

# 2016

## Inyo and Mono Counties Crop and Livestock Report



Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
207 W South Street, Bishop, CA 93514

# Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office 2016 Crop and Livestock Report

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# Counties of Inyo & Mono

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors,  
County of Mono

Stacy Corless, *Chair*

Bob Gardener

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Larry Johnston

I am pleased to present the 2016 Inyo and Mono Counties' Annual Crop and Livestock Report. This report is prepared pursuant to California Food and Agriculture Code 2279, and is a statistical compilation of agriculture production in Inyo and Mono Counties. These values reflect **gross** agricultural production within the two counties, and do not represent net profit or loss.

The gross combined agricultural production values for Inyo and Mono Counties in 2016 totaled \$44,155,000, representing a decrease of 11.3% from 2015 production values. Drought continued to weigh on production, with cumulative losses representing a 44.4% reduction in total value for our region since the beginning of the multi-year drought period.

Cattle production remained relatively stable in 2016 as herd sizes were reduced to minimal levels due to poor forage conditions during the extended drought period. Beef pricing, however, declined for Inyo and Mono ranchers, driving production value down over 2015. Livestock value losses were tempered somewhat by a return of feeder cattle to local range.

Alfalfa and other hay production was impacted by low pricing, reducing this commodity group as well. Some irrigated pasture production loss occurred in Mono County as a result of LADWP decisions to not irrigate a vast portion of Long Valley due to drought, and acreage associated with these lands was moved into the rangeland commodity category for 2016.

Bright spots included both sheep production value increases, as well as more thorough reporting that resulted in increases in the fruit and nut category for both counties, and the inclusion of nursery production values for Mono County.

Sincerely,

Nathan D. Reade  
Agricultural Commissioner





## 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

The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office protects 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

Staff participate in a wide range of special projects intended to benefit Inyo/Mono citizens such as the legislative process, public information, education outreach efforts, as well as joint multi-agency and inter-county cooperative activities. Continuing education efforts sponsored by the Agriculture Department for pesticide safety help to ensure that local license-holders maintain adequate training.

## 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 participates in public outreach and education activities to ensure that people understand the threat of non-native weeds on our environment and agriculture industry.

## Weights and Measures

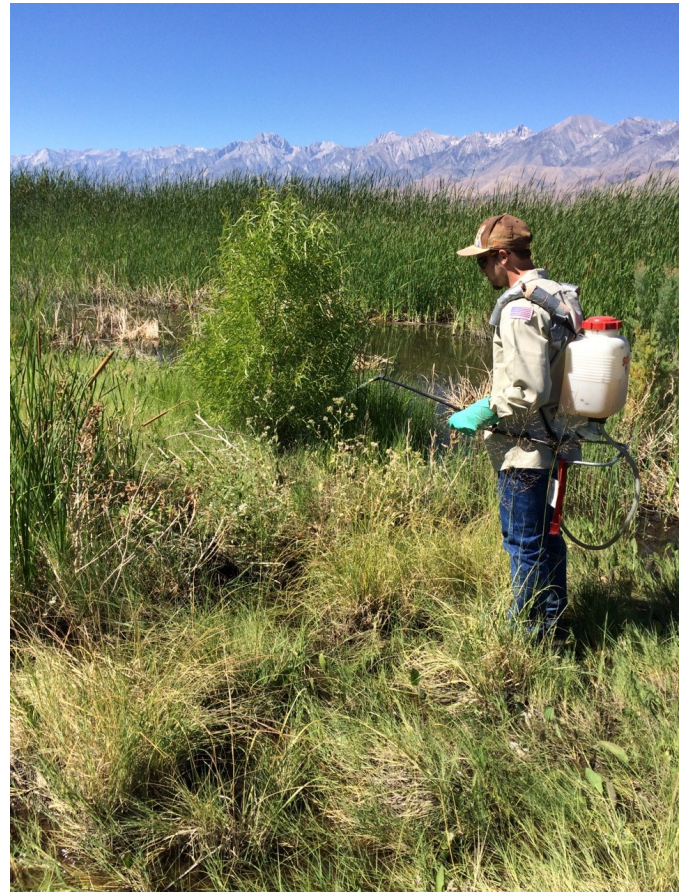
A gallon of gasoline, a cord of firewood, a loaf of bread, or a pound of fruits or vegetables...any item purchased is sold by weight, measure, or count. We protect the public from purchasing goods that are short weight or measure, and we protect businesses from giving their products and profits away 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 15 for more information on this division.

## Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement 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 16 for more information on this division.





# 2016

## Inyo County Crop and Livestock Statistics

### Inyo County General Information

County Seat:	Independence	<u>Average Climate</u>	
County Population:	18,546 (2010 census)	High	Low
Land Area:	10,142 sq. miles	Bishop:	98° 22°
Population Density:	1.83 persons per sq. mile	Death Valley:	115° 37°
Highest Elevation:	14,505 ft. (Mount Whitney)		
Lowest Elevation:	-282 ft. (Badwater, D.V.N.P.)		

#### Unincorporated Areas

Big Pine	Olancha
Cartago	Pearsonville
Independence	Shoshone
Lone Pine	

#### Land Ownership

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

#### Incorporated Cities

Bishop





## Livestock & Livestock Products

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total****	
Cattle & Calves	2016	Head	7,670	\$1,045	\$8,013,000	▼ 16%
	2015		7,680	\$1,243	\$9,550,000	
Sheep & Lambs**	2016	Head	3,815	\$164	\$625,700	▲ 26%
	2015		3,670*	\$154	\$496,000*	
Eggs	2016	Dozen	4,350	\$4.75	\$20,600	▲ 14%
	2015		4,020	\$4.50	\$18,100	
Wool	2016	Lbs	26,700	\$1.54	\$41,000	▲ 7%
	2015		23,900	\$1.59	\$38,000	
Miscellaneous***	2016				\$186,000	▲ 447%
	2015				\$34,000	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$8,886,000</b>	▼ 12%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$10,136,000*</b>	

\* Adjusted figure

\*\* Includes feeder lamb gain.

\*\*\* includes beef stocker gain, goats, hogs, and poultry.

\*\*\*\*Total may not calculate due to rounding

## Field Crops

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total**	
Alfalfa Hay	2016	Ton	15,100	\$180	\$2,718,000	▼ 12%
	2015		15,100	\$200	\$3,100,000	
Pasture, Irrigated	2016	Acre	14,000	\$70	\$980,000	= 0%
	2015		14,000	\$70	\$980,000	
Pasture, Rangeland	2016	Acre	1,150,000	\$1.12	\$1,288,000	= 0%
	2015		1,150,000	\$1.12	\$1,288,000	
Miscellaneous*	2016	-	280	-	\$758,000	▼ 8%
	2015		655	-	\$824,000	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$5,744,000</b>	▼ 7%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$6,192,000</b>	

\* Includes garlic, grain hay, sudangrass, and other hay

\*\*Total may not calculate due to rounding

## Nursery Products

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total	
Nursery Stock*	2016	Acre	121	-	\$1,032,000	▼ 36%
	2015		121	-	\$1,620,000	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$1,032,000</b>	▼ 36%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$1,620,000</b>	

\* Includes cacti and succulents, palms, and turf.

## Apiary Production

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total	
Honey	2016	Lb	155,600	\$2.09	\$325,200	▲ 5%
	2015		154,000	\$2.01	\$310,000	
Miscellaneous*	2016	-	-	-	\$5,600	▲ 4%
	2015		-	-	\$5,400	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$330,800</b>	▲ 5%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$315,000</b>	

\* Includes beeswax and pollen.

