



2013 Solano County



Crop and Livestock Report

“What does not benefit the hive does not benefit the bee either.”

-Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

Pollinators in Solano County

Colonial honeybees are not native to the New World, but were probably introduced early in European settlement. Once here, honeybees flourished in both captivity and in the wild. Before the introduction of the European honeybee, plants in the Americas were pollinated by a variety of solitary bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other native species. Shortly after the gold rush, the botanist C.A. Shelton introduced the first 12 honeybee colonies to California.

In 1949, honey, beeswax, package bees and queens appeared in Solano County's first crop report totaling \$18,490 in value. Although, growers of fruit and seed crops had been getting value from bees for some time before it was recognized in a crop report. In 1968, pollination services were first added to the annual report, coming in with a value of \$18,800 that paled in comparison to the \$100,900 for honey, wax and bees. By 1978, pollination out valued honey, and by 1996, pollination eclipsed all bee products. Pollination services remain the leading apiary value producer in the county today. Many of Solano's million dollar crops require bee pollination including almonds, prunes, sunflowers and watermelons.

In 1982, Varroa mite was introduced to California bees. Varroa is a bee parasite that feeds on honeybees and their larva. As one might imagine, it is very difficult to kill a bug on an insect since the same compounds tend to be hazardous to both. It is generally believed that Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is caused by Varroa mite plus one or more other factors such as viruses or fungi. Despite losses from Varroa and CCD, Solano County is a leader in the production of queen and packaged bees. County beekeepers benefit from proximity to the UC Davis Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility and the associated Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven.

Lately, local growers have also recognized the value of native pollinators. Increasingly, hedgerows of native plants are maintained alongside farm roads to support native bee populations. Native bees such as leafcutter bees and miner bees are valuable in the pollination of many seed crops such as carrots.

Some interesting bee facts:

- ◆ Each wing on a honeybee (there are four) beats 3,000 times per minute so that the bee can fly 15 miles per hour. That is 10 times faster than a mosquito and half as fast as a hummingbird.
- ◆ A worker bee makes about one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime and a hive of bees must fly 55,000 miles to make a pound of honey.
- ◆ The scientific name for the European honeybee is *Apis mellifera*.
- ◆ The keeping of bees is called Apiculture and a group of beehives is an Apiary.
- ◆ The Roman bee goddess was named Mellonia.

Jim Allan
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures



Simone Hardy
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures
501 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Phone (707) 784-1310 Fax (707) 784-1330

To: Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Solano, California

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to present the Solano County Crop and Livestock Report for 2013.

This report is the 64th annual report issued by the Agricultural Commissioner. While 2013 production represents a new all-time high for Solano County production, many crops were held back from their potential by adverse weather. Overall low rainfall totals and late spring rains decreased production in Grapes, Walnuts and field crops. It is important to remember that this report is of farm gate values only. Processing capacity allows some growers to add or recapture value, but this report is not a measure of profitability, nor does it account for the re-spending and support multipliers generated by this production in the local economy.

The gross value of Solano County's agricultural production for 2013 was \$348,215,000—a record high, which represents a rise of \$5,520,000 from 2012 values, an increase of 1.6%. Walnuts retained the top position at \$55,435,000. The next three crops: Cattle and Calves, Alfalfa and Nursery Products all came in a virtual tie at 35 million plus. Processing Tomatoes rounded out our top five, with reliable access to water making Solano County an ideal place to contract for this important crop.

This year's Crop Report celebrates Pollinators—an industry unto itself and an essential support service for many of our top commodities. Public interest in Honeybees and other Pollinators is running high as those insects are challenged by life in the 21st century. We also have a tribute to former Solano Agricultural Commissioner John Donahue whose untimely passing saddened us all.

For the first time, we are hosting a page to highlight our Weights and Measures programs. These essential activities touch every citizen every day as they participate in a marketplace for goods and services kept equitable by rigorous enforcement of our Weights and Measures laws.

Our crop report editor and lead, Oliver Hardwick has continued his yeoman's role in compiling this report and I am grateful for his efforts.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the farmers, ranchers, boards, commissions, and agencies who contributed vital data without which this report would not be possible, as well as my staff for their dedication to compiling and producing the 2013 Solano County Crop and Livestock Report.

