

For Immediate Release
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Monterey County Weights & Measures Staff Check Ag Materials in
Consumer Protection Survey

The Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Division of Weights and Measures, participated in a statewide survey of products and materials used by the agricultural industry, the results of which were just released by the state Division of Measurement Standards. At the state level, results showed a compliance rate of 71%, compared to over 85% in previous similar surveys. In Monterey County, survey results showed a compliance rate of 87%, significantly better than the state average.

Products used in agriculture were checked to determine if they had the proper weight, measure or count.

"This special survey was conducted in addition to our routine marketplace surveillance," says Commissioner/Sealer Eric Lauritzen. "This ensures that our largest industry and economic driver is receiving all they pay for when purchasing materials and supplies."

While the surveyed items had on average a slight overfill, of the 22 categories surveyed, five had an average under fill. Of all items tested, 29.3% were found to be under filled. Under filled products found during the survey were followed up with further inspections and lots out of compliance were removed from sale.

"This is a little recognized program by our Ag Commissioner that ensures that products that are sold to farmers and ranchers accurately represent their content and quantity" says Monterey County Farm Bureau Executive Director Norm Groot.

Categories with compliance rates below 70% include fertilizer, livestock feed, seeds, pressurized gasses, lumber, plastic products, tarps and textile products.

"The number of under filled products we found in this survey indicates a need for increased surveillance of the marketplace and we will be following up with additional inspections in areas where deficiencies were noted," says Lauritzen.

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