



Department
of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Quality Assurance Division
Commodities Branch

COM-04-056

REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Gary Okamura, Acting Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of February 2004.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



Enforcement

For the month, 49 lots totaling approximately 53,000 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.

At the consumer level, 21 stores were visited and 2,284 lots were inspected for the month. Twenty-six lots inspected failed labeling requirements and appropriate actions taken. Compliance rate for the month was 98.9%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1,302 ads checked and thirteen violations uncovered during the month. Violators were notified of the discrepancies and notices issued. For the month 99% of the ads met advertising requirements.

In the area of exports, 15 lots of ginger root totaling approximately 27,000 pounds were inspected during the month. No flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 78 certificates were issued for a total of 480,236 pounds of produce inspected; and \$4,350.75 in fees assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 15.5% and fees assessed increased 17.3% over the same period last year.

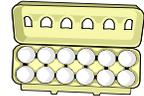
Seven containers of New Zealand onions arrived this month. Twelve lots totaling 353,800 pounds were inspected and passed for mandatory import inspection requirement.

Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 77 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 328,872 pounds, and \$2,362 in fees assessed during the month. This represents an increase of 12.2% and 22.5% over last year at this time for lots and fees assessed. However, pounds inspected decreased 11.6%.

EGG PROGRAM

Enforcement



Statewide, during 15 store visits, there were 69 lots of eggs totaling 2,558 dozens inspected this month for compliance with State labeling requirements. The 192 store visits to date represents a decrease of 19.0% from last year.

Mainland egg imports inspected this month totaled 36,041 cases for origin stamping requirements. Year to date, the 303,989 cases inspected statewide represents an increase of 2.8% over last year.

Certification

There were 85 lots totaling 8,218 cases of eggs certified during this month. Fees assessed for the month were \$6,717 bringing the year to date total to \$53,826; 1.9% more than last year.

Surveillance

There were 7 shell egg surveillance visits made at egg producers and packers on Oahu. Of the 31 lots of eggs checked, 1 lot was retained for failing to meet the requirements of the Egg Product Inspection Act.

FEED PROGRAM

Enforcement

There were 16 lots of feed inspected during 4 store visits this month. Importers and producers throughout the State reported 12,995 tons of feed distributed. This brings the year to date total to 82,587 tons of feed, a decrease of 17.2% from last year. Inspection fees collected for the month amounted to \$4,689; bringing the year to date total to \$25,610, an increase of 7.2% from last year.

During the month, 16 samples were drawn and submitted to the Chemical Analysis Laboratory for adulteration analysis. Eight samples contained pesticide levels within the tolerances established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory



The laboratory received and analyzed 16 feed samples. Fifty percent of the samples had residues of organophosphorus pesticides. Four of the samples had residues of Malathion. Three of the samples had residues of methyl chlorpyrifos, and two of the samples had residues of DEF. The concentrations of the residues found were below Food and Drug tolerance levels. Two samples were analyzed for Aflatoxins. The results were negative.

PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

This month approximately 29,000 cases of canned pineapple were inspected and certified for grade. Cases graded to date increased 33.5% compared to last year. On Maui, approximately 79,000 cases were sampled, inspected for condition of container or checkloaded. Fees assessed this month totaled \$16,218.



During the month one export certificate was issued for frozen pineapple with \$52 in fees assessed.

Fisheries Program

There were seven Health Certificate issued for sixteen lots of seafood exported to Germany. Five lots of Kaua'i shrimp were certified for grade. NMFS was billed \$459.

Coffee Certification

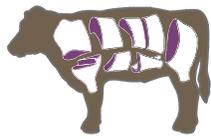
A total of 93 lots, approximately 392,000 pounds of green coffee were certified, including 6 lots, approximately 34,000 pounds, for origin only. 8 lots representing approximately 20,557 lbs, offered for certification, failed to meet the marked grade. Fees of \$7,289 were assessed during the month.

Total fees assessed in the processed foods program to date are \$283,539, an increase of 16.8% compared to the same time last year.

Licensing Program

A total of 15 licenses were issued and \$354 in fees were collected during the month. There are currently 910 active licenses.

MEAT GRADING



No inspection activity this month.

process cattle.

The new slaughterhouse in Campbell Industrial Park has begun operations but is only handling pigs at this time. Mechanical and structural problems have delayed the slaughter facility's ability to

MILK CONTROL SECTION

Steve Dulce from the milk control section attended the executive committee meeting of the International Association of Milk Control Agencies (IAMCA) in Baltimore, Maryland. The executive committee meeting is held prior to the annual meeting of the IAMCA. This year, the 68th Annual Meeting of the IAMCA will be held in August 2004, at Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Members of the executive committee meet to nominate speakers and decide on the subject matter to be discussed. Speakers are primarily from the United States and Canada, and they are some of the most knowledgeable in dairy issues, national and world economics, congressional matters, state and federal laws, Federal Milk Marketing Orders, and etc.

The IAMCA meetings are excellent sources of ideas and information for milk control agencies. Surprisingly, there are many similarities among the states, and Hawaii's problems are no exception. Steve made excellent contacts with representative from Nevada and California. Like Hawaii, Mike Compston from Nevada is faced with an increase in imported milk, and along with Connecticut, they are looking for solutions to prevent price gouging, and to create fair milk prices for the consumers. Hopefully, we will be able to find solutions to preserve our local dairy industry, and to provide the consumers with quality milk products.

The HDOA milk gang welcomes the new Foremost family, and wishes them well and success in the business.

Remember to "honor thy fodder and thy mother and all your udder relatives."

SEED CERTIFICATION

Two inspectors were hired for the seed program this month. We welcome Paul Sentani of Maui, a retired measurement standards inspector, and Tom DeCourcy of Molokai, a retiree of a seed company.

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During the month there were 17 applications for seed corn involving 46 fields throughout the State. Year to date there were 434 fields of corn that to be certified.