To see this or any of the previous crop reports online or to learn more about the services provided and programs of the Solano County Department of Agriculture and Weights and Measures, please visit our website at www.solanocounty.com/ag.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Allan".

Jim Allan
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

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SOLANO COUNTY GENERAL INFORMATION

POPULATION¹

County Population: 424,233

Benicia 27,454	Dixon 19,005	Fairfield 110,018	Rio Vista 7,934
Suisun City 28,549	Vacaville 93,613	Vallejo 118,470	Unincorporated 19,190

AREA

Land Area (Square Miles) ²	826.42	Urban and Built Up Land Area (Acres) ²	59,591
Land Area (Acres) ²	528,911	Land Area in Farms (Acres) ³	407,101
Water Area (Square Miles) ²	83.53	Total Cropland (Acres) ³	169,637
Water Area (Acres) ²	53,462	Irrigated Cropland (Acres) ³	130,909

FARMS

Average US Size (Acres) ³	434	Number of Farms in Solano County ³	860
Average California Size (Acres) ³	328	Full Time	462
Average Solano County Size (Acres) ³	473	Part Time	398

STATE RANKING (2012)⁴

County Rank by Gross Value of Agricultural Production

27th

Commodity Rank by Gross Value of Production

5th - Grain Hay	4th - Sheep and Lambs	1st - Wheat, Seed
4th - Safflower	4th - Sudan Hay	3rd - Wool
	3rd - Sunflower, Seed	

FARMING REGIONS

Dixon Ridge	Jepson Prairie	Suisun Valley
Elmira/Maine Prairie	Montezuma Hills	Western Hills
Green Valley	Pleasants/Vaca/Lagoon Valleys	Winters
	Ryer Island	

LOCAL ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUES (2013)

\$41,009,570,674

TRANSPORTATION

Total Maintained County Road Miles

579

Major Roadways

Interstates 80, 505, 680, and 780
State Routes 12, 29, 37, 84, 113, and 220

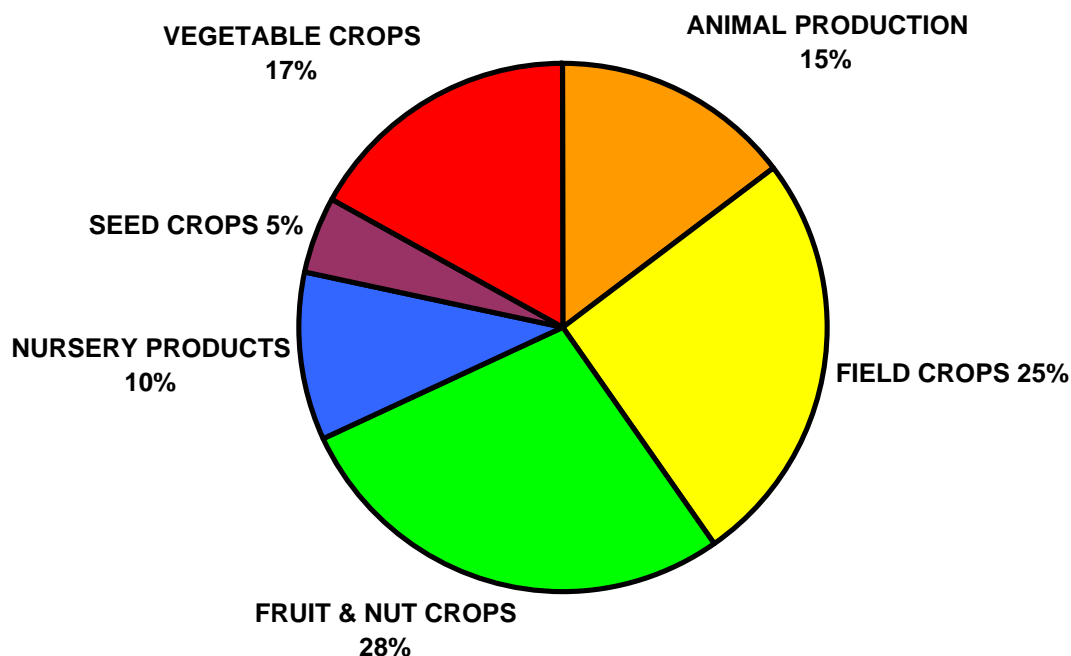
¹Source: California Department of Finance as of January 1, 2014