## Fruit & Nut Crops

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total	
Miscellaneous*	2016	Acres	35	-	\$333,200	▲ 64%
	2015		32	-	\$203,000	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$333,200</b>	▲ 64%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$203,000</b>	

\* Includes almonds, apples, apricots, blackberries, cherries, dates, figs, grapes (table), grapes (wine), nectarines, peaches, pears, pecans, persimmons, plums, pomegranates, raspberries, strawberries, and walnuts.

## Vegetable Crops

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total	
Miscellaneous*	2016	Acres	7	-	\$42,000	▼ 7%
	2015		9	-	\$45,000	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	▼ 7%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	

\* Includes Includes artichokes, beans, brassicas, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, herbs, leafy greens, melons, onions, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatillos, tomatoes, and tubers.

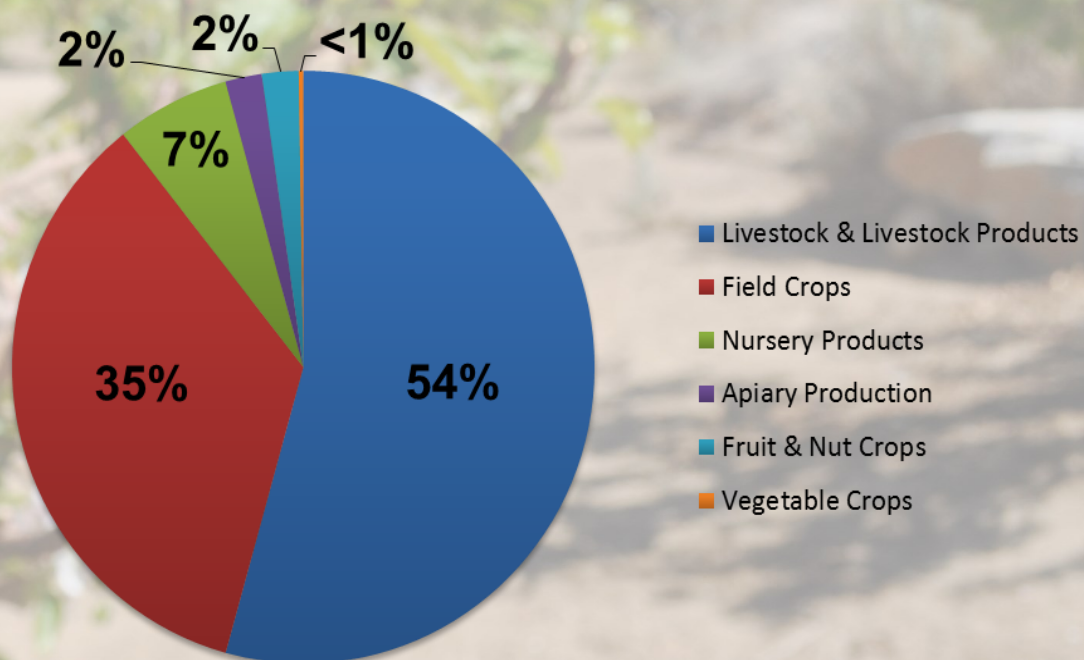




## Inyo County Totals

	Year	Total	
Livestock & Livestock Products	2016	\$8,886,000	
	2015	\$10,136,000	▼ 12%
Field Crops	2016	\$5,744,000	
	2015	\$6,192,000	▼ 17%
Nursery Products	2016	\$1,032,000	
	2015	\$1,620,000	▼ 36%
Apiary Production	2016	\$330,800	
	2015	\$315,000	▲ 5%
Fruit & Nut Crops	2016	\$333,200	
	2015	\$203,000	▲ 64%
Vegetable Crops	2016	\$42,000	
	2015	\$45,000	▼ 7%
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$16,368,000</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>\$18,511,000</b>	<b>▼ 12%</b>

## Inyo County Agricultural Production





# 2016

## Mono County Crop and Livestock Statistics

### Mono County General Information

County Seat:	Bridgeport	<u>Average Climate</u>	
County Population:	14,202 (2010 census)	High	Low
Land Area:	3,044 sq. miles	Bridgeport:	81° 8°
Population Density:	4.67 persons per sq. mile	Hammil Valley:	98° 22°
Highest Elevation:	14,252 ft. (White Mountain)		

