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California Department of Food and Agriculture

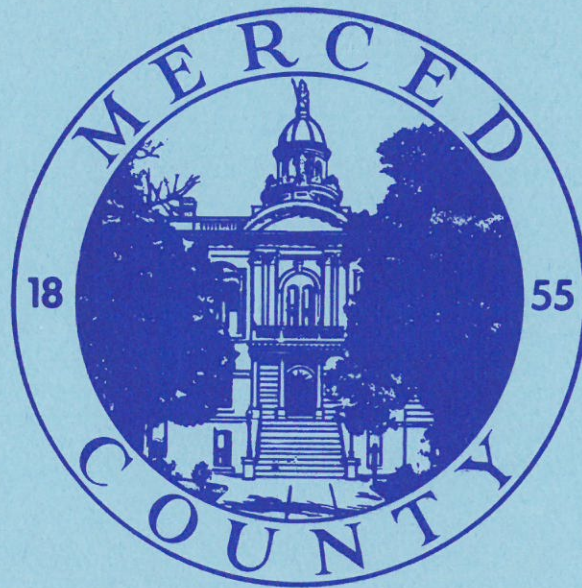
Agricultural Commissioners' Crop Reports

Merced County

1982-1984

OFFICE COPY

ANNUAL
REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1982

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MERCED, CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL J. TANNER
Agricultural Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 WEST WARDROBE AVENUE
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 726-7431
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340

LOS BANOS OFFICE:
342 "D" Street
Telephone (209) 826-0133
Los Banos, California 93635

MICHAEL J. TANNER

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

TO: Clare Berryhill, Director of Food and Agriculture, and the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Merced County:

Fred Wack, Chairman
Al Bardini
Harvey Fonseca

Albert E. Goman
Ann Klinger

Gentlemen and Mrs. Klinger:

I am pleased to submit the 1982 Agricultural Crop Report, my first as Agricultural Commissioner, in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Agricultural Code. The gross agricultural value for Merced County crops in 1982 is \$743,030,000 which is \$21,847,000 less or just under a 3% drop from the adjusted 1981 value of \$764,877,000. It has been a difficult year for the agricultural producers in Merced County. Crop losses due to weather related problems throughout the year, combined with depressed prices of most commodities, led to a consecutive second year decline in the value of crops produced here.

Milk production, as usual, is the leading contributor of income at \$194,296,000, followed by poultry at \$79,439,000 and cattle at \$65,284,000. These three commodities represent 45% of the total agricultural value even though fryers and broilers were down \$8 million and cattle over \$6 million due mainly to lower prices. Cotton changed places with alfalfa as the result of a \$9 million decline caused by 10,000 less acres and lower production and price. Other crops showing significant drops in value were cantaloupes at \$6 million, chicken eggs at \$5.5 million, wine grapes at \$4.8 million, cling peaches at \$4.3 million and raisins at \$1.9 million, a crop that was all but lost due to harvest time rains.

On the bright side was alfalfa, fourth in value at \$46,455,000, up \$12 million due to increased acreage, production and price. Fresh market tomatoes were up only slightly even though 1,000 acres more were planted, however, canning tomatoes made a \$3 million gain with an average production over 30 tons per acre and a higher price. Other commodities showing good gains were swine and lima beans up over \$2 million each, apricots and freestone peaches up \$1.2 million each and honeybee products up almost \$1 million.

We have attempted, for the first time, to include Government Payments in the total value of those commodities involved in the various governmental programs.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of my staff who have diligently collected information for this report, especially, Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist and Standards Inspector, who was in charge of compiling all of this data. I would also like to thank those individuals, companies, and governmental agencies who gave their time in providing the information needed to make this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

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**FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1982-1981**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
* BARLEY	1982	14,000	1.70	23,800	Ton	\$120.00	\$2,856,000
	1981	15,700	1.75	27,500	Ton	130.00	3,575,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1982	3,020	1.2	3,620	Ton	420.00	1,520,000
	1981	2,730	1.2	3,280	Ton	640.00	2,099,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1982	5,760	.88	5,070	Ton	350.00	1,775,000
	1981	6,520	.95	6,190	Ton	550.00	3,405,000
* CORN (Grain)	1982	10,400	3.38	35,200	Ton	128.00	4,524,000
	1981	12,100	3.48	42,100	Ton	146.40	6,166,000
* COTTON (Lint)	1982	53,300	950 lbs.	101,000	500 lb. bale	312.00	35,638,000
	1981	64,000	1,110 lbs.	142,080	500 lb. bale	315.00	44,755,000
COTTON (Seed)	1982	-----	-----	42,400	Ton	100.00	4,240,000
	1981	-----	-----	58,300	Ton	95.00	5,539,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1982	59,000	6.86	404,700	Ton	100.00	40,470,000
	1981	55,600	6.67	370,900	Ton	85.00	31,527,000
HAY (Alfalfa-Cube)	1982	7,860	7.25	57,000	Ton	105.00	5,985,000
	1981	5,000	6.71	33,600	Ton	90.00	3,024,000
HAY (Grain)	1982	13,300	3.38	45,000	Ton	70.00	3,150,000
	1981	17,200	3.10	53,300	Ton	60.00	3,198,000
HAY (Sudan)	1982	1,120	3.1	3,470	Ton	55.00	191,000
	1981	1,110	3.7	4,110	Ton	55.00	226,000
OATS (Grain)	1982	520	1.6	830	Ton	150.00	125,000
	1981	5,400	1.3	7,020	Ton	140.00	983,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1982	84,000	-----	-----	Acre	110.00	9,240,000
	1981	85,000	-----	-----	Acre	105.00	8,925,000
PASTURE (Other)	1982	556,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,950,000
	1981	554,000	-----	-----	Acre	10.00	5,540,000
* RICE	1982	11,800	3.25	38,400	Ton	150.00	6,890,000
	1981	15,000	3.31	49,700	Ton	200.00	9,940,000
SAFFLOWER	1982	2,690	1.27	3,420	Ton	310.00	1,060,000
	1981	824	1.13	928	Ton	305.00	283,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1982	31,700	24.2	767,000	Ton	18.50	14,191,000
	1981	29,300	23.4	685,600	Ton	18.00	12,341,000
1 SILAGE (Other)	1982	14,900	14.0	209,000	Ton	18.00	3,762,000
	1981	25,300	15.0	379,500	Ton	17.00	6,452,000
* SORGHUM (Grain)	1982	1,390	2.5	3,480	Ton	95.00	334,000
	1981	1,300	2.2	2,860	Ton	100.00	286,000