Department
of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Quality Assurance Division
Commodities Branch

COM-04-037

REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Gary Okamura, Acting Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of January 2004.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Enforcement



For the month, 79 lots totaling approximately 49,770 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.

At the consumer level, 26 stores were visited and 1,662 lots were inspected for the month. Eleven lots inspected failed labeling requirements and appropriate actions taken. Compliance rate for the month was 99.3%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1,225 ads checked and seven violations uncovered during the month. Violators were notified of the discrepancies and notices issued. For the month 99.4% of the ads met advertising requirements.

In the area of exports, 14 lots of ginger root totaling approximately 57,000 pounds were inspected during the month. No flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 60 certificates were issued for a total of 231,260 pounds of produce inspected; and \$2,748.50 in fees assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 15.0% and fees assessed increased 15.6% over the same period last year.

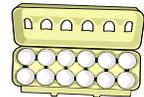
The first shipment of New Zealand onions arrived this month. Two lots totaling 54,000 pounds were inspected and passed for mandatory import inspection requirement.

Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 72 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 365,038 pounds, and \$2,318 in fees assessed during the month. This represents an increase of 12.5% and 20.6% over last year at this time for lots and fees assessed. However, pounds inspected decreased 11.1%.

EGG PROGRAM

Enforcement



Statewide, during 31 store visits, there were 78 lots of eggs totaling 2,657 dozens inspected this month for compliance with State labeling requirements. The 177 store visits to date represents an increase of 6.0% from last year.

Mainland egg imports inspected this month totaled 38,712 cases for origin stamping requirements. Year to date, the 267,948 cases inspected statewide represents an increase of 1.4% over last year.

Certification

There were 143 lots totaling 8,602 cases of eggs certified during this month. Fees assessed for the month was \$6,875 bringing the year to date total to \$47,109; 1.6% more than last year.

Surveillance

There was one shell egg surveillance visits made at egg producers and packers on Oahu. All of the eggs met the requirements of the Egg Product Inspection Act.

FEED PROGRAM

Enforcement

There were 14 lots of feed inspected during 4 store visits this month. Importers and producers throughout the State reported 25,954 tons of feed distributed. This brings the year to date total to 69,592 tons of feed, a decrease of 18.6% over last year. Inspection fees collected for the month amounted to \$6,132; bringing the year to date total to \$20,921, up 12.8% from last year.

During the month, 14 samples were drawn and submitted to the Chemical Analysis Laboratory for adulteration analysis. Of the 14 samples analyzed for contaminants, there were 7 samples found to contain 8 pesticides within the tolerances/action levels set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Food and Drug Administration.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory



Of the 14 samples analyzed by the Laboratory for adulteration, 5 feeds were found to contain Malathion, 1 feed found to contain Methyl chlorpyrifos along with DEF and a sample of animal fat contained pp-DDE. All of the feeds found to contain pesticides were within the tolerances established by the EPA or action levels established by the FDA. Two samples were analyzed for Aflatoxins and the results were negative.

PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

This month approximately 132,000 cases of canned pineapple were inspected and certified for grade. Cases graded to date increased 35.8% compared to last year. On Maui, approximately 220,000 cases were sampled, inspected for condition of container or checkloaded. Fees assessed this month totaled \$27,997.



During the month one export certificate was issued for frozen pineapple with \$52 in fees assessed.

Fisheries Program

Len Shanks, NMFS area supervisor, conducted a pre-contract sanitation audit of a fish facility. Once in contract, we will provide inspection service 4 hours per week. This contract will enable this facility to provide fish, thru the Prime Vendor, to the military.

There was one Health Certificate issued for eleven fresh seafood items. This was a "sample" shipment destined for Germany. We have been working with this company for months to help them meet the European Union's import requirements. It is believed to be the first shipment of fresh Hawaiian seafood to the EU.

Prime Vendor Audit: Program Specialist assisted NMFS' Supervisor, Len Shanks and PPB's Inspection Section Staff Officer, JD Melvin, with the annual Prime Vendor audit of Y. Hata for their fish and processed fruit and vegetable purchases for the military.

Coffee Certification

A total of 113 lots, approximately 489,000 pounds of green coffee were certified, including 6 lots, approximately 35,000 pounds, for origin only. 16 lots representing approximately 38,007 lbs, offered for certification, failed to meet the marked grade. Fees of \$8,841 were assessed during the month.

Total fees assessed in the processed foods program to date are \$259,947, an increase of 14.4% compared to the same time last year.

Licensing Program

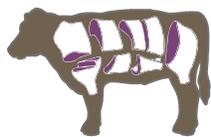
A total of 58 licenses were issued and \$797 in fees were collected during the month. Because of the increase in license fees, many smaller chain stores are examining the requirements for licensing. There are currently 909 active licenses.

Staff participated in one videoconference and one telephone conference regarding Chapter 145, Part II, HRS, which requires proof of ownership and origin for agricultural commodities. A pilot enforcement program is being planned for the Hilo District.

Certificate of Free Sale

One certificate was issued for 6 aromatherapy products.

MEAT GRADING



No inspection activity this month.

Farmer's Livestock COOP, which runs the only slaughterhouse on Oahu, is moving from Ewa to a new facility in Campbell Industrial Park. They closed their old slaughterhouse on January 12, 2004 but had to reopen shortly after when issues arose with USDA about the new facility. They decided to continue operating at their old facility until the issues were resolved. The planned opening date for the new slaughterhouse is February 2, 2004.

