

Stanislaus County

Office of the Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights & Measures

(Also known as the Department of Agriculture and Weights & Measures)

Contact Information:

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Department Head:

Milton O'Haire, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

Annual Budget: \$4,459,760 (Fiscal Year 2016-2017)

Number of Employees: 37 Full-Time Permanent
20 Extra-Help Seasonal

Department Mission: "Support and protect the well-being of Agriculture, Business and the Community."

Department Vision: "...a county that is respected for its service in the community and is known as the best in America."

DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

Agriculture – Environmental Protection

Pest Exclusion:

The prevention of entry into the County or spread of harmful insects, weeds, plant diseases and other pests. The certification of agricultural export shipments to meet import requirements of importing countries.

Pest Detection:

Surveys for the discovery of incipient infestations of pests which may have eluded exclusion efforts (for example, the Mediterranean Fruit Fly and the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter).

Pest Management:

Controlling the population of pests through education and identification of pests.

Pest Eradication:

The elimination of infestations of new pests (such as the Red Imported Fire Ant).

Pesticide Use Enforcement:

A major program which oversees the use of pesticides applied in the production and storage of agricultural crops. This includes the registration of Pest Control Operators and Advisors, the supervision of Pesticide Dealers and the monitoring of pesticide use by the public through inspections and the issuance of pesticide permits.

Agriculture – Consumer Protection

Fruit and Vegetable Quality Control:

To ensure the maturity, quality, labeling and packaging standards are met for fruits and vegetables.

Egg Enforcement:

Ensures that quality and labeling standards are met pertaining to eggs.

Nursery Regulation:

To assure consumers of nursery stock which is properly labeled, reasonably free of common pests, and in a viable condition.

Seed Regulation and Seed Services:

To assure compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to identity, purity and viability of agricultural and vegetable seeds; to cooperate with the California Crop Improvement Association in the certification of seed.

Agriculture – Special Services

Crop Statistics:

The County's annual agricultural statistics are compiled and provided to the Board of Supervisors, growers, food processors, libraries, businesses and other interested parties.

Apiary Colony Strength Inspections:

Bee hives are inspected to provide information concerning the number of bees present

Weights & Measures – Consumer Protection

“May Equity Prevail in the Marketplace”

Weights and Measures protects the interests of the buyer and seller, ensuring honesty and integrity of everyday business transactions. Every transaction involving the exchange of goods, property and service is affected by some form of weights and measures.

Device Inspection:

There are approximately 12,500 devices in Stanislaus County that require inspection—gasoline dispensers, taxi meters, retail water and electric meters, deli counter, livestock and vehicle scales are some examples. A seal of accuracy is affixed to the device after inspection. Devices that are out of compliance are removed from service until repaired.

Quantity Control:

Packaged goods are checked for stated content and proper labeling. Scanner systems are checked for pricing accuracy.

Petroleum:

Inspectors check the quality and labeling of petroleum products as well as gas station price sign advertising. Random samples of petroleum products are taken to ensure compliance with national standards.

Weighmaster:

Weighmasters are licensed to certify the weighed, measured or counted quantity of a commodity. Inspectors ensure the accuracy of certificates issued by weighmasters.