FIELD CROPS (Continued)
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1982-1981

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
STRAW	1982	-----	-----	2,100	Ton	\$ 30.00	\$ 63,000
	1981	-----	-----	1,700	Ton	27.00	45,900
SUGAR BEETS	1982	20,200	26.44	534,000	Ton	35.15	18,770,000
	1981	20,300	27.39	556,000	Ton	32.72	18,191,000
² STUBBLE (Pasture)	1982	11,400	-----	-----	Acre	7.00	80,000
	1981	14,000	-----	-----	Acre	6.00	84,000
* WHEAT	1982	31,900	2.28	72,700	Ton	127.00	9,326,000
	1981	39,600	2.34	92,700	Ton	141.00	13,071,000
TOTAL	1982	922,860					\$171,140,000
	1981	955,984					179,656,000

* See table, middle of page 9.

¹ Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

² Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats and Wheat. Stubble pasture, not included in total acreage.

**SEED CROPS
ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1982-1981
CERTIFIED SEED CROPS**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS	1982	482	2,425	1,181,000	lb.	\$0.397	\$ 469,000
	1981	342	1,807	618,000	lb.	0.320	198,000
¹ SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1982	818	-----	-----	-----	-----	180,000
	1981	1,200	-----	-----	-----	-----	657,000
TOTAL	1982	1,305					\$649,000
	1981	1,542					855,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1982	1,447	2,250	3,256,000	lb.	\$0.380	\$1,237,000
	1981	1,387	2,090	2,899,000	lb.	0.396	1,143,000
² SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1982	261	-----	-----	-----	-----	129,000
	1981	755	-----	-----	-----	-----	541,000
TOTAL	1982	1,708					\$1,366,000
	1981	2,142					1,684,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1982	3,013					\$2,015,000
	1981	3,684					2,539,000

¹ Includes certified seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Oats, Rice, Sudan, and Wheat.

² Includes common seed from Barley, Carrot, Corn, Cucumber, Melons, Oats, Onions, Pepper, Rice, Squash, Tomato, and Wheat.

**VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1982-1981**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA (Freezer)	1982	6,700	1.6	10,700	Ton	\$ 370.00	\$ 3,959,000
	1981	2,970	1.6	4,760	Ton	370.00	1,760,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1982	8,250	178	1,469,000	90 lb. Crates	7.50	11,018,000
	1981	7,670	217	1,665,000	90 lb. Crates	10.20	16,983,000
MELONS (Watermelons)	1982	1,470	16.19	23,800	Ton	60.00	1,428,000
	1981	865	18.23	15,770	Ton	120.00	1,892,000
MELONS (Other)	1982	190	13.00	2,470	Ton	60.00	148,000
	1981	270	7.89	2,130	Ton	136.60	291,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1982	1,580	1.4	2,210	Ton	190.00	420,000
	1981	853	1.8	1,540	Ton	240.00	368,000
PEPPERS BELL (Market)	1982	1,530	5.83	8,920	Ton	391.00	3,488,000
	1981	1,100	6.32	6,960	Ton	485.00	3,376,000
¹ PEPPERS (Processing)	1982	-----	-----	4,130	Ton	114.00	471,000
	1981	-----	-----	3,070	Ton	120.00	368,000
² SWEET POTATOES	1982	5,580	8.74	48,750	Ton	443.00	21,579,000
	1981	5,430	9.50	51,600	Ton	425.00	21,930,000
SWEET POTATOES (Cannery)	1982	250	18.0	4,500	Ton	117.50	529,000
	1981	305	22.6	6,890	Ton	117.50	810,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1982	3,200	-----	2,611,000	25 lb. ctns.	3.76	9,815,000
	1981	2,210	-----	2,032,300	30 lb. ctns.	4.47	9,081,000
PROCESSING (From Market Acreage)	1982	-----	-----	3,800	Ton	55.60	211,000
	1981	-----	-----	1,300	Ton	50.80	66,000
PROCESSING (Canning Varieties)	1982	6,400	30.4	194,600	Ton	55.60	10,820,000
	1981	6,400	24.1	154,300	Ton	50.80	7,838,000
TOTAL TOMATOES	1982	9,600		231,000	Ton		20,846,000
	1981	8,610		186,100	Ton		16,985,000
³ VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous)	1982	2,110					3,994,000
	1981	729					1,675,000
TOTAL	1982	37,260					\$67,880,000
	1981	28,802					66,438,000

¹ From Market Acreage and processing varieties.

