

Agricultural Commissioner & Sealer

Stephen M. Scheer. – Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

101-3400	FY 17/18 Adopted Budget	FY 18/19 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	867,508	957,143	89,635
Services and Supplies	197,749	194,329	(3,420)
Other Charges	(21,788)	(23,281)	(1,493)
Fixed Assets			0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,043,469	1,128,191	84,722
REVENUE			
Fed/State	476,000	507,540	31,540
Grant			0
Realignment	117,296	120,930	3,634
Fees/Misc			0
TOTAL REVENUE	593,296	628,470	35,174
FUND BALANCE	0	0	0
NET COUNTY COST	450,173	499,721	49,548

Program Description

Environmental Protection

- Pesticide Enforcement: To protect the public, pesticide applicators, field workers, the environment and agricultural crops from the potential harmful effects of pesticides. This is accomplished through regulating the activities of licensed pest control operators, advisors, pilots, pesticide dealers, certified applicators and private applicators, their employees, and other users throughout the county to ensure proper pesticide use. Estimated at 59 % of budget.
- Pest Management and Prevention: To protect the environment, native and ornamental plantings and the agricultural industry and its access to export markets through exclusion, detection and eradication of significant pests.
- Accomplished through inspection of incoming shipments at UPS Distribution Centers and terminal post offices, certification of agricultural products for export, insect trapping programs for quarantine compliance, control of noxious weed pests, detection field surveys, Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control programs. Estimated at 22% of budget.
- Agricultural Information: To provide accurate agricultural production statistics and information to the public and private businesses and governmental agencies, and to assist citizens with pest identification and control, including biological control techniques. Assist in agriculturally-related land-use and planning issues. Activities include compilation of Annual Crop Report and crop loss and damage assessments. Provide identification and pest

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management strategies. Estimated at 5% of budget.

Elements: wholesale inspection of producing nurseries, periodic inspection of retail nurseries. Estimated at 1% of budget.

Consumer Protection (Weights & Measures)

- **Weighing and Measuring Device**
Enforcement: To minimize measurement error in commercial transactions by inspecting and testing all commercial weighing and measuring devices. To remove from service until repaired those devices which do not meet tolerances and specifications. Program elements include inspection and testing of all commercial gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, hydrocarbon vapor, compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum, water and electric meters (not under PUC). Inspection and testing of commercial general use scales from gold to truck scales. Also regulate device repairmen activities, weighmaster and petroleum enforcement. Estimated at 10% of budget.
- **Package Quality Control:** Provide that sales of goods, services, and commodities sold directly over weighing or measuring devices or in packaged form are accurately measured and comply with labeling and methods of sale requirements. Activities include: retail market inspection, test purchases, undercover purchases, general quantity control, investigation of firewood complaints, and testing of price scanners. Estimated at 1% of budget.
- **Fruit, Vegetable and Egg Quality Control:** To ensure the consumer is offered fresh, healthy, properly labeled and packaged agricultural commodities through enforcement of State standards pertaining to fruits, nuts, vegetables, honey, and eggs sold at wholesale and retail outlets throughout Yuba County. Program Elements are: Wholesale and retail produce & egg inspection, growing-grounds verification for issuing Certified Producer Certificates, monitoring Certified Farmer Markets and registration and inspection of organic growers. Estimated at 2% of budget.
- **Seed Inspection:** To provide good quality seed for agricultural and home use which is properly tested and labeled ensuring that seed meets germination and purity standards and is free from harmful weed seeds. Program Elements: Wholesale and retail seed inspection, maintenance of seed purity and germination standards. Estimated at 1% of budget.

Consumer Protection (Agriculture)

- **Nursery Protection:** To provide consumers with pest-free nursery stock and to provide agriculture with graded and standardized products by inspecting incoming and locally produced nursery stock. Program

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Miscellaneous Programs

- Serve on Agricultural Advisory Boards for Yuba College and Lindhurst High School.
- Serve on Yuba Sutter SpraySafe Planning Committee.
- Serve as an advisor to the Yuba Sutter Weed Management Area committee.
- Secretary for California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Association (CACASA) Information Management Committee.
- Specifications and Tolerances Committee representative for CACASA.
- Chair of CACASA Technical Advisory Committee for I.T. projects.
- Serve in Planning/Intelligence Section. Training to serve as backup PIO for County Emergency Response Plan.
- Serve as an advisor to the Yuba Sutter Butte Sub-Water Quality Coalition and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition.
- Serve as member of Yuba Sutter Environmental Crimes Task Force