MILK CONTROL SECTION

A new era in the milk industry has begun. As of January 31, 2004, Hawaii Dairy Holdings, Inc., officially assumed ownership of Foremost Dairies - Hawaii. Glenn Kawamura, CEO will be heading the Foremost family. Glenn is a graduate of Farrington High School and the University of Hawaii. Charles Snider, COO, is a native of Zimbabwe, Africa, and is a graduate of the University of Rhodesia. He is a friend of Bahman Sadeghi, owner of Island Dairy in Ookala, Hawaii. Ron Sugai, Vice-President of Sales, Marketing and Distribution, is a McKinley High School graduate, worked for Coca Cola for 30 years, and most recently was with Meadow Gold Dairies as the Oahu Sales Manager. Ray Matsuda, Vice President of Production, is a local boy from Haiku, Maui, with extensive work experiences in Nebraska, Washington, Colorado, Indiana, and most recently, in Hawaii at Meadow Gold's ice cream plant.



The HDOA milk gang welcomes the new Foremost family, and wishes them well and success in the business.

Remember to "honor thy fodder and thy mother and all your udder relatives."

SEED CERTIFICATION

During the month there were 56 applications for seed corn inspection involving 120 fields throughout the State. Year to date there were 388 fields of corn to be certified.



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STATE OF HAWAII

Quality Assurance Division
Commodities Branch

COM-04-018

REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Gary Okamura, Acting Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of December 2003.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Enforcement



For the month, 115 lots totaling approximately 68,000 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.

At the consumer level, 19 stores were visited and 1,556 lots were inspected for the month. Five lots inspected failed labeling requirements and appropriate action taken. Compliance rate for the month was 99.6%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1368 ads checked and seven violations uncovered during the month. Violators were notified of the discrepancies and notices issued. For the month 99.5% of the ads met advertising requirements.

In the area of exports, eight lots of ginger root totaling 17,250 pounds were inspected during the month. No flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 66 certificates were issued for a total of 181,703 pounds of produce inspected; and \$2,442 in fees assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 18.5% and fees assessed increased 15.2% over the same period last year.

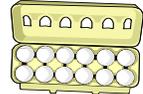
No inspections were conducted for U.S. import requirements.

Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 76 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 436,999 pounds, and \$1,751 in fees assessed during the month. This represents an increase of 13.1% and 14.3% over last year at this time for lots and fees assessed. However, pounds inspected decreased 11.3%.

EGG PROGRAM

Enforcement



This month, there were 106 lots of eggs totaling 3,110 dozens inspected for compliance with State labeling requirements during 17 retail store visits. The overall compliance rate was 99.9%. The year to date totals represent increases of 33.9% in store visits and 215.1% in amount inspected compared to last year.

Mainland egg imports inspected for origin stamping requirements totaled 42,143 cases. Year to date, the volume inspected statewide increased slightly by 2.5% compared to last year.

Certification

There were 8,938 cases of eggs certified during this month, bringing the year to date total to 51,683 cases, an increase of 6.7% from last year. Fees assessed for the month was \$6,840 bringing the year to date total to \$40,234, which is 3.3% more than last year.

Surveillance

For the month, 3,083 cases of eggs were inspected during 4 shell egg surveillance visits at egg producers and packers statewide. All of the eggs met the requirements of the Egg Product Inspection Act.

FEED PROGRAM

Enforcement

There were 8 brands sampled for adulteration analysis during 2 visits to feed distributors this month. Importers and producers throughout the State reported 760 tons of feed distributed. A total of 43,639 tons of feed have been reported so far this year; a decrease of 42.7% from last year. Inspection fees collected to date totaled \$14,789 which is 18.1% less than last year.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory



Of the 8 samples analyzed by the Laboratory for adulteration, 4 feeds were found to contain pesticides but were within the tolerances established by the EPA or action levels established by the FDA. One sample was analyzed for Aflatoxins and the result was negative. Twenty-four soil samples were analyzed for the Pesticides Branch

PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

This month 111,000 cases of canned pineapple were inspected and certified for grade. Cases graded to date increased 20.8% compared to last year. On Maui, 254,000 cases were sampled, inspected for condition of container or checkloaded. Fees assessed this month totaled \$29,120.



During the month one export certificate was issued for frozen pineapple with \$52 in fees assessed.

Fisheries Program

There was no activity in this program during the month.

Coffee Certification

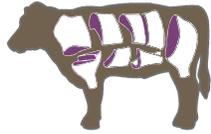
A total of 185 lots, 1,473,000 pounds of green coffee were certified, including 6 lots, 43,000 pounds, for origin only. Thirty-five lots representing 126,237 lbs, offered for certification, failed to meet the marked grade. Fees of \$15,860 were assessed during the month.

Total fees assessed in the processed foods program to date are \$223,056, an increase of 5.7% compared to the same time last year.

Licensing Program

A total of 83 licenses were issued and \$1,034 in fees were collected during the month. Because of the increase in license fees, many smaller chain stores are examining the requirements for licensing. There are currently 917 active licenses.

MEAT GRADING



This month, 1 inspection was made and 3 head of cattle totaling 1,579 lbs. were offered for USDA quality and yield grading. This brings the year to date total to 32,768 lbs.

Due to the suspected BSE case involving a dairy cow in Washington State, Japan as well as many other countries have placed a ban on all U.S. beef imports, which includes Hawaii.

MILK CONTROL SECTION

Reflecting back on the year our new director, Sandra Lee Kunimoto, brought new ideas and administrative policies that excited many of those involved in agriculture. Our dairy farmers have new faith and hope that these ideas and policies will help stabilize the milk industry. As the year ends we will be looking forward to the next year with great expectations and excitement.



During the month, all 5 of the dairy farmers from the Big Island petitioned the Board of Agriculture for a milk price increase. The Big Island, which is self-sufficient in milk consumption (no imports except for specialized milk), exports excess milk to Maui and Honolulu. These farmers have not received a milk price increase since 1991 although there have been increases in the retail prices of milk in the market since then.

Did you know-

Cows first came to America with Christopher Columbus.

The year 2004 will surely bring many changes to the dairy industry. We all look forward to a most prosperous year for the dairy industry.

SEED CERTIFICATION

On December 1st, Albert Louie assumed responsibility for the Seed Certification program.