² 1981 price reflects grower return; 1982 price is FOB, packed.

³ Includes Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Garlic, Lettuce, Onions, Pimentos, Pumpkin, Spinach, and Sweet Corn.

**FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1982-1981**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		HARVESTED		PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1982	48,510		0.50	24,300	Ton	\$1,800.00	\$ 43,740,000
	1981	45,741		0.60	27,440	Ton	1,600.00	1 43,904,000
ALMONDS (Hulls & Shells)	1982	-----		-----	48,600	Ton	48.00	2,332,000
	1981	-----		-----	57,200	Ton	39.34	2,250,000
APRICOTS	1982	1,480		7.77	11,500	Ton	318.00	3,656,000
	1981	1,407		6.32	8,890	Ton	274.00	2,438,000
FIGS (Cannery)	1982	434		1.75	760	Ton	275.00	209,000
	1981	201		5.05	1,015	Ton	275.00	279,000
FIGS (Dry)	1982	787		1.37	1,080	Ton	843.00	910,000
	1981	1,020		1.51	1,540	Ton	949.00	1,461,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1982	200		2.10	420	Ton	1,060.00	445,000
	1981	1,030		1.75	1,800	Ton	1,275.00	2,295,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1982	1,580		11.0	17,400	Ton	120.00	2,088,000
	1981	1,930		7.2	13,900	Ton	200.00	2,780,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1982	11,000		10.0	110,000	Ton	147.00	16,170,000
	1981	11,606		7.9	91,700	Ton	222.00	20,357,000
KIWIS	1982	37		3.58	132	Ton	1,857.00	246,000
	1981	32		4.94	158	Ton	2,571.00	405,000
NECTARINES	1982	178		8.22	1,470	Ton	463.00	678,000
	1981	234		6.13	1,430	Ton	284.00	406,000
OLIVES	1982	55		3.25	179	Ton	300.00	53,700
	1981	92		0.48	44	Ton	700.00	31,200
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1982	3,977		17.0	67,600	Ton	168.00	11,370,000
	1981	4,150		20.1	83,400	Ton	188.00	15,679,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1982	1,967		22.20	43,700	Ton	135.00	5,900,000
	1981	1,836		19.95	36,600	Ton	128.50	4,703,000
Misc. Frozen Fruit (Apricots Grapes, Peaches)	1982	-----		-----	12,514	Ton	182.00	2,281,000
	1981	-----		-----	9,419	Ton	166.00	1,565,000
PISTACHIOS	1982	729		0.66	481	Ton	3,400.00	1,635,000
	1981	1,363		0.25	341	Ton	3,100.00	1,057,000
PLUMS	1982	122		3.36	410	Ton	893.00	366,000
	1981	141		5.21	735	Ton	286.00	210,000
PRUNES	1982	1,413		2.66	3,760	Ton	568.00	2,136,000
	1981	1,338		2.68	3,590	Ton	620.00	2,226,000
WALNUTS (English)	1982	7,276		1.66	12,100	Ton	1,100.00	13,310,000
	1981	7,183		1.75	12,570	Ton	1,010.00	12,696,000
² Miscellaneous	1982	2,217						2,339,000
	1981	2,137						3,844,000
TOTAL	1982	81,962						\$109,865,000
	1981	81,441						1 118,586,000

¹ Revised

² Includes Apples, Berries, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans and Persimmon.

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING 1982-1977

CROPS	YEAR 1982		YEAR 1977	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	48,510	15,000	40,513	3,940
APPLES	1,851	760	-----	2,404
APRICOTS	1,480	47	1,661	-----
CHERRIES	50	100	195	-----
FIGS (Cannery)	434	0	357	-----
FIGS (Dry)	787	2,059	980	310
GRAPES (Raisin)	3,106	143	4,316	40
GRAPES (Table)	159	4	145	-----
GRAPES (Wine)	12,922	2,191	10,702	-----
KIWI	37	6	2	29
NECTARINES	209	22	207	20
OLIVES	92	-----	147	-----
ORANGES	60	1	87	-----
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,977	521	6,447	763
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,967	212	2,601	150
PEARS	15	-----	40	39
PECANS	36	49	41	34
PERSIMMONS	13	-----	13	-----
PISTACHIOS	729	3,263	99	1,384
PLUMS	135	74	116	22
POMEGRANATE	-----	43	-----	-----
PRUNES	1,413	218	1,232	266
WALNUTS (Black)	69	-----	171	26
WALNUTS (English)	7,276	1,126	7,535	1,052
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	87	42	15	-----
TOTAL	85,414	25,881	77,622	10,487

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1982-1981

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN (Market)	1982	24,100,000	Doz.	\$ 0.458	\$ 11,043,000
	1981	31,635,000	Doz.	0.525	16,608,000
EGGS-TURKEY (Hatching)	1982	6,411,000	Each	0.39	2,500,000
	1981	5,990,000	Each	0.43	2,576,000
MILK (Goat)	1982	11,500	Cwt.	17.00	196,000
	1981	16,300	Cwt.	21.47	350,000
MILK (Market)	1982	13,718,000	Cwt.	13.04	178,883,000
	1981	12,879,000	Cwt.	13.20	170,005,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1982	1,241,000	Cwt.	12.42	15,413,000
	1981	858,000	Cwt.	12.55	10,763,000
* WOOL	1982	453,000	Lb.	1.06	616,000
	1981	385,000	Lb.	1.12	431,000
TOTAL	1982				\$ 208,651,000
	1981				200,733,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1982-1981