Workload Indicators	FY 2017-2018 Estimated	FY 2018-2019 Estimated
Permits, Operator I.D. and Certifications	365	370
Notices of Intent	1,462	1,500
Pesticide Use Reports	16,250	16,300
Inspections and Investigations	425	425
PUE Compliance & Enforcement Actions	6	5
Quarantine Shipments/Packages Inspected	675	675
Notices of Rejection	10	10
Agricultural Phytosanitary Exports	500	625
Weights and Measure Devices Registered	2,255	2,214

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Accomplishments

FY 2017-2018

- The Agricultural Commissioner serves as the secretary of the Information Management Committee and chair of the Technical Advisory Committee for the statewide organization of California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) and serves on various committees and special projects for the Association as appropriate.
- Through the Department, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance “relating to the prevention of nut crop theft.” The Department continues to enforce the adopted requirements for the purchase and sale of walnuts to protect the Yuba County walnut industry.
- The Agricultural Commissioner in conjunction with the California Rice Commission (CRC), California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and the Sacramento Valley Agricultural Commissioners of rice growing counties worked successfully to modify Thiobencarb use requirement in rice to help ensure its availability for future use.
- Department staff completed approximately 625 Federal Phytosanitary exports, a historical high in the last fiscal year. This is up from the previous year number of 500. Export numbers increased mainly due to shipments of walnuts abroad. Yuba County exports were able to put Yuba County agricultural products in 32 countries.
- Five of the departments licensed staff took and passed the federal security exam, which is a qualification for ACOs to continue to write Federal Phytosanitary export certificates. This is a significant benefit to Yuba County growers and exporters. It is a priority for the remaining 2 new biologists to become certified as soon as possible.
- Successfully transitioned funding for the Fire Safe Council from The Federal Forestry Reserve Payment (HR 2389). The Title III project was not authorized for FY 17/18. The program was funded by a grant from the Yuba County Water Agency.
- The Department worked through many of the ongoing technological issues discovered during implementation of the new version of CalAgPermits, a new statewide web-based pesticide permitting program, that allows staff to issue pesticide permits using GIS technology.
- The Department adopted the recently completed California Pesticide Enforcement Activity Tracking System (CalPEATS). This system allows for integrated data, inspection and enforcement activities and streamlines paperwork and reporting requirements.
- Secured a contract with California Rice Commission (CRC) for after hour’s enforcement for a specific rice herbicide.
- Worked with Farm Bureau and Yuba Sutter Farm Extension to provide pesticide training in both English and Spanish at the Spray Safe program held at the Fairgrounds to a large group of farm employers and employees
- Secured private and public DWR funds to help offset expense of the USDA Wildlife Services Specialist (County Trapper) included in this budget unit. Worked with county public works department, various water districts along with county residents to improve water drainage and flood control in various locations throughout the county.
- Agricultural Commissioner and professional licensed staff met with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) lead staff and the Certified Farmers Market Managers (CFMM) in the foothill areas of the county to help them better understand the new more ridged laws placed upon the

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CFMM and the Certified Producers who sell at these markets.

- The department worked with area growers to address water quality issues and represented the County on the Yuba-Sutter-Butte Sub-watershed Coalition a non-profit group and the Sacramento River Water Quality Coalition to implement the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Agricultural lands.
- Participated with Valley Vision in outreach programs – including meeting with growers to address the feasibility of a farm to fork program adopting proposed work strategies in a recent SACOG study.
- Agricultural Commissioner continues to serve on the Work Force Planning Committee.

