the careless use of pesticides, thus affording protection to both people and the environment.

2012 was the 131st anniversary of the California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer Association.





Best Wishes on Your Retirement George!

Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner George Milovich is retiring this year after 36 years of service. George began work with the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's office in 1976 as a seasonal employee. George worked his way through the many

county weights & measures and agricultural biologist licenses, eventually becoming Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer in 1986.

After working 11 years as Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, George was appointed the Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Weights & Measures in 1997. George then filled this role until June of 2013, completing four terms.

During this time, George worked to foster agricultural opportunities in the area such as the creation of a seed garlic quarantine area in Mono County, development of local farmer's markets, and the introduction other types of crops outside of the hay and alfalfa that are traditionally grown in the area. His efforts over the years also built one of the most geographically wide-ranging and comprehensive invasive weed management area groups in the State of California.



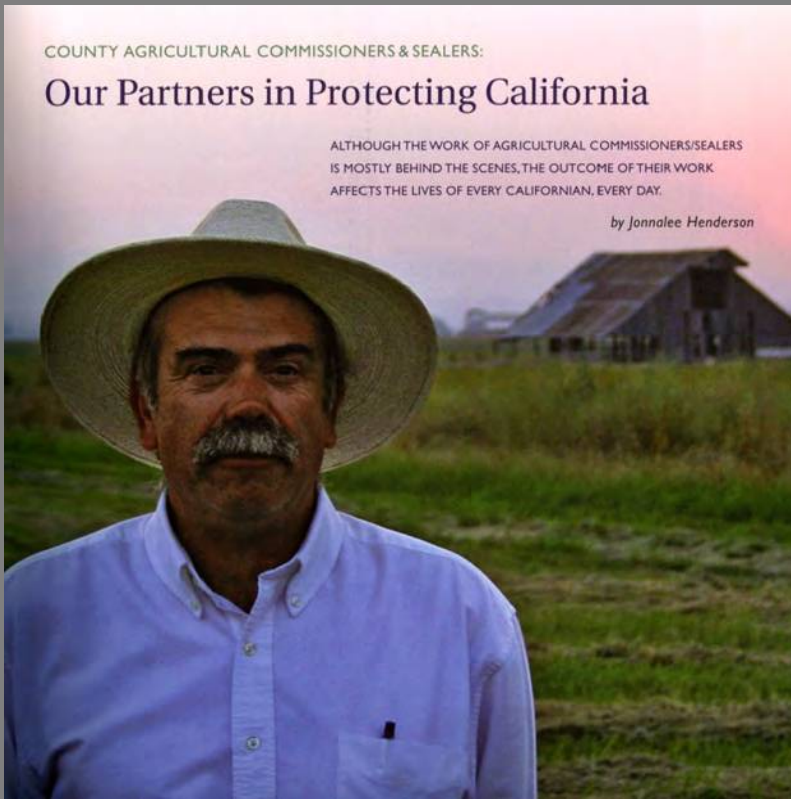
Deputy sealer George Milovich from the Department of Weights and Measures demonstrates with a tape measure what a cord of wood looks like: 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet. *Inyo Register photo by Adele Gysin*

George's insistence on equality in the marketplace and outreach to industry over the years has literally paid off for residents of Inyo and Mono Counties. Always mindful of the roots of weights and measures laws, his work in this regard over the decades has developed into a high level of voluntary compliance from local businesses.

In addition to the office's core programs of agriculture and weights and measures, George also administered the Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program for the past ten years. During this time under his direction, the mosquito program has refined its methods and grown to encompass specialty work such as monitoring and control within the Lower Owens River Project Area, the largest river re-watering project in history.



All of us with the Inyo/Mono Counties Agriculture, Weights and Measures, Owens Valley Mosquito Control, and Eastern Sierra Weed Management programs would like to wish George a happy retirement and good luck in his future endeavors. Whether it's golfing, fishing, or spending more time with the grandkids, we hope George has a great time.



COUNTIES of INYO and MONO AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

The mission of the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office is to promote and protect the agricultural industry of the Counties, protect the environment, and to ensure the health and safety of all of its citizens. The department is also responsible for fostering confidence and equity in the marketplace.

The following are the main program areas:

HUMAN SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

We protect the health and safety of all Inyo/Mono residents, its agricultural industries and its environment with a series of comprehensive regulatory programs designed to prevent the introduction of exotic pests and to ensure the safe use of pesticides. The five programs that exist to achieve these goals include:

- Pest Exclusion
- Pest Detection
- Pest Eradication
- Pest Management
- Pesticide Enforcement

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PRODUCT QUALITY

Product quality programs are designed to ensure the production and sales of quality eggs, honey, fruits, vegetables, and nursery and seed products. Quality standards that these programs ensure include maturity, grade, size, and weight. Packaging and labeling are also examined to ensure consumer expectations are met. The six programs include:

- Fruit and Vegetable Quality Control
- Organic Food Production
- Egg Quality Control
- Certified Farmers' Markets
- Nursery Inspection
- Seed Inspection

SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

The Agriculture Department also provides other mandated services, including:

- Apiary Inspection
- Crop Statistics
- Sustainable Agriculture

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATION OUTREACH

The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures is responsible for the administration of these programs. Staff also participates in a wide range of special projects intended to benefit Inyo/Mono citizens such as legislative process, public information, education outreach efforts, joint multi-agency and inter-county cooperative activities.

EASTERN SIERRA WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

This division of the Agricultural Commissioner's office consists of 15 federal, state, county, and local agencies and entities. The Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area is dedicated to the eradication and control of invasive plant species in Inyo and Mono Counties through the cooperation and coordination of participating entities. The Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area facilitates goals also through public outreach and education activities.

