



County of Sacramento

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NEWS RELEASE

Despite Economic Downturn, Agricultural Production Is Alive and Well in Sacramento County

2008 Crop and Livestock Report released

When you fly anywhere over Sacramento's 1,000 square miles, you're reminded that surrounding the urban areas is significant acreage dedicated to farming and raising livestock. How significant? In the midst of these unprecedented and challenging economic times, the gross value of agricultural production in Sacramento County last year was above \$350 million.

This week, Sacramento County's Agricultural Commissioner released the 2008 Crop and Livestock Report. Highlights from the report include:

- Total agricultural production in the County was **\$357.8 million** - just below the 2007 numbers, but still a huge gain over 2006.
- Wine grapes continue to be the production value leader with **\$67.37 million**. We think of Sacramento as the home to field crops, fruit trees and acres of vegetables, but we have something in common with our neighbors in the Napa Valley.
- For the first time since 1999, no Glassy-winged Sharpshooters were found in Sacramento. The sharpshooter, an insect not harmful to humans but carries and transmits Pierce's disease, a deadly bacteria that can kill grapevines, once heavily infested the Rancho Cordova area. Foothill Farms, declared infested in 2003, also yielded no trace of the pest in 2008.
- By the end of 2008, only 15 properties remained to be eradicated of the Japanese Dodder, a tenacious parasitic plant first identified in Sacramento County in 2006. The plant resembles yellow spaghetti, grows up to six inches a day, and will eventually weaken and kill the host tree or plant it grows on. Close to 100 properties were confirmed infested with the invasive vine.

The Food and Agricultural Code mandates that each county compiles a crop and livestock report annually. This publication reports the production, acreage and value of the crops and livestock grown in Sacramento County. The crop report is a valuable tool for reporting agencies, growers, packers, lending agencies and many other people and organizations concerned with agriculture.

Sacramento County's 2008 Crop and Livestock Report can be found online at http://www.agcomm.saccounty.net/coswcms/groups/public/@wcm/@pub/@agcomm/@inter/documents/webcontent/sac_019741.pdf