Goals and Objectives

FY 2018-2019

- Pursuing revenue sources that would benefit the Department and the County, while focusing on maintaining expenditures at a minimum.
 - Pursue a grant opportunity through CDFA for a noxious weed detection program in the mountainous areas of the county.
 - Coordinated with Sutter and Nevada Counties weights and measures officials to develop a Joint Powers Agreement for the purchase of a new shared heavy capacity weight truck.
 - Work with all Federal, State and Local emergency agencies and departments to best position Yuba County Agriculture to become eligible for all disaster relief that will become available through the various programs as the ongoing precipitation and flood events continue.
 - Maintain an active role with the Information Management Committee (IMC) and the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)
- within the California Commissioner and Sealers Association (CACASA) in the further development of the CalAgPermits and CalPEATS pesticide programs.
 - Continue to improve functionality and utilization of the statewide permit system (CalAgPermits), statewide enforcement tracking system (CalPEATS) and the new CalSchoolsNotify Program. This will require working with the development company, Department of Pesticide Regulation, industry, growers, school administrators, Yuba County I.T., as well as other counties. Provide training resources to staff as we continue optimizing the use of the CalAgPermits and CalPEATS programs and to encourage “on-line reporting” with the regulated industry and growers.
 - Work with Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau, Farm Services Agency, and Resource Conservation District on agricultural related issues that have the potential to affect Yuba County. Extreme weather and flooding effects being the primary issue of concern at this time.
 - Make all necessary adjustments to the department workload to assure as many agricultural phytosanitary exports take place as possible, to help keep Yuba County exporters competitive worldwide.
 - Assure all our licensed biologists secure and maintain through federal exam, their qualifications as a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ACO exporter.
 - Continue working through CACASA to negotiate increased funding through the unclaimed gas tax distribution and the Pesticide Mill Assessment.
 - Work with growers and school districts to assure the successful implementation of the new Pesticide Use Near Schools Regulations.
 - Continue working with area growers to address agriculturally-related water quality issues and to represent Yuba County on the

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- Sacramento River Water Quality and the Butte-Sutter-Yuba Sub-watershed Coalitions
- Serve as a resource to Board of Supervisors and the Planning Department during the updating of the County's policies as per the General Plan, County Use Permits (CUP) and participate in various committees as requested by the Board or County Administrator.
- Secure additional funding through the Yuba Sutter WMA, CDFA and private sources for Hydrilla eradication project as well as compete for statewide supplemental funding for same.
- Continue to work with Human Resources with the Internship Program. Our goal is to provide local High School and College students an opportunity to work within the Agriculture Department and cultivate relationships that will encourage interest in county employment.
- To continue providing training resources for the professional development of three new biologists hired within the last 2 years.
- USDA Wildlife Services Specialist (County Trapper) provides for non-domestic animal damage control including education and outreach. It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors consider this program's priority during the budget process.
- With the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act and the passage of Proposition 64 the department is potentially tasked with registration and track and trace functions related to cannabis production. During the next year we will be working closely with the Board of Supervisors and other departments to design and implement programs to effectively regulate cannabis. Currently there is no funding identified to offset the costs of these programs.
- In conjunction with Proposition 64 the California Industrial Hemp Farming Act was passed. Starting January 1, 2017, it provides for regulations to be drafted legalizing and regulating hemp production. Currently regulations are in development and should be in place for the spring 2019 planting season. We are tasked with licensing and regulating this activity with no local funding sources being identified.