OWENS VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

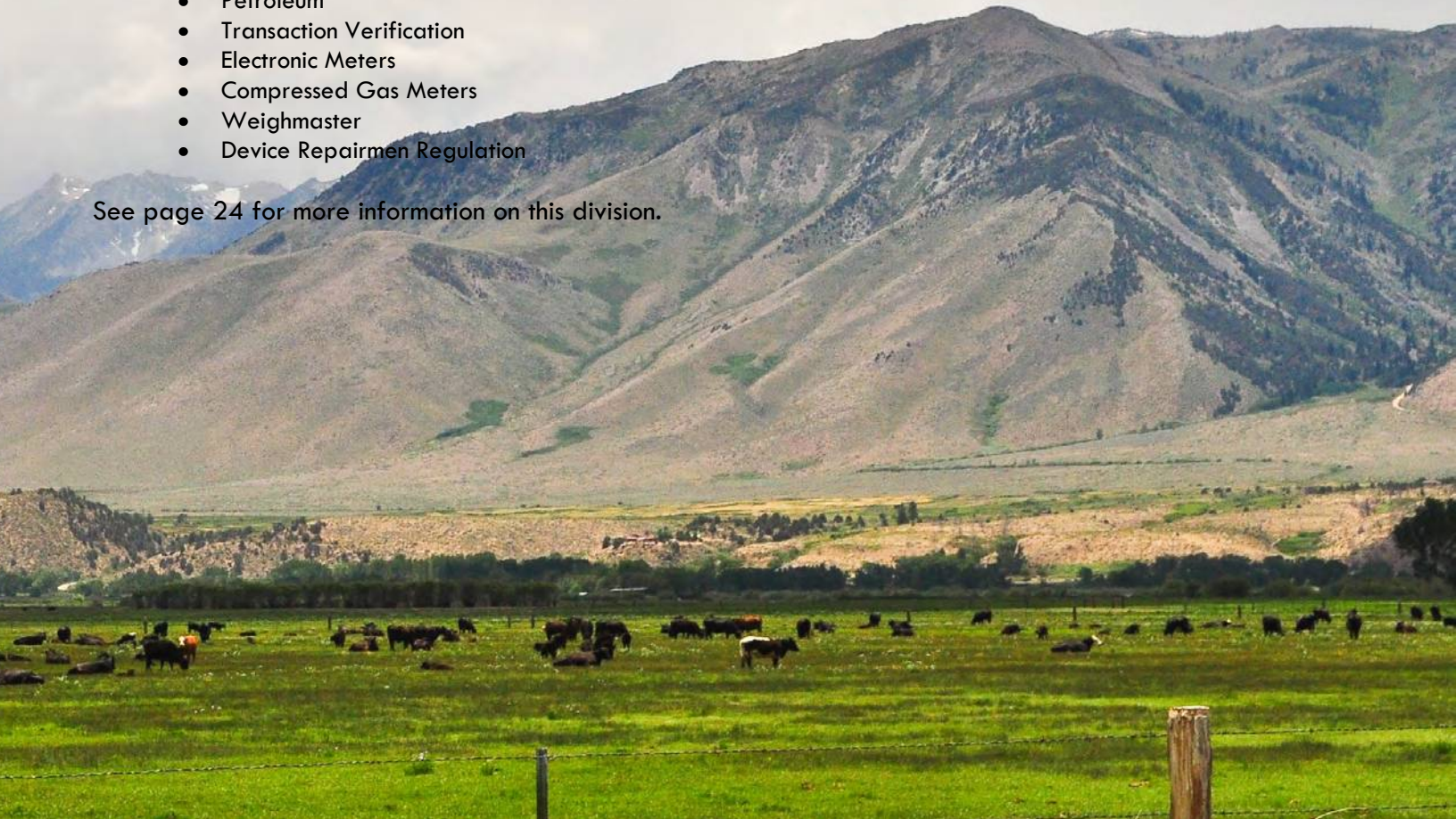
The purpose of this program is to provide the public with a consistent level of mosquito control that reduces the threat of disease transmission and the spread of large nuisance populations of mosquitoes. See page 21 for more information on this division.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Equity and fairness is the name of the game. A gallon of gasoline, a cord of firewood, a loaf of bread, or a pound of fruits or vegetables...any item purchased is sold by weight, measure, or count. We protect the public from purchasing goods that are short weight or measure, and we protect businesses from giving their products and profits away when they use devices that could be inaccurate. We also verify that prices are scanned correctly at the counter, petroleum products meet quality standards, and weighmasters provide their customers accurate weighing devices. The eight programs in this category include:

- Weight Verification
- Measurement Verification
- Petroleum
- Transaction Verification
- Electronic Meters
- Compressed Gas Meters
- Weighmaster
- Device Repairmen Regulation

See page 24 for more information on this division.





INYO COUNTY GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat: Independence
 County Population: 18,546 (2010 census)
 Land Area: 10,142 sq. miles
 Population Density: 1.83 persons per sq. mile
 Highest Elevation: 14,492 ft. (Mount Whitney)
 Lowest Elevation: -282 ft. (Badwater, D.V.N.P.)