During the month two agricultural commodities aids began training to do on site inspections of cornfields at various stages of growth to determine seed purity. During the month, there were 77 applications for inspection involving 164 fields throughout the State.



REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Walter Mitsui, Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of November 2003.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Enforcement

For the month, 61 lots totaling approximately 37,000 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.



At the consumer level, 14 stores were visited and 1,279 lots were inspected for the month. Five lots inspected failed labeling requirements and appropriate action taken. Compliance rate for the month was 99.6%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1004 ads checked and six violations uncovered during the month. Violators were notified of the discrepancies and notices issued. For the month 99.4% of the ads met advertising requirements.

There were no minimum export inspection for fruits and vegetables and no flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 58 certificates were issued for a total of 72,232 pounds of produce inspected; and \$2,190 in fees assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 22.7% and fees assessed increased 16.1% over the same period last year.

No inspections were conducted for U.S. import requirements.

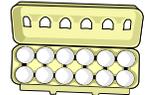
Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 64 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 331,680 pounds, and \$1,619 in fees assessed during the month. This represents an increase of 16.1% and 9.9% over last year at this time for lots and fees assessed. However, pounds inspected decreased 10.9%.

EGG PROGRAM

Enforcement

This month, there were 54 lots of eggs totaling 3,070 dozens inspected for compliance with State labeling requirements during 15 retail store visits. The overall compliance rate was 100.0%. The year to date totals represent increases of 268.6% in store visits and 650.7% in amount inspected compared to last year.



Mainland egg imports inspected for origin stamping requirements totaled 32,709 cases. Year to date, the volume inspected statewide increased slightly by 1.5% compared to last year.

Certification

There were 7,792 cases of eggs certified during this month, bringing the year to date total to 42,745 cases, an increase of 9.8% from last year. Fees assessed for the month was \$6,443 bringing the year to date total to \$33,394, which is 4.0% more than last year.

Surveillance

For the month, 2,846 cases of eggs were inspected during 3 shell egg surveillance visits at egg producers and packers statewide. All of the eggs met the requirements of the Egg Product Inspection Act.

FEED PROGRAM

Enforcement

There were 12 samples taken for adulteration analysis during 4 visits to feed distributors this month. Importers and producers throughout the State reported 7,015 tons of feed distributed. A total of 42,879 tons of feed have been reported so far this year; a decrease of 42.1% from last year. Inspection fees collected to date totaled \$1,623, which is 19.3% less than last year.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory



Of the 16 samples analyzed by the Laboratory for adulteration, 7 feeds were found to contain ten pesticides within the tolerances established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or action levels established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Fifty-eight soil and pesticide samples were analyzed for the Pesticides Branch.

PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

This month, 144,000 cases of canned pineapple were inspected and certified for grade. Cases graded to date increased 17.5% compared to last year. On Maui, 234,000 cases were sampled, inspected for condition of container or checkloaded. Fees assessed this month totaled \$23,540.



During the month one export certificate was issued for frozen pineapple with \$52 in fees assessed.

Fisheries Program

Four lots of local IQF shrimp, representing 26,000 pounds, were certified for grade, with \$260 reimbursed to the state from NMFS.

Coffee Certification



A total of 177 lots consisting of 1,646,000 pounds of green coffee were certified including 8 lots, 70,000 pounds, for origin only. Twenty-one lots being certified for grade failed to meet the marked grade. Fees of \$14,521 were assessed during the month.

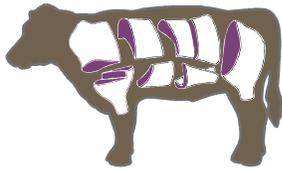
Total fees assessed in the processed foods program to date were \$178,023; about the same as last year.

Licensing Program

A total of 33 licenses were issued and \$500 in fees were collected during the month. Because of the increase in license fees, many smaller chain stores are examining the requirements for licensing. There are currently 911 active licenses.

One complaint for non-payment of \$17,566 for 6,851 pounds of coffee parchment was filed this month.

MEAT GRADING



This month, 3 inspections were made and 9 head of cattle weighing 4,521 pounds were offered for USDA quality and yield grading. This brings the year to date total to 31,189 lbs.

MILK CONTROL SECTION

Everything is happening so fast. Before we know it, 2003 will be pau. The DOA Milkmen wishes everyone a most marvelous holiday season.

Looking forward, indications are that Milk Prices will decline slightly during the coming months.

Remember to:

Honor thy fodder and thy mudder and all your udder relatives; don't forget to count your blessings every day; wake up in a happy moo-oo-d; seize every opportunity and milk it for all it's worth, and never take any bull from any body.



SEED CERTIFICATION

Temporary staff are being hired and trained to assist in this program. We are continuing to assess the cross-utilization of temporary staff on Kauai and the need to add an ACA during the coffee season.



Department
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STATE OF HAWAII

Quality Assurance Division
Commodities Branch

COM-03-220

REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Walter Mitsui, Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of October 2003.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Enforcement

For the month, 104 lots totaling 71,000 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.

At the consumer level, 39 stores were visited and 2,510 lots were inspected for the month. Ten of the lots inspected failed labeling requirements and appropriate action was taken. Compliance rate for the month was 99.6%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1,229 ads checked and four violations uncovered during the month. Violators were notified of the discrepancies and corrective actions taken. For the month 99.7% of the ads met advertising requirements.

There were no minimum export inspection for fruits and vegetables and no flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 68 certificates were issued for a total of 97,427 pounds of produce inspected; and \$2,141 in fees assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 23.7% and fees assessed increased 17.4% over the same period last year.

Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 61 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 357,803 pounds, and \$1,533 in fees assessed during the month. This represents an increase of 10.5% and 13.4% over last year at this time for lots and fees assessed. However, pounds inspected decreased 14.9%.

EGG PROGRAM



Enforcement

There were 150 lots of eggs totaling 5,760 dozens inspected for compliance with State labeling requirements during 44 retail store visits. The compliance rate to date was 100%.