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1982	19,600	Lb.	\$ 1.60	\$ 31,400
	1981	10,500	Lb.	1.90	20,000
BULK BEES	1982	25,500	Lb.	4.53	116,000
	1981	10,400	Lb.	4.50	46,800
* HONEY	¹ 1982	2,037,000	Lb.	0.500	1,086,000
	² 1981	806,000	Lb.	0.522	421,000
QUEENS	1982	12,000	Each	5.50	66,000
	1981	9,900	Each	5.00	49,500
³ NUCLEI	1982	1,330	Each	14.25	19,000
	1981	900	Each	12.78	11,500
⁴ POLLINATION	1982	110,700	Colony	20.76	2,298,000
	1981	109,500	Colony	20.67	2,263,000
TOTAL	1982				\$3,616,000
	1981				2,812,000

* See Table, middle of page 9.

¹ Honey Produced by 32,800 colonies owned by resident beekeepers.

² Honey Produced by 31,500 colonies owned by resident beekeepers.

³ Average three frames per Nuclei, and includes frames of bees and brood sold by the frame.

⁴ Pollination colonies include all colonies required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

**LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1982-1981**

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF		UNIT	VALUE	
		HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1982	148,200	1,225,000	Cwt.	\$53.29	\$ 65,284,000
	1981	148,500	1,257,000	Cwt.	57.00	71,649,000
FRYERS AND BROILERS	1982	63,906,000	293,609,000	Lb.	0.265	77,806,000
	1981	60,020,000	280,847,000	Lb.	0.306	85,939,000
OTHER CHICKENS	1982	3,248,000	7,198,000	Lb.	0.227	1,633,000
	1981	1,138,000	5,690,000	Lb.	0.060	341,000
PULLETS	1982	329,000	-----	Each	2.30	758,000
	1981	330,000	-----	Each	2.35	776,000
GOATS	1982	1,120	-----	Each	27.00	30,200
	1981	721	-----	Each	27.32	19,700
HOGS AND PIGS	1982	56,500	110,600	Cwt.	59.00	6,525,000
	1981	49,440	93,900	Cwt.	47.00	4,413,000
HORSES	1982	1,220	-----	Each	600.00	732,000
	1981	1,460	-----	Each	585.00	854,000
SHEEP AND LAMB	1982	49,500	46,200	Cwt.	57.00	2,633,000
	1981	44,550	41,365	Cwt.	57.50	2,378,000
TURKEYS	1982	2,088,000	39,098,000	Lb.	0.39	15,248,000
	1981	2,334,000	46,680,000	Lb.	0.38	17,738,000
RABBITS	1982	-----	-----		-----	-----
	1981	23,000	92,000	Lb.	0.80	73,600
TOTAL	1982					\$170,649,000
	1981					184,181,000

**NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACREAGE, SALES AND VALUE 1982-1981**

¹ TOTAL	YEAR	ACREAGE		TOTAL
		1982	1981	
	1982	577		\$9,214,000
	1981	541		9,932,000

¹ Includes Budwood, Pits and Cuttings; Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees; Grapevines; Roses, Tomato, and other Vegetable Plants; Semi-Tropical Ornamental and Shade Trees; Shrubs; Ornamental Plants, and Christmas Trees. The separate production and value data are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

MERCED COUNTY GROSS VALUE ALL CROPS

ITEM	1981	1982
BEE INDUSTRY	\$ 2,812,000	\$ 3,616,000
FIELD CROPS -	179,656,000	171,140,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	¹ 118,586,000	109,865,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	184,181,000	170,649,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	200,733,000	208,651,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	9,932,000	9,214,000
SEED CROPS	2,539,000	2,015,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	66,438,000	67,880,000
GRAND TOTAL	¹ \$764,877,000	\$743,030,000

¹ Revised.

*GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

BARLEY	\$ 64,100	HONEY	\$ 67,300	SORGHUM	\$ 2,700
CORN	18,400	RICE	1,130,000	WHEAT	93,300
COTTON	4,126,000			WOOL	136,000

**CROPS NOT HARVESTED 1982

ALFALFA	385 Acres	COTTON	890 Acres	PEACHES	10 Acres
ALMONDS	260 Acres	FIGS	337 Acres	PRUNES	344 Acres
BEANS	1,100 Acres	GRAPES, RAISIN	1,300 Acres	RICE	400 Acres
BELL PEPPERS	50 Acres	GRAPES, WINE	1,900 Acres	TOMATOES	227 Acres
CORN	1,120 Acres			MISC. VEGETABLES	60 Acres

* Amounts included in total value of each crop respectively (Source: ASCS office).