Unincorporated Areas

- Big Pine
- Cartago
- Independence
- Lone Pine
- Olancha
- Pearsonville
- Shoshone
- Tecopa

Incorporated Cities

- Bishop

Average Climate

	Summer High	Winter Low
Bishop:	98°	22°
Death Valley:	115°	37°

Land Ownership

Federal:	92.0%
City of Los Angeles:	3.9%
State of California:	2.4%
Private:	1.7%



2012

INYO COUNTY

CROP AND LIVESTOCK STATISTICS

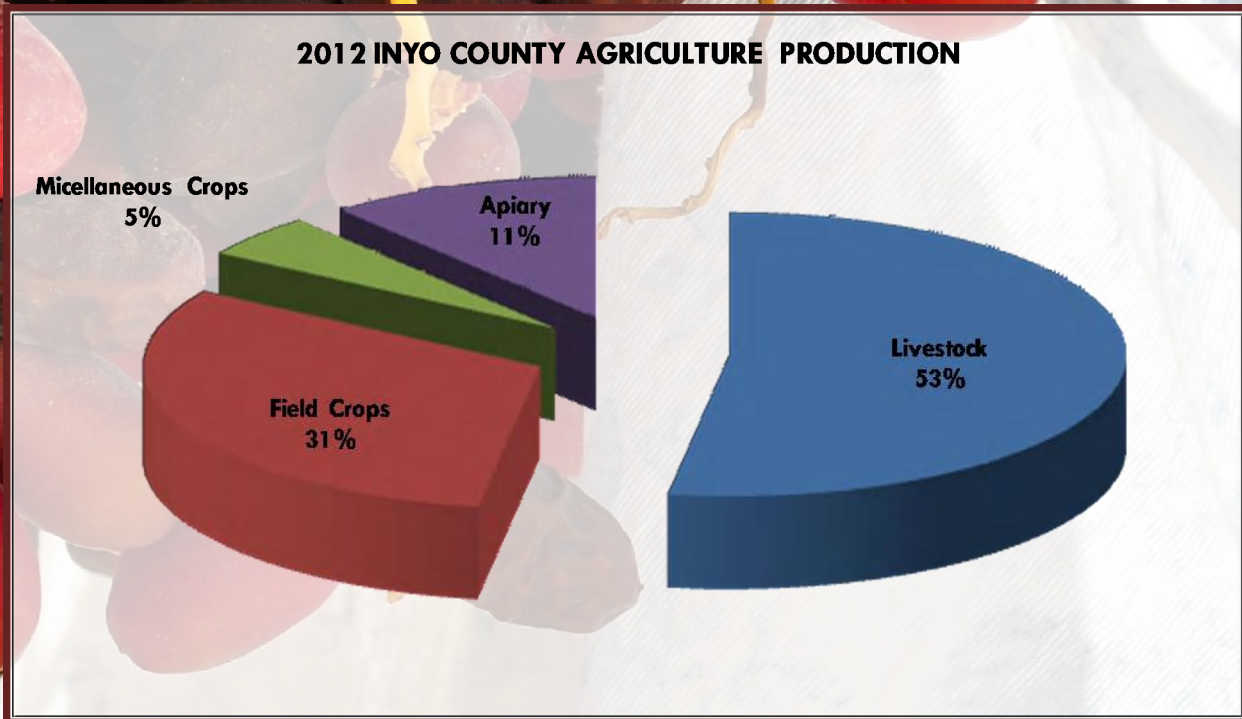




MISCELLANEOUS CROP PRODUCTION				
ITEM	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	TOTAL YIELD	TOTAL
Turf	2012	116	~	\$1,010,592
	2011	116	~	\$1,111,651
Dates and other misc. Fruits	2012	43	89,500	\$254,950
	2011	40	85,000	\$207,250
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CROP PRODUCTION			2012	\$1,265,542
			2011	\$1,318,901

APIARY PRODUCTION					
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PRICE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	2012	877,500	Lbs.	\$3.27	\$2,869,425
	2011	975,000		\$2.90	\$2,827,500
TOTAL APIARY PRODUCTION				2012	\$2,869,425
				2011	\$2,827,500

INYO COUNTY TOTALS		
	2011	2012
LIVESTOCK	\$14,206,655	\$13,487,920
FIELD CROPS	\$7,916,500	\$8,070,550
MISCELLANEOUS CROPS	\$1,318,901	\$1,265,542
APIARY	\$2,827,500	\$2,869,425
TOTALS	2012	\$25,693,437
	2011	\$26,269,556





MONO COUNTY GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat: Bridgeport
 County Population: 14,202 (2010 census)
 Land Area: 3,044 sq. miles
 Population Density: 4.67 persons per sq. mile
 Highest Elevation: 14,242 ft. (White Mountain)

Unincorporated Areas

- Benton
- Bridgeport
- Chalfant Valley
- Coleville
- Hammil Valley
- June Lake
- Lee Vining
- Tom's Place
- Walker