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations FY 2018-2019

- Walnut theft in Yuba County continues to be a problem to Walnut growers and processors.
- The department in conjunction with YS Farm Bureau, walnut industry and the Yuba County Sherriff will review the current "Walnut Theft Ordinance" to see if any amendments are needed.
- The Agricultural Commissioner is working with the Planning Department on providing land use recommendations adjacent to agriculture operations. Potential agricultural buffers may be an issue that will need to be addressed by the Board of Supervisors.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2015-2016	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2016-2017	BOS APPROVED 2017-2018	DEPARTMENT REQUESTED 2018-2019	CAO RECOMMENDED 2018-2019
AGRICULTURE COMM & SEALER						
101-3400-361.53-01	UNCLAIMED GAS TAX	0	279,386-	261,000-	287,540-	287,540-
101-3400-361.53-02	INSPECTION PROGRAM	0	7,324-	10,000-	10,000-	10,000-
101-3400-361.53-03	PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT	0	233,458-	215,000-	220,000-	220,000-
101-3400-361.53-04	WEIGHTS & MEASURES	0	2,974-	1,950-	2,430-	2,430-
101-3400-371.83-01	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	0	35,124-	22,500-	26,000-	26,000-
101-3400-371.83-04	PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT	0	9,875-	7,500-	7,500-	7,500-
101-3400-371.83-05	INSPECTION PROGRAM	0	7,287-	7,500-	5,000-	5,000-
101-3400-371.83-06	WEIGHTS & MEASURES	0	70,743-	67,846-	70,000-	70,000-
101-3400-371.96-01	CONTRIBUTIONS	0	55,000-	0	0	0
101-3400-372.99-02	COUNTY CONTRIBUTION	0	518,805-	450,173-	499,721-	499,721-
* REVENUE		0	1,219,976-	1,043,469-	1,128,191-	1,128,191-
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**		0	1,219,976-	1,043,469-	1,128,191-	1,128,191-
Salaries & Benefits						
101-3400-426.01-01	REGULAR	628,056	564,468	605,198	658,527	658,527
101-3400-426.01-04	OVERTIME	10,795	14,037	14,000	14,000	14,000
101-3400-426.01-05	HOLIDAY PAY	564	188	0	0	0
101-3400-426.01-07	VACATION PAY	26,122	69,339	0	0	0
101-3400-426.01-08	SICK LEAVE	17,159	40,481	0	0	0
101-3400-426.02-01	CO SHARE PERS-UAL	0	0	0	97,090	97,090
101-3400-426.02-02	CO SHARE PERS-NORMAL	105,315	96,247	114,641	41,667	41,667
101-3400-426.02-04	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	109,558	103,551	111,458	123,948	123,948
101-3400-426.02-05	MEDICARE	6,401	8,248	8,819	9,549	9,549
101-3400-426.02-06	WORKERS COMP INS	4,710	5,219	4,104	4,372	4,372
101-3400-426.02-07	LIFE INSURANCE	645	639	696	696	696
101-3400-426.02-08	UNEMPLOYMENT INS	3,306	2,076	600	649	649
101-3400-426.02-09	RETIREE HEALTHCARE INS	3,122	6,474	7,992	6,645	6,645
* EXPENDITURE		915,753	910,967	867,508	957,143	957,143
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**	Salaries & Benefits	915,753	910,967	867,508	957,143	957,143
	Services & Supplies					
101-3400-426.10-00	AGRIC. SUPPLIES	0	0	200	200	200
101-3400-426.12-00	COMMUNICATION	2,783	2,841	5,596	5,596	5,596
101-3400-426.15-00	INSURANCE	2,526	2,841	2,554	3,945	3,945
101-3400-426.17-00	MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT	16,353	11,925	15,333	18,935	18,935
101-3400-426.19-00	MED,DENTAL,& LAB SUPPLIES	0	3,015	0	0	0
101-3400-426.20-00	MEMBERSHIPS	2,950	2,950	4,000	4,000	4,000
101-3400-426.22-00	OFFICE EXPENSE	5,060	27,534	8,536	7,837	7,837
101-3400-426.23-00	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	49,853	83,142	52,250	53,734	53,734
101-3400-426.25-00	RENTS & LEASES/EQUIPMENT	0	364	1,464	1,464	1,464
101-3400-426.27-00	SMALL TOOLS/INSTRUMENTS	457	1,992	1,000	1,000	1,000
101-3400-426.28-00	SPECIAL DPMT EXPENSE	1,845	5,951	8,000	8,000	8,000
101-3400-426.29-00	TRAVEL	53,094	57,102	79,540	75,580	75,580
101-3400-426.30-00	UTILITIES	0	0	19,276	14,038	14,038
*	EXPENDITURE	134,921	199,657	197,749	194,329	194,329
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**	Services & Supplies	134,921	199,657	197,749	194,329	194,329
	Other Charges					
101-3400-426.53-01	A-87 CHARGES	857	693-	1,212	281-	281-
*	EXPENDITURE	857	693-	1,212	281-	281-
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**	Other Charges	857	693-	1,212	281-	281-
	Cost Reimbursements					
101-3400-426.90-00	REIMBURSEMENTS	23,000-	0	23,000-	23,000-	23,000-
*	EXPENDITURE	23,000-	0	23,000-	23,000-	23,000-
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**	Cost Reimbursements	23,000-	0	23,000-	23,000-	23,000-

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***	AGRICULTURE COMM & SEALER	1,028,531	110,045-	0	0	0
****	AGRICULTURE COMM & SEALER	1,028,531	110,045-	0	0	0