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

CROP VALUE COMPARISON SUMMARY 1952-1982

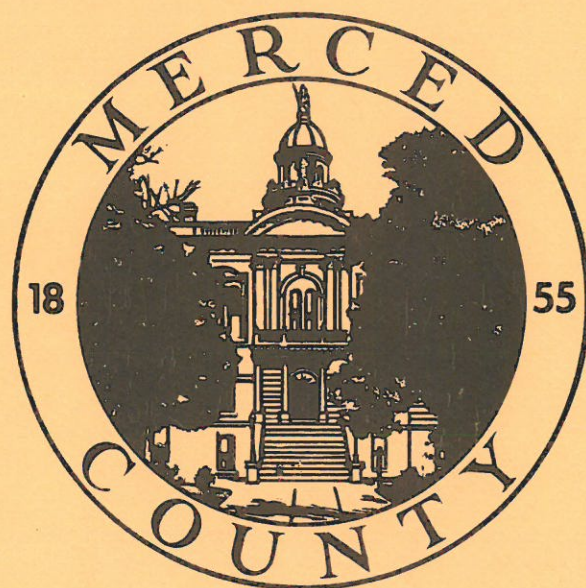
COMMODITIES	1982	1977	1972	1967	1962	1957	1952
Bee Industry	\$ 3,616,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 632,600	\$ 318,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 174,503	\$ 107,950
Field Crops	171,140,000	111,041,500	61,909,200	40,200,600	35,291,800	32,132,400	38,240,710
Fruit and Nuts	109,865,000	100,481,500	40,578,170	20,587,300	17,632,500	13,736,100	13,408,666
Livestock & Poultry	170,649,000	119,294,800	57,198,600	39,040,110	22,395,500	19,730,172	25,929,998
Livestock & Poultry Products	208,651,000	104,095,500	55,281,400	32,035,700	25,942,400	20,645,243	26,604,706
Nursery Products	9,214,000	6,430,000	3,427,800	1,794,000	3,093,200	3,209,856	1,892,940
Seed Crops	2,015,000	3,683,000	1,232,000	1,201,800	733,800	902,400	261,611
Vegetable Crops	67,880,000	60,742,800	24,370,000	18,118,340	13,376,400	10,268,000	6,040,089
TOTAL	\$743,030,000	\$506,770,000	\$244,630,670	\$153,296,650	\$118,645,600	\$100,798,714	\$112,486,670

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1982

MILK	\$194,296,000 (1)	SWEET POTATOES	\$22,108,000 (8)
CHICKENS	80,197,000 (2)	TOMATOES	20,846,000 (13)
CATTLE	65,284,000 (3)	SUGAR BEETS	18,770,000 (11)
ALFALFA	46,455,000 (6)	CORN	18,715,000 (10)
ALMONDS	43,740,000 (5)	GRAPES	18,258,000 (7)
COTTON	35,638,000 (4)	PEACHES	17,270,000 (9)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1981 RANKING

ANNUAL
REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1983

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MERCED, CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL J. TANNER
Agricultural Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 WEST WARDROBE AVENUE
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 385-7431
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340

LOS BANOS OFFICE:
342 "D" Street
Telephone (209) 826-0133
Los Banos, California 93635

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

TO: Clare Berryhill, Director of Food and Agriculture, and the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Merced County:

Albert E. Goman, Chairman
Al Bardini
Harvey Fonseca

Ann Klinger
Fred Wack

Gentlemen and Mrs. Klinger:

I am pleased to present the 1983 Agricultural Crop Report which is the culmination of the numerous efforts of the agricultural community in Merced County.

The total gross agricultural value for commodities produced in 1983 is \$721,750,000 which is \$21,280,000 less than the 1982 value. This is the third year in a row that gross income has dropped. The main factors for this decline are the weather, which caused interruptions and crop yield reductions throughout the year, lower prices for several commodities, and the government payment-in-kind (PIK) program which idled over 50,000 acres in the County.

I must emphasize that these figures are gross returns to the producer and do not indicate actual net profit.

Milk, by far the leading commodity, was worth \$196,622,000. Poultry was a very bright spot bringing in \$105,175,000 with fryers and broilers up \$7,564,000 and turkeys up \$2,446,000 due to slightly better prices and higher production. Cattle and calves, valued at \$59,775,000, dropped \$5,509,000 as a result of lower prices and number of animals produced.

Cotton changed places with sweet potatoes declining \$12,535,000 as the result of PIK, lower production, and reduction in acreage by 16,500 acres. Other crops showing significant drops in value were walnuts at \$7,130,000 due to price, almonds at \$7,020,000 due to production being down 40%, wheat \$4,046,000 due to a 38% reduction in acreage, cantaloupes \$2,905,000 and rice \$2,718,000 which were both due to lower acreage and price, freestone peaches \$2,417,000 due to reduction in acreage and production, and clingstone peaches \$2,206,000 due to lower production and value.

Chicken eggs rebounded this year, up \$4,624,000 as a result of higher production and year end prices. Sweet potatoes, sixth in value at \$26,405,000 were up \$4,297,000 due to higher production but price was down slightly. Alfalfa gained \$4,031,000 due to higher prices and raisins, all but lost in 1982, were up \$942,000.

Government payments, included last year in the total value of those commodities affected, have been discontinued. However, a table reflecting such information has been retained in this report.

I wish to express my appreciation to my staff, who have diligently collected information for this report, and, particularly, to Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist and Standards Inspector, who was responsible for compiling all of this data. I also want to thank the various individuals, companies, and governmental agencies who gave their time providing information needed to make this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner
Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

