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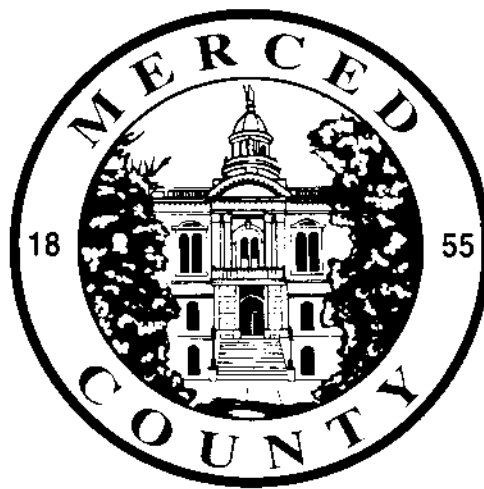
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Agricultural Commissioners' Crop Reports

Merced County

1995-1999

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1995

**MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MERCED, CALIFORNIA**

MICHAEL J. TANNER, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
GARY CASERI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

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AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER • WEIGHTS AND MEASURES • ANIMAL CONTROL

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MICHAEL J. TANNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

GARY CASERI
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

TO: Ms. Ann M. Veneman, Secretary-California Department of Food and Agriculture

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

Ms. Gloria Cortez-Keene, Chairperson, District 1

Mr. Bruce Gabriault, District 2

Mr. Joe Rivero, District 3

Ms. Deidre Kelsey, District 4

Mr. Jerry O'Banion, District 5

It is my pleasure to submit the 1995 Agricultural Crop Report, in accordance with provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code.

I am pleased to report the gross agriculture production value is \$1,222,415,000, down \$29,308,000 from 1994. This continues the string of over one billion dollars in value. Even though most crops in 1995 were adversely impacted by early season weather patterns, some severely by the horrific winds and rains in March, overall gross value only declined by 2.34%. With the lower production came higher prices for most of these crops, but it still did not make up for the loss in total gross value.

Milk again dominated all commodities, increasing \$23,329,000 for a total of \$359,170,000 in total value, remaining number one. Total production was up 5% with price slightly higher.

Chicken eggs were the second largest gainer, up \$8,383,000 in value to \$25,856,000. This was due to higher production, the addition of a large production facility, and price up five cents per dozen. Turkeys increased in value by \$6,854,000 to \$30,321,000, despite a 2.7% drop in number of birds. Price was up 4.1 cents per pound. Walnuts were up in value by \$4,673,000 to \$12,401,000 as yield increased 32.8% and price by \$387 per ton. The only other significant increases in crop values realized were in processing tomatoes, watermelons, and prunes.

Market tomatoes sustained the biggest loss in value of all commodities, plunging in value \$16,395,000 to \$34,848,000, the reverse of 1994. Yield was down 13.4%, price by \$1.47 per carton, and acreage 5.8%. Almonds dropped in total value for the second year in a row to \$141,043,000 down \$11,057,000. Yield was only 780 pounds per acre, down 54% from last year's all time high. Price jumped to \$2.48 per pound with acreage up 4.6%. Almonds remain the number two valued commodity in the County.

Cotton, after record breaking yields in 1994, fell in value by \$9,690,000 to \$77,385,000. Yield declined 293 pounds per acre, however, price was up 2.2 cents per pound and acreage up by 7,105 acres. Alfalfa lost \$6,867,000; down were yield 6.2%, acreage 3.3%, and price slightly.

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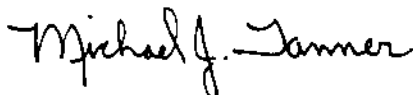
AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Sweet potatoes reversed in value from 1994, decreasing by \$5,781,000 to \$37,843,000. Even though acreage was up by 729 acres, yield was down 7.2% and price 17.5%. Cattle and calves again fell in total value to \$40,092,000, down \$5,134,000 as prices fell by \$5.56 per hundred weight. Many commodities were down in total value. Other commodities with significant declines in value were wine grapes, almond hulls, dry figs, hogs and pigs, sugarbeets, apricots, and ostriches.

This report addresses the acreage, production and gross value of agricultural production in Merced County. It does not attempt to reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing. This report also emphasizes an average production and average value of gross receipts. Value is based on farmgate prices except for fresh packed commodities which reflect an FOB, freight on board, price.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to those persons who have provided the information and assistance necessary for my staff to compile this report under the direction of Mark Smith, Agricultural Biologist III. My thanks to the growers and industry members of Merced County who truly make AGRICULTURE our number one and most valued industry.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1995	5,068	1.55	7,850	Ton	\$120.05	\$942,000
	1994	6,990	2.21	15,450	Ton	\$106.00	\$1,638,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1995	3,135	1.30	4,075	Ton	\$757.62	\$3,087,000
	1994	3,440	1.22	4,200	Ton	\$712.00	\$2,990,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1995	4,109	.94	3,868	Ton	\$569.46	\$2,203,000
	1994	3,700	1.02	3,770	Ton	\$697.00	\$2,628,000
CORN * (Grain)	1995	4,078	4.11	16,766	Ton	\$132.18	\$2,216,000
	1994	4,580	4.11	18,800	Ton	\$121.00	\$2,275,000
COTTON (Lint)	1995	83,405	1,115 Lbs.	186,041	500 Lb. Bale	\$415.96	\$77,385,000
	1994	76,300	1,408 Lbs.	215,000		\$405.00	\$87,075,000
COTTON (Seed)	1995	---	---	66,284	Ton	\$176.00	\$11,666,000
	1994	---	---	73,600	Ton	\$150.00	\$11,040,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1995	68,872	6.64	457,506	Ton	\$117.05	\$53,551,000
	1994	70,500	7.08	499,000	Ton	\$118.00	\$58,882,000
HAY (Alfalfa-Cube)	1995	4,068	4.67	19,000	Ton	\$130.00	\$2,470,000
	1994	4,920	6.37	31,300	Ton	\$128.00	\$4,006,000
HAY (Grain)	1995	18,303	3.14	57,445	Ton	\$70.06	\$4,024,000
	1994	20,000	3.01	60,200	Ton	\$77.35	\$4,656,000
HAY (Sudan)	1995	1,711	3.11	5,329	Ton	\$76.73	\$409,000
	1994	620	4.15	3,400	Ton	\$85.00	\$289,000
OATS (Grain)	1995	2,180	1.10	2,404	Ton	\$224.64	\$540,000
	1994	3,100	1.47	4,560	Ton	\$168.00	\$766,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1995	78,000	---	---	Acre	\$125.00	\$9,750,000
	1994	80,000	---	---	Acre	\$120.00	\$9,600,000
PASTURE (Other)	1995	549,500	---	---	Acre	\$17.00	\$9,340,000
	1994	551,000	---	---	Acre	\$15.00	\$8,265,000
RICE	1995	6,023	3.86	23,264	Ton	\$161.49	\$3,757,000
	1994	5,840	3.99	23,300	Ton	\$164.00	\$3,588,000
SAFFLOWER	1995	2,126	1.48	3,142	Ton	\$329.10	\$1,034,000
	1994	2,960	1.28	3,790	Ton	\$302.00	\$1,145,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1995	49,973	23.65	1,181,710	Ton	\$19.67	\$23,242,000
	1994	46,500	25.23	1,173,000	Ton	\$19.83	\$23,261,000
SILAGE ** (Other)	1995	55,108	10.95	603,389	Ton	\$17.50	\$10,558,000
	1994	50,400	10.95	552,000	Ton	\$19.05	\$10,516,000
SORGHUM (Grain)	1995	320	3.00	960	Ton	\$135.00	\$130,000
	1994	---	---	---	Ton	---	---
STRAW	1995	---	---	2,200	Ton	\$35.00	\$77,000
	1994	---	---	2,300	Ton	\$35.00	\$81,000
STUBBLE *** (Pasture)	1995	11,736	---	---	Acre	\$10.00	\$117,000
	1994	9,870	---	---	Acre	\$10.00	\$99,000
SUGAR BEETS	1995	7,080	27.07	191,648	Ton	\$36.96	\$7,083,000
	1994	9,020	25.66	231,000	Ton	\$40.15	\$9,275,000
WHEAT	1995	13,770	1.80	24,794	Ton	\$124.39	\$3,084,000
	1994	11,700	2.72	31,800	Ton	\$117.00	\$3,721,000
TOTAL	1995	956,829					\$226,665,000
	1994	951,770					\$245,796,000

* Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not fresh corn).

** Includes Alfalfa, Earlage, Oats, Rye, and Wheat.

*** Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats and Wheat. Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
TOTAL	1995	1,047	\$14,093,000
	1994	1,110	\$14,923,000

Includes Budwood, Pits and Cuttings; Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees; Dried Flowers, Grapevines; Greenhouse Plants; Roses; Strawberry Plants, Tomato and Other Vegetable Plants; Semi-Tropical Ornamental and Shade Trees; Shrubs; Ornamental Plants, and Christmas Trees. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FIREWOOD	1995	28,000	Cord	\$80.00	\$2,240,000
	1994	20,200	Cord	\$83.00	\$1,677,000
FUEL * (Cogeneration)	1995	45,000	Ton	\$15.00	\$675,000
	1994	79,000	Ton	\$20.24	\$1,599,000
MANURE **	1995	1,039,820	Ton	\$5.67	\$5,896,000
	1994	1,024,000	Ton	\$4.88	\$4,997,000
TOTAL	1995				\$8,811,000
	1994				\$8,273,000

- * Almond Shells, Orchard Prunings, Orchard Removal (Recorded in Wet Tons)
- ** Livestock, Poultry

SEED CROPS

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS * (Miscellaneous)	1995	419	---	---	---	---	\$200,000
	1994	293	---	---	---	---	\$206,000
TOTAL	1995	419					\$200,000
	1994	293					\$206,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS ** (Miscellaneous)	1995	1,573	---	---	---	---	\$637,000
	1994	5,020	---	---	---	---	\$1,829,000
TOTAL	1995	1,573					\$637,000
	1994	5,020					\$1,829,000

ALL SEED CROPS

	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	TOTAL
TOTAL	1995	1,992	\$837,000
	1994	5,313	\$2,035,000

- * Includes certified seed from Rice, Wheat and Rye.
- ** Includes common seed from Alfalfa, Artichokes, Broccoli, Carrot, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Lima Bean, Oats, Onions, Pepper, Rape Seed, Rye, Squash, and Wheat.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (Freezer)	1995	3,220	1.73	5,570	Ton	\$440.00	\$2,451,000
	1994	2,590	1.52	3,940	Ton	\$440.00	\$1,734,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1995	7,713	462.34	3,566,047	40 Lb. Carton	\$4.96	\$17,701,000
	1994	10,500	430.00	4,515,000	Carton	\$4.13	\$18,647,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1995	783	20.83	16,308	Ton	\$195.05	\$3,181,000
	1994	920	16.76	15,400	Ton	\$102.00	\$1,571,000
MELONS (Other)	1995	2,639	5.60	14,782	Ton	\$250.22	\$3,699,000
	1994	2,580	7.64	19,700	Ton	\$245.00	\$4,827,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1995	1,128	1.45	1,634	Ton	\$290.00	\$474,000
	1994	1,600	1.63	2,610	Ton	\$300.00	\$783,000
PEPPERS, BELL (Market)	1995	553	12.35	6,827	Ton	\$433.00	\$2,956,000
	1994	490	11.66	5,710	Ton	\$488.00	\$2,786,000
SWEET POTATOES	1995	6,189	11.15	69,015	Ton	\$548.33	\$37,843,000
	1994	5,460	12.01	65,600	Ton	\$665.00	\$43,624,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1995	8,434	976.74	8,237,790	25 Lb. Carton	\$4.23	\$34,848,000
	1994	7,970	1128.00	8,990,000	Carton	\$5.70	\$51,243,000
TOMATOES (Processing)	1995	11,141	36.96	411,821	Ton	\$53.33	\$21,963,000
	1994	10,800	35.66	385,000	Ton	\$51.77	\$19,931,000
VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous) *	1995	1,841	----	----	Ton	----	\$5,967,000
	1994	---	---	---	Ton	---	---
TOTAL	1995	43,641					\$131,083,000
	1994	45,270					\$152,024,000

* Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celantro, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Dill, Eggplant, Endive, Garlic, Okra, Onions, Oriental Vegetables, Peanuts, Popcorn, Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radishes, String Beans, Sweet Corn, Squash, Tomatillos, and Dried Tomatoes.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1995	72,001	.39	28,436	Ton	\$4,960.00	\$141,043,000
	1994	68,837	.85	58,500	Ton	\$2,600.00	\$152,100,000
ALMONDS (Hulls)	1995	---	---	68,135	Ton	\$80.11	\$5,458,000
	1994	---	---	123,000	Ton	\$68.70	\$8,450,000
APRICOTS	1995	1,905	3.34	6,354	Ton	\$332.10	\$2,110,000
	1994	2,003	6.84	13,700	Ton	\$283.00	\$3,877,000
FIGS (Dry)	1995	3,308	1.13	3,736	Ton	\$1,294.36	\$4,836,000
	1994	3,313	1.21	4,010	Ton	\$1,772.00	\$7,106,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1995	984	2.37	2,334	Ton	\$935.00	\$2,182,000
	1994	1,674	1.71	2,860	Ton	\$998.00	\$2,854,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1995	335	9.60	3,216	Ton	\$125.00	\$402,000
	1994	180	8.76	1,580	Ton	\$121.00	\$191,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1995	10,811	8.23	88,935	Ton	\$274.68	\$24,429,000
	1994	12,716	8.82	112,000	Ton	\$251.00	\$28,112,000
KIWI	1995	41	5.24	215	Ton	\$1,340.00	\$288,000
	1994	41	8.22	337	Ton	\$1,580.00	\$532,000
NECTARINES	1995	198	10.53	2,085	Ton	\$845.18	\$1,762,000
	1994	196	12.49	2,450	Ton	\$596.00	\$1,460,000
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1995	3,993	15.48	61,829	Ton	\$189.19	\$11,698,000
	1994	4,094	17.41	71,300	Ton	\$172.00	\$12,264,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1995	1,801	14.90	26,832	Ton	\$197.78	\$5,307,000
	1994	1,713	18.95	32,500	Ton	\$185.00	\$6,013,000
PISTACHIOS	1995	4,336	.77	3,321	Ton	\$2,166.87	\$7,196,000
	1994	4,315	.72	3,110	Ton	\$2,070.00	\$6,438,000
PLUMS	1995	184	5.20	956	Ton	\$689.00	\$659,000
	1994	172	3.08	530	Ton	\$470.00	\$249,000
PRUNES	1995	2,087	3.23	6,744	Ton	\$1,048.26	\$7,069,000
	1994	2,118	2.60	5,507	Ton	\$1,046.00	\$5,760,000
STRAWBERRIES	1995	639	11.36	7,262	Ton	\$649.27	\$4,715,000
	1994	538	13.51	7,270	Ton	\$688.00	\$5,002,000
WALNUTS (English)	1995	5,279	1.74	9,204	Ton	\$1,347.33	\$12,401,000
	1994	6,147	1.31	8,050	Ton	\$960.00	\$7,728,000
MISCELLANEOUS FROZEN FRUIT *	1995	---	---	13,284	Ton	\$41.52	\$552,000
	1994	---	---	9,900	Ton	\$67.00	\$663,000
MISCELLANEOUS **	1995	3,100	---	---	---	---	\$7,751,000
	1994	3,900	---	---	---	---	\$9,084,000
TOTAL	1995	111,002					\$239,858,000
	1994	111,957					\$257,883,000

* Includes Berries, Grapes, Kiwi, and Melons.

** Includes Apples, Fresh Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans, Pears, Table Grapes, Cannery Figs, and Fresh Peaches

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 1995		YEAR 1990	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	72,001	7,804	66,342	2,400
APPLES	1,754	249	2,493	138
APRICOTS	1,907	181	1,657	152
BERRIES	219	20	96	20
CHERRIES	180	143	146	60
FIGS	3,308	125	3,548	3
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,569	84	1,915	0
GRAPES (Table)	222	201	216	27
GRAPES (Wine)	11,811	3,009	13,408	479
KIWI	41	0	38	---
MANDARINS	30	0	17	11
NECTARINES	198	16	188	32
OLIVES	61	0	60	14
ORANGES	47	0	48	---
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,993	369	3,925	692
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,801	499	1,768	118
PEARS	21	0	7	10
PECANS	42	2	44	0
PISTACHIOS	4,386	135	3,589	425
PLUMS	189	66	278	15
PRUNES	2,087	741	1,835	460
WALNUTS (English)	5,279	1,310	7,622	797
TOTAL	111,146	14,954	109,240	5,853

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1995	152,370	851,370	Cwt.	\$47.09	\$40,092,000
	1994	151,000	859,000	Cwt.	\$52.65	\$45,226,000
CHICKENS (Fryers and Broilers)	1995	76,256,089	375,179,958	Pound	\$0.330	\$123,809,000
	1994	75,430,000	374,133,000	Pound	\$0.330	\$123,464,000
CHICKENS (Other)	1995	959,306	3,456,591	Pound	\$0.120	\$405,000
	1994	1,350,000	7,196,000	Pound	\$0.173	\$1,245,000
GOATS	1995	2,000	---	Each	\$45.00	\$90,000
	1994	2,000	---	Each	\$65.00	\$130,000
OSTRICHES *	1995	1,665	---	---	---	\$2,001,000
	1994	2,500	---	---	---	\$3,750,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1995	30,857	50,992	Cwt.	\$56.65	\$2,889,000
	1994	52,600	86,000	Cwt.	\$59.28	\$5,098,000
POULTRY ** (Miscellaneous)	1995	53,500	125,750	Pound	\$3.27	\$411,000
	1994	63,000	134,000	Pound	\$3.05	\$409,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1995	37,800	38,351	Cwt.	\$63.00	\$2,416,000
	1994	37,800	39,000	Cwt.	\$53.81	\$2,099,000
TURKEYS	1995	2,815,336	68,164,918	Pound	\$0.440	\$30,321,000
	1994	2,893,000	58,815,000	Pound	\$0.399	\$23,467,000
TOTAL	1995					\$202,434,000
	1994					\$204,888,000

* Includes Breeder Birds, Slaughter Birds, and Hides.
** Chuckar, Pheasant.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS, CHICKEN (Market)	1995	53,145,860	Dozen	\$0.49	\$25,856,000
	1994	39,711,000	Dozen	\$0.44	\$17,473,000
EGGS (Hatching)	1995	8,155,430	Each	\$0.66	\$5,415,000
	1994	7,865,000	Each	\$0.66	\$5,191,000
MILK (Goat)	1995	25,188	Cwt.	\$28.00	\$705,000
	1994	22,200	Cwt.	\$27.50	\$611,000
MILK (Market)	1995	29,111,888	Cwt.	\$11.68	\$340,027,000
	1994	27,924,000	Cwt.	\$11.51	\$321,405,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1995	1,540,055	Cwt.	\$12.43	\$19,143,000
	1994	1,263,000	Cwt.	\$11.43	\$14,436,000
WOOL	1995	349,283	Pound	\$0.795	\$278,000
	1994	421,000	Pound	\$0.700	\$295,000
TOTAL	1995				\$391,424,000
	1994				\$359,411,000

BEE INDUSTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1995	18,550	Pound	\$2.02	\$37,000
	1994	14,200	Pound	\$1.45	\$21,000
BULK BEES *	1995	19,500	Pound	\$5.70	\$112,000
	1994	25,200	Pound	\$4.50	\$113,000
HONEY **	1995	1,416,500	Pound	\$0.67	\$953,000
	1994	928,000	Pound	\$0.47	\$436,000
POLLINATION ***	1995	154,832	Colony	\$31.87	\$4,934,000
	1994	151,000	Colony	\$31.28	\$4,723,000
QUEENS	1995	4,300	Each	\$6.05	\$26,000
	1994	2,000	Each	\$6.00	\$12,000
TOTAL	1995				\$6,062,000
	1994				\$5,305,000

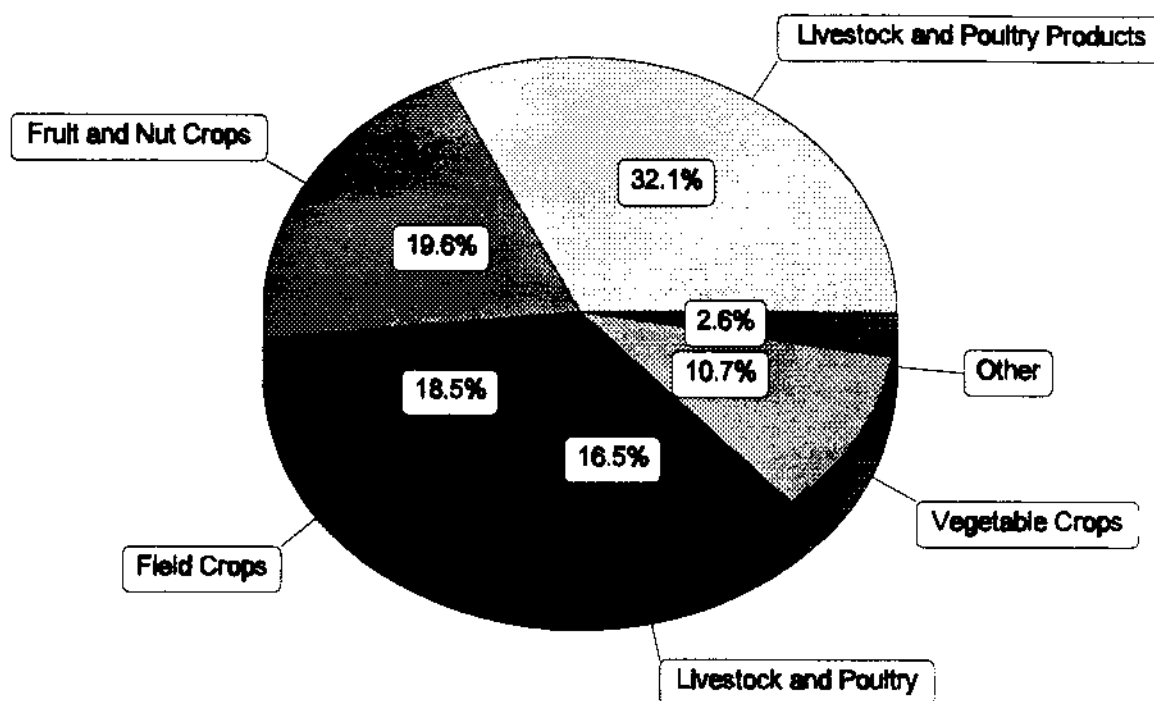
- * Includes bees sold as nuclei.
- ** Honey produced by 23,955 registered resident colonies in 1995 and 28,400 colonies for 1994.
- *** Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	1995	675,000	Pound	\$1.70	\$1,148,000
	1994	693,000	Pound	\$1.71	\$1,185,000
TOTAL	1995				\$1,148,000
	1994				\$1,185,000

- * Catfish, Trout, Bass

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$45,550	COTTON	\$132,337	SORGHUM	\$ 317
CORN	\$45,240	OATS	\$2,160	WHEAT	\$185,766
		RICE	\$838,000		

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

MARKET TOMATOES	50 Acres	CANTALOUPE	60 Acres	BROCCOLI	20 Acres
PROCESSING TOMATOES	50 Acres	PLUMS	5 Acres	WHEAT	30 Acres
SAFFLOWER	2 Acres	APRICOTS	2 Acres	OLIVES	61 Acres

* Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1995. (Source: FSA Office)

** The reported planted acreages were not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market or inability to harvest and transport.