Mainland egg imports inspected for origin stamping requirements for the month totaled 39,137 cases, bringing the year to date total to 154,385 cases, 4.1% more than last year.

Certification

During the month, there were 9,541 cases of eggs certified, bringing the year to date total to 34,953 cases, an increase of 12.2% over last year. Fees assessed this month totaled \$6,632. Total fees collected to date was \$26,951, an increase of 5.4% from last year.

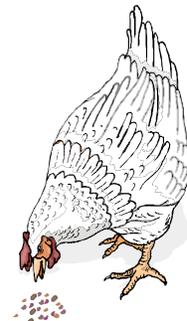
Surveillance

Nine surveillance visits were conducted at egg packers this month. All of the 157 cases checked met requirements of the Egg Products Inspection Act.

FEED PROGRAM

Enforcement

Importers and producers throughout the State reported 16,147 tons of feed distributed. To date, 35,864 tons have been reported, a decrease of 34.7% from the same time last year. Inspection fees collected to date totaled \$12,914, about the same as last year.



All of the six proximate samples analyzed by the University of Hawaii Ag Diagnostics Services Center met label guarantees.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory



Of the Eight samples analyzed for adulteration analyses, three samples contained 6 pesticides within the tolerance or action levels set by the U.S. EPA and U.S. FDA. The Chemical Analysis Laboratory analyzed 133 soil and pesticide samples for the Pesticides Branch.

PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

During the month, 180,000 cases of canned pineapple were certified for grade on Oahu, and 306,000 cases were sampled, inspected for condition of container or checkloaded on Maui. Fees assessed for the month totaled \$35,582.



During the month one Plant System Audit and one Domestic Origin Verification Review were conducted.

Fisheries Program

Two lots of Onaga fish weighing 285 pounds were certified for export to Hong Kong.

Coffee Certification



A total of 120 lots consisting of 1,405,000 pounds of green coffee were certified and \$10,831 in fees was assessed during the month. One appeal inspection was conducted on a lot that failed to meet grade. The Hawaii supervisor from Hilo drove over to Captain Cook to assist with the appeal inspection.

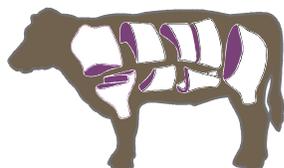
Total fees assessed in the processed foods program to date were \$139,884; 3.3% less than last year.

Approval to fill temporary positions were finally received, and efforts to quickly hire Agricultural Commodity Aids in Captain Cook and Kauai to help with coffee certification were underway. Kauai Coffee Company expressed dismay because of the delay, as samples had to be sent to Kona for grading.

Licensing Program

A total of 116 licenses were issued and \$1,750 in fees were collected during the month. There are currently 910 active licenses. Because of the increase in license fees, many smaller retail stores are re-examining the requirements for licensing, where they previously applied for renewal whether they needed the license or not.

MEAT GRADING



During the month, four inspections were made and eleven head of cattle weighing 5,563 pounds were offered for quality and yield grading. Year to date, 46 head weighing 26,668 pounds were offered for grading.



MILK CONTROL SECTION

Long time dairy farmer Ernest Souza, Hawaii Fresh Milk Industry President Ed Boteilho, Jr., and Dr. C.N. Lee from the U.H. College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, attended the Annual Dairy Expo held in Wisconsin, which is often referred to as the best dairy expo in the world. Animal auctions, dairy and farm equipment exhibits and demos, as well as booths with the latest information on animal husbandry and health care products, were some of the events that made the expo an outstanding event. The attendees greatly enjoyed the expo, which also provided them with an awesome learning experience.

Did you know that on an average, a dairy cow drinks 30 to 50 gallons of water per day, or the equivalent of 76 to 126 - 1.5 liter bottles of water that we buy from the stores? (one gallon equals 3.79 liters).

Got (Island Fresh) Milk for Thanksgiving? The DOA milkmen wish all of you a pleasant and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

SEED CERTIFICATION

The Branch received approval and is seeking to hire temporary staff to assist in this program. There may be a problem with cross-utilizing temporary staff on Kauai as the inspection "season" for coffee and seed are similar. An additional ACA may be needed during the winter months.



REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Walter Mitsui, Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of September 2003.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



Enforcement

For the month, 104 lots totaling 65,000 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.

At the consumer level, 15 stores were visited and 1,241 lots were inspected for the month. Three of the lots inspected failed labeling requirement and appropriate action taken. Compliance rate for the month was 99.8%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1357 ads checked and eight violations uncovered during the month. Violators were notified of the discrepancies and corrective actions taken. For the month 99.4% of the ads met advertising requirements.

There were no minimum export inspection for fruits and vegetables and no flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 58 certificates were issued for a total of 141,684 pounds of produce inspected; and \$1,966 in fees assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 30.4% and fees assessed increased 23.8% over the same period last year.

Ten lots of New Zealand Kiwifruit totaling 79,807 pounds were inspected for U.S. import requirements. All of the lots of Kiwifruit met import requirements.

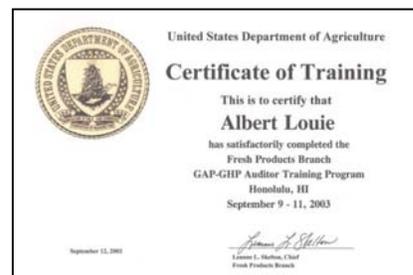
Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 73 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 391,131 pounds, and \$1,816 in fees assessed during the month. This represents an increase of 0.9% and 15.0% over last year at this time for lots and fees assessed. However, pounds inspected decreased 15.7%.

Program Manager W. Mitsui made a presentation at the annual Hawaii Papaya Industry Association conference in Hilo on the department's transgenic papaya monitoring program and the proposed rule changes to the papaya grade standards and minimum export requirements.