²Source: California Department of Conservation 2010 Land Use Conversion

³Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2012 Census of Agriculture

⁴Source CDFCA California Agricultural Statistics California County Agricultural Commissioners' Reports 2012

2013 Value by Crop Group



Value Summary

YEAR	ANIMAL PRODUCTION ¹	FIELD CROPS	FRUIT & NUT CROPS	NURSERY PRODUCTS	SEED CROPS	VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR TOTALS
2004	45,207,100	50,423,200	29,285,900	43,645,000	7,114,600	36,903,400	\$212,579,200
2005	50,901,900	52,812,700	37,918,500	50,018,000	10,533,500	36,505,000	\$238,689,600
2006	47,852,200	46,945,500	39,964,300	47,856,000	9,987,600	40,899,400	\$233,505,000
2007	54,819,600	54,811,900	43,430,000	56,610,700	10,820,900	47,762,100	\$268,255,200
2008	49,873,200	89,365,400	44,036,600	43,056,300	10,827,900	55,623,500	\$292,782,900
2009	40,115,400	50,073,100	48,191,200	33,499,400	15,859,200	64,184,200	\$251,922,500
2010	46,011,100	57,071,600	54,873,900	23,352,000	14,391,300	63,698,300	\$259,398,200
2011	52,458,000	83,811,600	63,419,700	23,630,200	14,670,600	53,668,200	\$291,658,300
2012	63,425,000	84,604,000	87,368,000	32,707,000	17,680,000	56,911,000	\$342,695,000
2013	51,340,000	88,744,000	97,150,000	35,144,000	16,628,000	59,209,000	\$348,215,000

¹Includes livestock and poultry, livestock and poultry products, and apriary production.



Top Ten Million Dollar Commodities

CROP	2013 CROP VALUE	2013 CROP RANKING	2012 CROP RANKING
Walnuts	55,435,000	1	1
Cattle & Calves	35,795,000	2	2
Alfalfa (Hay)	35,368,000	3	3
Nursery Products	35,144,000	4	4
Tomatoes (Processing)	29,745,000	5	5
Grapes (Wine)	17,997,000	6	6
Almonds	17,113,000	7	9
Corn (Grain)	13,391,000	8	8
Sunflower (Seed)	13,070,000	9	7
Wheat	9,164,000	10	10



Fruit & Nut Crops

CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACRES	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE				
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL	% CHANGE		
Almonds (Meats)	2013	3,330	0.95	3,160	Ton	5,410.00	17,113,000	34%		
	2012	3,250	0.95	3,080	Ton	4,150.00	12,799,000			
Grapes (Wine)^{1,2}	Dark Varieties	2013	-	-	8,880	Ton	1,020.00	9,096,000	-3%	
		2012	-	-	9,510	Ton	981.00	9,335,000		
	White Varieties	2013	-	-	12,300	Ton	723.00	8,901,000		
		2012	-	-	14,300	Ton	729.00	10,443,000		
	Total Grapes	2013	3,910	5.41	21,200	Ton	-	17,997,000		-9%
		2012	4,040	5.89	23,800	Ton	-	19,778,000		
Olives³	2013	122	1.15	140	Ton	2,160.00	303,000	-26%		
	2012	124	1.93	239	Ton	1,700.00	408,000			
Prunes (Dried)	2013	725	2.39	1,730	Ton	1,420.00	2,467,000	-26%		
	2012	1,050	2.73	2,870	Ton	1,170.00	3,353,000			
Walnuts	2013	8,910	1.71	15,200	Ton	3,640.00	55,435,000	19%		
	2012	8,980	1.89	17,000	Ton	2,760.00	46,759,000			
Miscellaneous⁴	2013	1,110	-	-	-	-	3,836,000	-10%		
	2012	1,110	-	-	-	-	4,272,000			
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	2013	18,100					\$97,150,000	11%		
	2012	18,500					\$87,368,000			

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Includes acreage not harvested or sold.

²Total production and value per unit from the California Department of Food and Agriculture Grape Crush Report Final 2013.

³Value per unit based on oil value.