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	1995	1994	1990	1985	1980	1975	1970
AQUACULTURE	\$1,148,000	\$1,185,000	\$2,809,000	---	---	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$6,062,000	\$5,305,000	\$4,565,000	\$3,682,000	\$2,923,000	\$1,085,000	\$370,000
FIELD CROPS	\$226,665,000	\$245,796,000	\$228,475,000	\$161,412,000	\$191,239,000	\$101,968,000	\$45,783,000
FRUIT AND NUTS	\$239,858,000	\$257,883,000	\$200,773,000	\$121,208,000	\$152,584,000	\$55,799,000	\$29,752,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	\$202,434,000	\$204,888,000	\$231,735,000	\$193,934,000	\$191,226,000	\$42,381,000	\$56,362,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$391,424,000	\$359,411,000	\$314,963,000	\$247,574,000	\$171,548,000	\$103,548,000	\$40,672,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$14,093,000	\$14,923,000	\$12,036,000	\$7,239,000	\$15,734,000	\$5,023,000	\$2,382,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$8,811,000	\$8,273,000	\$8,639,000	---	---	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$837,000	\$2,035,000	\$1,465,000	\$2,876,000	\$3,012,000	\$2,972,000	\$469,300
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$131,083,000	\$152,024,000	\$93,625,000	\$74,493,000	\$65,831,000	\$47,704,000	\$16,707,700
TOTAL	\$1,222,415,000	\$1,251,723,000	\$1,099,085,000	\$812,418,000	\$794,097,000	\$404,956,000	\$191,860,300

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1995

1. MILK	\$359,170,000	(1)
2. ALMONDS	\$141,043,000	(2)
3. CHICKENS	\$124,214,000	(3)
4. COTTON	\$77,385,000	(4)
5. TOMATOES	\$56,811,000	(5)
6. ALFALFA	\$56,021,000	(6)
7. CATTLE	\$40,092,000	(7)
8. SWEET POTATOES	\$37,843,000	(8)
9. TURKEYS	\$30,321,000	(10)
10. EGGS	\$25,856,000	(14)
11. GRAPES (WINE)	\$24,831,000	(9)
12. CORN SILAGE	\$23,242,000	(11)

(Number in parenthesis denotes 1994 ranking)

MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	ORGANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
GRAPELEAF SKELETONIZER <i>Harrisina brillians</i>	<i>Ametadoria misella</i> (Parasitic Fly) <i>WGLS Granulosis</i> (Virus) <i>Anantelles harrisinae</i> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
PUNCTURE VINE <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	<i>Microlarinus larenyii</i> (Seed Weevil) <i>Microlarinus lyoriformis</i> (Stem Weevil)	Countywide
MILK THISTLE <i>Silybum marianum</i>	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Countywide
ITALIAN THISTLE <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Limited
YELLOWSTAR THISTLE <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i> (Seed-Head Weevil) <i>Urophora sirunaseva</i> (Seed-Head Gall Fly) <i>Eustenopus villosus</i> (Hairy Weevil)	Countywide North County Three Sites
RUSSIAN THISTLE <i>Salsola iberica</i>	<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i> (Case Bearing Moth) <i>Coleophora parthenica</i> (Russian Thistle Borer)	Seven Sites
WATER HYACINTH <i>Eichornia crassipes</i>	<i>Sameodes albicuttalis</i> (Hyacinth Moth) <i>Neochetiina eichorniae</i> (Mottled Hyacinth Weevil)	Six Sites
ASH WHITEFLY <i>Siphoninus phillyrea</i>	<i>Encarsia partenopea</i> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
KLAMATH WEED <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i> (Leaf Feeding Beetle)	Two Sites

* Represents total number of individual sites, trees, acres, etc., incorporated in program efforts (survey, trap, servicings, releases, etc.)

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES
SWEET POTATOES	6	380
ALMONDS	11	420
GRAPES	1	25
PLUMS	1	8
PEACHES	2	14
ASIAN PEARS	1	3
POPCORN	1	70
WALNUTS *	1	4
PERSIMMONS *	1	1
PISTACHIOS	1	94
PEARS	1	10

* Non-Certified Programs.

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING

PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	431
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	44
Melon Fly	Melons	47
Gypsy Moth	Trees	122
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	91
Khapra Beetle	Grain	142
European Corn Borer	Corn	5
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	5
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	6
Apple Maggot	Apples	129

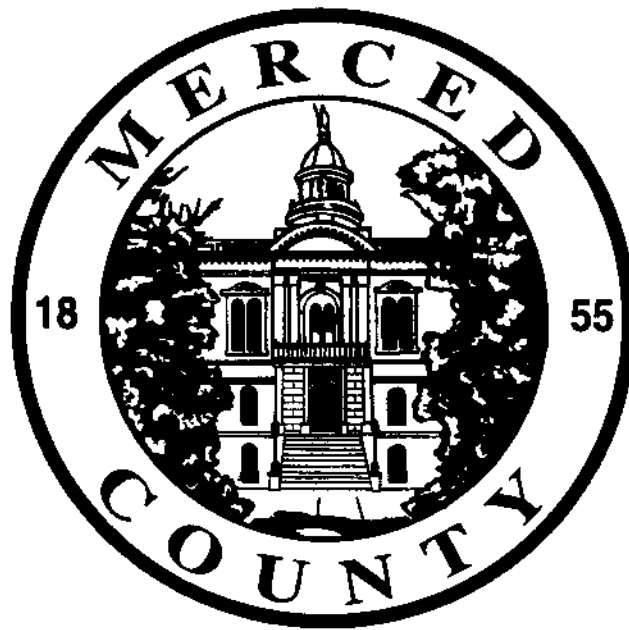
PEST ERADICATION

PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State Operated Trapping Program on 80,000 Acres, Combined with Plowdown Enforcement or Host Free Period.
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potato	Successful Eradication Program Completed in 1994.
PEST (WEED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Banana Waterlily	Waterways	Not Detected/Eradicated in 1993.
Water Hyacinth	Waterways	Ongoing Eradication Efforts - Merced River, San Joaquin, and Tributaries.
Camelthorn	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing Detection/Eradication Efforts Countywide
Purple Mustard	Pasture/Roadways	Control/Eradication Efforts Countywide
Carolina Horse Nettle	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing Detection/Eradication Efforts Countywide

PEST EXCLUSION

PEST (INTERCEPTED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Live Insects	Cut Flowers	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Citrus Pest (Reasonable Cause)	Grapefruit	2 Rejected/Destroyed
Burrowing Nematode	Indoor Decorations	2 Rejected/Destroyed
Noxious Weed/Seed	Alfalfa Hay	1 Rejected/Return to Origin
Cotton Pests	Cotton Seed and Debris	1 Rejected/Return to Origin for Treatment

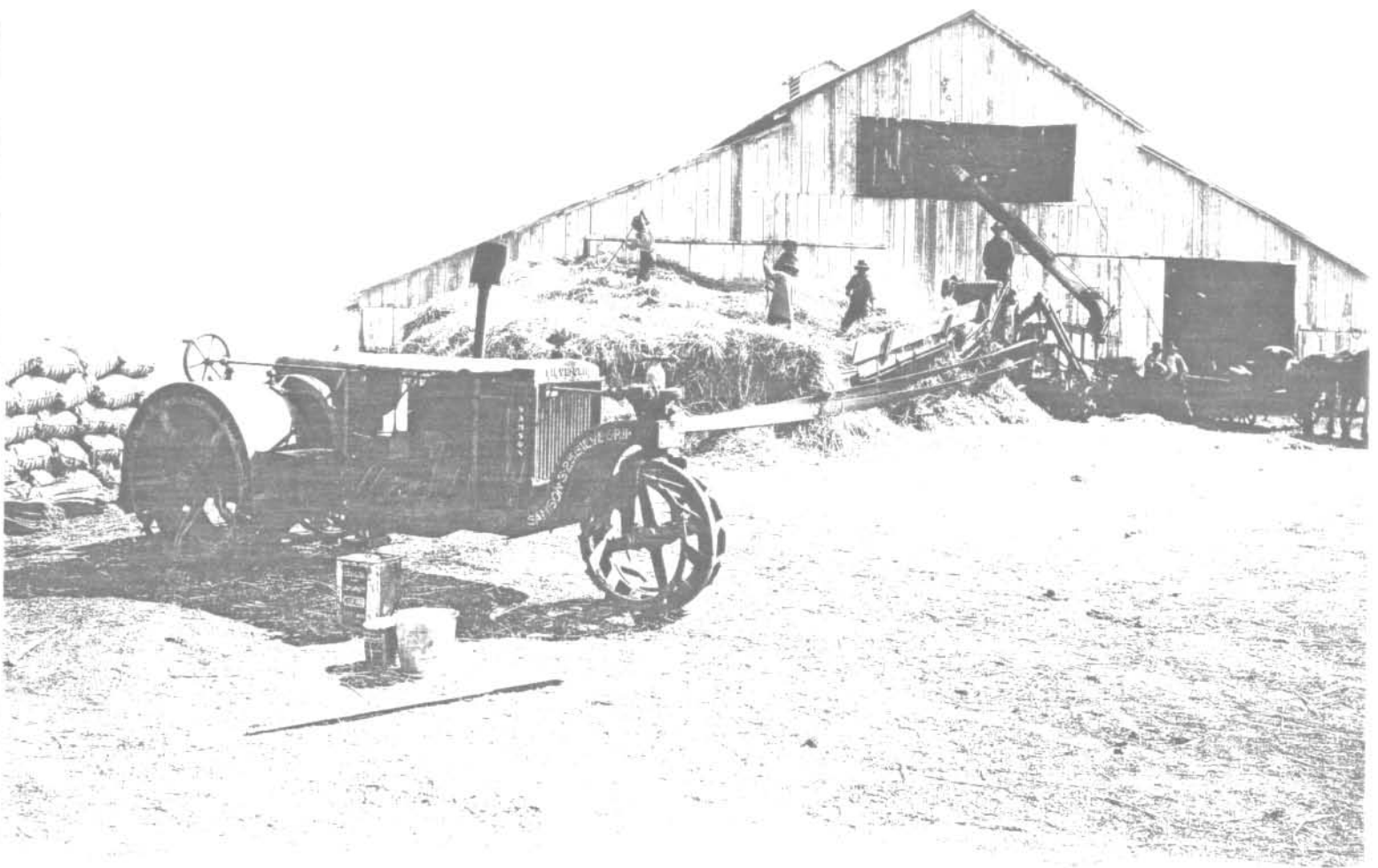
ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1996

**MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MERCED, CALIFORNIA**

**MICHAEL J. TANNER, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
GARY CASERI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**



Picture courtesy of:
Merced County Historical Society Archives

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Sealer of Weights and Measures**

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Sealer of Weights and Measures**

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER • WEIGHTS AND MEASURES • ANIMAL CONTROL

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MICHAEL J. TANNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

GARY CASERI
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

TO: Ms. Ann M. Veneman, Secretary-California Department of Food and Agriculture and The Honorable Board of Supervisors

Mr. Joe Rivero, Chairman, District 3
Ms. Gloria Cortez Keene, District 1
Ms. Kathleen Crookham, District 2
Ms. Deidre Kelsey, District 4
Mr. Jerry O'Banion, District 5

I am very pleased to submit the 1996 Agricultural Crop Report, in accordance with provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This annual report presents statistical information on Merced County Agriculture.

Agriculture continues its dominance as the County's major producing industry. The 1996 gross production value is \$1,429,522,000 which surpasses all previous years. This is \$207,107,000, or a 16.94% increase over 1995. A stronger economy and growing demand for food and fiber worldwide helped keep prices up for most commodities. Along with adequate ingredients for farming (water, weather, land, labor, other variables), production increases were noted in most crops.

With only three years in excess of \$300 million in value, milk has leaped to \$441,101,000, continuing to stretch its lead as the top commodity in the County. Total production was up 4.7%, while market milk showed a 17.5% value increase per hundred weight.

After two years of decreasing value, almonds have rebounded to \$177,761,000, up \$36,718,000. Yield increased to 1,180 pounds per acre after rain reduced yields in 1995. Price fell by \$0.38 per pound to \$2.10.

Cotton more than regained its prior year's loss with increased yield, up 235 pounds per acre and 1,430 more acres. Value was up \$17,941,000 to \$95,326,000. Chicken eggs were the fourth largest gainer, up \$14,767,000 in value to \$40,859,000. This was due to 19.4% higher production and price up \$0.15 per dozen. Wine grapes were valued at \$36,087,000, up \$11,256,000 due to increased acreage and value up 74%. However, production fell 20.4%.

DISTRICT OFFICE: 342 "D" Street, Los Banos, CA 93635 (209) 827-2030
ANIMAL CONTROL: 2080 Grogan Avenue, Merced, CA 95340 (209) 725-3647

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Sweet potatoes reached an all time high in value at \$48,899,000, an increase of \$11,056,000 despite a lower price per ton. Yield was 14.7% higher and acreage up 13.6%. Turkeys jumped in value by \$10,538,000 to \$40,859,000 as number of birds increased 31.5%. Price did not change. Other commodities showing significant gains in total value were alfalfa hay, peaches, almond hulls, chickens, silage corn, cotton seed, and wheat.

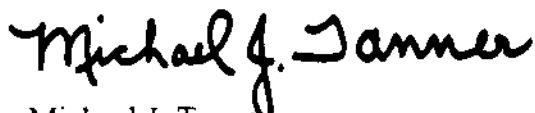
Market tomatoes for the second year in a row sustained the biggest loss in value of all commodities, dropping in value \$3,705,000 to \$31,143,000. Yield was down 7.6%, acreage by 3.8%, but price slightly up. Prunes dropped in total value to \$5,042,000, down \$2,027,000. Yield was down 24.1% and price by 6.7%.

Cattle and calves continued in a downward spiral falling to \$38,229,000 in total value, down \$1,863,000. Even though the number of head was up 5.9%, price fell by \$4.44 per hundred weight. Walnuts slipped in value to \$10,678,000, down \$1,723,000. Even though price was up 15.5%, yield dropped by 26.4%. Other commodities with significant declines in total value were figs, pistachios, and irrigated pasture.

This report addresses the acreage, production and gross value of agricultural production in Merced County. It does not attempt to reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing. This report also emphasizes an average production and average value of gross receipts. Value is based on farmgate prices except for fresh packed commodities which reflect an FOB, freight on board, price.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation of those persons who have provided the information and assistance necessary for my staff to compile this report under the direction of Mark Smith, Agricultural Biologist III. My thanks to my staff and the growers and industry members of Merced County who truly make AGRICULTURE our number one and most valued industry.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanne
Agricultural Commissioner

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1996	3,700	1.37	5,069	Ton	\$140.53	\$712,000
	1995	5,068	1.55	7,850	Ton	\$120.05	\$942,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1996	3,735	.99	3,698	Ton	\$895.53	\$3,312,000
	1995	3,135	1.30	4,075	Ton	\$757.62	\$3,087,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1996	3,828	.70	2,680	Ton	\$606.77	\$1,626,000
	1995	4,109	.94	3,868	Ton	\$569.46	\$2,203,000
CORN * (Grain)	1996	5,818	4.82	28,043	Ton	\$146.61	\$4,111,000
	1995	4,078	4.11	16,766	Ton	\$132.18	\$2,216,000
COTTON (Lint)	1996	84,835	1,350 Lbs.	229,055	500 Lb. Bale	\$416.17	\$95,326,000
	1995	83,405	1,115 Lbs.	186,041		\$415.96	\$77,385,000
COTTON (Seed)	1996	---	---	78,896	Ton	\$181.00	\$14,280,000
	1995	---	---	66,284	Ton	\$176.00	\$11,666,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1996	70,639	6.90	487,409	Ton	\$125.33	\$61,087,000
	1995	68,872	6.64	457,506	Ton	\$117.05	\$53,551,000
HAY (Alfalfa-Cube)	1996	4,221	6.52	27,521	Ton	\$139.91	\$3,850,000
	1995	4,068	4.67	19,000	Ton	\$130.00	\$2,470,000
HAY (Grain)	1996	18,017	2.93	52,790	Ton	\$76.57	\$4,042,000
	1995	18,303	3.14	57,445	Ton	\$70.06	\$4,024,000
HAY (Sudan)	1996	2,100	2.91	6,111	Ton	\$70.94	\$434,000
	1995	1,711	3.11	5,329	Ton	\$76.73	\$409,000
OATS (Grain)	1996	2,702	1.38	3,729	Ton	\$152.42	\$568,000
	1995	2,180	1.10	2,404	Ton	\$224.64	\$540,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1996	58,000	---	---	Acre	\$135.00	\$7,830,000
	1995	78,000	---	---	Acre	\$125.00	\$9,750,000
PASTURE (Other)	1996	569,500	---	---	Acre	\$17.00	\$9,682,000
	1995	549,500	---	---	Acre	\$17.00	\$9,340,000
RICE	1996	6,023	3.99	24,032	Ton	\$152.33	\$3,661,000
	1995	6,023	3.86	23,264	Ton	\$161.49	\$3,757,000
SAFFLOWER	1996	1,251	1.25	1,564	Ton	\$350.00	\$547,000
	1995	2,126	1.48	3,142	Ton	\$329.10	\$1,034,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1996	52,725	22.56	1,189,476	Ton	\$21.78	\$25,907,000
	1995	49,973	23.65	1,181,710	Ton	\$19.67	\$23,242,000
SILAGE ** (Other)	1996	56,214	9.40	528,412	Ton	\$21.42	\$11,319,000
	1995	55,108	10.95	603,389	Ton	\$17.50	\$10,558,000
SORGHUM (Grain)	1996	298	2.19	653	Ton	\$98.14	\$64,000
	1995	320	3.00	960	Ton	\$135.00	\$130,000
STRAW	1996	---	---	2,561	Ton	\$35.66	\$91,000
	1995	---	---	2,200	Ton	\$35.00	\$77,000
STUBBLE *** (Pasture)	1996	12,330	---	---	Acre	\$10.00	\$123,000
	1995	11,736	---	---	Acre	\$10.00	\$117,000
SUGAR BEETS	1996	4,818	28.61	137,843	Ton	\$43.67	\$6,020,000
	1995	7,080	27.07	191,648	Ton	\$36.96	\$7,083,000
WHEAT	1996	20,447	1.79	36,600	Ton	\$153.17	\$5,606,000
	1995	13,770	1.80	24,794	Ton	\$124.39	\$3,084,000
TOTAL	1996	981,201					\$260,198,000
	1995	956,829					\$226,665,000

* Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not fresh corn).

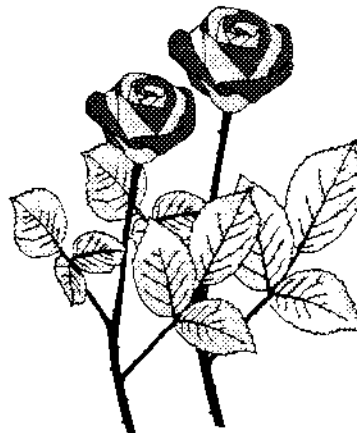
** Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Earlage, Oats, Rye, and Wheat.

*** Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats and Wheat. Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
TOTAL	1996	815	\$14,265,000
	1995	1,047	\$14,093,000

Includes Budwood, Pits and Cuttings; Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees; Dried Flowers, Grapevines; Greenhouse Plants; Roses; Strawberry Plants, Tomato and Other Vegetable Plants; Semi-Tropical Ornamental and Shade Trees; Shrubs; Ornamental Plants, and Christmas Trees. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FIREWOOD	1996	23,000	Cord	\$80.00	\$1,840,000
	1995	28,000	Cord	\$80.00	\$2,240,000
FUEL * (Cogeneration)	1996	40,000	Ton	\$14.00	\$560,000
	1995	45,000	Ton	\$15.00	\$675,000
MANURE **	1996	1,074,682	Ton	\$7.11	\$7,638,040
	1995	1,039,820	Ton	\$5.67	\$5,896,000
TOTAL	1996				\$10,038,000
	1995				\$8,811,000

* Almond Shells, Orchard Prunings, Orchard Removal (Recorded in Wet Tons)

** Livestock, Poultry

SEED CROPS



CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS * (Miscellaneous)	1996	438	---	---	---	---	\$129,000
	1995	419	---	---	---	---	\$200,000
TOTAL	1996	438					\$129,000
	1995	419					\$200,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS ** (Miscellaneous)	1996	1,260	---	---	---	---	\$454,000
	1995	1,573	---	---	---	---	\$637,000
TOTAL	1996	1,260					\$454,000
	1995	1,573					\$637,000

ALL SEED CROPS

	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	TOTAL
TOTAL	1996	1,698	\$583,000
	1995	1,992	\$837,000

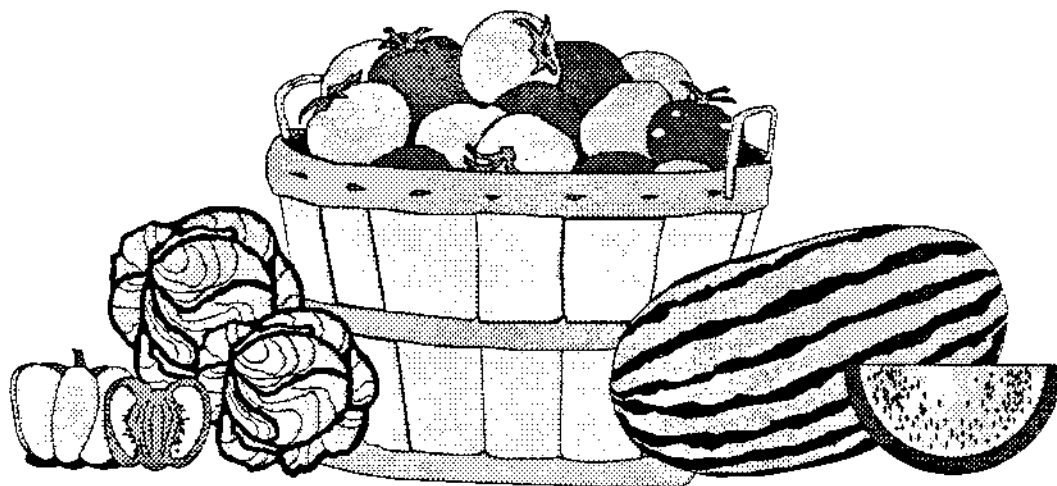
* Includes certified seed from Barley, Cotton, Oats, and Wheat.

