



Information for New Growers

Welcome to San Mateo County! This is a quick general guide as you begin your venture in San Mateo County. A District biologist will be assigned to you to help you to comply with the regulations. Laws and regulations are periodically updated and you are responsible for complying with California's laws and regulations. We have many resources for you on our website: www.smcgov.org/agwm.

1. If you plan on using any material to control any pest – insects, weeds, fungus, algae, rodents, snails- for the production of an agricultural commodity, you must obtain an **Operator Identification Number** annually from the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Our phone number is (650)363-4700.
2. California law requires that any pesticide – any material used to control any pest- put on an agricultural commodity in the channels of trade- must be reported to the state of California. You must report any use monthly – by the 10th of the following month of use. This is done electronically on **CalAgPermits.org**. Log-in information is available through the Ag Commissioner's office. CalAgPermits will also allow you to check on location of beehives within a mile of your fields if you use any materials that are toxic to bees.
3. If you are within ¼ mile of a public K-12 school or a registered day care facility (home day care do not count), you will need to notify the school annually of any materials you plan to use between July 1 and June 30. The **school notification** is due annually by April 30 for the upcoming July 1-June 30 school year. You may submit this notification on paper or electronically on CalAgPermits.org.
4. If you have employees:
 - a. who will apply pesticides (any material to control any pest), they must be trained annually by a qualified trainer.
 - b. who will be exposed to any plants that have been treated within 30 days, they must be trained annually.
 - c. There are hazardous materials postings that are required – Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) A-8 and /or A-9 with information on emergency medical care.
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm>
 - d. Information must be posted on the location of pesticide applications.
 - e. Forms are available on our website: <https://agwm.smcgov.org/pesticide-related-links>
5. If you plan on selling at certified farmer's markets,
 - a. You need to obtain a Certified Producer Certificate (CPC), you can apply on-line
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_c/cfm.html
We will come to verify that you are growing what you plan on selling. You are only allowed to sell what you grow at a certified farmer's market.
 - b. You will need a banner listing your name, and the county where your farm is located, and the statement "We grow what we sell"
 - c. If you will be selling your produce by weight, you will need to have an approved scale that is sealed (checked for accuracy) annually by the Ag Commissioner's office. Contact our office for details.

6. If you are selling plants, you will need a nursery stock license from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA):
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery/index.html>
7. If you plan on selling your produce as organic, you need to register with CDFA, and/ or with a certifying agency:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&c/organic.html
8. If you purchase and re-sell produce, you need a produce dealers license from CDFA.
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/meb/>
Reselling is prohibited at Certified Farmers Markets.
9. If you are growing Cannabis, you must register with CDFA Cannabis
<https://cannabis.ca.gov>
10. If you are growing Hemp, you must register with CDFA Industrial Hemp
<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/industrialhemp>
11. Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) are designed to ensure the safety of the food supply.
Here is a link to a flow chart to determine if how the FSMA affects your business.
http://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016_2-FSMA-Final-Rule-Flowchart-V3.pdf
Here is a link to the FDA requirements: <https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/fsma/>
12. You may need to contact the County or City planning and building department based on the location that you have identified for your operation. San Mateo County has an Agricultural Ombudsman to help you with permits related to agriculture. Here is a link to the website: <https://smcagombudsman.com/>

There are great summaries of items relevant to new growers, including [common permits](#), etc. You can also look up your current zoning here: <http://smcgov://maps.org/planning/>