MJT:cvg

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**FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1983-1982**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1983	9,240	1.71	15,800	Ton	\$126.00	\$1,991,000
	*1982	14,000	1.70	23,800	Ton	120.00	2,856,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1983	4,410	1.02	4,510	Ton	540.00	2,214,000
	1982	3,020	1.20	3,620	Ton	420.00	1,520,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1983	4,130	0.81	3,350	Ton	600.00	2,010,000
	1982	5,760	0.88	5,070	Ton	350.00	1,775,000
CORN (Grain)	1983	8,060	3.24	26,100	Ton	144.00	3,758,000
	*1982	10,400	3.38	35,200	Ton	128.00	4,524,000
COTTON (Lint)	1983	36,800	860 lbs.	63,300	500 lb. bale	365.00	23,103,000
	*1982	53,300	950 lbs.	101,000	500 lb. bale	312.00	35,638,000
COTTON (Seed)	1983	-----	-----	26,900	Ton	167.00	4,492,000
	1982	-----	-----	42,400	Ton	100.00	4,240,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1983	59,000	6.70	395,000	Ton	115.00	45,425,000
	1982	59,000	6.86	404,700	Ton	100.00	40,470,000
HAY (Alfalfa-Cube)	1983	6,050	6.88	41,600	Ton	122.00	5,061,000
	1982	7,860	7.25	57,000	Ton	105.00	5,985,000
HAY (Grain)	1983	18,500	3.40	62,900	Ton	71.00	4,466,000
	1982	13,300	3.38	45,000	Ton	70.00	3,150,000
HAY (Sudan)	1983	215	3.00	645	Ton	60.00	39,000
	1982	1,120	3.10	3,470	Ton	55.00	191,000
OATS (Grain)	1983	1,840	1.50	2,760	Ton	140.00	386,000
	1982	520	1.60	830	Ton	150.00	125,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1983	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	115.00	9,545,000
	1982	84,000	-----	-----	Acre	110.00	9,240,000
PASTURE (Other)	1983	558,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
	1982	556,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,950,000
RICE	1983	9,020	3.30	29,800	Ton	140.00	4,172,000
	*1982	11,800	3.25	38,400	Ton	150.00	6,890,000
SAFFLOWER	1983	340	1.26	430	Ton	330.00	142,000
	1982	2,690	1.27	3,420	Ton	310.00	1,060,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1983	34,600	23.00	796,000	Ton	19.00	15,124,000
	1982	31,700		767,000	Ton	18.50	14,191,000
SILAGE (Other)	1983	19,300	13.68	263,000	Ton	18.30	4,814,000
	1982	14,900	14.00	209,000	Ton	18.00	3,762,000
SORGHUM (Grain)	1983	580	2.60	1,510	Ton	120.00	181,000
	*1982	1,390	2.50	3,480	Ton	95.00	334,000

FIELD CROPS (Continued)
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1983-1982

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
STRAW	1983	-----	-----	1,500	Ton	\$ 35.00	\$ 53,000
	1982	-----	-----	2,100	Ton	30.00	63,000
SUGAR BEETS	1983	19,100	24.03	459,000	Ton	38.42	17,633,000
	1982	20,200	26.44	534,000	Ton	35.15	18,770,000
² STUBBLE (Pasture)	1983	7,500	-----	-----	Acre	7.50	56,000
	1982	11,400	-----	-----	Acre	7.00	80,000
WHEAT	1983	19,700	2.02	39,700	Ton	133.00	5,280,000
	*1982	31,900	2.28	72,700	Ton	127.00	9,326,000
TOTAL	1983	891,885					\$156,920,000
	1982	922,860					171,140,000

*Government payments included in total values for 1982.

¹ Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

² Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats and Wheat. Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

**SEED CROPS
ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1983-1982
CERTIFIED SEED CROPS**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS	1983	205	1,878	385,000	Lb.	\$0.387	\$149,000
	1982	482	2,425	1,181,000	Lb	0.397	469,000
¹ SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1983	1,270	-----	-----	-----	-----	587,000
	1982	818	-----	-----	-----	-----	180,000
TOTAL	1983	1,475					\$736,000
	1982	1,305					649,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1983	1,050	1,878	1,972,000	Lb.	\$0.226	\$ 445,000
	1982	1,447	2,250	3,256,000	Lb.	0.380	1,237,000
² SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1983	811	-----	-----	-----	-----	200,000
	1982	261	-----	-----	-----	-----	129,000
TOTAL	1983	1,861					\$ 645,000
	1982	1,708					1,366,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1983	3,336					\$1,381,000
	1982	3,013					2,015,000

¹ Includes certified seed from Barley, Oats, Rice, Sudan, and Wheat.

² Includes common seed from Barley, Carrot, Cucumber, Melons, Oats, Onions, Pepper, Rice, Squash, Tomato, and Wheat.

**VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1983-1982**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA (Freezer)	1983	5,500	1.33	7,320	Ton	\$370.00	\$ 2,708,000
	1982	6,700	1.60	10,700	Ton	370.00	3,959,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1983	5,710	203	1,159,000	90 lb. crates	7.00	8,113,000
	1982	8,250	178	1,469,000	90 lb. crates	7.50	11,018,000
MELONS (Watermelons)	1983	1,590	14.02	22,300	Ton	60.00	1,338,000
	1982	1,470	16.19	23,800	Ton	60.00	1,428,000
MELONS (Other)	1983	645	8.10	5,220	Ton	200.00	1,044,000
	1982	190	13.00	2,470	Ton	60.00	148,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1983	1,570	1.40	2,200	Ton	200.00	440,000
	1982	1,580	1.40	2,210	Ton	190.00	420,000
PEPPERS BELL (Market)	1983	1,470	7.14	10,500	Ton	380.00	3,990,000
	1982	1,530	5.83	8,920	Ton	391.00	3,488,000
¹ PEPPERS (Processing)	1983	-----	-----	2,700	Ton	139.00	375,000
	1982	-----	-----	4,130	Ton	114.00	471,000
SWEET POTATOES	1983	5,410	10.97	59,400	Ton	440.00	26,136,000
	1982	5,580	8.74	48,750	Ton	443.00	21,579,000
SWEET POTATOES (Cannery)	1983	110	16.30	1,790	Ton	150.00	269,000
	1982	250	18.00	4,500	Ton	117.50	529,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1983	4,020	-----	2,616,000	25 lb. ctns.	4.11	10,747,000
	1982	3,200	-----	2,611,000	25 lb. ctns.	3.76	9,815,000
PROCESSING (From Market Acreage)	1983	-----	-----	4,100	Ton	53.70	220,000
	1982	-----	-----	3,800	Ton	55.60	211,000
PROCESSING (Canning Varieties)	1983	6,690	28.20	189,000	Ton	53.70	10,149,000
	1982	6,400	30.40	194,600	Ton	55.60	10,820,000
TOTAL TOMATOES	1983	10,710		226,000	Ton		21,116,000
	1982	9,600		231,000	Ton		20,846,000
² VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous)	1983	1,925					3,780,000
	1982	2,110					3,994,000
TOTAL	1983	34,640					\$69,309,000
	1982	37,260					67,880,000