** Includes common seed from Alfalfa, Broccoli, Carrot, Corn, Lettuce, Lima Bean, Oats, Rye, and Wheat.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (Freezer)	1996	3,563	1.47	5,237	Ton	\$441.03	\$2,310,000
	1995	3,220	1.73	5,570	Ton	\$440.00	\$2,451,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1996	6,920	487.75	3,375,230	40 Lb. Carton	\$5.06	\$17,079,000
	1995	7,713	452.34	3,566,047	Carton	\$4.96	\$17,701,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1996	886	20.00	17,720	Ton	\$136.67	\$2,422,000
	1995	783	20.83	16,308	Ton	\$195.05	\$3,181,000
MELONS (Other)	1996	1,874	9.55	17,897	Ton	\$257.71	\$4,612,000
	1995	2,639	5.60	14,782	Ton	\$250.22	\$3,699,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1996	870	1.80	1,566	Ton	\$344.99	\$540,000
	1995	1,128	1.45	1,634	Ton	\$290.00	\$474,000
PEPPERS, BELL (Market)	1996	941	12.06	11,348	Ton	\$382.68	\$4,343,000
	1995	553	12.35	6,827	Ton	\$433.00	\$2,956,000
SWEET POTATOES	1996	7,030	12.79	89,914	Ton	\$543.84	\$48,899,000
	1995	6,189	11.15	69,015	Ton	\$548.33	\$37,843,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1996	8,115	902.98	7,327,683	25 Lb. Carton	\$4.25	\$31,143,000
	1995	8,434	976.74	8,237,790	Carton	\$4.23	\$34,848,000
TOMATOES (Processing)	1996	12,108	34.94	423,054	Ton	\$52.72	\$22,303,000
	1995	11,141	36.96	411,821	Ton	\$53.33	\$21,963,000
VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous) *	1996	1,927	---	---	Ton	---	\$5,999,000
	1995	1,841	---	---	Ton	---	\$5,967,000
TOTAL	1996						\$139,650,000
	1995	43,641					\$131,083,000

- * Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celantro, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Dill, Eggplant, Endive, Garlic, Okra, Onions, Oriental Vegetables, Peanuts, Popcorn, Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radishes, String Beans, Sweet Corn, Squash, Tomatillos, Dried Tomatoes, and Processed Bell Peppers.

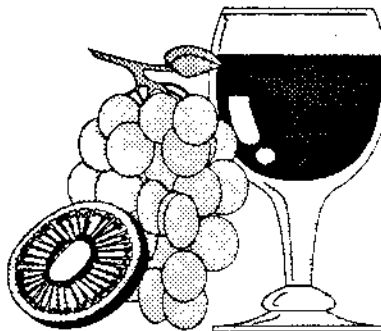


FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1996	71,736	.59	42,324	Ton	\$4,200.00	\$177,761,000
	1995	72,001	.39	28,436	Ton	\$4,960.00	\$141,043,000
ALMONDS (Hulls)	1996	---	---	102,439	Ton	\$83.98	\$8,603,000
	1995	---	---	68,135	Ton	\$80.11	\$5,458,000
APRICOTS	1996	1,917	6.58	12,614	Ton	\$323.00	\$4,074,000
	1995	1,905	3.34	6,354	Ton	\$332.10	\$2,110,000
FIGS (Dry)	1996	3,091	1.01	3,122	Ton	\$1,105.46	\$3,451,000
	1995	3,308	1.13	3,736	Ton	\$1,294.36	\$4,836,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1996	732	1.70	1,244	Ton	\$1,049.00	\$1,305,000
	1995	984	2.37	2,334	Ton	\$935.00	\$2,182,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1996	763	6.80	5,188	Ton	\$195.00	\$1,012,000
	1995	335	9.60	3,216	Ton	\$125.00	\$402,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1996	11,227	6.55	73,537	Ton	\$476.97	\$35,075,000
	1995	10,811	8.23	88,935	Ton	\$274.68	\$24,429,000
KIWI	1996	41	5.55	232	Ton	\$1,030.00	\$239,000
	1995	41	5.24	215	Ton	\$1,340.00	\$288,000
NECTARINES	1996	213	11.40	2,428	Ton	\$757.02	\$1,838,000
	1995	198	10.53	2,085	Ton	\$845.18	\$1,762,000
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1996	3,942	19.39	76,435	Ton	\$197.50	\$15,096,000
	1995	3,993	15.48	61,829	Ton	\$189.19	\$11,698,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1996	1,918	19.98	38,322	Ton	\$208.24	\$7,980,000
	1995	1,801	14.90	26,832	Ton	\$197.78	\$5,307,000
PISTACHIOS	1996	4,428	.55	2,435	Ton	\$2,428.47	\$5,913,000
	1995	4,336	.77	3,321	Ton	\$2,166.87	\$7,196,000
PLUMS	1996	202	4.20	848	Ton	\$609.93	\$517,000
	1995	184	5.20	956	Ton	\$689.00	\$659,000
PRUNES	1996	2,104	2.45	5,155	Ton	\$978.04	\$5,042,000
	1995	2,087	3.23	6,744	Ton	\$1,048.26	\$7,069,000
STRAWBERRIES	1996	566	15.08	8,535	Ton	\$500.00	\$4,268,000
	1995	639	11.36	7,262	Ton	\$649.27	\$4,715,000
WALNUTS (English)	1996	5,361	1.28	6,862	Ton	\$1,556.15	\$10,678,000
	1995	5,279	1.74	9,204	Ton	\$1,347.33	\$12,401,000
MISCELLANEOUS FROZEN FRUIT *	1996	---	---	7,570	Ton	\$105.42	\$798,000
	1995	---	---	13,284	Ton	\$41.52	\$552,000
MISCELLANEOUS **	1996	2,825	---	---	---	---	\$8,515,000
	1995	3,100	---	---	---	---	\$7,751,000
TOTAL	1996	111,066					\$292,075,000
	1995	111,002					\$239,858,000

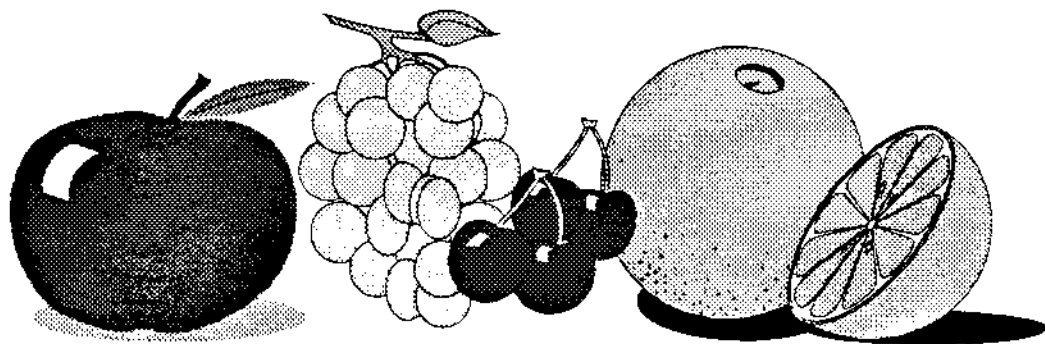
* Includes Berries, Grapes, and Melons.

** Includes Apples, Fresh Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans, Pears, Table Grapes, Cannery Figs, and Fresh Peaches



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 1996		YEAR 1991	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	71,736	6,604	62,912	6,352
APPLES	1,442	217	2,637	130
APRICOTS	1,917	142	1,684	152
BERRIES	230	20	95	20
CHERRIES	248	75	144	107
FIGS	3,341	92	3,359	0
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,495	0	1,825	0
GRAPES (Table)	248	175	216	27
GRAPES (Wine)	11,227	4,616	13,108	539
KIWI	41	0	37	0
MANDARINS	30	0	19	11
NECTARINES	213	15	209	21
OLIVES	61	0	45	13
ORANGES	47	0	48	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,942	239	3,802	1,263
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,918	390	1,630	278
PEARS	21	0	13	8
PECANS	44	0	38	10
PISTACHIOS	4,428	93	4,244	77
PLUMS	202	48	248	4
PRUNES	2,104	723	1,897	397
WALNUTS (English)	5,361	1,132	7,249	701
TOTAL	110,296	14,581	105,459	10,110



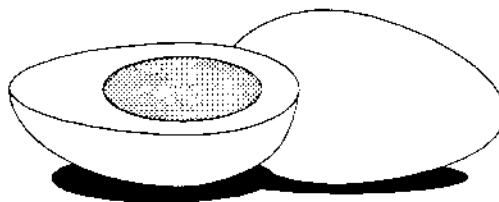
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1996	161,300	896,363	Cwt.	\$42.65	\$38,229,000
	1995	152,370	851,370	Cwt.	\$47.09	\$40,092,000
CHICKENS (Fryers and Broilers)	1996	75,540,686	373,170,988	Pound	\$0.340	\$126,878,000
	1995	76,256,089	375,179,958	Pound	\$0.330	\$123,809,000
CHICKENS (Other)	1996	1,132,594	4,379,271	Pound	\$0.070	\$307,000
	1995	959,306	3,456,591	Pound	\$0.120	\$405,000
GOATS	1996	2,400	---	Each	\$69.00	\$166,000
	1995	2,000	---	Each	\$45.00	\$90,000
OSTRICHES *	1996	2,500	---	---	---	\$2,331,000
	1995	1,665	---	---	---	\$2,001,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1996	30,680	52,704	Cwt.	\$57.35	\$3,023,000
	1995	30,857	50,992	Cwt.	\$56.65	\$2,889,000
POULTRY ** (Miscellaneous)	1996	55,000	129,500	Pound	\$3.27	\$423,000
	1995	53,500	125,750	Pound	\$3.27	\$411,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1996	38,370	38,929	Cwt.	\$76.26	\$2,969,000
	1995	37,800	38,351	Cwt.	\$63.00	\$2,416,000
TURKEYS	1996	3,701,215	92,861,875	Pound	\$0.440	\$40,859,000
	1995	2,815,336	68,164,918	Pound	\$0.440	\$30,321,000
TOTAL	1996					\$214,789,000
	1995					\$202,434,000

- * Includes Breeder Birds, Slaughter Birds, and Hides.
- ** Chuckar, Pheasant, Squab.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

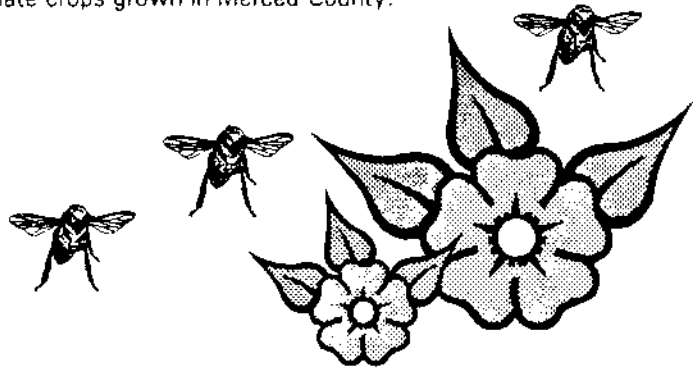
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS, CHICKEN (Market)	1996	63,473,745	Dozen	\$0.64	\$40,623,000
	1995	53,145,860	Dozen	\$0.49	\$25,856,000
EGGS (Hatching)	1996	9,002,161	Each	\$0.69	\$6,211,000
	1995	8,155,430	Each	\$0.66	\$5,415,000
MILK (Goat)	1996	24,238	Cwt.	\$29.27	\$709,000
	1995	25,188	Cwt.	\$28.00	\$705,000
MILK (Market)	1996	30,014,675	Cwt.	\$13.72	\$411,801,000
	1995	29,111,888	Cwt.	\$11.68	\$340,027,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1996	2,082,475	Cwt.	\$14.07	\$29,300,000
	1995	1,540,055	Cwt.	\$12.43	\$19,143,000
WOOL	1996	364,515	Pound	\$0.90	\$328,000
	1995	342,886	Pound	\$0.79	\$277,679
TOTAL	1996				\$488,972,000
	1995				\$391,424,000



BEE INDUSTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1996	32,189	Pound	\$2.25	\$72,000
	1995	18,550	Pound	\$2.02	\$37,000
BULK BEES *	1996	12,750	Pound	\$7.03	\$90,000
	1995	19,600	Pound	\$5.70	\$112,000
HONEY **	1996	2,339,053	Pound	\$0.80	\$1,871,000
	1995	1,416,500	Pound	\$0.67	\$953,000
POLLINATION ***	1996	152,888	Colony	\$35.47	\$5,423,000
	1995	154,832	Colony	\$31.87	\$4,934,000
QUEENS	1996	4,000	Each	\$6.00	\$24,000
	1995	4,300	Each	\$6.05	\$26,000
TOTAL	1996				\$7,480,000
	1995				\$6,062,000

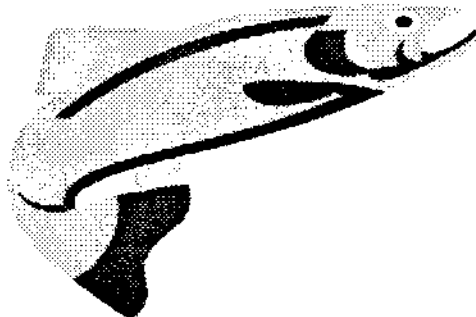
- * Includes bees sold as nuclei.
- ** Honey produced by 26,500 registered resident colonies in 1996 and 23,955 colonies for 1995.
- *** Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.



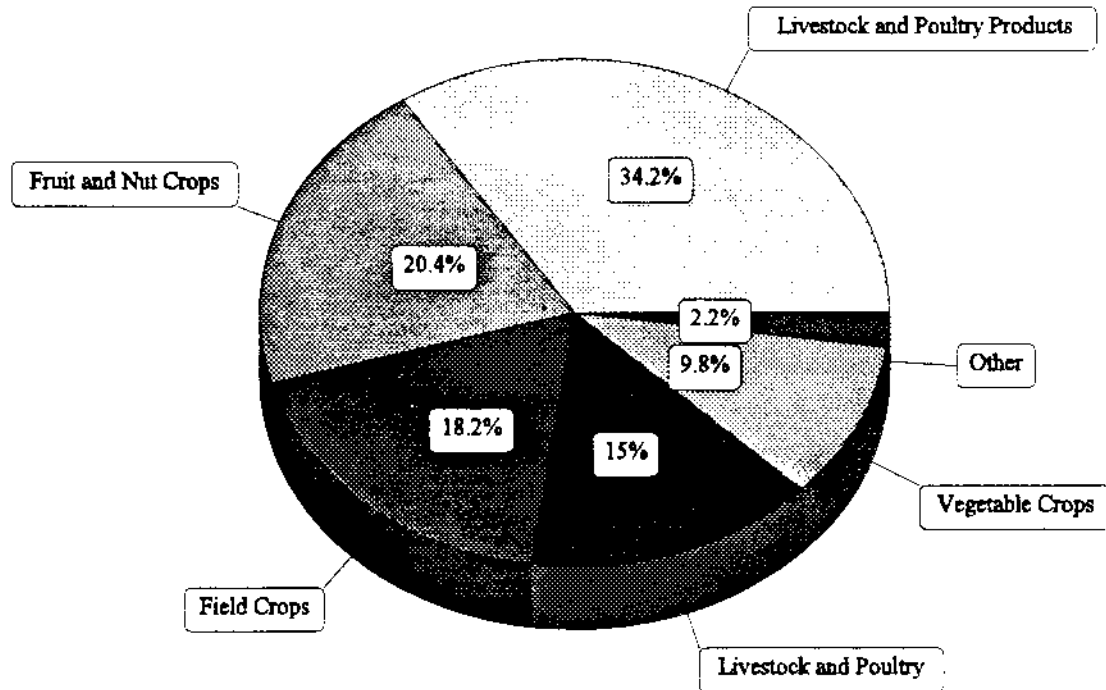
AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	1996	768,503	Pound	\$1.80	\$1,382,000
	1995	675,000	Pound	\$1.70	\$1,148,000
TOTAL	1996				\$1,382,000
	1995				\$1,148,000

- * Catfish, Trout, Bass



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$201,782	COTTON	\$8,667,425	SORGHUM	\$16,341
CORN	\$768,412	OATS	\$5,206	WHEAT	\$1,667,361
		RICE	\$1,872,329		

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

OATS	267 Acres	OAT HAY	20 Acres	MILO	112 Acres
PROCESSING TOMATOES	393 Acres	WATERMELONS	3 Acres	COTTON	148 Acres
SUDAN GRASS	65 Acres	STRAWBERRY NSY. STOCK	5 Acres	OLIVES	61 Acres

* Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1996. (Source: ASCS Office)

** The reported planted acreages were not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market or inability to harvest and transport.

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	1996	1995	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
AQUACULTURE	\$1,382,000	\$1,148,000	\$1,459,000	----	----	----	----
BEE INDUSTRY	\$7,480,000	\$6,062,000	\$4,672,000	\$3,464,000	\$2,812,000	\$1,493,200	\$484,200
FIELD CROPS	\$260,198,000	\$226,665,000	\$195,816,000	\$152,423,000	\$179,656,000	\$123,160,800	\$52,469,500
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$292,075,000	\$239,858,000	\$174,984,000	\$151,252,000	\$113,098,000	\$74,971,100	\$31,502,180
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	\$214,789,000	\$202,434,000	\$213,823,000	\$209,788,000	\$184,181,000	\$119,051,800	\$56,204,700
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$488,972,000	\$391,418,000	\$307,960,000	\$239,804,000	\$200,733,000	\$99,302,600	\$44,838,600
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$14,265,000	\$14,093,000	\$12,288,000	\$8,132,000	\$9,932,000	\$4,302,000	\$3,256,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$10,038,000	\$8,811,000	\$10,048,000	----	----	----	----
SEED CROPS	\$583,000	\$837,000	\$1,679,000	\$2,612,000	\$2,539,000	\$3,343,000	\$845,600
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$139,650,000	\$131,083,000	\$107,947,000	\$82,106,000	\$66,438,000	\$40,089,000	\$26,754,600
TOTAL	\$1,429,432,000	\$1,222,409,000	\$1,030,676,000	\$849,581,000	\$759,389,000	\$465,713,500	\$216,355,380

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1996

1. MILK	\$441,101,000	(1)
2. ALMONDS	\$177,761,000	(2)
3. CHICKENS	\$127,185,000	(3)
4. COTTON	\$95,326,000	(4)
5. ALFALFA	\$64,937,000	(6)
6. TOMATOES	\$53,446,000	(5)
7. SWEET POTATOES	\$48,899,000	(8)
8. TURKEYS	\$40,859,000	(9)
9. EGGS	\$40,623,000	(10)
10. CATTLE	\$38,229,000	(7)
11. GRAPES (WINE)	\$36,087,000	(11)
12. CORN SILAGE	\$25,907,000	(12)

(Number in parenthesis denotes 1995 ranking)

MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	ORGANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
GRAPELEAF SKELETONIZER <u>Harrisina brillians</u>	<u>Ametadoria misella</u> (Parasitic Fly) <u>WGLS Granulosis</u> (Virus) <u>Apanteles harrisinae</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
PUNCTURE VINE <u>Tribulus terrestris</u>	<u>Microlarinus larenyi</u> (Seed Weevil) <u>Microlarinus lypriformis</u> (Stem Weevil)	Countywide
MILK THISTLE <u>Silybum marianum</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Countywide
ITALIAN THISTLE <u>Carduus tenuiflorus</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Limited
YELLOWSTAR THISTLE <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	<u>Bangasternus orientalis</u> (Seed-Head Weevil) <u>Urophora sirunaseya</u> (Seed-Head Gall Fly) <u>Eustenopus villosus</u> (Hairy Weevil)	Countywide/Four New Sites North County Eight Sites
RUSSIAN THISTLE <u>Salsoia iberica</u>	<u>Coleophora klimeschiella</u> (Case Bearing Moth) <u>Coleophora parthenica</u> (Russian Thistle Borer)	Seven Sites
WATER HYACINTH <u>Eichornia crassipes</u>	<u>Sameodes albicuttalis</u> (Hyacinth Moth) <u>Neochetina eichorniae</u> (Mottled Hyacinth Weevil)	Six Sites
ASH WHITEFLY <u>Siphoninus phillyrea</u>	<u>Encarsia partenopea</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
KLAMATH WEED <u>Hypericum perforatum</u>	<u>Chrysolina quadrigemina</u> (Leaf Feeding Beetle)	Two Sites

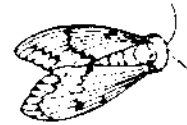
* Represents total number of individual sites, trees, acres, etc., incorporated in program efforts (survey, trap, servicings, releases, etc.)

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES
SWEET POTATOES	4	516
ALMONDS	11	461
GRAPES	2	70
PLUMS	2	11.5
PEACHES	3	20
ASIAN PEARS	1	10
POPCORN	1	55
WALNUTS	1	4
PERSIMMONS	1	1
NECTARINES	1	5
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES *	2	54

* Tomatoes, beans.

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING

PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	419
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	49
Melon Fly	Melons	55
Gypsy Moth	Trees	118
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	103
Khapra Beetle	Grain	135
European Corn Borer	Corn	5
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	2
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	6
Apple Maggot	Apples	109



PEST ERADICATION

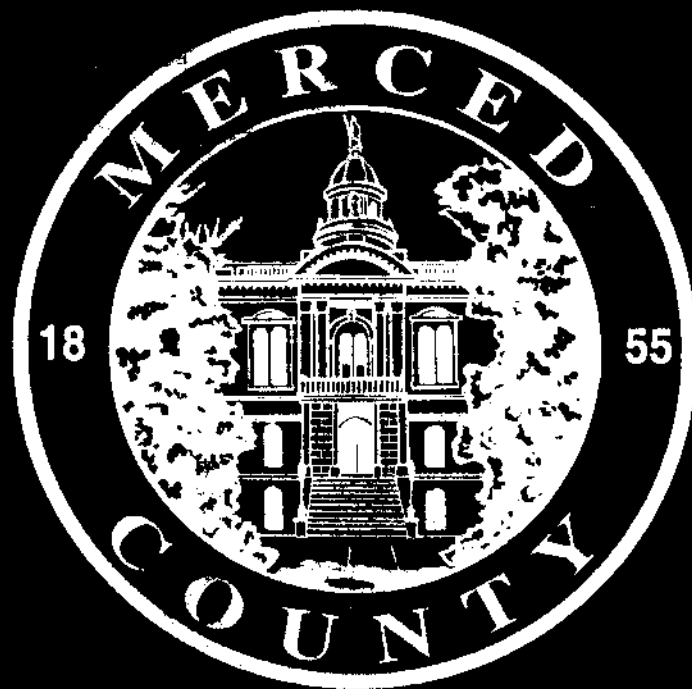
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State operated trapping program on 84,835 acres, combined with plowdown enforcement or host free period.
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potato	Successful eradication program completed in 1994. Starting detection trapping program in 1996.
PEST (WEED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Banana Waterlily	Waterways	Not detected/eradicated in 1993.
Water Hyacinth	Waterways	Ongoing eradication efforts - Merced River, San Joaquin, and tributaries.
Camelthorn	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.
Purple Mustard	Pasture/Roadways	Control/eradication efforts Countywide.
Carolina Horse Nettle	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.