Incorporated Cities

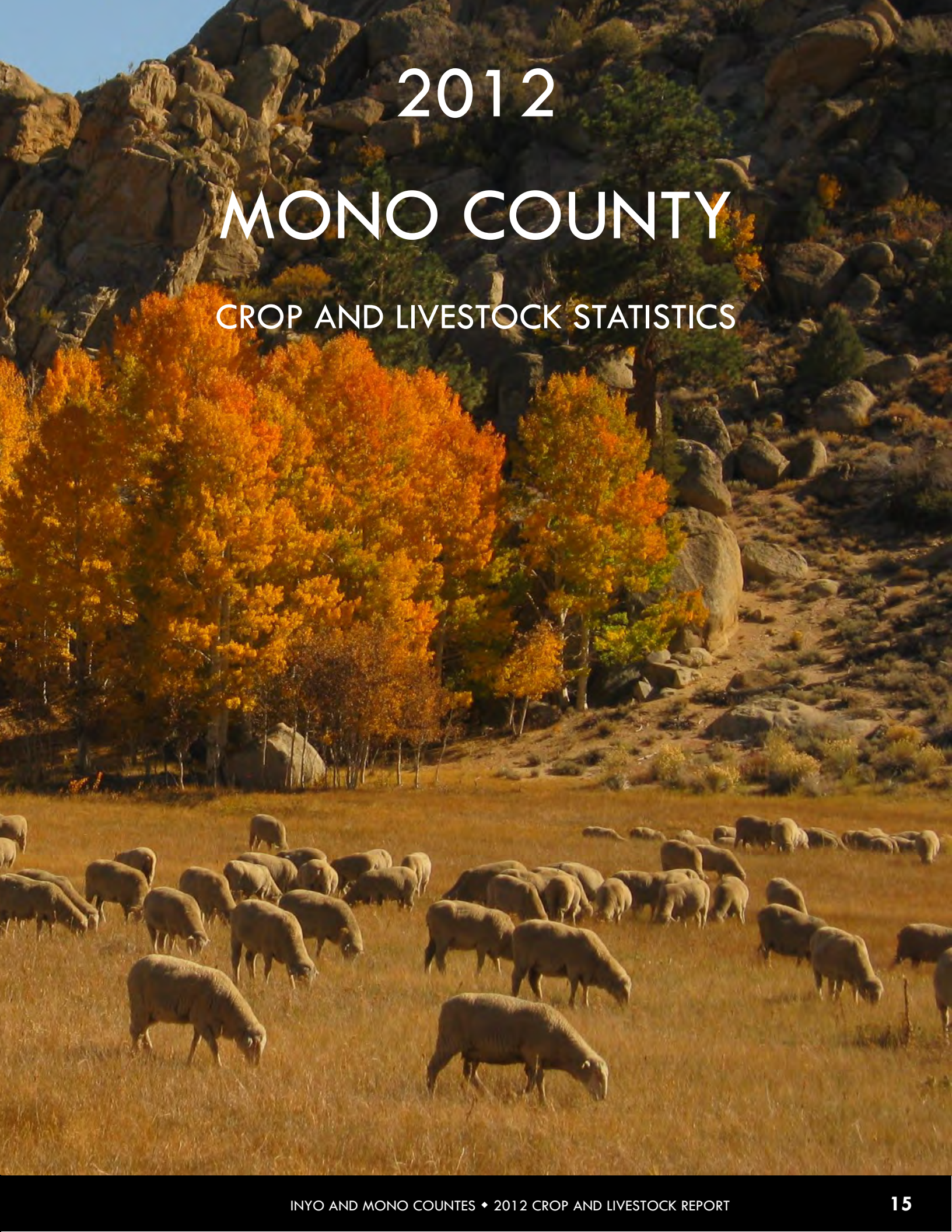
- Mammoth Lakes

Average Climate

	Summer High	Winter Low
Bridgeport:	81°	8°
Chalfant Valley:	98°	22°

Land Ownership

Federal:	84.7%
State of California:	3.6%
City of Los Angeles:	3.2%
Private:	7.8%



2012

MONO COUNTY

CROP AND LIVESTOCK STATISTICS



LIVESTOCK

ITEM	YEAR	HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	PRICE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Calves/Steers	2012	7,200	43,200	Cwt.	\$144.00	\$6,220,800
	2011	8,000	48,000		\$135.00	\$6,480,000
Calves/Heifers	2012	6,120	33,660	Cwt.	\$140.00	\$4,712,400
	2011	6,800	37,400		\$131.00	\$4,899,400
Cows	2012	2,480	27,280	Cwt.	\$107.00	\$2,918,960
	2011	2,760	30,360		\$100.00	\$3,036,000
Bulls	2012	275	3,850	Cwt.	\$102.00	\$392,700
	2011	305	4,270		\$95.00	\$405,650
Stockers (gain)	2012	20,250	~	~	~	\$9,213,400
	2011	22,500	~	~	~	\$9,579,375
Sheep and Lambs	2012	18,900	18,900	Cwt.	\$165.00	\$3,118,500
	2011	21,000	21,000		\$190.00	\$3,990,000

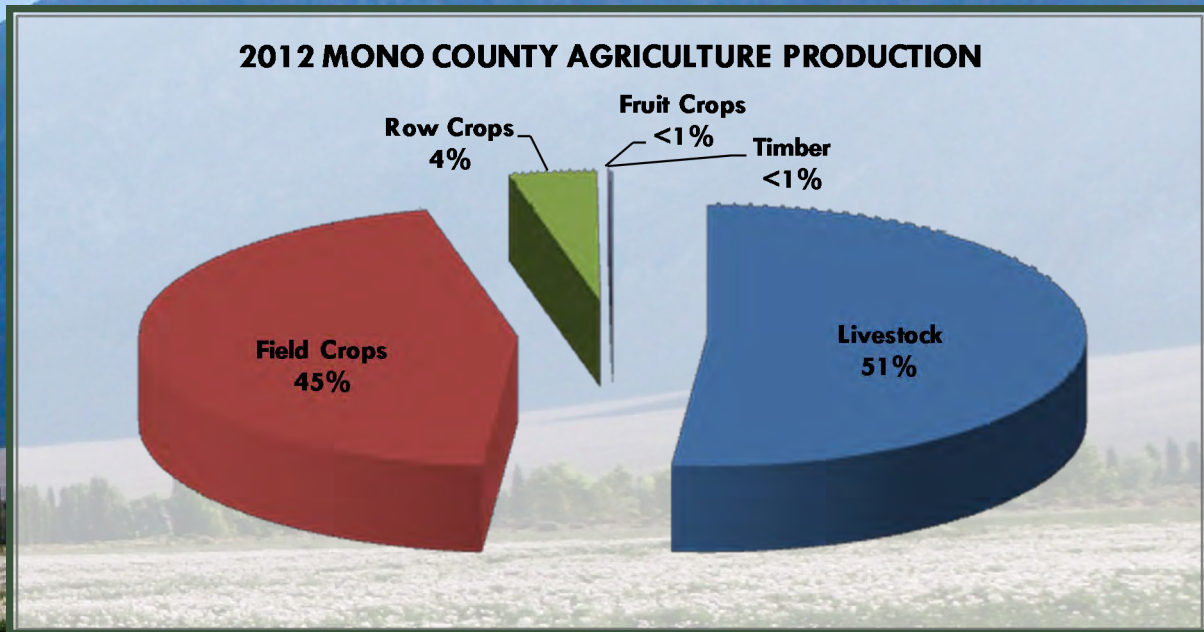
TOTAL LIVESTOCK: **2012** **\$26,576,760**
 2011 **\$28,390,425**