Food Safety

USDA, Fresh Products Branch conducted a Good Agricultural Practices / Good Handling Practices class at the QAD conference room. In attendance were fourteen Ag. Commodities Marketing Specialists from the Commodities Branch Oahu, Maui, and Big Island offices. Also, three persons from the University of Hawaii CTAHR attended the class as observers. There was no charge for USDA to conduct the class, except for one-half of the USDA instructors' expenses (which will be covered by U.H. CTAHR). Only USDA licensed personnel can become auditors in this program, and trainees will still have to assist in the performance of three audits before they become fully certified USDA auditors.



Instructors M. Dietrich (l), P. Manol (r) from USDA and Dr. A. Saulo (c), guest lecturer from U.H.

EGG PROGRAM



Enforcement

There were 71 lots of eggs totaling 2984 dozens inspected for compliance with State labeling requirements during 13 store visits. The compliance rate to date was 99.2%.

Mainland egg imports inspected for origin stamping requirements for the month totaled 41,343 cases, bringing the year to date total to 115,248 cases, about the same amount as last year.

Certification

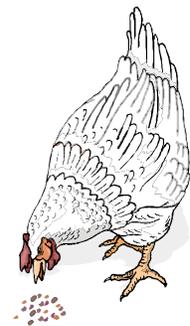
During the month, there were 8,003 cases of eggs certified, bringing the year to date total to 25,412 cases, an increase of 12.6% over last year. Fees assessed this month totaled \$6,997. Total fees collected to date was \$20,319, an increase of 7.7% from last year.

Surveillance

Three surveillance visits were conducted at egg packers this month. Of the 11 lots and 183 cases checked, two lots were retained for failing requirements of the Egg Products Inspection Act.

FEED PROGRAM

Feed Specialist J. Kahana attended the US FDA Animal Feed Safety System Meeting in Herndon, Virginia. Various state regulatory representatives and industry personnel attended this meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a risk-based animal feed safety system.



Enforcement

Importers and producers throughout the State reported 1,216 tons of feed distributed. To date, 19,717 tons have been reported, a decrease of 60.5% from the same time last year. Inspection fees collected to date totaled \$7,138, down 18.5% from last year.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory



The Chemical Analysis Laboratory analyzed 220 soil and pesticide samples for the Pesticides Branch. Plans were made to renovate specific rooms at the Dept. of Health State Laboratories Division, to relocate part of the Chemical Analysis Laboratory. The Department of Agriculture will be paying for the renovation with CIP funds.

PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

During the month, 304,000 cases of canned pineapple were certified for grade on Oahu, and 378,000 cases were sampled, inspected for condition of container or checkloaded on Maui. Fees assessed for the month totaled \$41,724.



During the month one export certificates were issued for frozen pineapple with \$47.00 in fees assessed.

Fisheries Program

One lot of Kauai white shrimp totaling 3,000 pounds was certified. The lot failed specifications and was replaced and re-certified.



Coffee Certification

A total of 61 lots consisting of 254,000 pounds of green coffee were certified and \$6,193 in fees were assessed during the month.

Total fees assessed in the processed foods program to date were \$93,470; 5.2% less than last year.

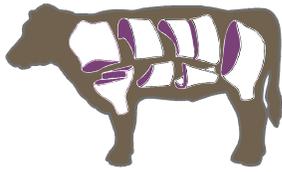
Licensing Program

A total of 59 licenses were issued and \$849 in fees were collected during the month. There are currently 917 active licenses. Because of the increase in license fees, many smaller retail stores are re-examining the requirements for licensing, where they previously applied for renewal whether they needed it or not.

Agricultural Theft

An Ag Theft task force meeting was held during the month, at the Quality Assurance Division conference room. Representatives from the farming community, DLNR, DOA and Farm Bureau were present. No county police were present, probably due to their focus at the time on Drug problems. Topics discussed included the difficulty for farmers to comply with the proof of ownership requirements, trespassing laws, Chinatown sales, and the development of a website for an Ag Theft "chat room".

MEAT GRADING



During the month, one inspection was made and four head of cattle weighing 2117 pounds were offered for quality and yield grading. Year to date, 35 head weighing 21,105 pounds were offered for grading.

MILK CONTROL SECTION

The hot and humid weather continues throughout the state. Milk production dropped an average of 4 pounds per cow. The good news is Honolulu's farm milk prices continue to increase.



Under the leadership of Ed Boteilho, Jr., the Big Island dairy farmers worked hard to promote "island fresh milk" at the County Fair in Kona. They all had a grand time and the fair brought back memories of the "good old days." Response to the "island fresh" promotion was better than expected, and the dairymen plan to expand the promotion next year.

Did you know that California was the first state to make Monterey Jack Cheese, which was named for Scotsman, David Jacks?

SEED CERTIFICATION

The Branch received approval to hire temporary staff to assist in this program. There are eleven positions available statewide which will be cross-utilized in the seed, coffee, and other approved programs as needed.



Department
of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Quality Assurance Division
Commodities Branch

COM-03-177

REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Walter Mitsui, Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of August 2003.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



Enforcement

For the month, 96 lots totaling 600,000 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.

At the consumer level, 26 stores were visited and 1,419 lots were inspected for the month. Twenty-three of the lots inspected failed labeling requirement and appropriate action taken. Compliance rate for the month was 99.8%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1,197 ads checked and five violations uncovered during the month. For the month 99.6% of the ads met advertising requirements.

There were no minimum export inspection for fruits and vegetables and no flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 69 certificates were issued for a total of 179,833 pounds of produce inspected; and \$2,742 in fees assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 29.8% and fees assessed increased 40.6% over the same period last year.

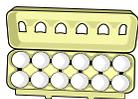
Six lots of New Zealand Kiwifruit totaling 43,936 pounds were inspected for U.S. import requirements. All of the lots of Kiwifruit met import requirements.

Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 70 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 371,290 pounds, and \$1,907 in fees assessed during the month. This represents a decrease of 14.4% and 21.4% respectively over last year at this time for lots and pounds. However, fees assessed increased 7.8%.