⁴Includes almond hulls, apples, apricots, blackberries, cherries, citrus, figs, grapes (table), kiwi, nectarines, peaches, pears, persimmons, pistachios, plums, pomegranates, and strawberries.



Field Crops

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE			
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL	% CHANGE	
Beans, Dry	2013	2,120	1.26	2,670	Ton	1,130.00	3,016,000	35%	
	2012	1,590	1.21	1,930	Ton	1,160.00	2,241,000		
Corn (Grain)	2013	12,300	5.61	69,200	Ton	193.00	13,391,000	4%	
	2012	10,700	5.18	55,700	Ton	232.00	12,927,000		
Hay	Alfalfa	2013	26,000	6.45	168,000	Ton	211.00	35,368,000	-2%
		2012	28,200	6.48	183,000	Ton	197.00	36,085,000	
	Grain	2013	3,710	3.81	14,100	Ton	177.00	2,506,000	17%
		2012	3,740	3.52	13,200	Ton	163.00	2,139,000	
	Ryegrass	2013	7,070	3.00	21,200	Ton	151.00	3,197,000	4%
		2012	6,760	3.00	20,300	Ton	152.00	3,079,000	
	Sudangrass	2013	10,100	3.56	36,100	Ton	172.00	6,201,000	-2%
		2012	9,020	3.40	30,700	Ton	206.00	6,315,000	
	Other ¹	2013	1,760	3.51	6,190	Ton	179.00	1,106,000	5%
		2012	1,490	3.96	5,890	Ton	178.00	1,051,000	
Pasture, Irrigated ²	2013	30,700	-	-	Acre	115.00	3,526,000	21%	
	2012	30,300	-	-	Acre	96.70	2,926,000		
Pasture, Rangeland ³	2013	178,000	-	-	Acre	19.60	3,505,000	25%	
	2012	179,000	-	-	Acre	15.63	2,797,000		
Safflower	2013	3,760	0.92	3,460	Ton	524.00	1,811,000	33%	
	2012	2,920	0.93	2,720	Ton	502.00	1,362,000		
Triticale	2013	9,150	2.45	22,400	Ton	237.00	5,316,000	115%	
	2012	3,820	3.05	11,600	Ton	212.00	2,470,000		
Wheat ⁴	2013	18,300	2.09	38,300	Ton	239.00	9,164,000	-8%	
	2012	20,000	2.26	45,100	Ton	221.00	9,986,000		
Miscellaneous ⁵	2013	1,470	-	-	-	-	636,000	-19%	
	2012	1,670	-	-	-	-	788,000		
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	2013	305,000					\$88,744,000	5%	
	2012	301,000					\$84,604,000		

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Previously reported as grass hay.

²Acreage from the 2013 permit data.

³Acreage calculated using data from the California Department of Conservation 2008-2010 Land Use Conversion Report.

⁴Includes irrigated and dryland wheat.

⁵Includes barley, corn silage, sorghum/milo (grain), and straw.



Apiary Production

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE		
				PER UNIT	TOTAL	% CHANGE
Apiary Products ¹	2013	-	-	-	715,000	-5%
	2012	-	-	-	755,000	
Pollination ²	2013	22,500	Colony	67.50	1,517,000	2%
	2012	22,800	Colony	65.30	1,488,000	
TOTAL APIARY PRODUCTION	2013				\$2,232,000	-1%
	2012				\$2,244,000	

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Apiary products includes beeswax, honey, honeycomb, packaged bees, and queen bees.

²Value based on acreage of crops requiring bees for pollination and number of colonies required for adequate pollination. Colony fee varies by crop. Crops pollinated include, almond, apple, cherry, kiwi, prune, sunflower, and vine seed.

Nursery Products

ITEM	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL VALUE	% CHANGE
Nursery Stock ¹	2013	1,440	31,036,000	9%
	2012	1,390	28,506,000	
Propagative Stock ²	2013	188	4,108,000	-2%
	2012	189	4,202,000	
TOTAL NURSERY PRODUCTS	2013	1,630	\$35,144,000	7%
	2012	1,580	\$32,707,000	

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Includes christmas trees, cut flowers, fruit trees, greenhouse transplants, herbaceous and woody ornamentals, and turf.

²Includes grafted grapevines, grapevine rootstock, and grapevine cuttings.



