

## Ag commissioner Simmen to retire

Jack Simmen, Santa Cruz County's agricultural commissioner and director of weights and measures, said today he will retire April 20.

"I hope I can stay active in some form of agriculture," Simmen said. "Thirty-three years in law enforcement is enough. Since Prop. 13 it's been one fight after another and I just felt I didn't need it anymore."

Simmen, 59, said he is looking into several opportunities that would keep him involved in agriculture. He and his wife, June, plan to continue living in Aptos.

Simmen was raised on a ranch in Contra Costa County. He served as an aerial gunner with the Air Force in England during World War II and following his discharge from the service attended UC-Davis where he graduated with a major in agronomy (the study of the management of crop land.)

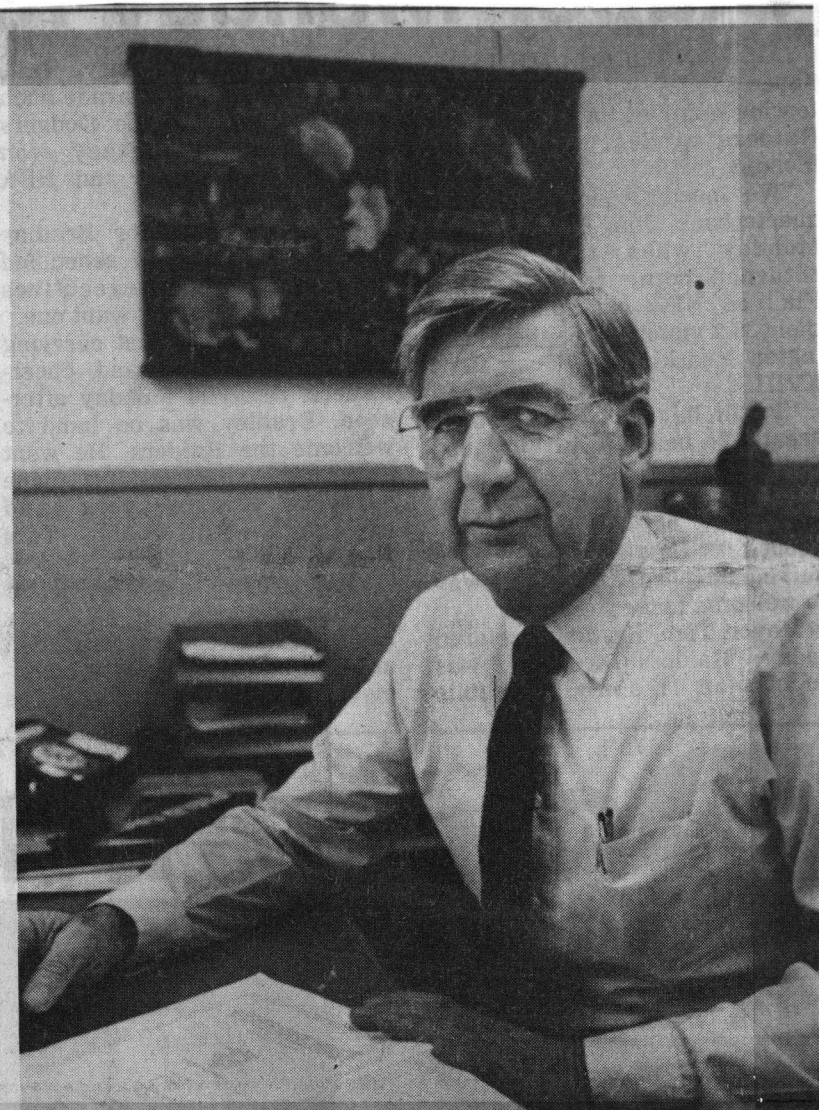
His first job in agricultural law enforcement was as a seasonal inspector for the state in Tracy. He later worked as an

inspector in Half Moon Bay and Contra Costa County, and was eventually promoted to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner and Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures in Contra Costa County.

Simmen came to Santa Cruz County as agricultural commissioner and head of the county's weights and measures department in 1974.

Simmen said his job became tougher when Prop. 13 was approved by the state's voters in 1978, leading to cuts in his staff. He said the hardest thing was when the county decided not to replace his former assistant, Bob Hoff, who died in 1982.

Simmen said he believes Santa Cruz County has one of the safest records in the state in the use of agricultural pesticides, for which he credits the cooperation of the farming community. He also said he is concerned with the preservation of prime agricultural land for agriculture and that during his tenure as commissioner the county has maintained its agricultural base.



JACK SIMMEN — '33 years is enough.'