A second packing plant's Identity Preservation Procedures has been approved. They plan to implement and start export using this procedure in October, to facilitate entry into Japan.

Thus far, over 400 acres of papaya have been certified as non-GMO. Staff has monitored the testing of every one of the trees on this acreage, and checks an additional 1% of the trees for additional verification.



EGG PROGRAM

Enforcement

There were 90 lots of eggs totaling 3,652 dozens inspected for compliance with State labeling requirements during 22 store visits. The compliance rate increased to 99.4%.

Mainland egg imports inspected for origin stamping requirements for the month totaled 35,485 cases, a decrease of 7.3% from last year.

Certification

During the month, there were 8,166 cases of eggs certified to date, an increase of 17.3% from last year. Fees assessed this month totaled \$6,359, an increase of 5.2% from the same time last year.

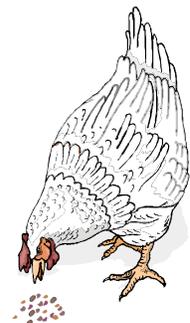
Surveillance

Five surveillance visits were conducted at egg packers this month. All of the 28 lots checked met the requirements for the Egg Products Inspection Act.

FEED PROGRAM

Enforcement

Importers and producers throughout the State reported 18,501 tons of feed distributed to date. Inspection fees collected to date totaled \$6,721, down 16.4% from last year.



Chemical Analysis Laboratory

The Chemical Analysis Laboratory analyzed 200 soil and pesticide samples for the Pesticides Branch.



Plans were developed to renovate specific rooms at the Dept. of Health State Laboratories Division, to relocate part of the Chemical Analysis Laboratory. The Department of Agriculture will be paying for this with CIP funds.

PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

During the month, 246,000 cases of canned pineapple were certified for grade on Oahu, and 437,000 cases were inspected for condition of container and checkloaded on Maui. Fees assessed for the month totaled \$28,688.



During the month two export certificates were issued for frozen pineapple and noni tea; with \$94.00 in fees assessed.

Fisheries Program

There was no activity in this program.

Coffee Certification



A total of 36 lots consisting of 68,000 pounds of green coffee were certified. Fees of \$7,670 were assessed to date, 7.4% less than last year.

Total fees assessed in the processed foods program to date were \$45,499; 9.5% less than last year.

Licensing Program

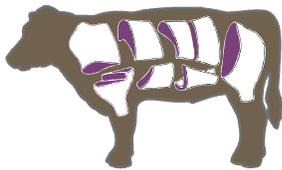
A total of 87 licenses were issued and \$1,450 in fees were collected during the month. There are currently 960 active licenses.

Agricultural Theft

During the month, the program Specialist visited Open Markets in the windward area with three police officers to notify vendors about Ag Theft "Proof of Ownership" requirements. The presence of county police was very effective in getting the attention and cooperation of vendors. "Proof of ownership" requires buyers of produce (for resale) to have documentation of the produce they market, to create a paper trail of production and ownership. This helps to deter ag theft by drying up the market for stolen produce.



MEAT GRADING



During the month, one inspection was made and two head of cattle weighing 990 pounds were offered for quality and yield grading.

MILK CONTROL SECTION

Milk specialist Randy Kamiya attended the International Association of Milk Control Agencies' 67th Annual Meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. At the meeting, many of the various state agencies expressed similar problems in their dairy industry, which resulted in highly informative and interesting meetings. A field trip was taken to Amish farms and it was very remarkable. The Amish continue to farm without any modern day conveniences, except for equipment required to meet state health regulations.



Harrisburg, was very hot and humid, much like Hawaii is now. The hot and humid weather caused Hawaii's milk production to drop an average of 5 pounds per cow. Milk production also dropped in California causing an increase in milk prices.

Did you know that the United States imports more dairy products than it exports?

SEED CERTIFICATION

ACMS Master Journeyperson Albert Louie continues to receive training in this program from Plant Pest Control Branch staff. The training is much more difficult than originally thought to be.

The Branch is still awaiting the governor's approval to hire temporary staff to conduct the bulk of this program. The temporary staff is also needed in the coffee program and may be cross-utilized in the seed as well as other approved programs.

The Plant Industry Division will be transferring second-hand Palm computers and 4-wheel drive vehicles for the Branch's use in this program. There is concern that the old vehicles will require expensive maintenance to keep them in running condition.



REPORT OF THE COMMODITIES BRANCH

Prepared under the direction of Walter Mitsui, Program Manager

I submit herewith a report on the statewide activities of the Commodities Branch for the month of July 2003.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Enforcement

For the month, 222 lots totaling 198,945 pounds of produce were inspected at wholesale level for compliance with state labeling requirements. All of the lots met state labeling requirements.



At the consumer level, 59 stores were visited and 3,793 lots were inspected for the month, and the compliance rate for the month was 99.4%.

Surveillance of media advertisements resulted in 1,180 ads checked during the month.

There were no minimum export inspection for fruits and vegetables and no flower and foliage were checked for minimum export requirements.

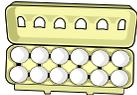
Certification

At terminal market and shipping point, 66 certificates were issued for a total of 191,891 pounds of produce inspected and \$2,658 in fees were assessed. The number of certificates issued increased 24.5% and fees assessed increased 19.8% over the same period last year.

Import inspection for New Zealand onions continued this month with 53,000 pounds of onions inspected and all lots meeting import requirements. Also being inspected for import requirements were six lots of New Zealand Kiwifruit totaling 42,526 pounds. All of the lots of Kiwifruit met import requirements.

Transgenic Papaya Monitoring

Letter reports were issued for 79 lots of transgenic papayas totaling 515,018 pounds; decreases of 13.2% and 14.5% respectively from last year. However, fees assessed were \$2,041; an increase of 6.6%.