Vegetable Crops

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL	% CHANGE
Tomatoes (Processing)	2013	10,400	39.95	417,000	Ton	71.30	29,745,000	2%
	2012	10,000	41.86	419,000	Ton	70.00	29,294,000	
Miscellaneous Fresh ¹	2013	1,160	-	-	-	-	26,003,000	3%
	2012	1,270	-	-	-	-	25,213,000	
Processing ²	2013	1,040	-	-	-	-	3,461,000	44%
	2012	715	-	-	-	-	2,404,000	
TOTAL VEGETABLE CROPS	2013	12,600					\$59,209,000	4%
	2012	12,000					\$56,911,000	

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Includes beans, brassicas, cucumber, endive, garlic, herbs, leafy greens, melons, mushrooms, onions, peas, peppers, pumpkins, root vegetables, salad greens, sprouts, squash, sweet corn, tomatillo, tomatoes, tubers, and watermelon.

²Includes cucumbers (pickling) and peppers.



Seed Crops

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL	% CHANGE
Sunflower	2013	9,410	1436	13,517,000	Lb	0.97	13,070,000	-8%
	2012	8,640	1274	11,009,000	Lb	1.29	14,164,000	
Watermelon	2013	210	342	71,600	Lb	6.11	438,000	-73%
	2012	803	379	305,000	Lb	5.40	1,645,000	
Wheat	2013	442	2.95	1,300	Ton	238	311,000	-22%
	2012	668	2.50	1,670	Ton	240	401,000	
Miscellaneous ¹	2013	712	-	-	-	-	2,809,000	155%
	2012	268	-	-	-	-	1,100,000	
TOTAL SEED CROPS	2013	10,800					\$16,628,000	-6%
	2012	10,600					\$17,680,000	

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Includes alfalfa, asparagus, black bean, cabbage, carrot, corn, cucumber, melon, onion, pepper, pumpkin, rice, sorghum, squash, sudangrass, and tomato.



Livestock & Poultry							
ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE		
					PER UNIT	TOTAL	% CHANGE
Cattle & Calves ¹	2013	30,400	242,000	Cwt	148.00	35,795,000	-12%
	2012	40,600	295,000	Cwt	138.00	40,765,000	
Sheep & Lambs ²	2013	32,700	45,100	Cwt	128.00	5,755,000	0%
	2012	30,700	43,900	Cwt	131.00	5,754,000	
Miscellaneous ³	2013	-	-	-	-	1,875,000	-12%
	2012	-	-	-	-	2,121,000	
TOTAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	2013					\$43,425,000	-11%
	2012					\$48,640,000	

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Includes beef stocker gain, dairy calves, dairy yearlings, dairy replavement heifers, and dairy cull cows.

²includes feeder lamb gain.

³Includes goats, hogs, and poultry (chickens, doves, geese, and turkeys).

Livestock & Poultry Products							
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE			
				PER UNIT	TOTAL	% CHANGE	
Eggs, Chicken	2013	227,000	Dozen	3.26	741,000	-4%	
	2012	188,000	Dozen	4.13	775,000		
Wool	2013	213,000	Lb	1.45	308,000	-13%	
	2012	251,000	Lb	1.40	356,000		
Miscellaneous ¹	2013	-	-	-	4,633,000	-59%	
	2012	-	-	-	11,409,000		
TOTAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	2013				\$5,683,000	-55%	
	2012				\$12,541,000		

Figures may not add due to rounding.

¹Includes alpaca fiber, goat milk, and market milk.



In Remembrance:
John Michael Donahue
**Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures
of Solano County**
June 13, 1948 - November 14, 2013

John Donahue began his career in Solano County as an Agricultural Biologist in 1973 and moved up the ranks to the position of Solano County Agricultural Commissioner where he served from 1985-1989.

Commissioner Donahue was a life-long resident of Solano County and made his home in Fairfield. John contributed not only to local government but also to state government; holding positions as the Regional Coordinator with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Chief of Worker Health and Safety for the Department of Pesticide Regulation and Director of Inspection Services with CDFA. Commissioner

Donahue also served as the Chairman of the Sacramento Valley Agricultural Commissioners Association, Representative to the Agricultural Chemicals Committee, State Pesticide Worker Health and Safety Advisory Committee and the Pesticide Groundwater Protection Committee. In his service with CDFA he sat on numerous panels conferring licenses on a generation of Agricultural Deputies and Commissioners. As state liaison, he expanded his partnership with the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) to craft cohesive statewide policy while acknowledging local issues and interests. He retired in 2001, after a 28 year career in civil service.