¹From Market Acreage and processing varieties.

²Includes Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Garlic, Lettuce, Onions, Pimentos, Pumpkin, Spinach and Sweet Corn.

**FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1983-1982**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		HARVESTED		PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1983	51,161		0.30	15,300	Ton	\$2,400.00	\$ 36,720,000
	1982	48,510		0.50	24,300	Ton	1,800.00	43,740,000
ALMONDS (Hulls & Shells)	1983	-----		-----	31,400	Ton	67.00	2,104,000
	1982	-----		-----	48,600	Ton	48.00	2,332,000
APRICOTS	1983	1,460		8.50	12,400	Ton	275.00	3,410,000
	1982	1,480		7.77	11,500	Ton	318.00	3,656,000
FIGS (Cannery)	1983	143		6.30	900	Ton	275.00	248,000
	1982	434		1.75	760	Ton	275.00	209,000
FIGS (Dry)	1983	1,078		1.96	2,110	Ton	880.00	1,857,000
	1982	787		1.37	1,080	Ton	843.00	910,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1983	1,200		1.70	2,040	Ton	680.00	1,387,000
	1982	200		2.10	420	Ton	1,060.00	445,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1983	1,800		8.00	14,400	Ton	100.00	1,440,000
	1982	1,580		11.00	17,400	Ton	120.00	2,088,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1983	14,179		7.30	104,000	Ton	149.00	15,496,000
	1982	11,000		10.00	110,000	Ton	147.00	16,170,000
KIWIS	1983	43		0.70	30	Ton	1,700.00	51,000
	1982	37		3.58	132	Ton	1,857.00	246,000
NECTARINES	1983	157		6.69	1,050	Ton	451.00	474,000
	1982	178		8.22	1,470	Ton	463.00	678,000
OLIVES	1983	-----		-----	-----	Ton	-----	-----
	1982	55		3.25	179	Ton	300.00	53,700
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1983	3,999		14.50	58,000	Ton	158.00	9,164,000
	1982	3,977		17.00	67,600	Ton	168.00	11,370,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1983	1,436		18.00	25,800	Ton	135.00	3,483,000
	1982	1,967		22.20	43,700	Ton	135.00	5,900,000
Misc. Frozen Fruit (Apricots Grapes, Peaches)	1983	-----		-----	10,100	Ton	178.00	1,808,000
	1982	-----		-----	12,514	Ton	182.00	2,281,000
PISTACHIOS	1983	1,180		0.30	354	Ton	2,900.00	1,027,000
	1982	729		0.66	481	Ton	3,400.00	1,635,000
PLUMS	1983	122		2.57	314	Ton	684.00	215,000
	1982	122		3.36	410	Ton	893.00	366,000
PRUNES	1983	1,445		3.00	4,340	Ton	629.00	2,730,000
	1982	1,413		2.66	3,760	Ton	568.00	2,136,000
WALNUTS (English)	1983	7,323		1.40	10,300	Ton	600.00	6,180,000
	1982	7,276		1.66	12,100	Ton	1,100.00	13,310,000
¹ Miscellaneous	1983	2,075						5,588,000
	1982	2,217						2,339,000
TOTAL	1983	91,001						\$ 93,382,000
	1982	81,962						109,865,000

¹ Includes Apples, Berries, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans and Persimmon.

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING 1983-1978

CROPS	YEAR 1983		YEAR 1978	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	53,361	10,397	40,541	6,687
APPLES	1,734	1,008	-----	1,822
APRICOTS	1,460	72	1,570	59
CHERRIES	50	95	50	14
FIGS (Cannery)	143	-----	351	-----
FIGS (Dry)	1,078	2,157	977	299
GRAPES (Raisin)	3,263	59	2,902	32
GRAPES (Table)	144	13	126	-----
GRAPES (Wine)	14,179	1,208	11,388	288
KIWI	43	-----	-----	31
NECTARINES	231	-----	150	84
OLIVES	112	-----	113	-----
ORANGES	50	1	51	-----
PEACHES (Clingstone)	4,055	425	5,041	524
PEACHES (Freestone)	2,001	168	2,085	416
PEARS	15	-----	43	91
PECANS	37	49	15	59
PERSIMMONS	13	-----	13	-----
PISTACHIOS	1,002	2,767	99	1,384
PLUMS	143	110	119	35
POMEGRANATE	43	-----	-----	-----
PRUNES	1,445	282	1,196	245
WALNUTS (Black)	58	9	100	11
WALNUTS (English)	7,323	1,066	6,916	751
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	90	61	15	26
TOTAL	92,073	19,947	73,861	12,858