PEST EXCLUSION

PEST (INTERCEPTED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Fire Ant	Paper Products	2 Rejected/Destroyed
Citrus Pest (Reasonable Cause)	Grapefruit	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Live Insects	Cut Flowers	2 Rejected/Destroyed

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1997

**MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MERCED, CALIFORNIA**

**MICHAEL J. TANNER, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
GARY CASERI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

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DISCLAIMER: NUMBERS WILL NOT COMPUTE EXACTLY DUE TO COMPUTER ROUNDING OF PRODUCTION AND PRICE RATES.

WHAT DOES THE DEPARTMENT DO?

The County Department of Agriculture is a regulatory agency performing under the auspices of the State Department of Food and Agriculture and Pesticide Regulation. The laws and programs under our jurisdiction are basically for the promotion and protection of the Agricultural Industry, the Consumer, and Public Health.

Under the County Department of Agriculture, there are three Divisions: Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights and Measures, and Animal Control. The Agricultural Commissioner Division is staffed with 25 permanent and 3 part-time employees; Sealer of Weights and Measures has 6 permanent employees; and Animal Control 12 permanent and 1 part-time employee.

Agricultural Commissioner

The Division is devoted to the enhancement and conservation of the environment, protection of public health, safety and welfare, as well as the promotion and protection of the number one industry in the County - Agriculture. This is achieved through the enforcement of State and Federal laws, County Ordinances and Policies of the Board of Supervisors.

Merced County's basic economy is from agriculture and it is one of the leading counties in the State of California. Merced County leads the State in the production of sweet potatoes and chickens. It is in the top five producing counties of the following commodities: alfalfa, almonds, cantaloupes, corn silage, cotton lint, cotton seed, chicken eggs, figs, hogs and pigs, milk and cream, oats, peaches, sheep and lambs, silage, sugar beets, fresh market tomatoes, turkeys, wool, irrigated pasture and rangeland.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

This Division is mandated to enforce the laws and regulations of the California Business and Professions Code and the California Code of Regulations pertaining to the office of County Director of Weights and Measures. This is accomplished by the testing and inspecting of weighing and measuring devices and packaged commodities. It also includes regulating persons that use measurement devices, or are making transactions in commerce based on weight or measurement. This function maintains and ensures equity in the market place between the buyer and seller. It also maintains and ensures that business can be conducted in a fair environment without unlawful or unfair business practices by competitors.

STAFF

Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Michael J. Tanner

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Gary Caseri

Deputy Director of Weights and Measures
Dennis L. Gudgel

Deputy Agricultural Commissioners
Daniel L. Cismowski
Clifton H. Piper

Agricultural Biologists

Robert J. Aguilar
Linda M. Buchholz
Eleanor C. Carlos
Valen E. Castellano

Randy G. Foote
Catherine M. Gilbert
Greg S. Gonzales
David P. Isola
Larry D. Lima

Loyd E. McCollum
Fred S. Michaelis
Charlene R. Parker
Mark E. Smith

Weights and Measures Inspectors

Karen S. Arburua
Kevin J. Gonzalves

Ronald E. Dobson
William E. Leslie

Ronald J. Dugdale

Automation Systems Analyst II

Michael J. Quinn

Administrative Services Staff

Terri L. Cruickshanks-Account Clerk III
Margaret L. Kohn-Typist Clerk III
Catherine Marks-Typist Clerk II

Victoria M. Painter-Typist Clerk II
D. Renee Rogge-Typist Clerk III
Shelly Tafoya-Office Supervisor

Fieldworker

Juventino Magana

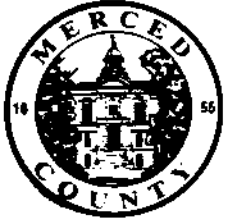
Agricultural Aides/Seasonal

Milford Esau

Jesus Molina

Tiffany A. Martin

Sheila K. Worthley



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner • Weights and Measures • Animal Control

2139 WARDROBE AVENUE
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340-6495
TELEPHONE (209) 886-7431

MICHAEL J. TANNER
*Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control*

GARY CASERI
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

**TO: Ms. Ann M. Veneman, Secretary-California Department of Food and
Agriculture and The Honorable Board of Supervisors**

Ms. Kathleen Crookham, Chairperson, District 2

Ms. Gloria Cortez Keene, District 1

Mr. Joe Rivero, District 3

Ms. Deidre Kelsey, District 4

Mr. Jerry O'Banion, District 5

It is my pleasure to submit the 1997 Merced County Report of Agriculture, in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code. This annual publication presents statistical information on the agricultural products produced in the County.

The 1997 total gross value of Merced County's leading industry is \$1,526,824,000, an all-time County high. This is \$97,392,000, or a 6.8% increase over 1996. A strong economy and demand for food and fiber worldwide created favorable markets for most commodities. Weather conditions throughout the year were near perfect for maximum production of most crops and products.

The year started out with heavy rains and flooding statewide caused by weather conditions referred to as the "pineapple express". The County escaped major devastation except along the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers. Losses and damage to agricultural production were estimated to be \$4,315,700.

After a string of steady increases, milk fell slightly to \$440,882,000, but is still the leading commodity in the County. Total production was up 7.25%, while value decreased 7.8% per hundred weight for market milk. Almonds remain as the number two crop at \$187,640,000, showing a 5.6% increase in value. Yield was up 41% to 1,660 pounds per acre. Price fell by \$0.54 per pound to \$1.56.

Fryer chickens, the third leading County commodity showed the highest gain in value of all commodities increasing to \$157,242,000, up \$30,364,000. This was due to a \$0.05 per pound price raise and production, up 6.1%. Wine grapes were valued at \$57,359,000, up

\$21,272,000 as a result of increased acreage and yield, higher by 3.15 tons per acre. However, price dropped by 8.2%. Alfalfa hay jumped in value to \$76,632,000. Acreage increased 4% and price by 11.3%. Sugarbeet acreage, after dropping almost one-half last year, was up 165%, resulting in an \$11,100,000 increase in value for a total of \$17,120,000. Other commodities showing significant gains in total value were silage corn, pistachios, cattle and calves, cantaloupe, hatching eggs, market tomatoes, and almond hulls.

Turkeys sustained the biggest loss in value of all commodities after posting a 35% gain in 1996. Value dropped to \$28,905,000 as the number of birds decreased 9.7% and price fell by \$0.03 per pound. Cotton, the fourth leading County commodity, decreased in value by \$8,406,000 to \$86,920,000, despite a County record yield of 1,440 pounds per acre. Acreage was down 4.8% and price 10.3% to 74.6 cents per pound. Sweet potatoes, after posting a record value last year, declined in value to \$40,841,000, down \$8,058,000. Price fell 16.2% with yield down slightly. Other commodities with significant declines in total value were processing tomatoes, bell peppers, other melons, and hogs and pigs.

This report addresses the acreage, production and gross value of agricultural production in Merced County. It does not attempt to reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing. This report also emphasizes an average production and average value of gross receipts. Value is based on farmgate prices, except for fresh packed commodities which reflect an FOB (freight on board) price.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation of those persons who have provided the information and assistance necessary for my staff to compile this report under the direction of Mark Smith, Agricultural Biologist III. My thanks to my staff and the growers and industry members of Merced County who truly make AGRICULTURE our number one and most valued industry.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1997	4,545	1.98	9,012	Ton	\$119.88	\$1,080,000
	1996	3,700	1.37	5,069	Ton	\$140.53	\$712,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1997	3,321	1.24	4,123	Ton	\$719.39	\$2,966,000
	1996	3,735	.99	3,698	Ton	\$895.53	\$3,312,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1997	4,688	.66	3,081	Ton	\$566.49	\$1,745,000
	1996	3,828	.70	2,680	Ton	\$606.77	\$1,626,000
CORN * (Grain)	1997	7,010	4.66	32,638	Ton	\$121.79	\$3,975,000
	1996	5,818	4.82	28,043	Ton	\$146.61	\$4,111,000
COTTON (Lint)	1997	80,772	1,440 Lbs.	232,941	500 Lb. Bale	\$373.14	\$86,920,000
	1996	84,835	1,350 Lbs.	229,055		\$416.17	\$95,326,000
COTTON (Seed)	1997	----	----	72,551	Ton	\$190.55	\$13,825,000
	1996	----	----	78,896	Ton	\$181.00	\$14,280,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1997	75,859	7.10	538,527	Ton	\$139.46	\$75,103,000
	1996	70,639	6.90	487,409	Ton	\$125.33	\$61,087,000
HAY (Alfalfa-Cube)	1997	2,073	6.90	14,305	Ton	\$106.88	\$1,529,000
	1996	4,221	6.52	27,521	Ton	\$139.91	\$3,850,000
HAY (Grain)	1997	18,444	2.99	55,116	Ton	\$93.61	\$5,160,000
	1996	18,017	2.93	52,790	Ton	\$76.57	\$4,042,000
HAY (Sudan)	1997	3,071	3.01	9,244	Ton	\$84.68	\$783,000
	1996	2,100	2.91	6,111	Ton	\$70.94	\$434,000
OATS (Grain)	1997	2,755	1.33	3,676	Ton	\$189.63	\$697,000
	1996	2,702	1.38	3,729	Ton	\$152.42	\$568,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1997	58,500	----	----	Acre	\$150.00	\$8,775,000
	1996	58,000	----	----	Acre	\$135.00	\$7,830,000
PASTURE (Other)	1997	569,000	----	----	Acre	\$17.00	\$9,673,000
	1996	569,500	----	----	Acre	\$17.00	\$9,682,000
RICE	1997	4,802	3.88	18,630	Ton	\$157.61	\$2,936,000
	1996	6,023	3.99	24,032	Ton	\$152.33	\$3,661,000
SAFFLOWER	1997	1,107	1.09	1,208	Ton	\$362.43	\$438,000
	1996	1,251	1.25	1,564	Ton	\$350.00	\$547,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1997	57,891	26.99	1,562,526	Ton	\$21.31	\$33,301,000
	1996	52,725	22.56	1,189,476	Ton	\$21.78	\$25,907,000
SILAGE ** (Other)	1997	60,270	8.89	536,059	Ton	\$22.40	\$12,006,000
	1996	56,214	9.40	528,412	Ton	\$21.42	\$11,319,000
SORGHUM (Grain)	1997	315	1.56	490	Ton	\$100.11	\$49,000
	1996	298	2.19	653	Ton	\$98.14	\$64,000
STRAW ***	1997	----	----	2,609	Ton	\$36.00	\$94,000
	1996	----	----	2,561	Ton	\$35.66	\$91,000
STUBBLE **** (Pasture)	1997	12,839	----	----	Acre	\$8.11	\$104,000
	1996	12,330	----	----	Acre	\$10.00	\$123,000
SUGAR BEETS	1997	12,777	29.49	376,792	Ton	\$45.44	\$17,120,000
	1996	4,818	28.61	137,843	Ton	\$43.67	\$6,020,000
WHEAT	1997	20,010	2.38	47,683	Ton	\$130.06	\$6,201,000
	1996	20,447	1.79	36,600	Ton	\$153.17	\$5,606,000
TOTAL	1997	987,210					\$284,480,000
	1996	981,201					\$260,198,000

- * Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not fresh corn).
- ** Includes Alfalfa, Earlage, Oats, Rye, Wheat, Clover, Sorghum, and Winter Forage.
- *** Includes Barley, Oats, Wheat, Dry Beans and Rice.
- **** Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

NURSERY PRODUCTS



	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
TOTAL	1997	1,140	\$15,833,000
	1996	815	\$14,265,000

Includes Budwood, Pits and Cuttings; Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees; Dried Flowers, Grapevines; Greenhouse Plants; Roses; Strawberry Plants, Tomato and Other Vegetable Plants; Semi-Tropical Ornamental and Shade Trees; Shrubs; Ornamental Plants, and Christmas Trees. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FIREWOOD	1997	22,547	Cord	\$85.00	\$1,916,000
	1996	23,000	Cord	\$80.00	\$1,840,000
FUEL * (Cogeneration)	1997	55,217	Ton	\$9.19	\$507,000
	1996	40,000	Ton	\$14.00	\$560,000
MANURE **	1997	1,236,977	Ton	\$7.28	\$9,005,000
	1996	1,074,682	Ton	\$7.11	\$7,638,040
TOTAL	1997				\$11,428,000
	1996				\$10,038,000

- * Almond Shells, Orchard Prunings, Orchard Removal (Recorded in Wet Tons)
- ** Livestock, Poultry

SEED CROPS



CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS * (Miscellaneous)	1997	1,231	---	---	---	---	\$487,000
	1996	438	---	---	---	---	\$129,000
TOTAL	1997	1,231					\$487,000
	1996	438					\$129,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS ** (Miscellaneous)	1997	2,142	---	---	---	---	\$808,000
	1996	1,260	---	---	---	---	\$454,000
TOTAL	1997	2,142					\$808,000
	1996	1,260					\$454,000

ALL SEED CROPS

	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	TOTAL
TOTAL	1997	3,373	\$1,295,000
	1996	1,698	\$583,000

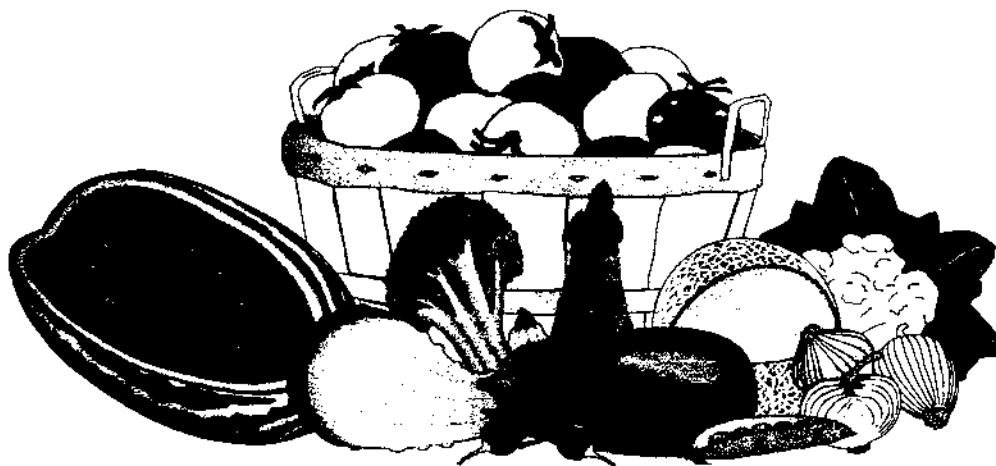
* Includes certified seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Blackeye Beans, and Cotton.

** Includes common seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Broccoli, Carrot, Corn, Cucumber, Lima Bean, Oats, Onion, Rye, Squash, Watermelon and Wheat.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (Freezer)	1997	3,964	1.65	6,522	Ton	\$440.28	\$2,871,000
	1996	3,563	1.47	5,237	Ton	\$441.03	\$2,310,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1997	8,850	493.24	4,365,144	40 Lb. Carton	\$4.98	\$21,738,000
	1996	6,920	487.75	3,375,230	Carton	\$5.06	\$17,079,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1997	841	16.00	13,456	Ton	\$133.08	\$1,791,000
	1996	886	20.00	17,720	Ton	\$136.67	\$2,422,000
MELONS (Other)	1997	1,530	8.09	12,379	Ton	\$278.61	\$3,449,000
	1996	1,874	9.55	17,897	Ton	\$257.71	\$4,612,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1997	587	0.94	549	Ton	\$226.40	\$124,000
	1996	870	1.80	1,566	Ton	\$344.99	\$540,000
PEPPERS, BELL (Market)	1997	622	14.53	9,038	Ton	\$334.07	\$3,019,000
	1996	941	12.06	11,348	Ton	\$382.68	\$4,343,000
SWEET POTATOES	1997	7,227	12.40	89,615	Ton	\$455.74	\$40,841,000
	1996	7,030	12.79	89,914	Ton	\$543.84	\$48,899,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1997	8,071	923.78	7,455,859	25 Lb. Carton	\$4.54	\$33,865,000
	1996	8,115	902.98	7,327,683	Carton	\$4.25	\$31,143,000
TOMATOES (Processing)	1997	10,979	38.02	417,429	Ton	\$50.12	\$20,922,000
	1996	12,108	34.94	423,054	Ton	\$52.72	\$22,303,000
VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous) *	1997	2,051	----	----	---	----	\$6,587,000
	1996	1,927	----	----	---	----	\$5,999,000
TOTAL	1997	44,722					\$135,207,000
	1996	44,234					\$139,650,000

* Includes Artichoke, Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cactus Pear, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Oriental Vegetables, Popcorn, Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radishes, String Beans, Sweet Corn, Spinach, Squash, Tomatillos, Dried Tomatoes, and Processed Chili Peppers.



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1997	72,186	0.83	60,180	Ton	\$3,117.99	\$187,640,000
	1996	71,736	0.59	42,324	Ton	\$4,200.00	\$177,761,000
ALMONDS (Hulls)	1997	---	---	130,890	Ton	\$83.87	\$10,977,000
	1996	---	---	102,439	Ton	\$83.98	\$8,603,000
APRICOTS	1997	1,856	7.26	13,478	Ton	\$252.44	\$3,402,000
	1996	1,917	6.58	12,614	Ton	\$323.00	\$4,074,000
FIGS (Dry)	1997	3,015	1.38	4,160	Ton	\$1,216.78	\$5,062,000
	1996	3,091	1.01	3,122	Ton	\$1,105.46	\$3,451,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1997	1,277	2.17	2,771	Ton	\$825.00	\$2,286,000
	1996	732	1.70	1,244	Ton	\$1,049.00	\$1,305,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1997	174	8.67	1,508	Ton	\$184.00	\$277,000
	1996	763	6.80	5,188	Ton	\$195.00	\$1,012,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1997	13,440	9.70	130,349	Ton	\$437.92	\$57,082,000
	1996	11,227	6.55	73,537	Ton	\$476.97	\$35,075,000
KIWI	1997	33	9.33	308	Ton	\$1,020.00	\$314,000
	1996	41	5.66	232	Ton	\$1,030.00	\$239,000
NECTARINES	1997	198	5.27	1,042	Ton	\$1,261.54	\$1,315,000
	1996	213	11.40	2,428	Ton	\$757.02	\$1,838,000
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1997	3,985	18.74	74,686	Ton	\$216.73	\$16,186,000
	1996	3,942	19.39	76,435	Ton	\$197.50	\$15,096,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1997	1,970	22.44	44,201	Ton	\$209.02	\$9,239,000
	1996	1,918	19.98	38,322	Ton	\$208.24	\$7,980,000
PISTACHIOS	1997	4,611	1.01	4,661	Ton	\$2,365.50	\$11,026,000
	1996	4,428	0.55	2,435	Ton	\$2,428.47	\$5,913,000
PLUMS	1997	240	3.45	828	Ton	\$631.68	\$523,000
	1996	202	4.20	848	Ton	\$609.93	\$517,000
PRUNES	1997	2,134	2.87	6,118	Ton	\$1,145.95	\$7,011,000
	1996	2,104	2.45	5,155	Ton	\$978.04	\$5,042,000
STRAWBERRIES	1997	518	12.00	6,217	Ton	\$605.62	\$3,765,000
	1996	566	15.08	8,535	Ton	\$500.00	\$4,268,000
WALNUTS (English)	1997	4,925	1.57	7,755	Ton	\$1,446.05	\$11,214,000
	1996	5,361	1.28	6,862	Ton	\$1,556.15	\$10,678,000
MISCELLANEOUS FROZEN FRUIT *	1997	---	---	3,899	Ton	\$180.76	\$705,000
	1996	---	---	7,570	Ton	\$105.42	\$798,000
MISCELLANEOUS**	1997	3,301	---	---	---	---	\$9,318,000
	1996	2,825	---	---	---	---	\$8,515,000
TOTAL	1997	113,923					\$337,342,000
	1996	111,066					\$292,075,000

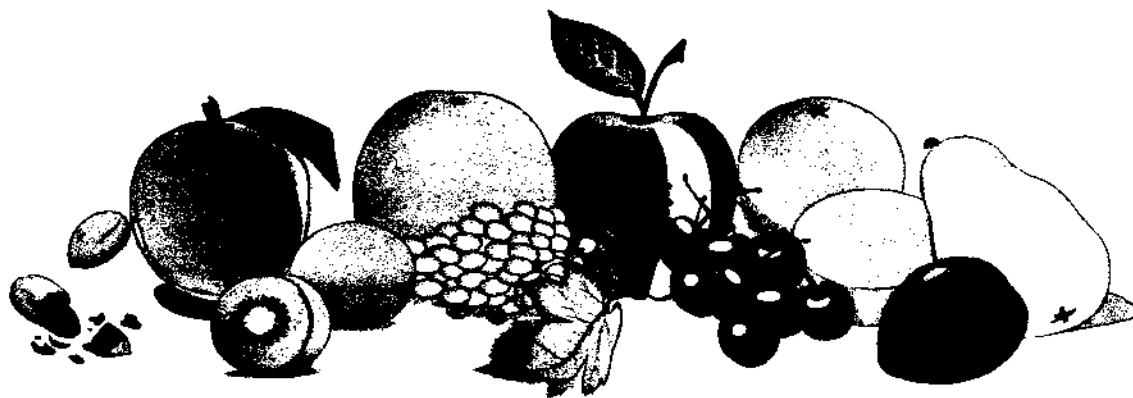
* Includes Berries, Grapes, Melons and Peaches.

