Crop Report Showcases Past and Present

This year’s annual Crop Report briefing shared the good news about the county’s top industry while paying homage to its ‘roots.’

Agricultural Commissioner Henry Gonzales did the honors, announcing the 2017 crop value was $4.4 billion, a four percent increase from 2016.

Leaf lettuce was again the top crop with a value of nearly $830 million followed by strawberries in the number two position. Head lettuce, broccoli and nursery crops rounded out the top five, while wine grapes came in at number six. You can see the complete list of top crops in the Crop Report.
The Agricultural Commissioner is required to produce a yearly crop report and for a county in which agriculture is king, it is no small task. The report takes approximately seven months to complete. Work begins in November, when staff prepares surveys which are sent to the producers. The data received is compiled and trends are evaluated to create data sets reflecting the various commodities. To better illustrate those numbers, each yearly report has a theme and recently, a specially-created video.

Gonzales notes that production has approached or exceeded $4 billion in eight of the last nine years.

“This demonstrates that agriculture in Monterey County is sustainable and a reliable source of economic strength,” he says. “We highlighted the history of Monterey County agriculture in this year’s crop report to show how we became one of the top agricultural counties in the state.”

Showcasing the evolution of the industry pays homage to pioneers who realized the diversity of crops that could be grown here and the drive for innovation that brought with it technologies such as refrigeration, vacuum cooling and mechanization. Now growers are employing high tech to harness the next wave of innovation to keep Monterey County in the forefront.

As Monterey County is consistently the fourth largest producing agricultural county in the state, the crop report briefing attracts the media and industry leaders. A panel of industry experts joined the Agricultural Commissioner to answer questions about trends and commodities.

Chyrl Williams Earns CAPC Award

She is described as an unsung hero. The Child Abuse Prevent Council is singing her praises, honoring her for her work with the County’s Juvenile Sex Offender Response Team (JSORT).
Chyrl Williams is the Program Supervisor for the Juvenile Justice Outpatient Programs within the Behavioral Health Bureau of the Health Department. While she is highly regarded for her work in this field, her passion and dedication to the JSORT program was singled out by the Child Abuse Prevention Council as a primary factor for the program’s success and longevity. Williams has led this team from its inception and colleagues say she supports the program on all levels: as the supervisor, providing consultation and collaboration and utilizing her skills as a trained JSORT clinician to administer assessments and treatment.

The Juvenile Sex Offender Response Team provides essential services to reduce risk and recidivism and help identified youth become productive members of the community. Williams talks about the program and her commitment to the youth she calls ‘our kids.’

**Q.** CAPC has honored you for your work with JSORT, but that is just one aspect of your job.
**A.** For the last eight years I have been supervising the Juvenile Justice Outpatient Programs (which includes JSORT) as well as clinically supervising 12 clinicians/social workers on my team. I am passionate about our youth and in making sure they and their families receive quality mental health treatment.

One of the goals in our programs is to assist in decreasing the risk of recidivism and, ultimately, out of home placement. As a Supervisor, I don’t often get the opportunity to work directly with the youth; however, because I enjoy the client contact, I make myself available to cover groups and assist with some court-ordered, time-sensitive assessments. I am proud of the work we do and honored to be able to work with staff that are equally as passionate about our kids.

**Q.** What is the JSORT?
**A.** JSORT started as a grant funded program in 2008. Youth who are identified (by law enforcement, teachers, parents) as demonstrating sexualized behaviors are able to contact our JSORT Probation Officer or myself. JSORT is unique because it provides intensive outpatient therapy (individual, group and family support) to youth while they remain in the community under the provisions of an identified Informed Supervisor** and work with the therapist and probation officer.

**Q.** What drew you to this program and has kept you involved?
**A.** When JSORT began in 2008, the county was offering training in working with juvenile sex offenders. It was not a population I was familiar with but the training intrigued me. I knew once the program was implemented, the referrals would be coming from juvenile court and probation so I signed up and became one of the first Psychiatric Social Workers in the JSORT program. While working in the JSORT Program, I completed forensic psychosexual assessments that were submitted to the courts and provided individual and family treatment for the youth ordered into the program. I knew I would like the work, I just never thought I would love it!
Congratulations Chyrl on your award!

**For those interested, an Informed Supervisor is a parent, guardian or other supporter of a youth that have completed an Informed Supervision class, in collaboration with Behavioral Health and Probation, where they learn the expectations of supervising a JSORT youth.

County Marks Pride Month, Diversity

Not one, but two rainbow flags took center stage at the Board of Supervisors meeting this week, as the County honored members of the LGBT community and marked Pride Month.

The resolution approved by the Board chronicled the beginning of the movement against discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans which began in 1969. While acknowledging that civil rights for LGBT residents have come a long way, the resolution states that many members of this community still suffer discrimination and exclusion in our society.

The resolution marks June 2018 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month and the Board presented the framed document to locals who are members of area organizations which serve or advocate for the LGBT community.

The resolution also gives a shout out for the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade which takes place in Seaside on Saturday, June 30th. This event begins at 11:00 a.m. and takes a route along Fremont Boulevard to the Oldemeyer Center where there will be other festivities.