LIVESTOCK



MONO COUNTY TOTALS

	2011	2012
LIVESTOCK	\$28,390,425	\$26,576,760
FIELD CROPS	\$23,072,500	\$23,004,400
ROW CROPS	\$1,542,200	\$1,928,600
FRUIT CROPS	\$63,281	\$48,750
TIMBER	\$75,000	\$29,350
TOTAL	\$53,143,406	\$51,587,860



MONO COUNTY TOTALS

COMPARISON SUMMARY



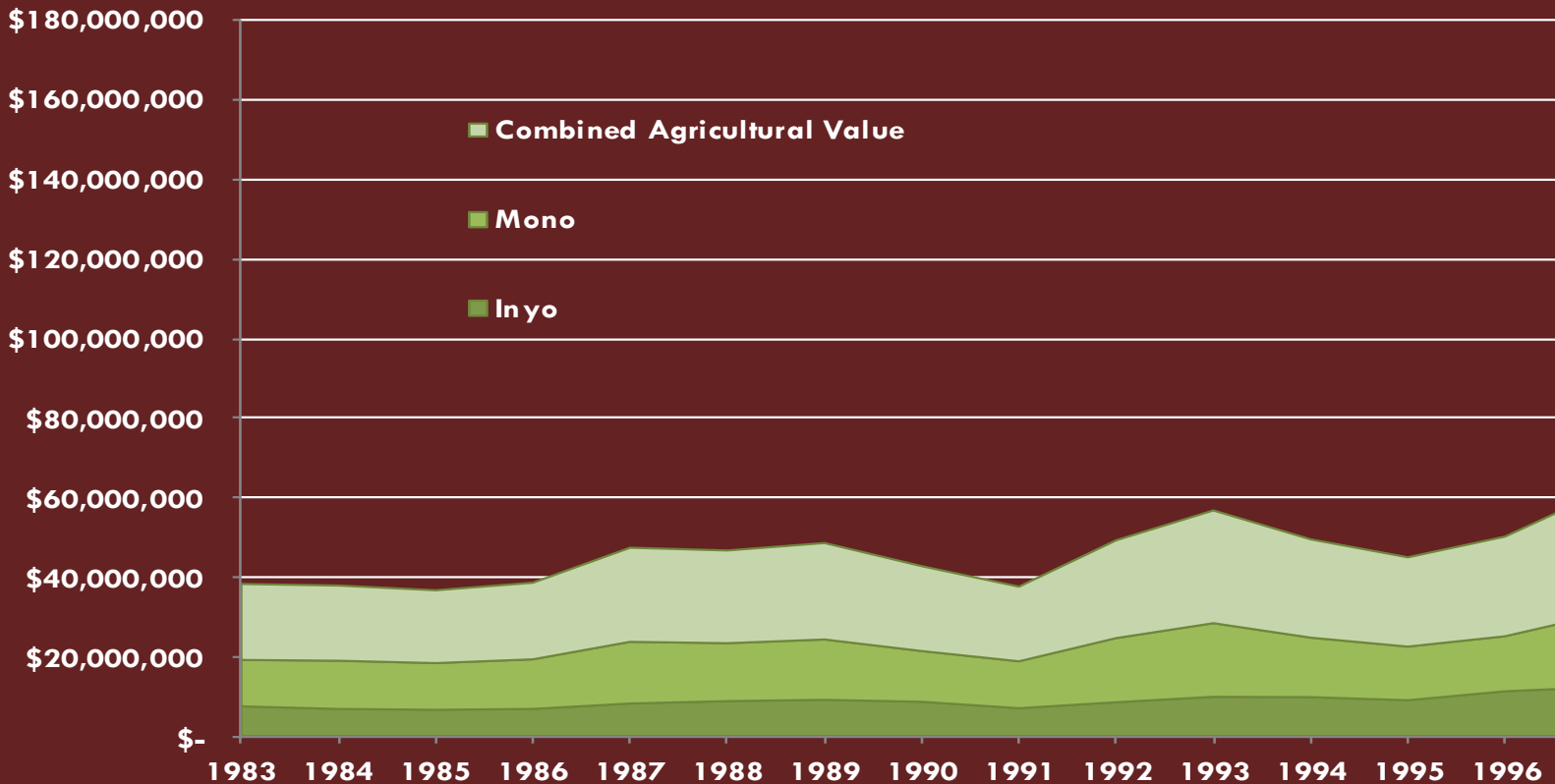
COMPARISON SUMMARY

2008-2012

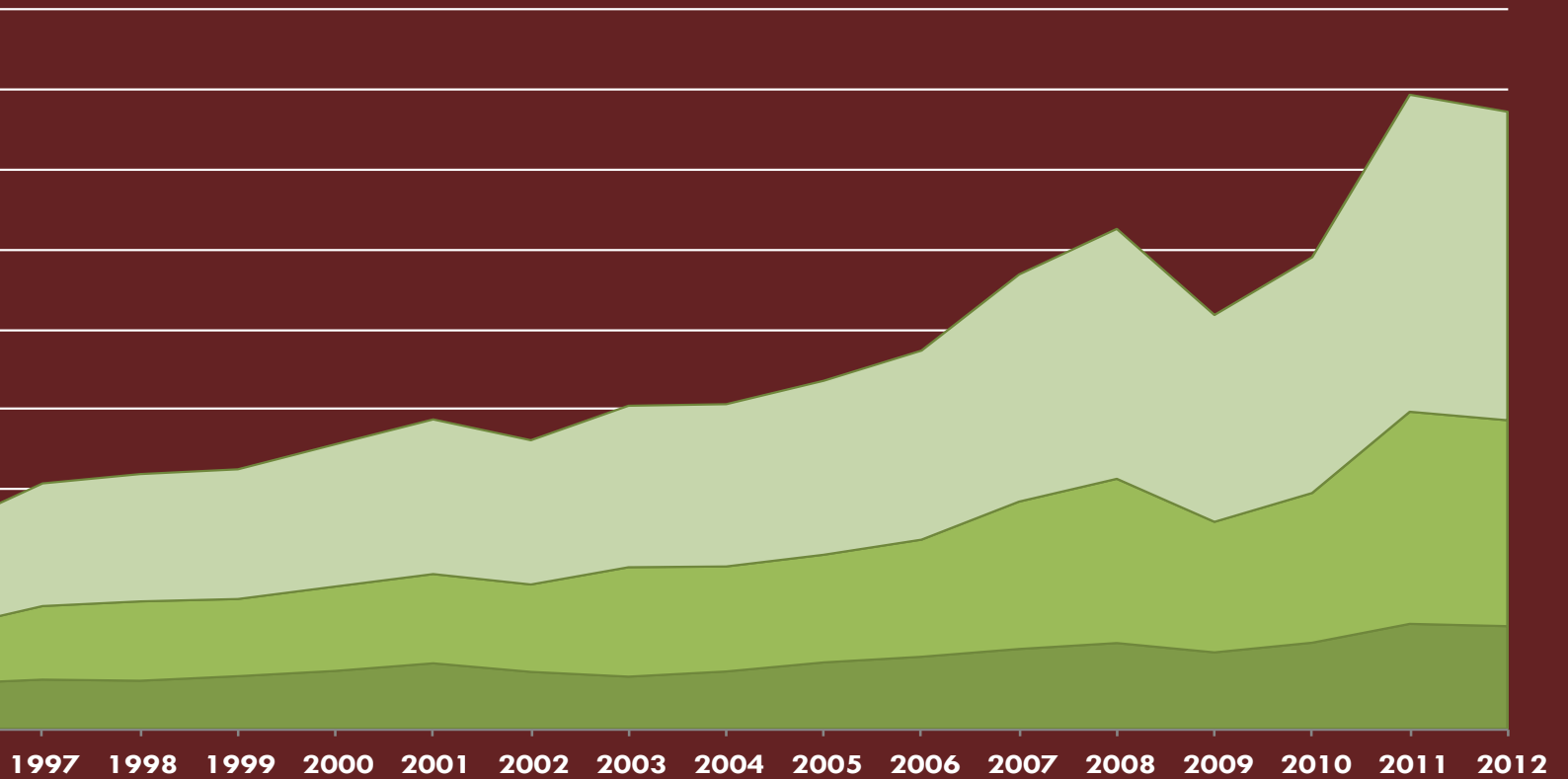
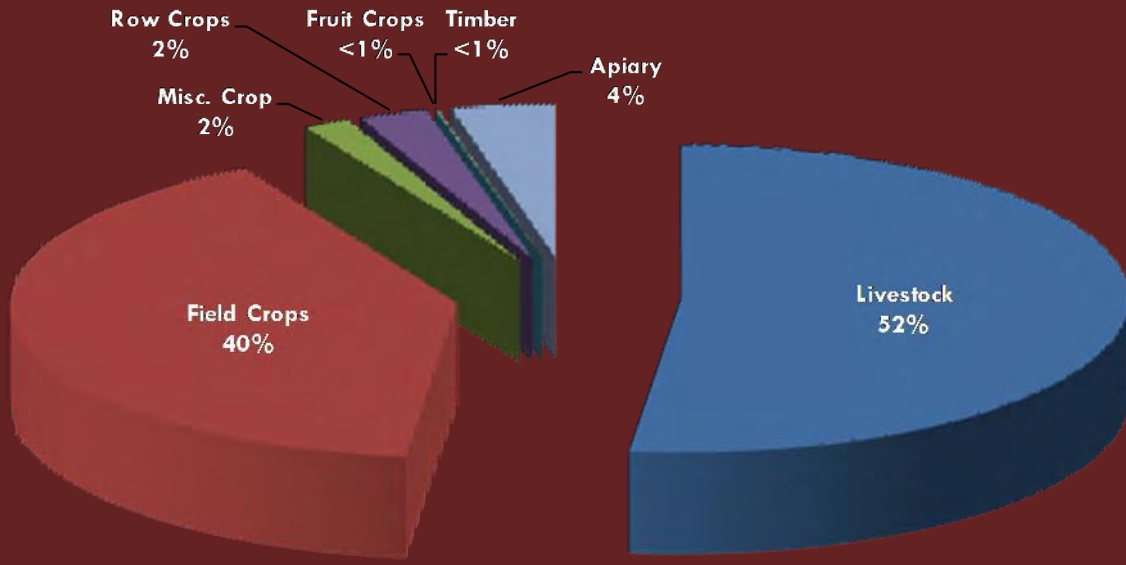


	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
INYO COUNTY TOTALS	\$21,459,980	\$19,127,350	\$21,546,770	\$26,269,556	\$25,693,437
MONO COUNTY TOTALS	\$41,148,517	\$32,697,305	\$37,508,055	\$53,143,406	\$51,587,860
COMBINED TOTALS	\$62,608,497	\$51,824,655	\$59,054,825	\$79,412,962	\$77,281,297

30 YEAR COMPARISON



COMBINED AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION



Organic and Outreach Programs



ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS:

There were 5 organic farms registered in 2012.