** Includes Apples, Fresh Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans, Pears, Plumcots, Table Grapes, Cannery and Fresh Figs, and Fresh Peaches.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 1997		YEAR 1992	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	72,186	7,846	61,951	5,893
APPLES	1,431	152	2,640	146
APRICOTS	1,946	72	1,579	103
BERRIES	230	0	95	40
CHERRIES	258	65	152	39
FIGS	3,188	62	3,315	0
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,451	11	1,655	0
GRAPES (Table)	423	0	243	6
GRAPES (Wine)	13,440	2,547	11,331	294
KIWI	33	0	37	0
MANDARINS	19	0	19	11
NECTARINES	198	13	164	37
OLIVES	60	0	66	0
ORANGES	47	0	48	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,985	111	3,469	540
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,970	338	1,580	373
PEARS	21	0	13	8
PECANS	42	5	37	10
PISTACHIOS	4,411	116	4,244	77
PLUMS	240	3	205	21
PRUNES	2,134	667	2,068	243
WALNUTS (English)	4,925	1,219	6,806	659
TOTAL	112,617	13,227	101,742	8,500



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1997	140,138	933,450	Cwt.	\$46.17	\$43,098,000
	1996	161,300	896,363	Cwt.	\$42.65	\$38,229,000
CHICKENS (Fryers and Broilers)	1997	80,167,006	403,185,635	Pound	\$0.39	\$157,242,000
	1996	75,540,686	373,170,988	Pound	\$0.34	\$126,878,000
CHICKENS * (Other)	1997	1,026,369	4,108,421	Pound	\$0.19	\$781,000
	1996	1,132,594	4,379,271	Pound	\$0.07	\$307,000
GOATS	1997	1,500	---	---	\$64.00	\$96,000
	1996	2,400	---	---	\$69.00	\$166,000
OSTRICHES ** (AND EMU)	1997	4,964	---	---	---	\$3,434,000
	1996	2,500	---	---	---	\$2,331,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1997	19,266	31,218	Cwt.	\$63.66	\$1,987,000
	1996	30,680	52,704	Cwt.	\$57.35	\$3,023,000
POULTRY *** (Miscellaneous)	1997	55,000	127,500	Pound	\$3.37	\$430,000
	1996	55,000	129,500	Pound	\$3.27	\$423,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1997	33,254	37,475	Cwt.	\$88.60	\$3,320,000
	1996	38,370	38,929	Cwt.	\$76.26	\$2,969,000
TURKEYS	1997	3,343,059	69,678,648	Pound	\$0.41	\$28,905,000
	1996	3,701,215	92,861,875	Pound	\$0.44	\$40,859,000
TOTAL	1997					\$239,293,000
	1996					\$214,789,000

* Includes Meat Layers, and Pullets.
 ** Includes Breeder Birds, Slaughter Birds, Hides, and Blown Dry Eggs.
 *** Chuckar and Pheasant.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS, CHICKEN (Market)	1997	67,338,360	Dozen	\$0.61	\$41,076,000
	1996	63,473,745	Dozen	\$0.64	\$40,623,000
EGGS (Hatching)	1997	6,758,642	Each	\$1.40	\$9,462,000
	1996	9,002,161	Each	\$0.69	\$6,211,000
MILK (Goat)	1997	34,170	Cwt.	\$28.00	\$957,000
	1996	24,238	Cwt.	\$29.27	\$709,000
MILK (Market)	1997	34,373,559	Cwt.	\$12.65	\$434,826,000
	1996	30,014,675	Cwt.	\$13.72	\$411,801,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1997	507,205	Cwt.	\$11.94	\$6,056,000
	1996	2,082,475	Cwt.	\$14.07	\$29,300,000
WOOL	1997	29,925	Pound	\$0.90	\$256,000
	1996	364,515	Pound	\$0.90	\$328,000
TOTAL	1997				\$492,633,000
	1996				\$488,972,000

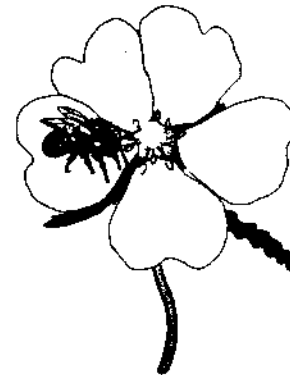


BEE INDUSTRY



ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1997	44,924	Pound	\$1.89	\$85,000
	1996	32,189	Pound	\$2.25	
BULK BEES *	1997	46,600	Pound	\$5.96	\$278,000
	1996	12,750	Pound	\$7.03	
HONEY **	1997	1,920,069	Pound	\$0.66	\$1,927,000
	1996	2,339,053	Pound	\$0.80	
POLLINATION ***	1997	154,784	Colony	\$36.29	\$5,617,000
	1996	152,888	Colony	\$35.47	
QUEENS	1997	31,933	Each	\$3.93	\$126,000
	1996	4,000	Each	\$6.00	
TOTAL	1997				\$8,033,000
	1996				\$7,480,000

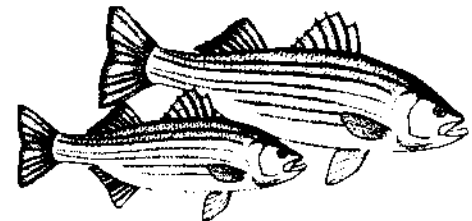
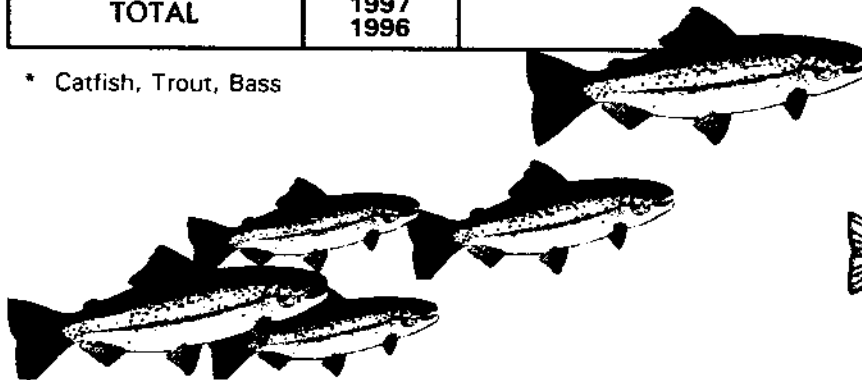
- * Includes bees sold as nuclei.
- ** Honey produced by 26,500 registered resident colonies in 1996 and 23,955 colonies for 1995.
- *** Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.



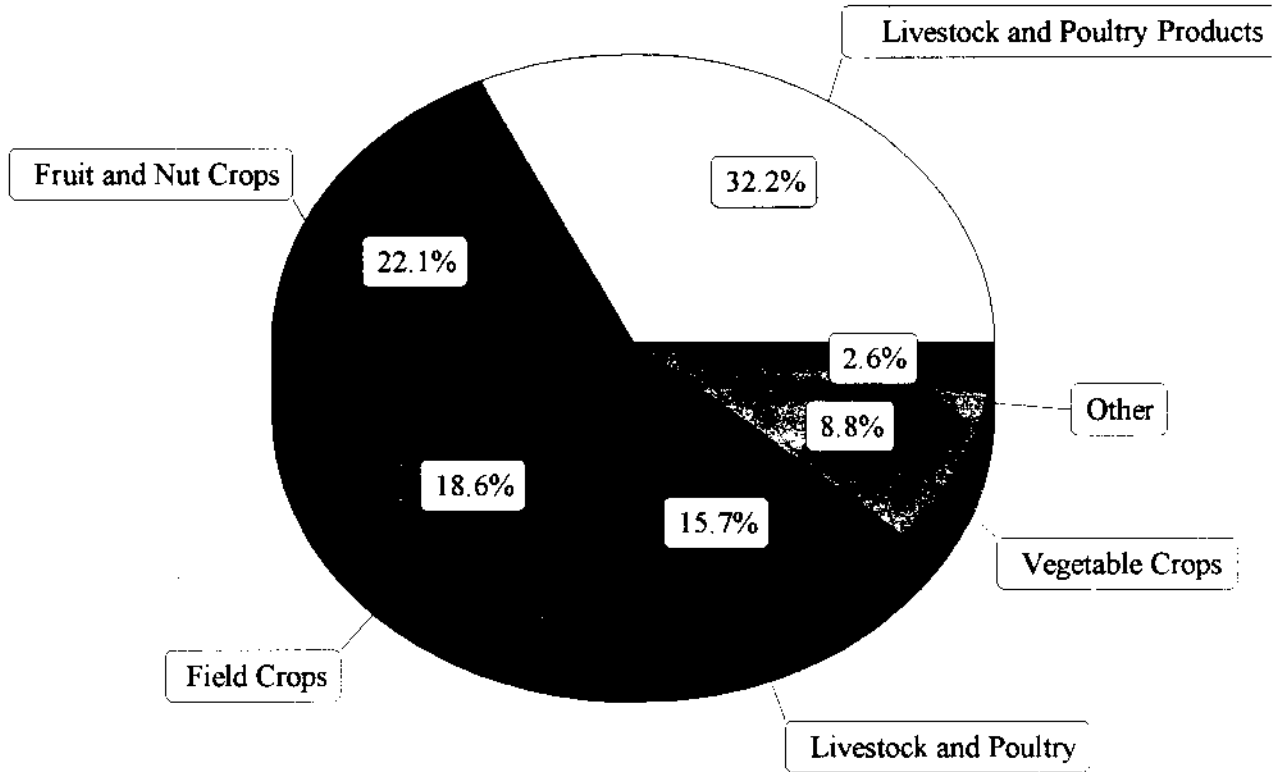
AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	1997	695,814	Pound	\$1.84	\$1,280,000
	1996	768,503	Pound	\$1.80	
TOTAL	1997				\$1,280,000
	1996				\$1,382,000

- * Catfish, Trout, Bass



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$106,491	COTTON	\$4,535,623	SORGHUM	\$15,217
CORN	\$901,848	OATS	\$3,128	WHEAT	\$700,497
		RICE	\$1,109,931		

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

GRAIN CROPS	2,490 Acres	APRICOTS	90 Acres	EGGPLANT	17 Acres
ALMONDS	10 Acres	FREEZER LIMA BEANS	6 Acres	COTTON	40 Acres
ALFALFA	1,520 Acres	STRAWBERRY NSY. STOCK	15 Acres	ORIENTAL VEGETABLES	10 Acres

* Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1997. (Source: ASCS Office)

** The reported planted acreages were not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market or inability to harvest and transport. Acreages not included in total acres of each crop in 1997.

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	1997	1996	1992	1987	1982	1977	1972
AQUACULTURE	\$1,280,000	\$1,382,000	\$2,193,000	---	---	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$8,033,000	\$7,480,000	\$4,631,000	\$3,385,000	\$3,616,000	\$1,600,200	\$632,600
FIELD CROPS	\$284,480,000	\$260,198,000	\$200,689,000	\$174,576,000	\$171,140,000	\$111,041,500	\$61,909,200
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$337,342,000	\$292,075,000	\$209,267,000	\$209,000,000	\$109,865,000	\$100,481,500	\$40,578,170
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	\$239,293,000	\$214,789,000	\$201,835,000	\$206,816,000	\$170,649,000	\$119,294,800	\$57,198,600
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$492,633,000	\$488,972,000	\$318,356,000	\$256,988,000	\$208,651,000	\$104,095,500	\$55,281,400
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$15,833,000	\$14,265,000	\$11,212,000	\$8,244,000	\$9,214,000	\$6,430,000	\$3,427,800
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$11,428,000	\$10,038,000	\$8,901,000	---	---	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$1,295,000	\$583,000	\$1,726,000	\$1,985,000	\$2,015,000	\$3,683,000	\$1,232,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$135,207,000	\$139,650,000	\$111,371,000	\$81,488,000	\$67,880,000	\$60,742,800	\$24,370,000
TOTAL	\$1,526,824,000	\$1,429,432,000	\$1,070,181,000	\$942,482,000	\$743,030,000	\$507,369,100	\$244,629,770



TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1997

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|------|
| 1. MILK | \$440,882,000 | (1) |
| 2. ALMONDS | \$187,640,000 | (2) |
| 3. CHICKENS | \$158,023,000 | (3) |
| 4. COTTON | \$86,920,000 | (4) |
| 5. ALFALFA | \$76,632,000 | (5) |
| 6. GRAPES (WINE) | \$57,359,000 | (11) |
| 7. TOMATOES | \$54,787,000 | (6) |
| 8. CATTLE | \$43,098,000 | (10) |
| 9. EGGS | \$41,076,000 | (9) |
| 10. SWEET POTATOES | \$40,841,000 | (7) |
| 11. CORN SILAGE | \$33,301,000 | (12) |
| 12. TURKEYS | \$28,905,000 | (8) |

(Number in parenthesis denotes 1996 ranking)

MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	ORGANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
GRAPELEAF SKELETONIZER <u>Harrisina brillians</u>	<u>Ametadoria misella</u> (Parasitic Fly) <u>WGLS Granulosis</u> (Virus) <u>Apanteles harrisinae</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
PUNCTURE VINE <u>Tribulus terrestris</u>	<u>Microlarinus laevynii</u> (Seed Weevil) <u>Microlarinus lypriformis</u> (Stem Weevil)	Countywide
MILK THISTLE <u>Silybum marianum</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Countywide
ITALIAN THISTLE <u>Carduus tenuiflorus</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Limited
YELLOWSTAR THISTLE <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	<u>Bangasternus orientalis</u> (Seed-Head Weevil) <u>Urophora sirunaseva</u> (Seed-Head Gall Fly) <u>Eustenopus villosus</u> (Hairy Weevil)	Countywide/Eight New Sites North County Thirteen Sites
RUSSIAN THISTLE <u>Salsola sp.</u>	<u>Coleophora klimeschiella</u> (Case Bearing Moth) <u>Coleophora parthenica</u> (Russian Thistle Borer)	Countywide
WATER HYACINTH <u>Eichornia crassipes</u>	<u>Sameodes albiquittalis</u> (Hyacinth Moth) <u>Neochetina eichhorniae</u> (Mottled Hyacinth Weevil)	Six Sites
ASH WHITEFLY <u>Siphoninus phillyrea</u>	<u>Encarsia inaron</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
KLAMATH WEED <u>Hypericum perforatum</u>	<u>Chrysolina quadrigemina</u> (Leaf Feeding Beetle)	Two Sites

* Represents total number of individual sites, trees, acres, etc., incorporated in program efforts (survey, trap, servicing, releases, etc.)

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES
SWEET POTATOES	7	516
ALMONDS	19	786
GRAPES	3	102
PLUMS	2	11.5
PEACHES	3	95
ASIAN PEARS	1	10
POPCORN	1	48
WALNUTS	2	69
PERSIMMONS	1	1
NECTARINES	1	5
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES *	2	54

* Tomatoes, beans.

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING

PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	430
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	54
Melon Fly	Melons	55
Gypsy Moth	Trees	115
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	150
Khapra Beetle	Grain	137
European Corn Borer	Corn	5
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	6
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	6
Apple Maggot	Apples	173
Cherry Fruit Flies	Cherries	20
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes	61



PEST ERADICATION

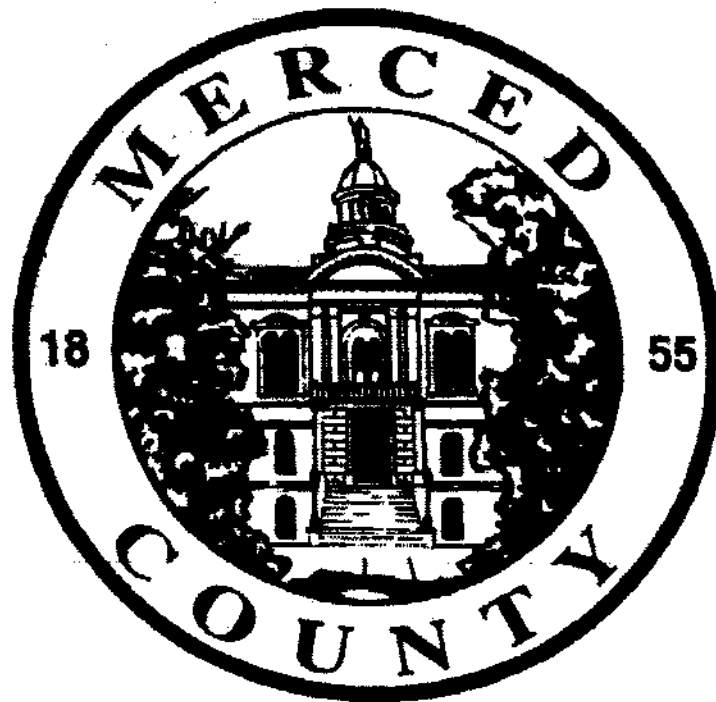
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State operated trapping program on 80,772 acres, combined with plowdown enforcement or host free period.
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potato	Successful eradication program completed in 1994. Resumed detection trapping program in 1996.
PEST (WEED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Banana Waterlily	Waterways	None detected since eradication project in 1993.
Water Hyacinth	Waterways	Ongoing eradication efforts - Merced River, San Joaquin, and tributaries.
Hydrilla	Waterways	Ongoing detection.
Camelthorn	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.
Purple Mustard	Pasture/Roadways	Control/eradication efforts Countywide.
Carolina Horse Nettle	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.



PEST EXCLUSION

PEST (INTERCEPTED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Live Ants	Cut Flower (Hawaii)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Live Insects	Banana Cracker (Singapore) Raw Peanut (Thailand) Unknown Roots (Thailand)	1 Rejected/Destroyed 1 Rejected/Destroyed 1 Rejected/Released
Citrus Canker	Citrus Leaves (Thailand)	2 Rejected/Destroyed

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1998

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL J. TANNER, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
GARY CASERI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

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DISCLAIMER: NUMBERS WILL NOT COMPUTE EXACTLY DUE TO COMPUTER ROUNDING OF PRODUCTION AND PRICE RATES.

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Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Gary Caseri

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Carla M. Flint-Office Supervisor	Catherine Marks-Typist Clerk II
Jacqueline L. Gonzalves-Typist Clerk III	Victoria M. Painter-Typist Clerk II

Fieldworker
Juventino Magana

Agricultural Aides/Seasonal

Kamaljit Bagri	Brian F. Johnson	Tiffany A. Martin
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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MICHAEL J. TANNER
*Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control*

GARY CASERI
*Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control*

TO: Mr. William J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary-California Department of Food and Agriculture and The Honorable Board of Supervisors

Ms. Deidre Kelsey, District 4, Chairperson
Ms. Gloria Cortez Keene, District 1
Ms. Kathleen Crookham, District 2
Mr. Joe Rivero, District 3
Mr. Jerry O'Banion, District 5

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, I am pleased to submit the 1998 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This annual publication presents statistical information on the agricultural products produced in the County.

The 1998 total gross value of Merced County's leading industry is \$1,449,754,000. This represents a 5% decrease, \$77,070,000, below the 1997 all-time County high gross value of production. This reduction was a direct result of the El Niño weather pattern during 1998.

Excessive, continuous rainfall and flooding the first half of the year delayed planting and caused a shorter than normal growing season, thus a decline in most crop categories. This was followed by below normal temperatures for the remainder of the growing season and year. Direct disaster losses and damage to County agricultural production were estimated to be in excess of \$14,010,000 from the El Niño phenomenon.

The dairy industry continues to lead Merced County's agriculture. Milk surged to \$526,161,000, an \$85,279,000 jump from 1997, far leading all County commodities. It represents 36.3% of the entire gross agricultural value in the Crop Report. Total production was down slightly, but value increased 19.3% per hundred weight of market milk.

Fryer chickens moved into second place valued at \$162,136,000, up \$4,894,000, due to a one-cent per pound price raise and production up 1%. Market tomatoes showed an impressive gain in value to \$49,204,000, up \$15,339,000. This was because of a 943 acre increase and price up \$1.98 per carton. However, yield was down 9%.

Sweet potatoes were valued at \$45,530,000, an increase of \$4,689,000 as a result of an 8.7% increase in acreage, with price up slightly. Other commodities showing a good gain in total value were nursery products, irrigated pasture, cattle and calves, and oat grain.

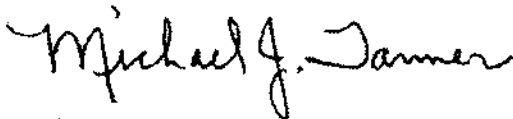
Almonds sustained the greatest loss in value of all commodities, falling from the number two position to third place. Value plummeted to \$108,302,000, a \$79,338,000 drop. Yield was down 38.6% to 1,020 pounds per acre due to poor pollination weather. Price fell 7.6% to \$1.44 per pound. Cotton suffered a huge loss, falling to \$50,898,000, down \$36,022,000. Production was only 995 pounds per acre, down 31%, because of weather related late planting and reduced growing season heat units. Price was slightly reduced and planted acreage fell by 12,000 acres. Alfalfa hay, after posting a record value last year, declined in value to \$65,380,000, down \$11,252,000. Price fell 10.8% with yield down slightly.

Wine grapes lost \$10,960,000 dropping to a value of \$46,399,000 as a result of production being down 37.6% per acre. However, price was up 23% and acreage 6%. Prunes fell \$5,188,000 in value to \$1,823,000. Price declined substantially, 40%, with yield down 51.6% and acreage 10.4%. Many other commodities showed significant declines in total value including almond hulls, hatching eggs, walnuts, cotton seed, market eggs, cantaloupes, other silage, cling peaches, pistachios, miscellaneous fruits and nuts, dried figs, sugar beets, sheep and lambs, lima beans, and wheat.

This report addresses the acreage, production, and gross value of agricultural production in Merced County. It does not attempt to reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing. This report also emphasizes an average production and average value of gross receipts. Value is based on farmgate prices, except for fresh packed commodities which reflect an FOB (free on board) price.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation of those persons who have provided the information and assistance necessary for my staff to compile this report under the direction of Mark Smith, Agricultural Biologist III. My thanks to my staff and the growers and industry members of Merced County who truly make AGRICULTURE our number one and most valued industry.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

NOTES

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1998	4,200	1.46	6,141	Ton	\$103.81	\$637,000
	1997	4,545	1.98	9,012	Ton	\$119.88	\$1,080,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1998	1,467	0.81	1,188	Ton	\$959.50	\$1,140,000
	1997	3,321	1.24	4,123	Ton	\$719.39	\$2,966,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1998	4,635	0.79	3,662	Ton	\$660.27	\$2,418,000
	1997	4,688	0.66	3,081	Ton	\$566.49	\$1,745,000
CORN * (Grain)	1998	6,250	4.29	26,828	Ton	\$129.52	\$3,475,000
	1997	7,010	4.66	32,638	Ton	\$121.79	\$3,975,000
COTTON (Lint)	1998	68,772	995 lbs.	136,684	500 lb. Bale	\$372.37	\$50,898,000
	1997	80,772	1,440 lbs.	232,941		\$373.14	\$86,920,000
COTTON (Seed)	1998	—	—	52,126	Ton	\$190.41	\$9,925,000
	1997	—	—	72,551	Ton	\$190.55	\$13,825,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1998	76,792	6.80	521,950	Ton	\$124.43	\$64,947,000
	1997	75,859	7.10	538,527	Ton	\$139.46	\$75,103,000
HAY (Alfalfa-Cube)	1998	687	7.00	4,807	Ton	\$90.00	\$433,000
	1997	2,073	6.90	14,305	Ton	\$106.88	\$1,529,000
HAY (Grain)	1998	20,454	3.61	73,870	Ton	\$56.95	\$4,207,000
	1997	18,444	2.99	55,116	Ton	\$93.61	\$5,160,000
HAY (Sudan)	1998	6,505	3.66	23,817	Ton	\$92.53	\$2,204,000
	1997	3,071	3.01	9,244	Ton	\$84.68	\$783,000
OATS (Grain)	1998	4,068	3.82	15,554	Ton	\$131.20	\$2,041,000
	1997	2,755	1.33	3,676	Ton	\$189.63	\$697,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1998	58,500	—	—	Acre	\$175.00	\$10,238,000
	1997	58,500	—	—	Acre	\$150.00	\$8,775,000
PASTURE (Other)	1998	568,000	—	—	Acre	\$17.67	\$10,037,000
	1997	569,000	—	—	Acre	\$17.00	\$9,673,000
RICE	1998	4,466	3.39	15,140	Ton	\$175.67	\$2,660,000
	1997	4,802	3.88	18,630	Ton	\$157.61	\$2,936,000
SAFFLOWER	1998	114	1.00	114	Ton	\$300.00	\$34,000
	1997	1,107	1.09	1,208	Ton	\$362.43	\$438,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1998	67,333	24.47	1,647,701	Ton	\$19.51	\$32,153,000
	1997	57,891	26.99	1,562,526	Ton	\$21.31	\$33,301,000
SILAGE ** (Other)	1998	52,131	7.24	377,596	Ton	\$23.52	\$8,881,000
	1997	60,270	8.89	536,059	Ton	\$22.40	\$12,006,000
SORGHUM (Grain)	1998	129	1.50	193	Ton	\$90.00	\$17,000
	1997	315	1.56	490	Ton	\$100.11	\$49,000
STRAW ***	1998	—	—	2,597	Ton	\$36.00	\$93,000
	1997	—	—	2,609	Ton	\$36.00	\$94,000
STUBBLE **** (Pasture)	1998	12,821	—	—	Acre	\$10.00	\$128,000
	1997	12,839	—	—	Acre	\$8.11	\$104,000
SUGAR BEETS	1998	12,658	28.00	354,424	Ton	\$42.82	\$15,176,000
	1997	12,777	29.49	376,792	Ton	\$45.44	\$17,120,000
WHEAT	1998	21,663	1.84	39,842	Ton	\$110.62	\$4,408,000
	1997	20,010	2.38	47,683	Ton	\$130.06	\$6,201,000
TOTAL	1998	978,824					\$226,150,000
	1997	987,210					\$284,480,000

- * Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not fresh corn).
- ** Includes Alfalfa Green Chop, Earlage, Oat Silage, Rye, Clover, Sorghum, Sugar Beet Fodder, and Winter Forage.
- *** Includes Barley, Oats, Wheat, Dry Beans and Rice.
- **** Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

SEED CROPS



CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS * (Miscellaneous)	1998	270	---	---	---	---	\$210,000
	1997	1,231	---	---	---	---	\$487,000
TOTAL	1998	270					\$210,000
	1997	1,231					\$487,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS ** (Miscellaneous)	1998	1,682	---	---	---	---	\$610,000
	1997	2,142	---	---	---	---	\$808,000
TOTAL	1998	1,682					\$610,000
	1997	2,142					\$808,000

ALL SEED CROPS

	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	TOTAL
TOTAL	1998	1,952	\$820,000
	1997	3,373	\$1,295,000

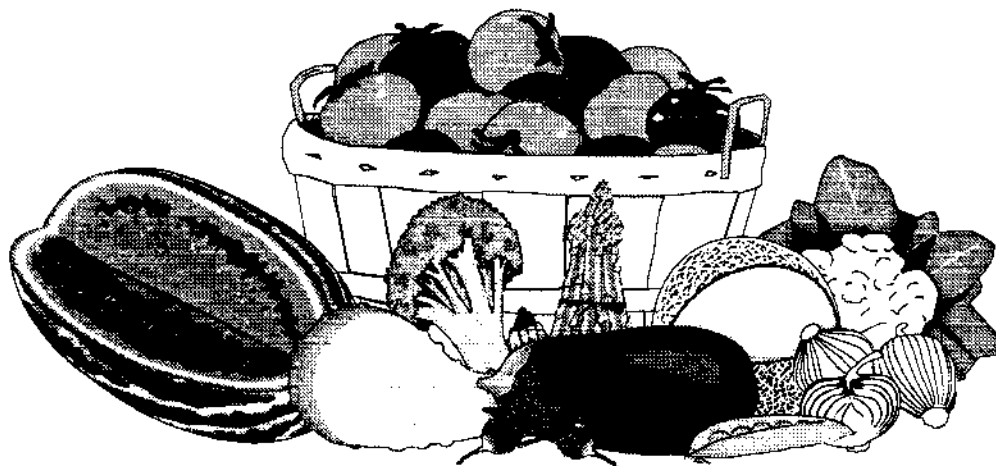
* Includes certified seed from Alfalfa and Barley.