#### Unincorporated Areas

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

#### Land Ownership

Federal:	84.7%
City of Los Angeles:	3.2%
State of California:	3.6%
Private:	6.5%

#### Incorporated Cities

Mammoth Lakes





## Livestock & Livestock Products

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total***	
Cattle & Calves	2016	Head	8,230	\$1,045	\$8,603,000	▼ 16%
	2015		8,200	\$1,243	\$10,193,000	
Sheep & Lambs*	2016	Head	14,870	\$164	\$2,439,000	▲ 14%
	2015		13,900	\$154	\$2,141,000	
Wool	2016	Lbs	119,300	\$1.54	\$183,700	▲ 7%
	2015		107,800	\$1.59	\$171,000	
Miscellaneous**	2016				\$2,570,000	▲ 80%
	2015				\$1,425,000	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$13,796,000</b>	▼ 1%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$13,930,000</b>	

\* Includes feeder lamb gain.

\*\* includes beef stocker gain, goats, hogs, and poultry.

\*\*\*Total may not calculate due to rounding

## Field Crops

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total**	
Alfalfa Hay	2016	Ton	47,200	\$180	\$8,496,000	▼ 16%
	2015		50,600	\$200	\$10,120,000	
Pasture, Irrigated	2016	Acre	26,000	\$70	\$1,820,000	▼ 40%
	2015		43,000	\$70	\$3,010,000	
Pasture, Rangeland	2016	Acre	1,072,000	\$1.39	\$1,490,000	▲ 5%
	2015		1,055,000	\$1.35	\$1,424,000	
Miscellaneous*	2016	-	1,473	-	\$2,063,000	▼ 23%
	2015		2,600	-	\$2,685,000	
<b>Total Value</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$13,869,000</b>	▼ 20%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$17,239,000</b>	

\* Includes garlic, grain hay, sudangrass, and other hay

\*\*Total may not calculate due to rounding



## Fruit & Nut Crops

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total	
Miscellaneous*	2016	Acres	18	-	\$43,300	▲ 12%
	2015		18	-	\$38,800	
			<b>Total Value</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$43,300</b>	▲ 12%
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$38,800</b>	

\* Includes grapes (wine), pome fruit, and stone fruit.

## Forest Products

	Year	Total	
Timber and Firewood	2016	\$59,000	▲ 72%
	2015	\$34,400	
<b>Total Value</b>		<b>2016</b>	▲ 72%
		<b>2015</b>	

## Nursery Products

	Year	Unit	Production	Value per Unit	Total	
Nursery Stock*	2016	Acre	1	-	\$20,000	N/A
	2015		0	-	\$0	
			<b>Total Value</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	N/A
				<b>2015</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

