

County Agricultural Ombudsman Comparison Chart

Counties	What agency or organization administers the Ag Ombudsman position?	What is the role of the Ag Ombudsman?	Percentage of time in role as an Ag Ombudsman?	Funding	Typical Tasks
Marin	University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Neutral, non-enforcement person with whom farmers and ranchers can freely discuss their ideas and plans; -Consultation work with individual farmers and ranchers to help them through the permitting process; -Serves as a liaison between farmers/ranchers and the agencies that regulate their operations. 	Time is divided between Ombudsman work and outreach aimed at sustainability of local agriculture	County General Funds and State Ag Commissioner's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides useful information online such as guides, factsheets, and links to common permit applications; -Makes the permit process approachable and accessible, and explores options and alternatives with farmers and ranchers planning an expansion or a new activity on their farm or ranch.
San Mateo	San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides important consultative and advisory services to the County and its agricultural community; -Assists local producers with County's permitting process; -Helps County staff understand agriculture in San Mateo County; -Identifies opportunities to streamline the County's permitting process; -Works directly with ag producers who are contemplating or initiating ag developments or projects that may necessitate the County permit process; -The Agbudsman role is focused on the permitting process only, not broader agricultural issues. 		County of San Mateo BOS allocated funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Works with the County to produce handouts for ag producers detailing a simple step-by-step process for permitting; -Participates in community meetings related to the permit streamlining project; -Attends Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings; -Attends other organizations' meetings to the extent needed to build relationships and share or elicit information; -Collaborates with County departments to develop and maintain searchable, sortable, map-able list of San Mateo County ag producers; -Tracks all activities, provides quarterly activity reports, provides an in-depth annual report, and participates in an evaluation of the program at the end of each year.

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Solano	Solano Small Business Development Center (Solano SBDC), hosted by Humboldt State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Liaison between Solano Agricultural business and the government; -Helps develop value-added agricultural projects in the County; -Advisor to local farmers and ranchers; -Connects the agricultural community with the right government agencies to navigate the permitting and regulatory process; -Encourages economic viability of farms. 		County of Solano, SBDC/Small Business Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Walks farmers through the process of participating in farmer’s markets; -Provides free technical assistance and trainings to farming community; -Provides consulting or training services to farmers, ranchers and agriculture-related businesses located in Solano County to help navigate the various permitting processes.
Sonoma	University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Help local ag operations (mostly small ones) navigate the permitting process; -Facilitate meetings between the various county, state, and federal agencies; -Refer general farming/ranching questions to farm advisors; -Educates ag operations about the regulations and also works with regulators to educate them about farming; -Works on large projects such as guidelines for prescribed burns and a project to evaluate ecosystems services to create payments for them as a way to support rural agricultural operations; -Is on the county planning department’s Directors Advisory Group and Santa Rosa Junior College’s Sustainable Ag Department Advisory Committee. 	Full-time position – 35 hours a week	County Funds – housed at UCCE; five positions funded by the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Works with the UC on workshops; -Updates website with fact sheets; -Works on website for UCCE office, specifically the Disaster Resources pages; -Posts blogs for their office on a variety of topics; -Schedules most of the social media posts, including information on their website, upcoming workshops, resources from UC ANR, etc.; -Works on countywide efforts, for example project with Economic Development Board to create an Ag Business Council to support ag operations in the county by building on small scale technological innovations.

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Yolo	Ag Commissioner’s Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assist with the permitting process; -Bring in new ag businesses; -Promote Yolo County as a good place to locate an ag business. 		Position is no longer funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assist with the permitting process; -Work on ag related business opportunities with the City of Woodland;
Santa Clara	UCCE or SBDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides economic development assistance to the farming and agricultural community; -Assists members of the farming and ranching community with permitting and regulatory compliance; -Provides business assistance to new farmers seeking to establish or grow a farming operation; -Provide information to farmers on other available financial incentive programs 	Full-time position (under consideration with recommendation to Board to create Farm Ombudsman program)	Santa Clara County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides information about regulations and permitting applicable to farm businesses; -Assists and consults during the permitting process; -Provides information to regulatory and permitting agencies regarding unique needs of the farming community and advises on regulatory changes; -Prepares fact sheets and handouts that explain regulations and permitting requirements for farmers; -Provides feedback to farmers and ranchers who have questions regarding regulatory compliance for new and expanding farming operations; -Hosts workshops for farmers incorporating speakers, handouts, and information regarding different permitting requirements