** Includes common and phytosanitary seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Barley, Broccoli, Lima Bean, Lettuce, Oats, Onion, Other Beans, Squash, and Wheat.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (Freezer)	1998	2,561	1.62	4,156	Ton	\$459.22	\$1,908,000
	1997	3,964	1.65	6,522	Ton	\$440.28	\$2,871,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1998	8,845	469.53	4,153,008	40 Lb. Carton	\$4.47	\$18,582,000
	1997	8,850	493.24	4,365,144	Carton	\$4.98	\$21,738,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1998	520	17.83	9,271	Ton	\$122.96	\$1,140,000
	1997	841	16.00	13,456	Ton	\$133.08	\$1,791,000
MELONS (Other)	1998	1,261	9.64	12,159	Ton	\$231.08	\$2,810,000
	1997	1,530	8.09	12,379	Ton	\$278.61	\$3,449,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1998	144	2.34	336	Ton	\$64.91	\$22,000
	1997	587	0.94	549	Ton	\$226.40	\$124,000
PEPPERS, BELL (Market)	1998	387	10.61	4,104	Ton	\$411.31	\$1,688,000
	1997	622	14.53	9,038	Ton	\$334.07	\$3,019,000
SWEET POTATOES	1998	7,858	12.38	97,282	Ton	\$468.02	\$45,530,000
	1997	7,227	12.40	89,615	Ton	\$455.74	\$40,841,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1998	9,014	837.53	7,549,492	25 Lb. Carton	\$6.52	\$49,204,000
	1997	8,071	923.78	7,455,859	Carton	\$4.54	\$33,865,000
TOMATOES (Processing)	1998	11,356	35.97	408,524	Ton	\$52.47	\$21,434,000
	1997	10,979	38.02	417,429	Ton	\$50.12	\$20,922,000
VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous) *	1998	2,758	---	---	---	---	\$7,053,000
	1997	2,051	---	---	---	---	\$6,587,000
TOTAL	1998	44,704					\$149,371,000
	1997	44,722					\$135,207,000

* Includes Artichoke, Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Oriental Vegetables, Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radishes, String Beans, Spinach, Squash, Tomatillos, Dried Tomatoes, and Processed Chili Peppers.



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1998	74,182	0.51	37,605	Ton	\$2,880.00	\$108,302,000
	1997	72,186	0.83	60,180	Ton	\$3,117.99	\$187,640,000
ALMONDS (Hulls)	1998	—	—	84,845	Ton	\$72.22	\$6,128,000
	1997	—	—	130,890	Ton	\$83.87	\$10,977,000
APRICOTS	1998	1,852	5.42	10,044	Ton	\$294.28	\$2,956,000
	1997	1,856	7.26	13,478	Ton	\$252.44	\$3,402,000
FIGS (Dry)	1998	2,455	1.11	2,728	Ton	\$1,072.45	\$2,926,000
	1997	3,015	1.38	4,160	Ton	\$1,216.78	\$5,062,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1998	1,044	1.51	1,574	Ton	\$1,285.24	\$2,023,000
	1997	1,277	2.17	2,771	Ton	\$825.00	\$2,286,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1998	356	8.52	3,033	Ton	\$184.00	\$497,000
	1997	174	8.67	1,508	Ton	\$184.00	\$277,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1998	14,102	6.05	85,250	Ton	\$538.44	\$45,902,000
	1997	13,440	9.70	130,349	Ton	\$437.92	\$57,082,000
KIWI	1998	27	9.06	244	Ton	\$489.20	\$119,000
	1997	33	9.33	308	Ton	\$1,020.00	\$314,000
NECTARINES	1998	194	5.62	1,089	Ton	\$747.06	\$814,000
	1997	198	5.27	1,042	Ton	\$1,261.54	\$1,315,000
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1998	3,943	15.61	61,536	Ton	\$220.96	\$13,597,000
	1997	3,985	18.74	74,686	Ton	\$216.73	\$16,186,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1998	2,158	18.28	39,453	Ton	\$200.38	\$7,906,000
	1997	1,970	22.44	44,201	Ton	\$209.02	\$9,239,000
PISTACHIOS	1998	4,437	0.74	3,287	Ton	\$2,571.06	\$8,451,000
	1997	4,611	1.01	4,661	Ton	\$2,365.50	\$11,026,000
PLUMS	1998	213	1.51	322	Ton	\$1,122.25	\$361,000
	1997	240	3.45	828	Ton	\$631.68	\$523,000
PRUNES	1998	1,912	1.39	2,655	Ton	\$686.63	\$1,823,000
	1997	2,134	2.87	6,118	Ton	\$1,145.95	\$7,011,000
STRAWBERRIES	1998	483	12.14	5,866	Ton	\$728.25	\$4,272,000
	1997	518	12.00	6,217	Ton	\$605.62	\$3,765,000
WALNUTS (English)	1998	5,218	1.47	7,663	Ton	\$952.27	\$7,297,000
	1997	4,925	1.57	7,755	Ton	\$1,446.05	\$11,214,000
MISCELLANEOUS FROZEN FRUIT *	1998	—	—	2,950	Ton	\$232.84	\$687,000
	1997	—	—	3,899	Ton	\$180.76	\$705,000
MISCELLANEOUS**	1998	3,305	—	—	—	—	\$6,754,000
	1997	3,301	—	—	—	—	\$9,318,000
TOTAL	1998	115,881					\$220,815,000
	1997	113,863					\$337,342,000

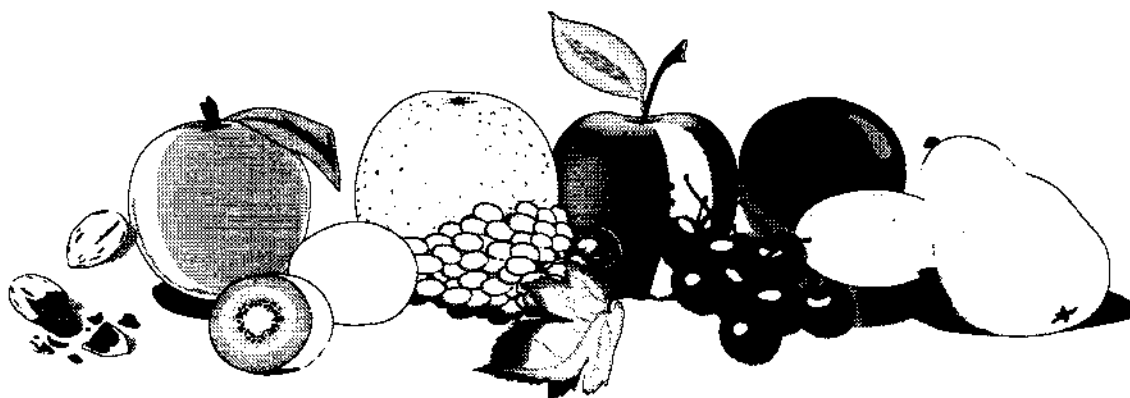
* Includes Apricots, Berries, Grapes, and Melons.

** Includes Apples, Fresh Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans, Pears, Plumcots, Table Grapes, Cannery and Fresh Figs, Fresh Peaches, and Fruit Juices.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 1998		YEAR 1993	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	74,182	6,274	66,519	4,325
APPLES	1,590	32	2,744	227
APRICOTS	1,893	100	1,997	103
BERRIES	202	90	135	65
CHERRIES	294	23	173	182
FIGS	3,095	0	3,345	0
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,400	6	1,741	9
GRAPES (Table)	422	0	243	0
GRAPES (Wine)	14,102	1,495	12,838	451
KIWI	27	0	37	0
MANDARINS	17	0	30	11
NECTARINES	194	9	203	19
OLIVES	60	0	74	0
ORANGES	46	0	48	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,943	31	4,049	277
PEACHES (Freestone)	2,158	127	1,667	413
PEARS	21	0	18	3
PECANS	42	5	42	2
PISTACHIOS	4,437	145	4,133	55
PLUMS	218	3	180	22
PRUNES	2,082	640	2,096	228
WALNUTS (English)	5,218	735	6,435	705
TOTAL	115,643	9,715	108,747	7,097



NOTES

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1998	142,688	951,000	Cwt.	\$46.64	\$44,354,000
	1997	140,138	933,450	Cwt.	\$46.17	\$43,098,000
CHICKENS (Fryers and Broilers)	1998	80,949,807	405,340,623	Pound	\$0.40	\$162,136,000
	1997	80,167,006	403,185,635	Pound	\$0.39	\$157,242,000
CHICKENS * (Other)	1998	1,093,225	4,479,514	Pound	\$0.16	\$728,000
	1997	1,026,369	4,108,421	Pound	\$0.19	\$781,000
GOATS	1998	1,200	---	---	\$64.33	\$77,000
	1997	1,500	---	---	\$64.00	\$96,000
OSTRICHES **	1998	5,351	---	---	---	\$2,375,000
	1997	4,964	---	---	---	\$3,434,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1998	18,891	30,738	Cwt.	\$46.69	\$1,435,000
	1997	19,266	31,218	Cwt.	\$63.66	\$1,987,000
POULTRY *** (Miscellaneous)	1998	60,800	135,420	Pound	\$3.45	\$467,000
	1997	55,000	127,500	Pound	\$3.37	\$430,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1998	19,500	22,587	Cwt.	\$65.82	\$1,487,000
	1997	23,254	37,475	Cwt.	\$88.60	\$3,320,000
TURKEYS	1998	3,251,429	73,172,233	Pound	\$0.40	\$29,505,000
	1997	3,343,059	69,678,648	Pound	\$0.41	\$28,905,000
TOTAL	1998					\$242,564,000
	1997					\$239,293,000

* Includes Meat Layers, and Pullets.

** Includes Breeder Birds, Slaughter Birds, Hides, Blown Dry Eggs, Exported Meat, and Exported Breeder Birds.

*** Chuckar, Pheasant, and Squab.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS, CHICKEN (Market)	1998	69,182,327	Dozen	\$0.54	\$37,358,000
	1997	67,338,360	Dozen	\$0.61	\$41,076,000
EGGS, TURKEY (Hatching)	1998	6,829,453	Each	\$0.68	\$4,626,000
	1997	6,758,642	Each	\$1.40	\$9,462,000
MILK (Goat)	1998	24,281	Cwt.	\$30.77	\$747,000
	1997	34,170	Cwt.	\$28.00	\$957,000
MILK (Market)	1998	34,821,231	Cwt.	\$15.09	\$525,452,000
	1997	34,373,559	Cwt.	\$12.65	\$434,826,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1998	48,916	Cwt.	\$14.50	\$709,000
	1997	507,205	Cwt.	\$11.94	\$6,056,000
WOOL	1998	175,500	Pound	\$0.70	\$123,000
	1997	284,287	Pound	\$0.90	\$256,000
TOTAL	1998				\$569,015,000
	1997				\$492,633,000



NURSERY PRODUCTS



	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
TOTAL	1998	1,214	\$19,007,000
	1997	1,140	\$15,833,000

Includes Budwood, Pits and Cuttings; Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees; Dried Flowers, Grapevines; Greenhouse Plants; Roses; Strawberry Plants, Tomato and Other Vegetable Plants; Semi-Tropical Ornamental and Shade Trees; Shrubs; Ornamental Plants, and Christmas Trees. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND * (SHELLS)	1998	22,127	Ton	\$9.44	\$209,000
FIREWOOD	1998	26,135	Cord	\$75.82	\$1,982,000
	1997	22,547	Cord	\$85.00	\$1,916,000
FUEL ** (Cogeneration)	1998	55,620	Ton	\$17.41	\$969,000
	1997	55,217	Ton	\$9.19	\$507,000
MANURE ***	1998	1,244,915	Ton	\$7.29	\$9,081,000
	1997	1,236,977	Ton	\$7.28	\$9,005,000
TOTAL	1998				\$12,241,000
	1997				\$11,428,000

* For Fuel and Animal Bedding [1997 Figures included in Fuel (Cogeneration)].

** Orchard Prunings, and Orchard Removal (Recorded in Wet Tons).

*** Livestock, Poultry.

BEE INDUSTRY



ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1998	39,331	Pound	\$1.69	\$66,000
	1997	44,924	Pound	\$1.89	\$85,000
BULK BEES *	1998	63,296	Pound	\$6.65	\$421,000
	1997	46,600	Pound	\$5.96	\$278,000
HONEY **	1998	2,556,525	Pound	\$0.58	\$1,483,000
	1997	2,920,069	Pound	\$0.66	\$1,927,000
POLLINATION ***	1998	175,308	Colony	\$35.04	\$6,143,000
	1997	154,784	Colony	\$36.29	\$5,617,000
QUEENS	1998	30,784	Each	\$5.45	\$168,000
	1997	31,933	Each	\$3.93	\$126,000
TOTAL	1998				\$8,281,000
	1997				\$8,033,000

* Includes bees sold as nuclei.

** Honey produced by 38,794 registered resident colonies in 1998.

*** Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.



AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	1998	822,000	Pound	\$1.81	\$1,490,000
	1997	695,814	Pound	\$1.84	\$1,280,000
TOTAL	1998				\$1,490,000
	1997				\$1,280,000

* Catfish, Silver Carp, Sturgeon, and Trout.



MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

PEST	ORGANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
ASH WHITEFLY <u>Siphoninus phillyrea</u>	<u>Encarsia inaron</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
GRAPELEAF SKELETONIZER <u>Harrisina brillians</u>	<u>Ametadoria misella</u> (Parasitic Fly) <u>WGLS Granulosis</u> (Virus) <u>Apanteles harrisinae</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
ITALIAN THISTLE <u>Carduus tenuiflorus</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Limited
KLAMATH WEED <u>Hypericum perforatum</u>	<u>Chrysolina quadrigemina</u> (Leaf Feeding Beetle)	Two Sites
MILK THISTLE <u>Silybum marianum</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Countywide
PUNCTURE VINE <u>Tribulus terrestris</u>	<u>Microlarinus lareynii</u> (Seed Weevil) <u>Microlarinus hypriformis</u> (Stem Weevil)	Countywide
RUSSIAN THISTLE <u>Salsola sp.</u>	<u>Coleophora klimeschiella</u> (Case Bearing Moth) <u>Coleophora parthenica</u> (Russian Thistle Borer)	Countywide
WATER HYACINTH <u>Eichornia crassipes</u>	<u>Sameodes albiguttalis</u> (Hyacinth Moth) <u>Neochetina eichhorniae</u> (Mottled Hyacinth Weevil)	Six Sites
YELLOWSTAR THISTLE <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	<u>Bangasternus orientalis</u> (Seed-Head Weevil) <u>Urophora sirunaseva</u> (Seed-Head Gall Fly) <u>Eustenopus villosus</u> (Hairy Weevil)	Countywide/Six New Sites Countywide/Six New Sites Countywide/Five New Sites

* Represents total number of individual sites, trees, acres, etc., incorporated in program efforts (survey, trap, servicings, releases, etc.

ORGANIC FARMING

CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES
ALFALFA	1	223
ALMONDS	13	521
ASIAN PEARS	1	2.2
DAIRY (MILK)	1	345 (Units)
NECTARINES	1	8
PEACHES	2	15.5
PERSIMMONS	1	1.5
PISTACHIO	1	292
PLUMS	1	11
POPCORN	1	48
RAISINS	2	90
SWEET POTATOES	6	628
WALNUTS	2	69
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES *	3	121

* Beans, squash

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING		
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Apple Maggot	Apples	123
Cherry Fruit Flies	Cherries	20
European Corn Borer	Corn	5
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	6
Gypsy Moth	Trees	214
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	149
Khapra Beetle	Grain	137
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	430
Melon Fly	Melons	57
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	5
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	54
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes	75

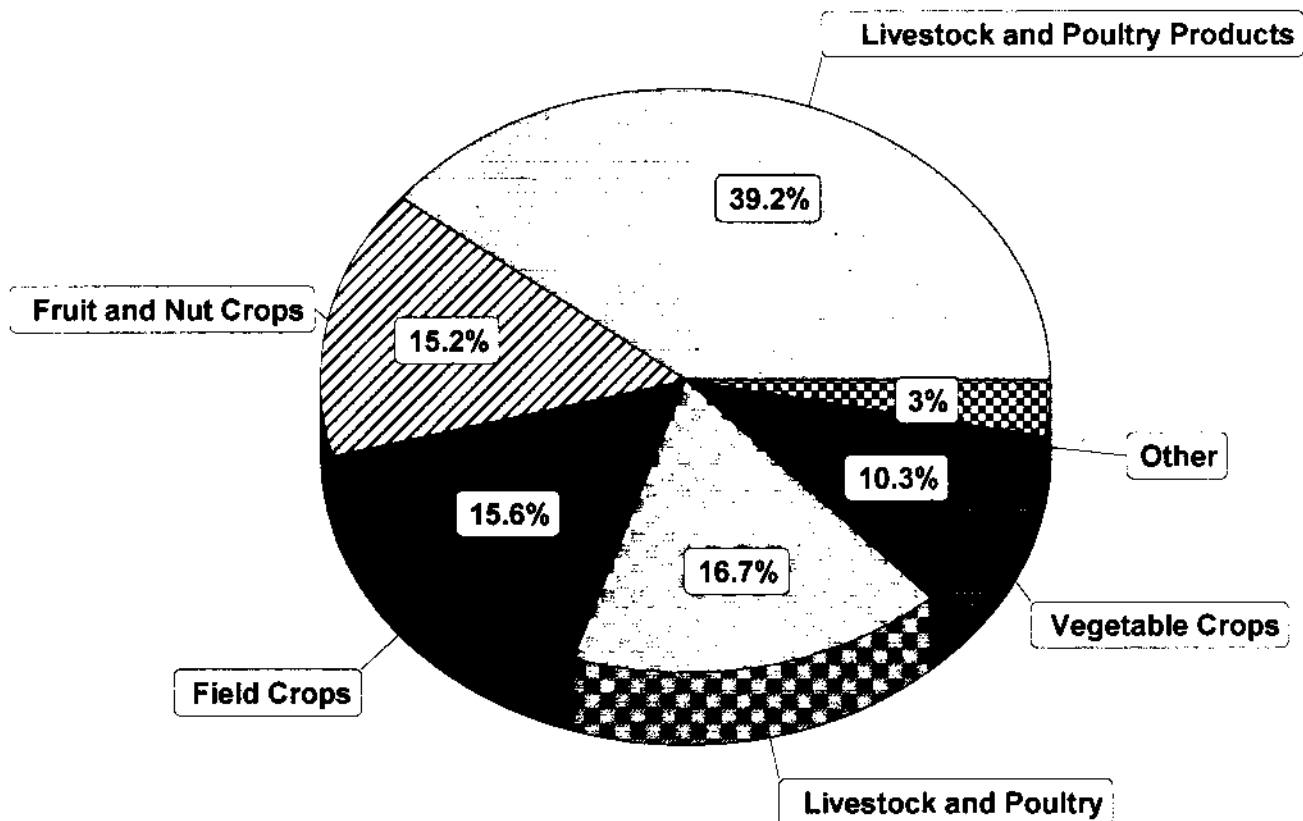


PEST ERADICATION		
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State operated trapping program on 68,772 acres, combined with plowdown enforcement or host free period.
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potato	Successful eradication program completed in 1994. Resumed detection trapping program in 1996.
PEST (WEED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Banana Waterlily	Waterways	None detected since eradication project in 1993.
Camelthorn	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.
Carolina Horse Nettle	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.
Hydrilla	Waterways	Ongoing detection.
Purple Mustard	Pasture/Roadways	Ongoing eradication efforts Countywide.
Water Hyacinth	Waterways	Ongoing eradication efforts - Merced River, San Joaquin River, and tributaries.