\* Includes various ornamental plants

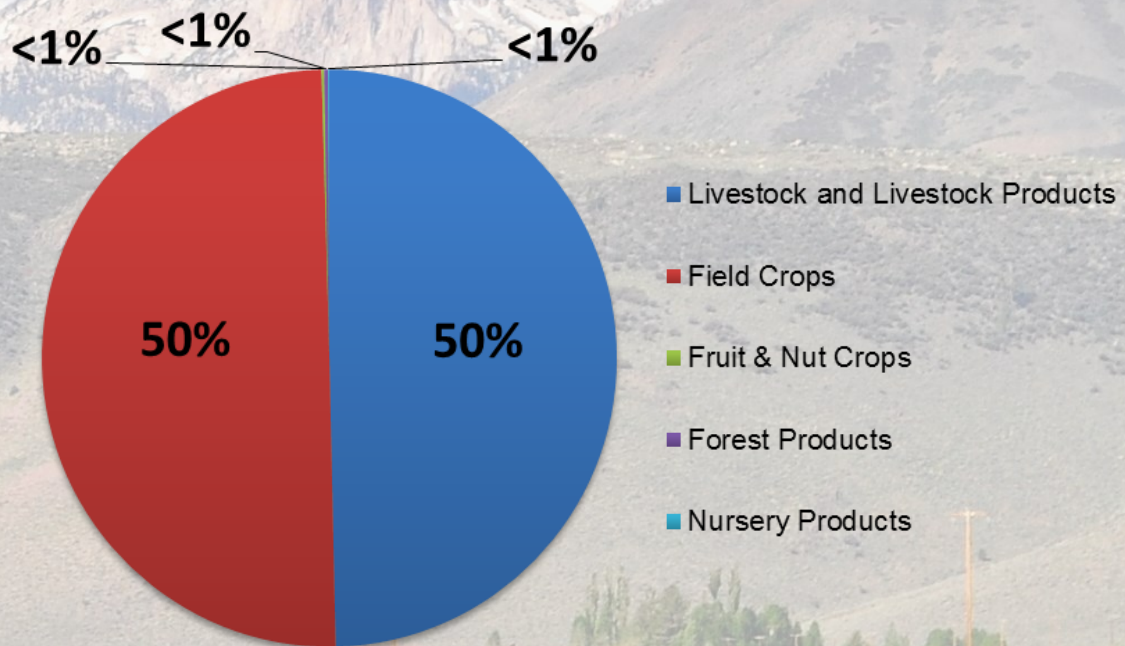




## Mono County Totals

	Year	Total	
Livestock & Livestock Products	2016	\$13,796,000	▼ 1%
	2015	\$13,930,000	
Field Crops	2016	\$13,869,000	▼ 20%
	2015	\$17,239,000	
Fruit & Nut Crops	2016	\$43,300	▲ 12%
	2015	\$38,800	
Forest Products	2016	\$59,000	▲ 72%
	2015	\$34,400	
Nursery Products	2016	\$20,000	N/A
	2015	\$0	
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$27,787,000</b>	<b>▼ 11%</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>\$31,242,000</b>	