EASTERN SIERRA CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET:

16 growers participated in the 2012 Farmers Markets. Commodities sold included: basil, chives, cilantro, dill, marjoram, parsley, rosemary, sage, tarragon, thyme, lavender, oregano, lemongrass, mint, paprika, spinach, corn, eggplant, tomato, squash, cucumber, peppers, green onions, potatoes, pumpkins, onions, beets, garlic, carrots, radishes, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, arugula, sweet potatoes, Swiss chard, bok choy, cabbage, collards, Brussels sprouts, zucchini, shallots, tomatillos, grapes, apples, peaches, pears, nectarines, apricots, cherries, plums, persimmons, figs, watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew, gourds, beans, raspberries, blackberries, boysenberries, strawberries, sweet peas, various bean varieties, walnuts, pecans, aloe, cut flowers, and eggs.

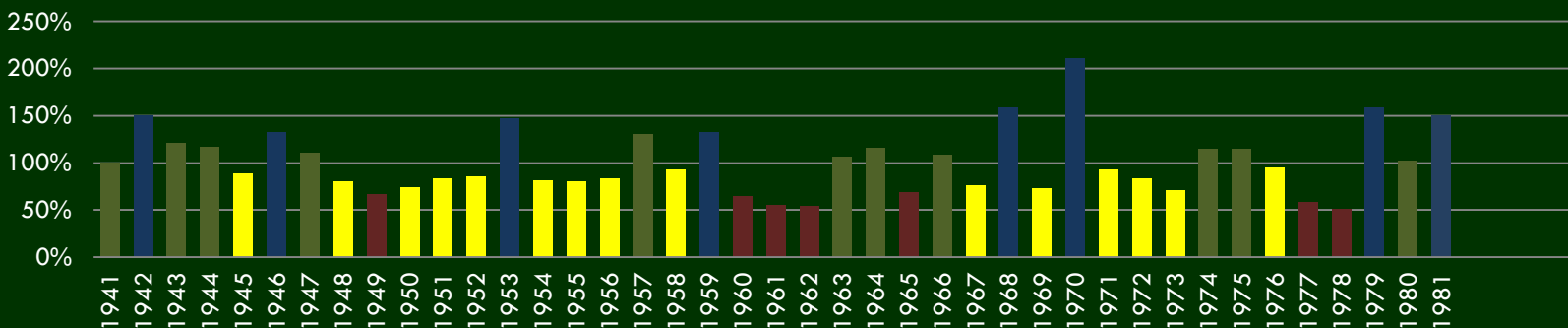
OUTREACH PROGRAM

During 2012, the Inyo/Mono Counties' Agriculture Department sponsored:

- 2 pesticide safety seminars with 135 professional card holders and private applicators attending, to meet California state continuing education requirements;
- 4 educational workshops for local groups;
- Participation with the Owens Lake Committee and Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Group to resolve major water issues in the Owens Valley.

The Department's inspection surveillance area, which encompasses over 10,000 square miles, provided outreach from northern Mono County, including several California and Nevada field crop growers located in the Antelope Valley area, to the southern tip of Inyo County, including a large commercial turf grass farm in the Sandy Valley, near Las Vegas, Nevada. The Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's office is tasked with the surveillance of 50% of the California/Nevada border for pests that could endanger the agricultural industry of California.