PEST EXCLUSION		
PEST (INTERCEPTED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Apple Maggot	Apples (Oregon)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Live Ants	Carpet (Georgia) Candy (Tennessee) Frozen Chicken (Alabama)	3 Rejected/Treated or Released
Pecan Caseborer	Pecans (Utah) Pecans (Texas) Pecans (Florida)	3 Rejected/Destroyed or Returned Out of State
Pine Shoot Moth	Pines (Oregon)	2 Rejected/Released on Certification
Scale	Cut Flowers (Hawaii)	1 Rejected/Destroyed

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$103,096	COTTON	\$5,447,878	SORGHUM	\$9,831
CORN	\$1,542,937	OATS	\$105,593	WHEAT	\$531,216
		RICE	\$1,120,685		

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

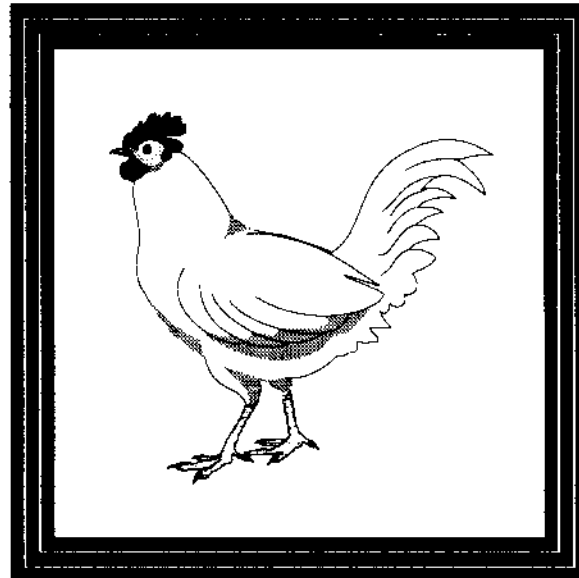
ALFALFA	366 Acres	FIGS	20 Acres	NAVEL ORANGES	43 Acres
APRICOTS	41 Acres	FREEZER LIMA BEANS	57 Acres	OAT SEED	30 Acres
CHERRIES	16 Acres	GRAIN CROPS	675 Acres	PRUNES	170 Acres
		MANDARIN ORANGES	14 Acres		

* Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1998. (Source: FSA Office)

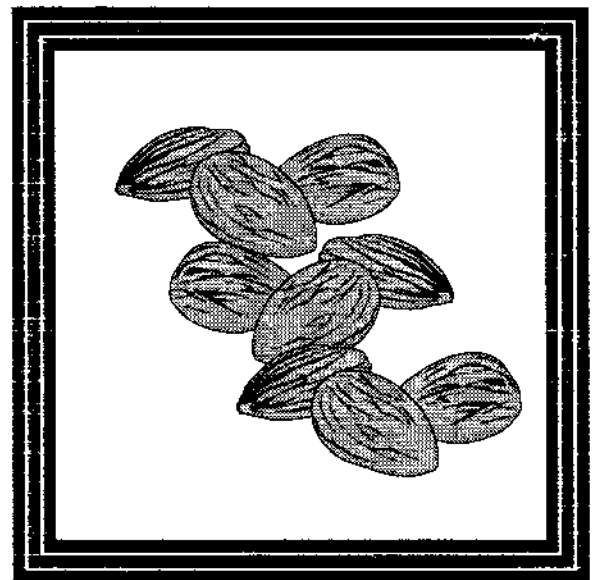
** The reported planted acreages were not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market or inability to harvest and transport. Acreages not included in total acres of each crop in 1998.



MERCED COUNTY

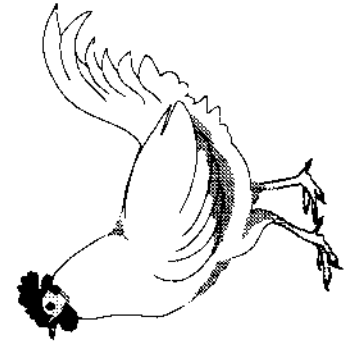


TOP THREE COMMODITIES



COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	1998	1997	1993	1988	1983	1978	1973
AQUACULTURE	\$1,490,000	\$1,280,000	\$1,311,000	\$3,147,000	---	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$8,281,000	\$8,033,000	\$5,215,000	\$3,521,000	\$3,031,000	\$2,021,000	\$1,595,400
FIELD CROPS	\$226,150,000	\$284,480,000	\$224,826,000	\$183,339,000	\$156,920,000	\$96,344,000	\$78,936,600
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$220,815,000	\$337,342,000	\$290,211,000	\$199,829,000	\$93,382,000	\$86,243,000	\$69,085,560
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	\$242,564,000	\$239,293,000	\$188,970,000	\$234,465,000	\$174,255,000	\$132,959,000	\$83,386,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$569,015,000	\$492,633,000	\$337,036,000	\$240,497,000	\$215,455,000	\$118,519,000	\$72,020,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$19,007,000	\$15,833,000	\$14,603,000	\$13,248,000	\$8,017,000	\$7,336,000	\$5,720,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$12,241,000	\$11,428,000	\$9,202,000	\$8,731,000	---	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$820,000	\$1,295,000	\$1,209,000	\$1,663,000	\$1,381,000	\$2,643,000	\$842,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$149,371,000	\$135,207,000	\$130,049,000	\$84,737,000	\$69,309,000	\$50,828,000	\$32,669,000
TOTAL	\$1,449,764,000	\$1,526,824,000	\$1,282,832,000	\$973,177,000	\$721,750,000	\$496,893,000	\$344,284,560



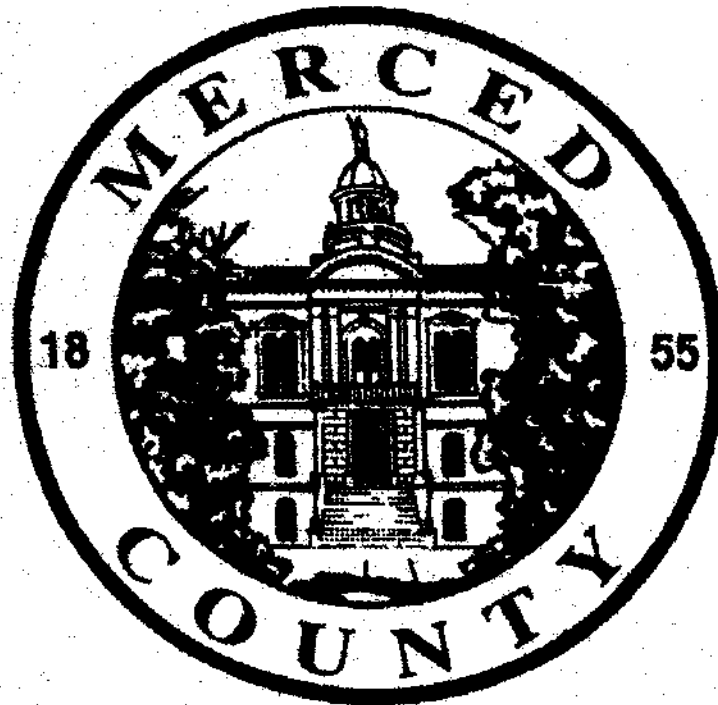
TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1998

1. MILK	\$526,161,000	(1)
2. CHICKENS	\$162,864,000	(3)
3. ALMONDS	\$108,302,000	(2)
4. TOMATOES	\$70,638,000	(7)
5. ALFALFA	\$65,380,000	(5)
6. COTTON	\$50,898,000	(4)
7. GRAPES (WINE)	\$45,902,000	(6)
8. SWEET POTATOES	\$45,530,000	(10)
9. CATTLE	\$44,354,000	(8)
10. EGGS	\$37,358,000	(9)
11. CORN SILAGE	\$32,153,000	(11)
12. TURKEYS	\$29,505,000	(12)

(Number in parenthesis denotes 1997 ranking)



ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1999

**MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MERCED, CALIFORNIA**

**MICHAEL J. TANNER, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
GARY CASERI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

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DISCLAIMER:

Numbers will not compute exactly due to computer rounding of production and price rates. Also, due to a change in computer programming, the totals/figures used for the year 1998 may differ slightly from those that were published in the 1998 Crop Report.

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Margaret L. Kohn-Typist Clerk III

Catherine Marks-Typist Clerk II

Victoria M. Painter-Typist Clerk II

Misty Ann Goddard-Extra Help Typist Clerk II

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner * Weights and Measures * Animal Control

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MICHAEL J. TANNER

Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

GARY CASERI

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

TO: Mr. William J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary-California Department of Food and Agriculture
and The Honorable Board of Supervisors

Mr. Jerry O'Banion, District 5, Chairperson
Ms. Gloria Cortez Keene, District 1
Ms. Kathleen Crookham, District 2
Mr. Joe Rivero, District 3
Ms. Deidre Kelsey, District 4

It is my pleasure to submit the 1999 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This annual report is produced in accordance with the provisions of Section 2272 & 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code. The publication presents statistical information on the acreage, yield, and gross value of agricultural products produced in the County. It includes a brief **Sustainable Agriculture Report** which summarizes biological control, pest prevention, and pest detection activities in our county.

The 1999 total gross value of Merced County's leading industry is a new high of \$1,534,026,000. This represents a 5.81% increase, \$84,264,000, above last year's reduced gross value of production.

For 1999, La Niña weather with its mild winter, long spring, moderate summer, and warm, dry fall contributed to higher yields in many crops. However, some sectors of the agricultural economy continue to suffer a lack of profitability due mainly to low commodity prices.

Milk continues as Merced County's leading commodity, with a value of \$519,743,000. This represents a 1.2% or \$6,418,000 decline in value, reflecting a decrease of over \$1.50 per hundredweight paid to dairy farmers. Production was up 10.6%. Chickens remained in second place valued at \$165,507,000, up \$2,643,000. Production increased slightly with no change in price per pound.

After several depressing years, cattle and calves showed an impressive gain in value to \$70,579,000, up \$26,225,000. The number of head marketed was up 19.8% and price per hundredweight 24.1%. Cotton was another bright spot in 1999, posting a \$25,002,000 increase in value to \$75,900,000, moving it into fifth place. Production was an all-time high

of 1,470 pounds per acre (just under three bales) after a two-bale yield in 1998. Acreage was reduced 5.3%, but price was up 4.7 cents per pound. Processing tomatoes posted a \$15,342,000 jump to \$36,776,000. This was because of a 4,658 acre increase, yield up 11.7% per acre and price \$4.69 per ton higher. Almonds held on as the third leading crop with a value of \$120,033,000. Total value rose \$11,730,000 due to 4.4% more acres and production of 1,720 pounds per acre compared to 1,000 pounds in 1998. However, price to growers was down 37.5% to 90 cents per pound from \$1.44. Many other commodities displayed a significant gain in total value including sweet potatoes, silage (other), nursery products, miscellaneous fruit and nut crops, apricots, pistachios, prunes, miscellaneous vegetable crops, silage (corn), dry figs, and walnuts.

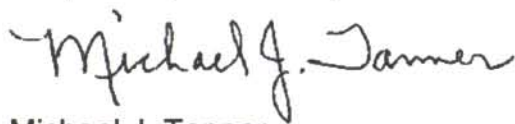
Fresh market chicken eggs sustained the greatest loss in value of all commodities, falling to \$28,778,000, a drop of \$8,580,000. This was partially due to a production reporting error in 1998 and contributed to the 6,347,777 fewer dozens of eggs. Also, price was down 15%. The overall lower production figure was in spite of a large egg production and packing operation moving into the County in 1998 which will have a large impact on next year's production and value. For the second year in a row, alfalfa hay plummeted in value to \$56,586,000, a loss of \$8,794,000. Acreage and yield were up slightly, but price fell by 16%.

Turkeys fell out of the top twelve commodities, declining in value to \$23,057,000, a \$6,448,000 drop. Price was up four cents per pound, but 1,048,981 fewer birds were produced. Market tomatoes suffered a loss of \$4,239,000, decreasing to \$44,965,000 in value. Acreage was up 23.5% and yield 19.4% per acre, but price dropped 38% per carton. Other commodities showing significant declines in total value included wine grapes, sugar beets, hatching eggs, cantaloupes, sudan hay, and strawberries.

This report addresses the acreage, production, and gross value of agricultural production in Merced County. It does not attempt to reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing. This report also emphasizes an average production and average value of gross receipts. Value is based on farmgate prices, except for fresh packed commodities which reflect an FOB (free on board) price.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation and support of those persons who have provided the information and assistance necessary for my staff to compile this report under the direction of Mark Smith, Agricultural Biologist III. My thanks go to my staff and the growers and industry members of Merced County who truly make **AGRICULTURE** our number one and most valued industry.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1999	2,685	1.84	4,944	Ton	\$89.55	\$443,000
	1998	4,200	1.46	6,141	Ton	\$103.81	\$637,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1999	1,426	1.33	1,903	Ton	\$661.12	\$1,258,000
	1998	1,467	0.81	1,189	Ton	\$959.50	\$1,141,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1999	4,347	0.86	3,728	Ton	\$460.92	\$1,718,000
	1998	4,635	0.79	3,663	Ton	\$660.27	\$2,418,000
CORN * (Grain)	1999	5,339	4.97	26,527	Ton	\$105.13	\$2,789,000
	1998	6,250	4.29	26,828	Ton	\$129.52	\$3,475,000
COTTON (Lint)	1999	65,109	1,471 lbs.	191,611	500 lb.	\$396.11	\$75,900,000
	1998	68,772	994 lbs.	136,685	Bale	\$372.37	\$50,898,000
COTTON (Seed)	1999	----	----	58,187	Ton	\$162.71	\$9,467,000
	1998	----	----	52,126	Ton	\$190.41	\$9,925,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1999	77,119	7.02	541,258	Ton	\$104.55	\$56,586,000
	1998	76,792	6.80	521,950	Ton	\$124.43	\$64,947,000
HAY ** (Alfalfa-Cube)	1999	----	----	----	----	----	----
	1998	687	7.00	4,807	Ton	\$90.00	\$433,000
HAY (Grain)	1999	23,461	3.24	75,935	Ton	\$61.02	\$4,634,000
	1998	20,454	3.61	73,870	Ton	\$56.95	\$4,207,000
HAY (Sudan)	1999	3,817	3.83	14,600	Ton	\$63.10	\$921,000
	1998	6,505	3.66	23,817	Ton	\$92.53	\$2,204,000
OATS (Grain)	1999	3,778	3.16	11,954	Ton	\$88.20	\$1,054,000
	1998	4,068	3.82	15,554	Ton	\$131.20	\$2,041,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1999	59,000	----	----	Acre	\$187.50	\$11,062,000
	1998	58,500	----	----	Acre	\$175.00	\$10,238,000
PASTURE (Other)	1999	568,000	----	----	Acre	\$18.00	\$10,224,000
	1998	568,000	----	----	Acre	\$17.67	\$10,037,000
RICE	1999	3,935	3.52	13,835	Ton	\$262.78	\$3,635,000
	1998	4,466	3.39	15,140	Ton	\$175.67	\$2,660,000
SAFFLOWER	1999	353	1.00	353	Ton	\$275.00	\$97,000
	1998	114	1.00	114	Ton	\$300.00	\$34,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1999	63,403	27.67	1,754,443	Ton	\$19.25	\$33,775,000
	1998	67,333	24.47	1,647,702	Ton	\$19.51	\$32,153,000
SILAGE *** (Other)	1999	60,510	11.90	720,204	Ton	\$21.75	\$15,665,000
	1998	52,131	7.24	377,597	Ton	\$23.52	\$8,881,000
SORGHUM * (Grain)	1999	----	----	----	----	----	----
	1998	129	1.50	194	Ton	\$90.00	\$17,000
STRAW ****	1999	----	----	1,803	Ton	\$42.00	\$76,000
	1998	----	----	2,597	Ton	\$36.00	\$93,000
STUBBLE ***** (Pasture)	1999	15,434	----	----	Acre	\$8.86	\$137,000
	1998	12,821	----	----	Acre	\$10.00	\$128,000
SUGAR BEETS	1999	12,304	26.69	328,416	Ton	\$37.47	\$12,305,000
	1998	12,658	28.00	354,424	Ton	\$42.82	\$15,176,000
WHEAT	1999	12,306	2.88	35,457	Ton	\$109.98	\$3,899,000
	1998	21,663	1.84	39,842	Ton	\$110.62	\$4,408,000
TOTAL	1999	966,892					\$245,647,000
	1998	978,824					\$226,150,000

* Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not fresh corn) and SORGHUM (Grain).

** HAY (Alfalfa-Cube) has been combined with HAY (Alfalfa).

*** Includes Oat, Barley, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, and Wheat Forage Fodder; Alfalfa Green Chop; Clover; Winter Forage; and Vetch.

**** Includes Barley, Oats, Wheat, Dry Beans, and Rice.

***** Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (Freezer)	1999	2,766	1.76	4,881	Ton	\$443.95	\$2,167,000
	1998	2,561	1.62	4,157	Ton	\$459.22	\$1,909,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1999	8,534	488.26	4,166,811	40 Lb. Carton	\$4.13	\$17,209,000
	1998	8,845	469.53	4,153,008	Carton	\$4.47	\$18,582,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1999	582	26.74	15,561	Ton	\$114.26	\$1,778,000
	1998	520	17.83	9,271	Ton	\$122.96	\$1,140,000
MELONS (Other)	1999	1,356	8.87	12,028	Ton	\$200.00	\$2,406,000
	1998	1,261	9.64	12,160	Ton	\$231.08	\$2,810,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1999	227	2.35	533	Ton	\$127.66	\$68,000
	1998	144	2.34	337	Ton	\$64.91	\$22,000
PEPPERS, BELL (Market)	1999	611	10.98	6,708	Ton	\$352.15	\$2,362,000
	1998	387	10.61	4,105	Ton	\$411.31	\$1,688,000
SWEET POTATOES	1999	8,306	13.28	110,329	Ton	\$507.19	\$55,958,000
	1998	7,858	12.38	97,282	Ton	\$468.02	\$45,530,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1999	11,129	1,000.15	11,130,646	25 Lb. Carton	\$4.04	\$44,965,000
	1998	9,014	837.53	7,549,942	Carton	\$6.52	\$49,204,000
TOMATOES (Processing)	1999	16,014	40.18	643,421	Ton	\$57.16	\$36,776,000
	1998	11,356	35.97	408,525	Ton	\$52.47	\$21,434,000
VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous) *	1999	2,867	---	---	---	---	\$9,949,000
	1998	2,758	---	---	---	---	\$7,053,000
TOTAL	1999	52,392					\$173,638,000
	1998	44,704					\$149,373,000

* Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Oriental Vegetables, Pumpkin, Radishes, String Beans, Spinach, Squash, Tomatillos, Dried Tomatoes, and Processed Chili Peppers.

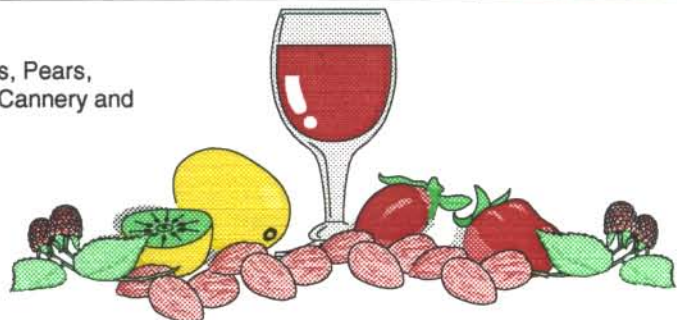


FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1999	77,461	0.86	66,685	Ton	\$1,800.00	\$120,033,000
	1998	74,182	0.51	37,605	Ton	\$2,880.00	\$108,303,000
ALMONDS (Hulls)	1999	---	---	121,901	Ton	\$58.51	\$7,132,000
	1998	---	---	84,846	Ton	\$72.22	\$6,128,000
APRICOTS	1999	2,040	11.10	22,636	Ton	\$295.05	\$6,679,000
	1998	1,852	5.42	10,044	Ton	\$294.28	\$2,956,000
FIGS (Dry)	1999	3,123	1.22	3,816	Ton	\$1,141.69	\$4,356,000
	1998	2,455	1.11	2,729	Ton	\$1,072.45	\$2,926,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1999	1,150	1.83	2,105	Ton	\$1,425.00	\$2,999,000
	1998	1,044	1.51	1,574	Ton	\$1,285.25	\$2,023,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1999	204	8.25	1,683	Ton	\$200.00	\$337,000
	1998	356	8.52	3,033	Ton	\$164.00	\$497,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1999	14,846	6.96	103,255	Ton	\$414.06	\$42,754,000
	1998	14,102	6.05	85,250	Ton	\$538.44	\$45,902,000
KIWI	1999	27	4.70	127	Ton	\$1,078.00	\$137,000
	1998	27	9.06	245	Ton	\$489.20	\$120,000
NECTARINES	1999	181	9.54	1,727	Ton	\$623.76	\$1,077,000
	1998	194	5.62	1,090	Ton	\$747.06	\$814,000
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1999	3,640	16.43	59,817	Ton	\$225.19	\$13,470,000
	1998	3,943	15.61	61,536	Ton	\$220.96	\$13,597,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1999	1,944	20.21	39,289	Ton	\$209.98	\$8,250,000
	1998	2,158	18.28	39,453	Ton	\$200.38	\$7,906,000
PISTACHIOS	1999	4,448	0.93	4,127	Ton	\$2,803.95	\$11,572,000
	1998	4,437	0.74	3,288	Ton	\$2,571.06	\$8,453,000
PLUMS	1999	75	9.64	723	Ton	\$909.54	\$658,000
	1998	213	1.51	322	Ton	\$1,122.25	\$362,000
PRUNES	1999	2,374	2.27	5,391	Ton	\$895.29	\$4,826,000
	1998	1,912	1.39	2,655	Ton	\$686.63	\$1,823,000
STRAWBERRIES	1999	386	9.82	3,791	Ton	\$811.10	\$3,075,000
	1998	483	12.14	5,866	Ton	\$728.25	\$4,272,000
WALNUTS (English)	1999	5,196	2.02	10,473	Ton	\$800.93	\$8,388,000
	1998	5,218	1.47	7,664	Ton	\$952.27	\$7,298,000
MISCELLANEOUS FROZEN FRUIT *	1999	---	---	1,127	Ton	\$228.40	\$257,000
	1998	---	---	2,950	Ton	\$232.84	\$687,000
MISCELLANEOUS**	1999	2,934	---	---	---	---	\$11,471,000
	1998	3,305	---	---	---	---	\$6,754,000
TOTAL	1999	120,029					\$247,472,000
	1998	115,881					\$220,821,000

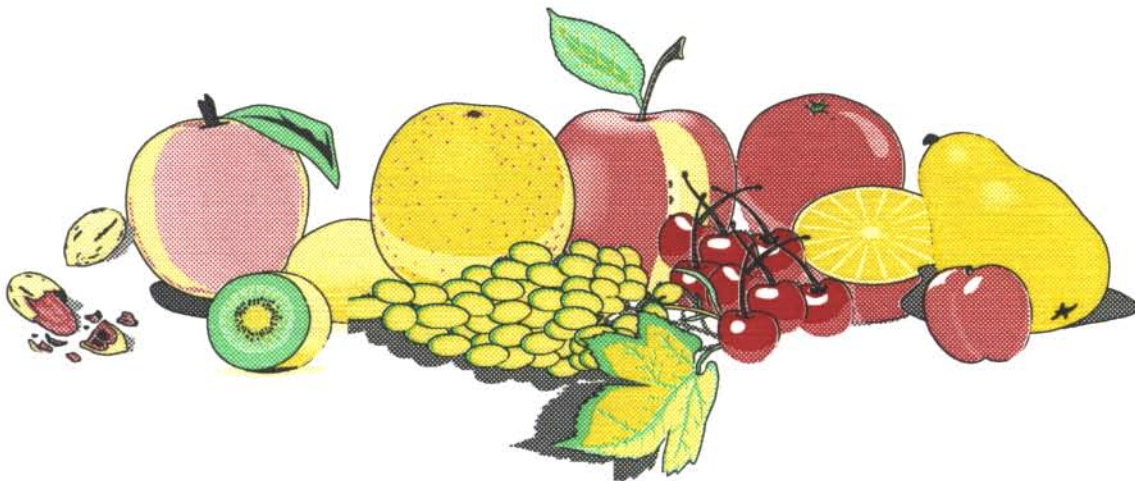
* Includes Apricots, Berries, Grapes, and Melons.