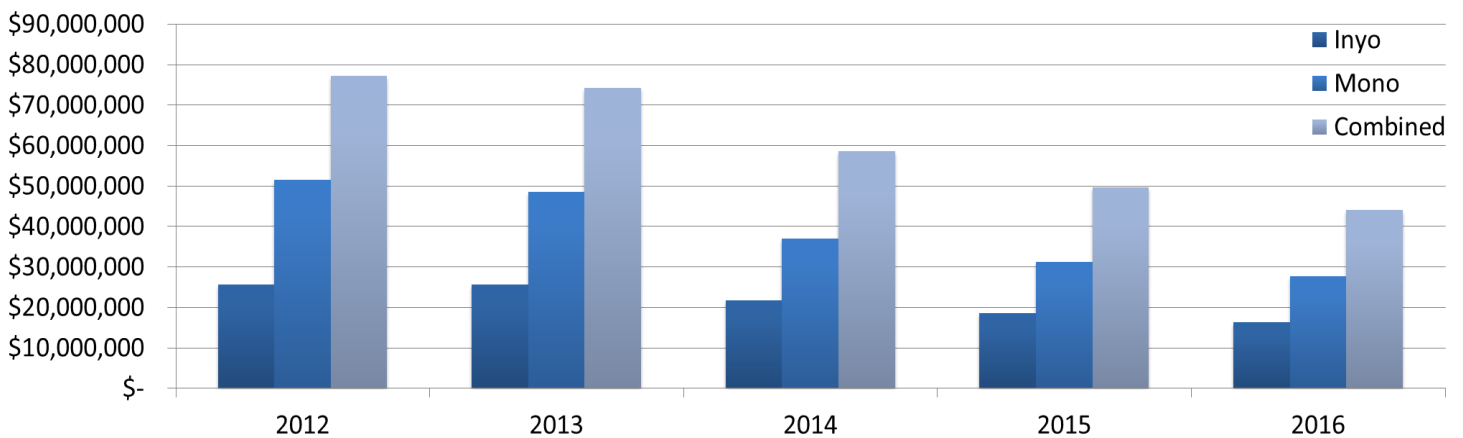
## Mono County Agricultural Production



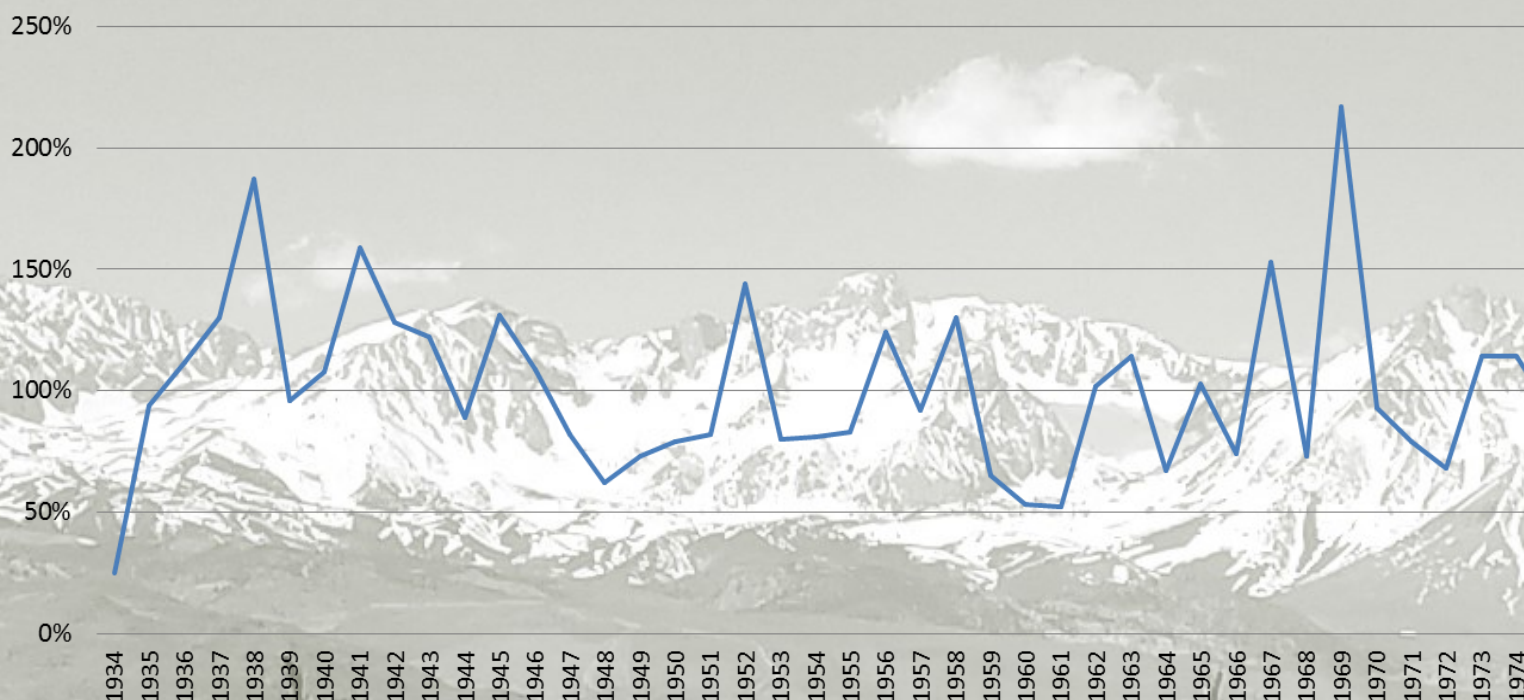


# Five Year Comparison

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Inyo County Totals</b>	<b>\$25,693,000</b>	<b>\$25,648,000</b>	<b>\$21,659,000</b>	<b>\$18,511,000</b>	<b>\$16,368,000</b>
<b>Mono County Totals</b>	<b>\$51,588,000</b>	<b>\$48,503,000</b>	<b>\$36,947,000</b>	<b>\$31,242,000</b>	<b>\$27,787,000</b>
<b>Combined Totals</b>	<b>\$77,281,000</b>	<b>\$74,151,000</b>	<b>\$58,606,000</b>	<b>\$49,753,000</b>	<b>\$44,155,000</b>