EGG PROGRAM

Enforcement

This month, there were 276 lots of eggs totaling 5,313 dozens inspected for compliance with State labeling requirements during 35 retail store visits. The overall compliance rate was 98.6%; a 7.6% improvement over last year.

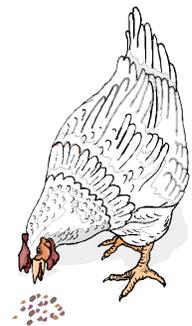
Mainland egg imports inspected for origin stamping requirements totaled 38,419 cases, a slight decrease of 6.1% from last year.

Certification

There were 144 lots totaling 9,243 cases of eggs certified during this month, an increase of 16.2% from last year. Fees assessed total \$6,962, which is 14.1% more than last year.

Surveillance

For the month, 35 lots of eggs were inspected during seven shell egg surveillance visits at egg producers and packers on Oahu. One lot failed to meet the requirements of the Egg Product Inspection Act.



DID YOU KNOW?

- A hen must eat four pounds of feed to produce a dozen eggs.
- Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally contain Vitamin D.
- Eggs age more in one day at room temperature than in one week in the refrigerator.
- The greenish ring around the yolk of hard cooked eggs is harmless, and caused by iron and sulfur compounds formed when eggs are overcooked or not cooled quickly.
- Eggs should be stored in their cartons in the refrigerator, because they can absorb refrigerator odors.
- Cloudiness of the egg's raw white indicates a very fresh egg, and is due to the presence of carbon dioxide, which did not have time to escape through the shell. A slight yellow or greenish cast in raw white may indicate the presence of riboflavin.

FEED PROGRAM

Enforcement

During 4 store visits this month, 12 lots of feed were inspected. Importers and producers throughout the State reported 15,782 tons of feed distributed; an increase of 93.5% from last year. Inspection fees collected amounted to \$6,079, which is 240.0% more than last year.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory

The Chemical Analysis Laboratory analyzed eight samples for adulteration analysis. Although three samples were found to contain six pesticides, all samples met FDA and EPA recommended or established action levels and tolerances. The lab received 72 soil and pesticide samples for analysis from the Pesticides Branch.



PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

Certification

During the month, 74,000 cases of canned pineapple were certified for grade on Oahu, and 262,000 cases were inspected for condition of container and checkloaded on Maui. Fees assessed for the month totaled \$9,001.



With the retirement of the sole Measurement Standards inspector on Maui in June, Commodities Branch staff has been helping by conducting taxi meter inspections, so that taxi drivers can meet county licensing requirements without interruption. As Maui Pineapple Company continues with large government contracts requiring certification, Maui Branch staff has been hard pressed to keep up with timely inspections.



Stacks of canned pineapple samples from Maui Pineapple Co. for Grading. ACMS Paul Watanabe preparing grading worksheets.

During the month one export certificate was issued for frozen pineapple.

Fisheries Program

There was no activity in this program.

An inquiry was received from a seafood vendor who is seeking to sell seafood to the military. If they do supply the military, they may be asking the Branch for contract grading or inspection service, which is required before purchase.

Coffee Certification



A total of 40 lots consisting of 149,000 pounds of green coffee were certified. Fees of \$3,877 were assessed to date, 53.3% more than last year.

Total fees assessed in the processed foods program were \$12,925.

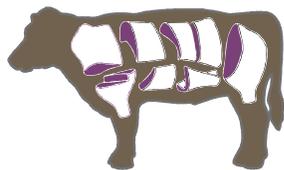
Licensing Program

A total of 87 licenses were issued and \$1,596 in fees were collected during the quarter. There are currently 965 active licenses.

Agricultural Theft

During the month, staff visited the Hilo Farmers Market with the county prosecutor and police to notify vendors about Ag Theft "Proof of Ownership" requirements. The presence of county police was very effective in getting the attention and cooperation of vendors. "Proof of ownership" requires buyers of produce (for resale) to have documentation of the produce they market, to create a paper trail of production and ownership. This helps to deter ag theft by drying up the market for stolen produce.

MEAT GRADING



During the month, five inspections were made and twenty nine head of cattle weighing 13,787 pounds were offered for quality and yield grading.

Beef carcasses from cattle raised by 4-H students for the State Farm Fair were graded this month. A total of twenty one head of cattle were offered for grading. Practically all carcasses graded USDA Select and a couple even made the higher USDA Choice grade, indicating the extra care given by the students.

MILK CONTROL SECTION

After a year of low milk prices, local dairy farmers received good news when they heard that milk prices will increase to \$26.66 per cwt for August 2003, from the July price of \$23.96. The high prices were primarily caused by reduced milk production, due to unexpected hot temperatures in California. It is anticipated that the higher milk prices in California will continue for a few more months, until milk production increases.



Governor Lingle was a class act for the dairy industry as she took the time from her busy schedule to sign a proclamation declaring "August is Dairy Month in Hawaii." The Governor is a strong supporter of the dairy industry, and mentioned that she drinks a lot of skim milk. Present at the signing were Chairperson Sandra Kunimoto, Deputy Diane Ley, HFBF President Tom Hill, Acting CTAHR Dean Barry Brennan, HFMI President Ed Boteilho, Jr., and DOA staff members. Also present were the farmers and processors of the local dairy industry, who were most grateful to those who have continually supported the industry throughout the years.

Did you know that it takes 10 gallons of milk to make the cheese of one large pizza?

SEED CERTIFICATION

The Branch will be taking over the Seed Certification program from the Plant Pest Control Branch, Plant Industry Division, so during the month ACMS IV Albert Louie attended the annual Association of Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) conference in Charleston, South Carolina. At the conference, he established important contacts with seed industry personnel and gained knowledge and updates in seed certification as well as in seed standards and federal and foreign export requirements.

The Branch is seeking the governor's approval to hire temporary staff to conduct the bulk of this program. The temporary staff may also be cross-utilized in other approved programs.