We remember John Donahue for his influence on agriculture at all levels and his sound common sense in addressing issues. He had a good, logical mind and was well-known for being direct. Although committed to the enforcement of the laws and regulations, he recognized that no law or regulation however well-crafted could ever address all eventualities. John brought practicality to his role in government service, an approach to enforcement that was appreciated by those in the regulated community.

Commissioner Donahue was a pragmatist, which is exemplified in the memo below written to Gary Silveria as Gary took on the job of Assistant Commissioner.

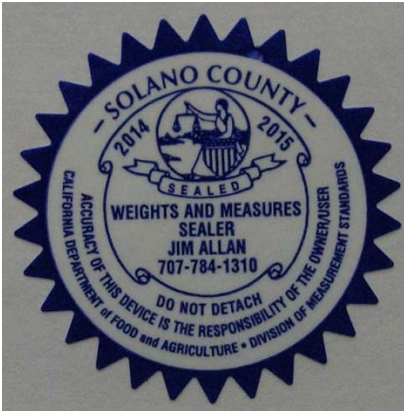
Subject : Working Relationship

“I have been thinking of putting in writing just what type of working relationship I would want with the individual who I was leaving in charge in my absence. Condolences may be in order, but you are that individual. I will attempt to list the issues involved – I may miss some. You can structure them in any way you want, but keep in mind historical procedures do have some value and they seemed to have worked in the past”

Those ideals that he brought to the work he performed, the people he mentored and the organization in which he worked continue to this day. Thank you, John for your contributions to California Agriculture.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES DIVISION

Since 1915 consumers in California have relied upon county Weights & Measures officials, (Sealers) to provide “Equity in the Marketplace” essential to the stability of California’s economy. As the recognized local regulatory agency the Solano County Weights & Measures Division protects consumers and businesses engaged in local commerce, by inspecting devices and packaged goods, auditing Weighmaster operations, and enforcing petroleum regulations.



County Sealers enforce the California business and Professions Code, and the California Code of Regulations. Sealers annually inspect a wide variety of commercial devices including: gasoline dispensers, propane and taxi meters, ambulance odometers, and scales from the smallest used for buying gold, to ones used in your grocery store, and all the way up to the largest for weighing vehicles. After inspection and testing the Sealer will affix a Seal, (pictured left) to the device indicating to the consumer that the device can be relied upon for accuracy. Solano County currently has 812 registered establishments with 16972 various commercial devices shown below:

Fabric/Cordage/Wire Meters	40	Computing Devices	836
LPG (Propane) Meters	49	Counter Scales	150
Misc. Measuring Devices	13	Livestock Scales	19
Odometers	89	Crane Scales	3
Retail Motor Fuel Meters	4068	Portable Platform Scales	78
Retail Water Meters	55	Hanging Scales	19
Taxi Meters	78	Hopper/Tank Scales	14
Elec., Vapor, Water Sub-meters	9989	Monorail Meat Beam	3
Vehicle Meters	31	Vehicle & Railway Scales	55
Wholesale Meters	43	Dormant Scales	37

Ensuring equity in the marketplace involves more than inspection of devices, so the Business and Professions Code has a section dedicated to Quantity Control. Sealers enforce regulations of packaged goods by inspecting packages to determine the accuracy of net weight, measure, or count. Package labels are inspected for conformity to regulations.

Weighmaster operations are an essential part of California’s commerce. Weighmaster Certificates are recognized as legal documentation of quantities which businesses and individuals rely upon as the basis of payment. Sealers routinely audit Weighmaster operations to verify correctness of certificates, proper weighing procedures, and compliance with the California Business and Professions Code.

Another large part of the duties of county Sealers is the strict enforcement of petroleum advertising and labeling regulations. Sealers routinely visit gas stations to conduct petroleum inspections along with the testing of motor fuel meters for accuracy. Consumer complaints on gas purchases as with all other programs are given high priority and are investigated within 24 hours of receipt.