** Includes Apples, Fresh Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans, Pears, Persimmons, Plumbcots, Pomegranates, Table Grapes, Cannery and Fresh Figs, Fresh Peaches, and Fruit Juices.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 1999		YEAR 1998	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	77,461	5,002	68,837	5,296
APPLES	966	0	2,730	203
APRICOTS	2,040	32	2,003	104
BERRIES	292	0	144	95
CHERRIES	316	66	218	137
FIGS	3,123	0	3,313	52
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,354	0	1,674	16
GRAPES (Table)	423	0	223	100
GRAPES (Wine)	14,886	559	12,716	1,047
KIWI	27	0	41	0
MANDARINS	17	0	30	0
NECTARINES	181	1	196	18
OLIVES	60	0	62	0
ORANGES	47	0	48	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,640	38	4,094	313
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,944	200	1,713	486
PEARS	17	0	21	0
PECANS	42	10	42	2
PISTACHIOS	4,448	154	4,317	165
PLUMS	75	5	172	48
PRUNES	2,374	347	2,118	258
WALNUTS (English)	5,196	473	6,147	800
TOTAL	118,929	6,887	110,859	9,140



SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Certified Seeds *	1999	552	---	---	---	---	\$486,000
	1998	270	---	---	---	---	\$210,000
Non-Certified Seeds **	1999	1,763					\$1,282,000
	1998	1,682					\$610,000
TOTAL	1999	2,315					\$1,768,000
	1998	1,952					\$820,000

* Includes certified seed from Alfalfa.

** Includes common and phytosanitary seed from Alfalfa, Bell Pepper, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chili Pepper, Corn, Cucumber, Fava Bean, Lettuce, Oats, Onion, Radish, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (Shells) *	1999	12,357	Ton	\$6.97	\$86,000
	1998	22,127		\$9.44	\$209,000
FIREWOOD	1999	32,416	Cord	\$83.22	\$2,698,000
	1998	26,135	Cord	\$75.82	\$1,982,000
FUEL (Co-generation) **	1999	97,174	Ton	\$15.75	\$1,530,000
	1998	55,620	Ton	\$17.41	\$969,000
MANURE ***	1999	1,395,396	Ton	\$5.73	\$7,998,000
	1998	1,244,915	Ton	\$7.29	\$9,081,000
TOTAL	1999				\$12,312,000
	1998				\$12,240,000

* For Fuel and Animal Bedding.

** Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removal (Recorded in Wet Tons).

*** Livestock, Poultry.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

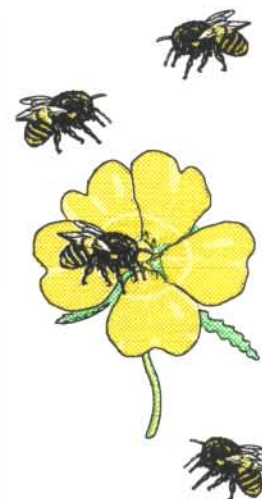


	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
TOTAL	1999	1,009	\$23,747,000
	1998	1,214	\$19,007,000

Includes Budwood, Pits, Cuttings, Cane Berries, Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Roses, Strawberry Plants, Tomato and Other Vegetable Plants, Semi-Tropical Ornamental and Shade Trees, Shrubs, Ornamental Plants, and Christmas Trees. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

BEE INDUSTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1999	37,865	Pound	\$1.60	\$61,000
	1998	39,331	Pound	\$1.69	\$66,000
BULK BEES *	1999	59,680	Pound	\$7.72	\$461,000
	1998	63,296	Pound	\$6.65	\$421,000
HONEY **	1999	2,462,551	Pound	\$0.55	\$1,354,000
	1998	2,556,525	Pound	\$0.58	\$1,483,000
POLLINATION ***	1999	177,532	Colony	\$38.20	\$6,782,000
	1998	175,308	Colony	\$35.04	\$6,143,000
QUEENS	1999	27,870	Each	\$4.99	\$139,000
	1998	30,784	Each	\$5.45	\$168,000
TOTAL	1999				\$8,797,000
	1998				\$8,281,000



* Includes bees sold as nuclei.

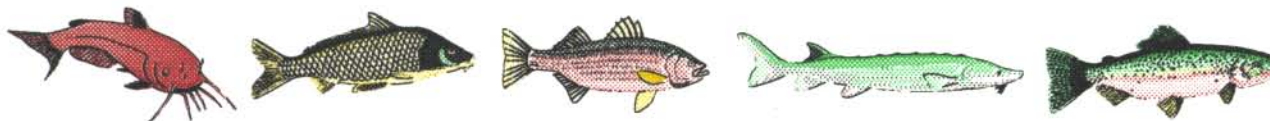
** Honey produced by 36,278 registered resident colonies in 1999.

*** Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	1999	1,206,000	Pound	\$1.97	\$2,380,000
	1998	822,000	Pound	\$1.81	\$1,490,000
TOTAL	1999				\$2,380,000
	1998				\$1,490,000

* Catfish, Silver Carp, Striped Bass, Sturgeon, and Trout



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES *	1999	170,920	1,219,300	Cwt.	\$57.88	\$70,579,000
	1998	142,688	951,000	Cwt.	\$46.64	\$44,354,000
CHICKENS (Fryers)	1999	81,531,549	410,501,007	Pound	\$0.40	\$164,200,000
	1998	80,949,807	405,340,623	Pound	\$0.40	\$162,136,000
CHICKENS ** (Other)	1999	1,760,214	7,431,312	Pound	\$0.18	\$1,307,000
	1998	1,093,225	4,479,514	Pound	\$0.16	\$728,000
GOATS	1999	1,800	---	Each	\$83.30	\$150,000
	1998	1,200	---	Each	\$64.33	\$77,000
OSTRICHES ***	1999	5,220	---	---	---	\$3,317,000
	1998	5,351	---	---	---	\$2,375,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1999	17,092	29,024	Cwt.	\$41.95	\$1,218,000
	1998	18,891	30,738	Cwt.	\$46.69	\$1,435,000
POULTRY **** (Miscellaneous)	1999	68,800	154,420	Pound	\$3.46	\$535,000
	1998	60,800	135,420	Pound	\$3.45	\$467,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1999	23,250	26,889	Cwt.	\$70.89	\$1,906,000
	1998	19,500	22,588	Cwt.	\$65.82	\$1,487,000
TURKEYS	1999	2,202,448	51,991,573	Pound	\$0.44	\$23,057,000
	1998	3,251,429	73,172,233	Pound	\$0.40	\$29,505,000
TOTAL	1999					\$266,270,000
	1998					\$242,564,000

* Includes Cull Dairy and Beef Cows, Calves, Stocker Cattle, and Replacement Dairy Heifers.

** Includes Meat Layers and Pullets.

*** Includes Domestic and Exported Breeder Birds, Hides, and Blown Dry Eggs; Slaughter Birds; and Exported Meat.

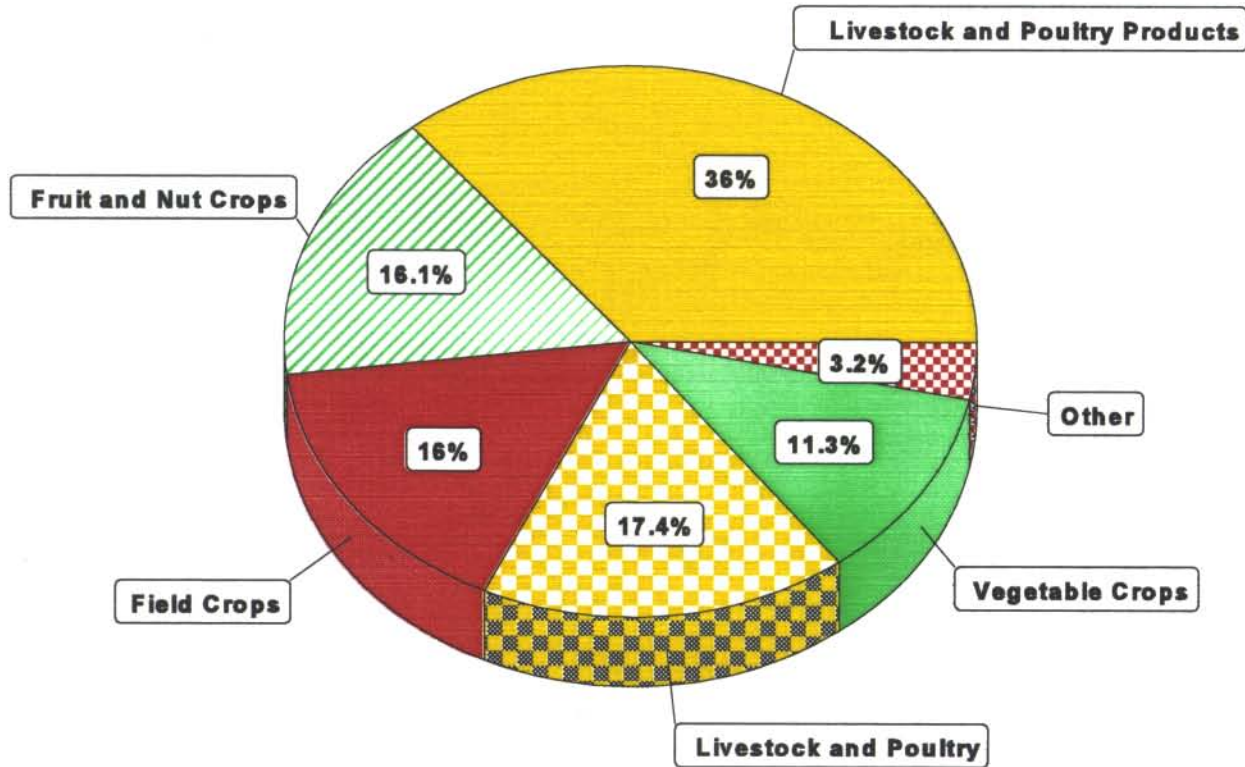
**** Chukar, Pheasant, and Squab.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS, CHICKEN (Market)	1999	62,834,550	Dozen	\$0.46	\$28,778,000
	1998	69,182,327	Dozen	\$0.54	\$37,358,000
EGGS, TURKEY (Hatching)	1999	4,050,790	Each	\$0.66	\$2,665,000
	1998	6,829,453	Each	\$0.68	\$4,626,000
MILK (Goat)	1999	24,903	Cwt.	\$30.81	\$767,000
	1998	24,281	Cwt.	\$30.77	\$747,000
MILK (Market)	1999	38,109,502	Cwt.	\$13.48	\$513,716,000
	1998	34,821,231	Cwt.	\$15.09	\$525,452,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1999	455,924	Cwt.	\$13.22	\$6,027,000
	1998	48,916	Cwt.	\$14.55	\$709,000
WOOL	1999	135,000	Pound	\$0.30	\$40,000
	1998	175,500	Pound	\$0.70	\$123,000
TOTAL	1999				\$551,995,000
	1998				\$569,016,000



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$196,593	COTTON	\$13,401,184	SORGHUM	\$21,942
CORN	\$2,385,493	OATS	\$161,244	WHEAT	\$1,518,906
		RICE	\$2,130,506		

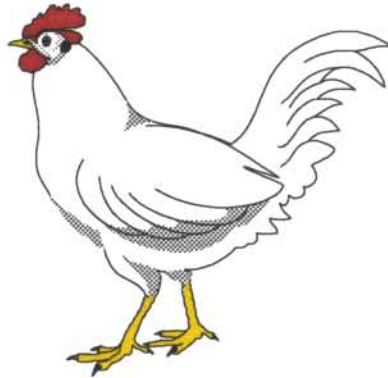
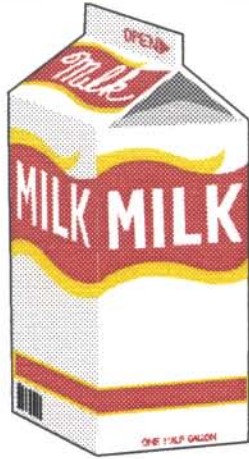
CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

BARLEY	140 Acres	GRAPES (Wine)	20 Acres	TOMATOES (Processing)	5 Acres
		OAT HAY	45 Acres		

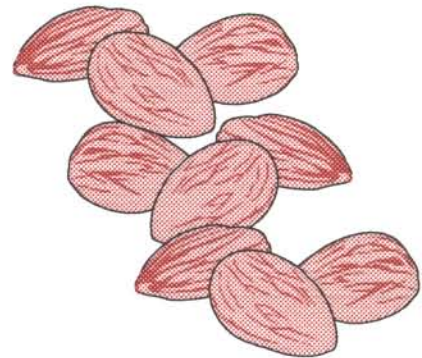
* Amounts not included in total value of each crop, except for cotton, for 1999. (Source: FSA Office)

** The reported planted acreages were not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market or inability to harvest and transport. Acreages not included in total acres of each crop in 1999.

MERCED COUNTY



**TOP THREE
COMMODITIES**



COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

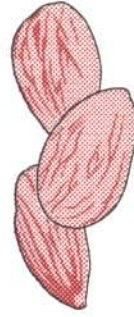
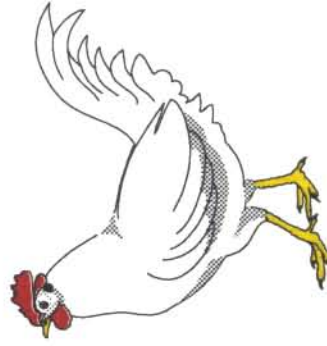
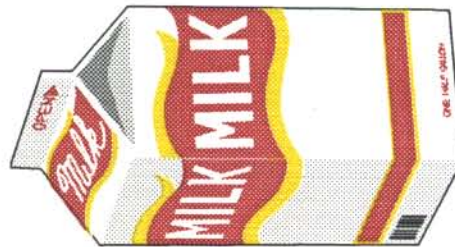
COMMODITIES	1999	1998	1994	1989	1984	1979	1974
AQUACULTURE	\$2,380,000	\$1,490,000	\$1,185,000	\$2,617,000	---	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$8,797,000	\$8,281,000	\$5,305,000	\$4,179,000	\$3,409,000	\$2,006,000	\$1,575,500
FIELD CROPS	\$245,647,000	\$226,150,000	\$245,796,000	\$200,242,000	\$178,231,000	\$157,795,000	\$112,474,600
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$247,472,000	\$220,821,000	\$257,883,000	\$171,317,000	\$152,154,000	\$155,830,000	\$60,212,320
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	\$266,270,000	\$242,564,000	\$204,888,000	\$255,720,000	\$188,782,000	\$182,653,000	\$68,143,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$551,995,000	\$569,016,000	\$359,411,000	\$286,865,000	\$228,987,000	\$136,015,000	\$75,985,600
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$23,747,000	\$19,007,000	\$14,923,000	\$11,905,000	\$9,039,000	\$12,011,000	\$4,056,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$12,312,000	\$12,240,000	\$8,273,000	\$9,883,000	---	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$1,768,000	\$820,000	\$2,035,000	\$2,211,000	\$1,473,000	\$3,228,000	\$1,335,400
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$173,638,000	\$149,373,000	\$152,024,000	\$108,169,000	\$77,952,000	\$51,419,000	\$35,368,400
TOTAL	\$1,534,026,000	\$1,449,762,000	\$1,251,723,000	\$1,053,108,000	\$840,027,000	\$700,957,000	\$359,150,820

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1999

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------|
| 1. MILK | \$519,743,000 | (1) |
| 2. CHICKENS* | \$165,507,000 | (2) |
| 3. ALMONDS | \$120,033,000 | (3) |
| 4. TOMATOES** | \$81,741,000 | (4) |
| 5. COTTON | \$75,900,000 | (6) |
| 6. CATTLE | \$70,579,000 | (9) |
| 7. ALFALFA | \$56,586,000 | (5) |
| 8. SWEET POTATOES | \$55,958,000 | (8) |
| 9. GRAPES (WINE) | \$42,754,000 | (7) |
| 10. CORN SILAGE | \$33,775,000 | (11) |
| 11. EGGS | \$28,778,000 | (10) |
| 12. NURSERY PRODUCTS | \$23,747,000 | (13) |

(Number in parenthesis denotes 1998 ranking)

* Includes Fryers and Other Chickens ** Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes



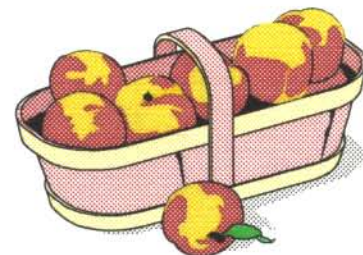
MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	ORGANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
ASH WHITEFLY <u>Siphoninus phillyrea</u>	<u>Encarsia inaron</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
GRAPELEAF SKELETONIZER <u>Harrisina brillians</u>	<u>Ametadoria misella</u> (Parasitic Fly) <u>WGLS Granulosis</u> (Virus) <u>Apanteles harrisinae</u> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
ITALIAN THISTLE <u>Carduus tenuiflorus</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Limited
KLAMATH WEED <u>Hypericum perforatum</u>	<u>Chrysolina quadrigemina</u> (Leaf Feeding Beetle)	Two Sites
MILK THISTLE <u>Silybum marianum</u>	<u>Rhinocyllus conicus</u> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Countywide
PUNCTURE VINE <u>Tribulus terrestris</u>	<u>Microlarinus lareynii</u> (Seed Weevil) <u>Microlarinus lypriformis</u> (Stem Weevil)	Countywide
RUSSIAN THISTLE <u>Salsola sp.</u>	<u>Coleophora klimeschiella</u> (Case Bearing Moth) <u>Coleophora parthenica</u> (Russian Thistle Borer)	Countywide
WATER HYACINTH <u>Eichornia crassipes</u>	<u>Sameodes albiguttalis</u> (Hyacinth Moth) <u>Neochetina eichhoniae</u> (Mottled Hyacinth Weevil)	Six Sites
YELLOWSTAR THISTLE <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	<u>Bangasternus orientalis</u> (Seed-Head Weevil) <u>Urophora sirunaseva</u> (Seed-Head Gall Fly) <u>Eustenopus villosus</u> (Hairy Weevil)	Countywide/One New Site Countywide Countywide/One New Site

* Represents total number of individual sites, trees, acres, etc., incorporated in program efforts (survey, trap, servings, releases, etc.)

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES
ALFALFA	1	223
ALMONDS	18	820.5
ASIAN PEARS	1	35.5
DAIRY (MILK)	1	1 Dairy
NECTARINES	1	10
PEACHES	2	17.9
PISTACHIO	1	242
PLUMS	1	11
RAISINS	2	95
SWEET POTATOES	4	419
WALNUTS	2	71
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES *	3	56



* Beans, squash

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING			
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	TRAPS IN SERVICE	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS
Apple Maggot	Apples	41	350
Cherry Fruit Flies	Cherries	20	38
European Corn Borer	Corn	5	45
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	5	29
Gypsy Moth	Trees	172	864
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	110	568
Khapra Beetle	Grain	130	131
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	434	4,722
Melon Fly	Melons	56	435
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	5	58
Olive Fruit Fly	Olives	5	32
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	54	607
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes	75	1,383



PEST ERADICATION		
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State operated trapping program on 65,109 acres, combined with plowdown enforcement or host free period.
Red Imported Fire Ant	Almonds, Beehives, Nursery Stock	6,092 acres were surveyed and trapped.
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes	Successful eradication program completed in 1994. Resumed detection trapping program in 1996.
PEST (WEED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Banana Waterlily	Waterways	None detected since eradication project in 1993.
Camelthorn	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.
Carolina Horse Nettle	Rangeland/Pasture	Ongoing detection/eradication efforts Countywide.
Hydrilla	Waterways	Ongoing detection.
Purple Mustard	Pasture/Roadways	Ongoing eradication efforts Countywide.
Water Hyacinth	Waterways	Ongoing eradication efforts - Merced River, San Joaquin River, and tributaries.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (cont.)



PEST EXCLUSION		
PEST (INTERCEPTED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
Live Pests		
Aphid	Cut Flowers (Hawaii)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Chaff Scale	Citrus (Florida)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
European Corn Borer	Peas (Maryland)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Leafhopper	Cut Flowers (Hawaii)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Moth	Beehive (Texas)	1 Rejected/Released
Purple Scale	Citrus (Florida)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Quackgrass	Potted Plants (Oregon)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Red Imported Fire Ant	Sweet Potatoes (North Carolina)	1 Rejected/Treated/Released
Red Imported Fire Ant	Beehives (Texas)	6 Rejected/Treated/Released
Soft Brown Scale	Cut Flowers (Hawaii)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Not Properly Certified		
Apple Maggot	Apples (unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Burrowing and Reniform Nematode	Purple Yams (Louisiana)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Burrowing and Reniform Nematode	Roses (Florida)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Cereal Leaf Beetle	Wheat (Ohio)	1 Rejected/Returned
Insect/Diseases	Red Pepper Spice (China)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Insect/Diseases	Rice Straw (China)	38 Rejected/Destroyed
Ozonium Root Rot	Grass Sod (Texas)	1 Rejected/Returned
Pecan Case-bearers	In Shell Pecans (Virginia, New Mexico, Georgia, Oklahoma)	4 Rejected/Destroyed
Pecan Case-bearers, Pine Shoot Beetle, Chestnut Bark Disease	Pine Cones, Chestnuts, and Pecans (Illinois)	1 Rejected/Returned



Improper Markings *			
Asparagus (Oregon)	1 Rejected/Released	Pecans (Texas)	1 Rejected/Released
Blueberry (Michigan)	1 Rejected/Released	Plant Material (Gilroy, CA)	1 Rejected/Released
Citrus Fruit (Arizona)	2 Rejected/Released	Roses (Florida)	1 Rejected/Released
Cut Roses (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released	Seed Pods (El Monte, CA)	1 Rejected/Released
Kiwi (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released	Tulip bulbs (Washington)	1 Rejected/Released
Lilac (Washington)	1 Rejected/Released	Pine Cones/ Cypress Cuttings (Oregon)	1 Rejected/Released

* Represents shipments.