# Eastern Sierra Runoff Chart





# Direct Marketing

## Certified Farmer's Market

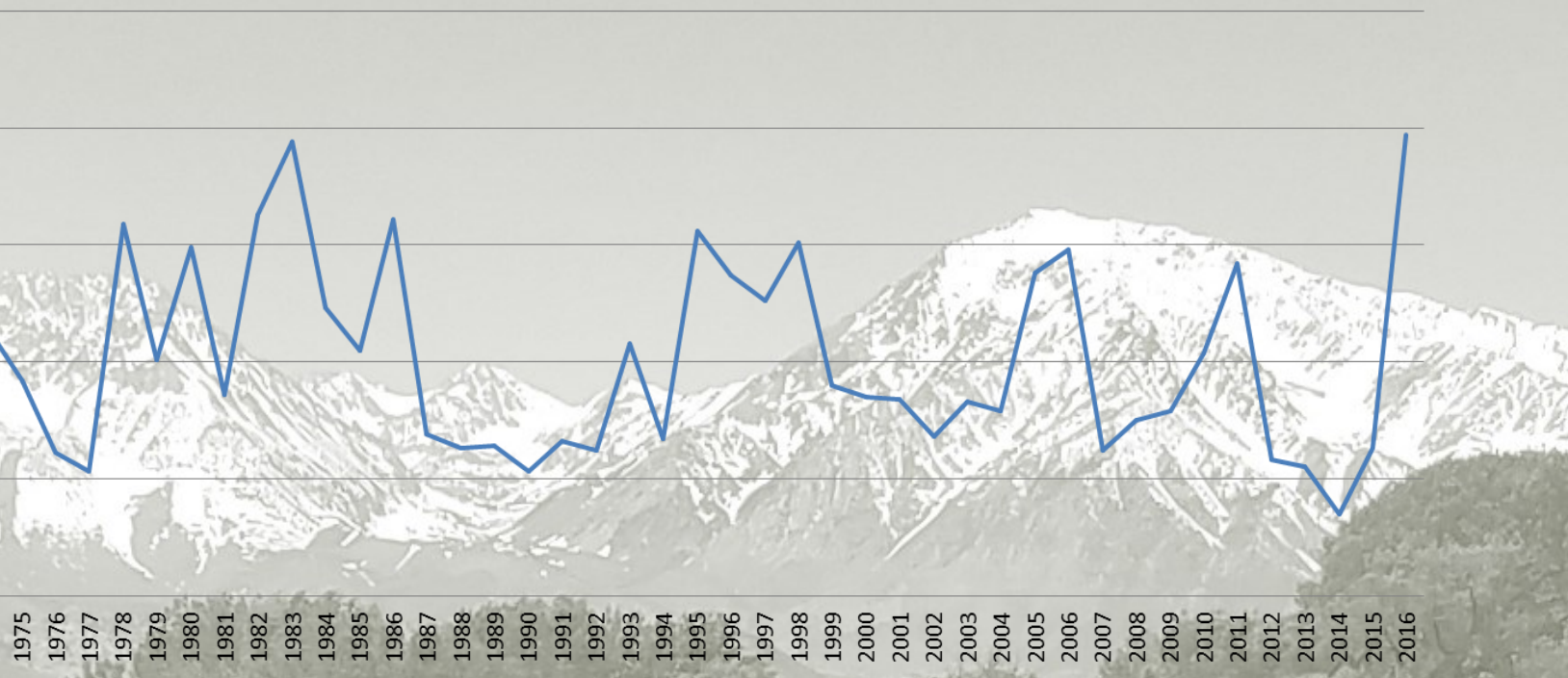
26 growers registered as Certified Producers in 2016.