EASTERN SIERRA RUNOFF CHART



Sustainable Agriculture

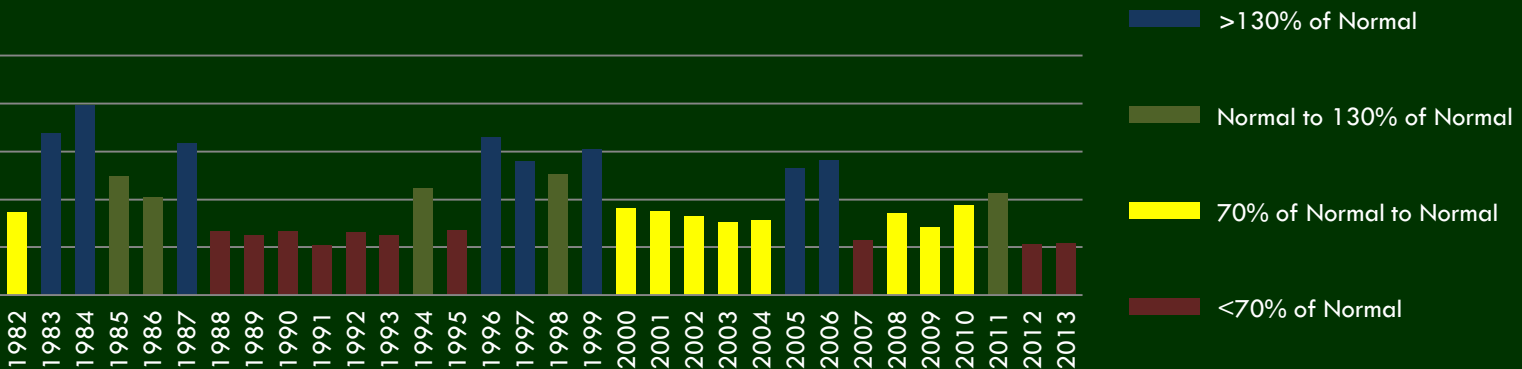
INVASIVE PLANT TARGETS

<u>PEST</u>	<u>AGENT/MECHANISM</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SITES</u>	<u>GROSS ACRES</u>
Puncturevine	Biological Control	25 sites	~
Dalmatian Toadflax	Mechanical	1 site	220
Yellow Starthistle	Mechanical	2 sites	13
Russian Knapweed	Herbicide	12 sites	3,307
Hoary Cress	Herbicide	2 sites	3
Canada Thistle	Herbicide	20 sites	3,289
Spotted Knapweed	Herbicide	4 sites	4
Halogeton	Mechanical	19 sites	4,400
Scotch Thistle	Herbicide	8 sites	1,311
Camelthorn	Herbicide	1 site	94
Saltcedar	Biological Control	3 sites	~
Saltcedar	Herbicide	100 sites	~
Perennial Pepperweed	Herbicide	137 sites	27,350

PEST EXCLUSION

Exotic and/or target pests in incoming plant material via UPS, FedEx, and US Mail:

11,220, Shipments Inspected



Weights and Measures



DEVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Over 1,400 devices were inspected in 2012 to ensure accuracy within California state tolerances. These devices included:

- 1,071 retail fuel meters;
- 251 retail scales;
- 51 livestock scales;
- 27 vehicle scales;
- 13 hopper scales;
- 8000 vapor and electric meters (10 year cycle).

We are responsible for inspection, certification, or condemnation of all commercially used meters (retail motor fuel, propane/vapor, and electric), scales (aggregate and cement hoppers, vehicle, livestock, computing, platform and spring scales); and any other type of device that is used to weigh or measure to determine a value for the purpose of sales. Enforcement actions can include issuance of citations initiating prosecution of violations. Of the 1,400+ devices inspected, 13 Notice of Violations were issued. All consumer complaints received by the Inyo/Mono Counties' Weights and Measures Department resulted in further inspections throughout the year. Regular inspections protect consumers from misrepresentation and maintain fair competition between sellers.



PETROLEUM PROGRAM

We ensure the quality of petroleum products sold within the two Counties including; sampling of fuels, inspection and investigation of complaints. We also oversee all commercial advertisements of such products including price signs and labeling.

QUALITY PACKAGE INSPECTIONS

We inspect pre-packaged commodities in retail and wholesale facilities to determine proper weights, count or volume. We also verify proper sales equipment involving scanners, performing test purchases to insure accurate charges.



WEIGHMASTER ENFORCEMENT

Weighmaster licenses are issued through our office to persons or entities that sell bulk commodities. Enforcement of weighmaster laws ensures that these transactions are accurate.

DEVICE REPAIRMAN REGULATION

Anyone who installs or repairs a weighing or measuring device in Inyo or Mono Counties must register with our office and inform our office when work takes place. This ensures that devices are not tampered with and transaction equity.



"Weights and measures may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society. They enter into the economical arrangements and daily concerns of every family. They are necessary to every occupation of human industry; to the distribution and security of every species of property; to every transaction of trade and commerce; to the labors of the husbandman; to the ingenuity of the artificer; to the studies of the philosopher; to the researches of the antiquarian; to the navigation of the mariner, and the marches of the soldier; to all the exchanges of peace, and all the operations of war. The knowledge of them, as in established use, is among the first elements of education, and is often learned by those who learn nothing else, not even to read and write. This knowledge is riveted in the memory by the habitual application of it to the employments of men throughout life."

John Quincy Adams

Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement



WHAT IS THE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM?

The purpose of the program is to control mosquito populations throughout the Owens Valley from Olancha to Round Valley so that these pests and their associated diseases are abated adequately.

MONITORING

The Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program (OVMAP) conducts surveillance to determine mosquito populations using several methods. Mosquito traps are deployed in several locations throughout the Owens Valley, and are checked frequently to determine level of adult mosquito populations. Disease monitoring is component of this trapping effort, and insects caught in traps are sent to sample for the presence of certain diseases that mosquitos are known to spread. Complaints are logged and responded to, creating records that can also help with monitoring efforts. At times, staff will travel to areas where complaints are high and record landing rates of mosquitos to further gauge population density.

BIOCONTROL

Mosquito Fish - The mosquito fish have been one of the most effective non-insecticidal and non-chemical methods of controlling mosquitoes for over eighty years. They breed throughout the summer and new broods are produced at intervals of about six weeks, with 50 to 100 young in a single brood. They are ready to begin the work of destroying mosquito larvae at once. Mosquito fish can eat mosquito larvae as fast as the larvae hatch from eggs, as many as 100 per day. Mosquito fish live 2-3 years and can tolerate a wide range of temperatures.



Larvaciding - Routine larvaciding of many hundreds of mosquito sources each week prevent immature mosquito larvae from reaching the flying and biting adult stage. This preferred first option for killing mosquitos is the cheapest and most effective method.

ADULTICIDING

When larvaciding does not control mosquito populations adequately, OVMAP conducts adulticiding measures to protect our local communities from irritating insect bites and the potential for spreading of disease.

PUBLIC OUTREACH and CULTURAL/ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Outreach to residents about altering or removing conditions that best suit mosquito breeding is another effective tool in the OVMAP toolbox. These controls include proper irrigation practices, pool maintenance, and even making sure small containers or tires stored outside do not fill with stagnant water. Reducing the habitat conducive to mosquito breeding in the very areas where we live is a large step toward fewer itchy bites.





**Counties of Inyo and Mono
Department of Agriculture and Weights & Measures
207 W South Street
Bishop, CA 93514**

