



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
Community Development Agency

# Agriculture Weights & Measures Department Alameda County

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Agricultural Commissioner/  
Sealer of Weights & Measures



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# Agricultural Regulation in California

- Unique System to Protect Agriculture, People and the Environment
  - Each county (58) required by state law to have a County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) and Sealer of Weights and Measures
  - CAC/Sealer responsible for the local delivery and enforcement of statewide programs for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Pesticide Regulation and Local Ordinances





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# Goals and Functions

## Commissioner of Agriculture

- Promote and Protect Agriculture
- Prevent the spread of injurious plant disease and pests
- Public Education
- Worker Safety
- Protect the Public
- Protect the Environment

## Sealer of Weights & Measures

- Fair Market Place
- Consumer Protection
- Industry Protection







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# Agriculture Program

- Pest Detection – Detect Exotic Insects - Trapping and Surveys
- Pest Eradication – Eliminating Exotic Pests
- Pest Management – Control of common Agricultural Pests
- Pest Exclusion – Prevention of Exotic pests
- Nursery Inspection – Assure cleanliness of nursery stock
- Seed Law Compliance – Assure proper seed labeling
- **Fruit & Vegetable Standardization – Direct and Organic Marketing**
- Statistics – Crop Report and Damage estimate
- **Pesticide Regulations**





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- Farmers Market Certification
- Register Organic Producers
- Pesticide Use Regulations (Operator ID or RM Permit)







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## Certified Producer

- Farmers/Producers may sell their commodities directly to the public
  - Farmers' Markets,
  - Restaurants,
  - Schools and Institutions,
  - Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA), and
  - Agritourism venues.
- The Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with CDFA, inspects and certifies producers and farmers' markets on a regular basis for the enforcement of the California Direct Marketing Regulations.
- <http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/pubs/SFNews/archives/93012/>





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## Certified Producer

- Farmers who sell their goods directly to the public are exempted from state packing and labeling requirements.
- The Agricultural Commissioner conducts regular inspections of certified producers to verify
  - All growing grounds.
  - Ownership of products to eliminate fraud.
  - Maintain standards of quality of the products.





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- Check Certified Producer Certificates (CPC) for validity. Expiration dates, embossed or officially stamped.
- Check that each produce item offered for sale is listed on the CPC
- Selling more of own produce than someone else's. Produce should also be clearly separated from by CPC .







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## Organic Registration

- The Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with [CDFA's Organic Program](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/is/i), enforces the federal Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, and the California Organic Products Act of 2003. These statutes protect consumers, producers, handlers, processors and retailers by establishment of standards under which fresh agricultural products/foods may be labeled and/or sold as "organic".
- <https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/is/i> & [c/organic.html](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/c/organic.html)
- <https://organic.cdffa.ca.gov/OrganicReg/>





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## Organic Registration

- Every person engaged in the state of California in the production or handling of raw agricultural products sold as organic, and retailers that are engaged in the production of products sold as organic, and retailers that are engaged in the processing, as defined by the NOP, of products sold as organic, shall register with the State Organic Program. Each registrant shall provide a complete copy of its registration to the agricultural commissioner in any county in which the registrant operates. If the expected organic gross sales exceed \$5,000, certification is required.







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## Organic Transition and Record Keeping

- Transition period is 36 months
- Must use and document organic practices
- Record keeping required of ALL organic farms
- Keep a farm diary with all activities done including:
  - Dates of ALL activities –planting, weeding, thinning, purchasing, etc
  - Include when, where, why, who, what
  - Invoices and receipts







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# Organic Registration and Certification

- Registered Organic:
  - Up to \$5000 in annual sales of organic produce
  - Self reporting; subject to annual inspection
  - All organic farms are registered
- Certified Organic:
  - Sales over \$5000 annually
  - Third party certifiers California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), Marin Organic Certified Ag (MOCA)





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# Pesticide Use Requirements

Operator Identification Number

Restricted Material Permit

Required for anyone using pesticides on farm crops; register with county Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

- Annual renewal
- Training
- Monthly pesticide use reporting







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## Selling by the Pound?

### Scales for commercial use:

- Must be type approved for commercial use.
- Must be of an appropriate design for the type of commodity being sold
- Must be clearly visible to the customer
- Must start on “zero” prior to determining the weight of the commodity being purchased.
- Registered with your county Weights and Measures office (Department of Ag)
- Tested and certified annually
- Annual renewal fee







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# Thank You

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