### Certified Farmer's Market locations included:

- Mammoth Lakes
- Bishop
- Independence

### Commodities Grown by Certified Producers

Basil, chervil, chives, cilantro, dill, marjoram, parsley, rosemary, sage, tarragon, thyme, lavender, oregano, lemongrass, mint, mustard, paprika, spinach, sunflower, corn, eggplant, tomato, squash, cucumber, peppers, green onions, potatoes, pumpkins, okra, onions, beets, garlic, asparagus, artichoke, celery, carrots, radishes, rutabaga, leek, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, arugula, sweet potatoes, Swiss chard, bok choy, cabbage, collard, Brussels sprouts, zucchini, shallots, tomatillos, turnip, grapes, apples, peaches, pears, nectarines, apricots, cherries, plums, persimmons, pomegranate, pluot, rhubarb, figs, watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew, raspberries, blackberries, boysenberries, strawberries, peas, sweet peas, various bean varieties, almonds, walnuts, cut flowers, honey, and eggs.





# Sustainable Agriculture and Outreach

Invasive Plant Targets			
Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Number of Sites	Gross Acres
Puncturevine	Biological Control	14 sites	~
Dalmatian Toadflax	Mechanical	2 sites	220
Yellow Starthistle	Mechanical/Herbicide	2 sites	10
Russian Knapweed	Herbicide	3 sites	100
Canada Thistle	Herbicide	8 sites	400
Spotted Knapweed	Herbicide	3 sites	4
Halogeton	Mechanical	5 sites	4,400
Scotch Thistle	Herbicide	8 sites	1,311
Camelthorn	Herbicide	1 site	40
Saltcedar	Herbicide	1 site	80
Perennial Pepperweed	Herbicide	53 sites	12,000

## Outreach Program

During 2016, the Inyo/Mono Counties' Agriculture Department conducted:

- 2 pesticide safety seminars with over 100 professional card holders and private applicators attending, to meet California state continuing education requirements;
- 2 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.





# Weights & Measures

## Device Inspection Program

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, live-stock, 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 1,200+ devices inspected, 20 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.

## Package Inspections

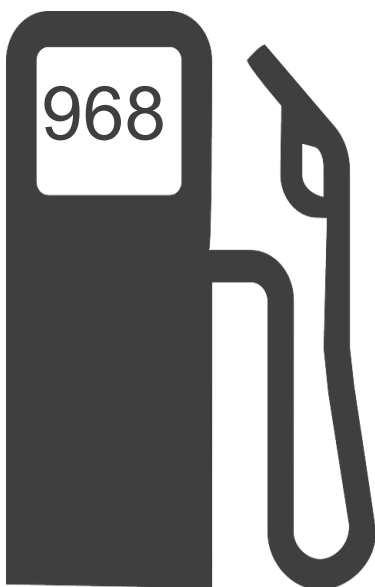
We inspect pre-packaged commodities in retail and wholesale facilities to determine proper weights, count or volume. We also verify proper sales equipment involving scanners, performing test purchases to insure accurate charges.

## Weighmaster Enforcement

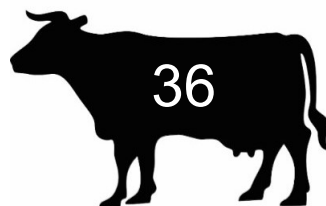
Weighmaster licenses are issued through our office to persons or entities that sell bulk commodities. Enforcement of weighmaster laws ensures that these transactions are accurate.

## 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.



Retail Fuel Meters



Livestock Scales



Counter and Computing Scales



Vehicle Scales



Aggregate Scales

32 Other Weighing and Measuring Devices



# 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 Olancho 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 larviciding 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. Outreach efforts occur throughout the year through personal contact and social media, as well as at community events such as the Tri-County Fair.







### The Evolution of California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers

The California Agricultural Commissioners trace their origins back 136 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.

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.





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