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1983-1982

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN (Market)	1983	31,432,000	Doz.	\$0.500	\$ 15,667,000
	1982	24,100,000	Doz.	0.458	11,043,000
EGGS-TURKEY (Hatching)	1983	6,068,000	Each	0.42	2,571,000
	1982	6,411,000	Each	0.39	2,500,000
MILK (Goat)	1983	13,000	Cwt.	16.78	218,000
	1982	11,500	Cwt.	17.00	196,000
MILK (Market)	1983	13,923,000	Cwt.	12.79	178,075,000
	1982	13,718,000	Cwt.	13.04	178,883,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1983	1,529,000	Cwt.	12.13	18,547,000
	1982	1,241,000	Cwt.	12.42	15,413,000
WOOL	1983	510,000	Lb.	0.74	377,000
	* 1982	453,000	Lb.	1.06	616,000
TOTAL	1983				\$215,455,000
	1982				208,651,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1983-1982

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1983	11,200	Lb.	\$ 1.30	\$ 14,600
	1982	19,600	Lb.	1.60	31,400
BULK BEES	1983	21,000	Lb.	4.46	93,600
	1982	25,500	Lb.	4.53	116,000
HONEY	¹ 1983	804,000	Lb.	0.49	394,000
	* ² 1982	2,037,000	Lb.	0.50	1,086,000
QUEENS	1983	13,400	Each	5.00	67,000
	1982	12,000	Each	5.50	66,000
³ NUCLEI	1983	1,350	Each	21.66	29,000
	1982	1,330	Each	14.25	19,000
⁴ POLLINATION	1983	120,100	Colony	20.26	2,433,000
	1982	110,700	Colony	20.76	2,298,000
TOTAL	1983				\$3,031,000
	1982				3,616,000

* Government payments included in total values for 1982.

¹ Honey Produced by 28,700 colonies owned by resident beekeepers.

² Honey Produced by 32,800 colonies owned by resident beekeepers.

³ Average three frames per Nuclei, and includes frames of bees and brood sold by the frame.

⁴ Pollination colonies include all colonies required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

**LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1983-1982**

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF		UNIT	VALUE	
		HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1983	144,500	1,165,000	Cwt.	\$51.30	\$ 59,775,000
	1982	148,200	1,225,000	Cwt.	53.29	65,284,000
FRYERS AND BROILERS	1983	64,422,000	295,071,000	Lb.	0.289	85,370,000
	1982	63,906,000	293,609,000	Lb.	0.265	77,806,000
OTHER CHICKENS	1983	4,072,000	9,811,000	Lb.	0.215	2,111,000
	1982	3,248,000	7,198,000	Lb.	0.227	1,633,000
PULLETS	1983	-----	-----	Each	-----	-----
	1982	329,000	-----	Each	2.30	758,000
GOATS	1983	500	-----	Each	27.00	13,500
	1982	1,120	-----	Each	27.00	30,200
HOGS AND PIGS	1983	50,200	94,300	Cwt.	52.00	4,904,000
	1982	56,500	110,600	Cwt.	59.00	6,525,000
HORSES	1983	1,100	-----	Each	650.00	715,000
	1982	1,220	-----	Each	600.00	732,000
SHEEP AND LAMB	1983	55,200	54,000	Cwt.	53.00	2,872,000
	1982	49,500	46,200	Cwt.	57.00	2,633,000
TURKEYS	1983	2,268,000	42,740,000	Lb.	0.414	17,694,000
	1982	2,088,000	39,098,000	Lb.	0.390	15,248,000
RABBITS	1983	12,500	50,000	Lb.	0.85	42,500
	1982	-----	-----	Lb.	-----	-----
TOTAL	1983					\$174,255,000
	1982					170,649,000

**NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACREAGE, SALES AND VALUE 1983-1982**

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
¹ TOTAL	1983	504	\$8,017,000
	1982	577	9,214,000

¹ Includes Budwood, Pits and Cuttings; Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees; Grapevines; Roses, Tomato, and other Vegetable Plants; Semi-Tropical Ornamental and Shade Trees; Shrubs; Ornamental Plants, and Christmas Trees. The separate production and value data are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

MERCED COUNTY GROSS VALUE ALL CROPS

ITEM	1982	1983
BEE INDUSTRY		
FIELD CROPS	\$ 3,616,000	\$ 3,031,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	171,140,000	156,920,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	109,865,000	93,382,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	170,649,000	174,255,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	208,651,000	215,455,000
SEED CROPS	9,214,000	8,017,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	2,015,000	1,381,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$743,030,000	\$721,750,000

*GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

BARLEY	\$ 78,000	HONEY	\$106,000	SORGHUM	\$ 4,100
CORN	94,800	OATS	1,040	WHEAT	513,000
COTTON	3,132,000	RICE	720,000	WOOL	141,000

**CROPS NOT HARVESTED IN 1983

ALFALFA	1,500 Acres	CANTALOUPE	250 Acres	OATS	90 Acres
ALMONDS	2,200 Acres	COTTON	214 Acres	PERMANENT PASTURE	3,700 Acres
BARLEY	1,650 Acres	GRAPES, RAISIN	200 Acres	TOMATOES	559 Acres
BEANS	40 Acres	NURSERY	20 Acres	MISC. VEGETABLES	27 Acres

* Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1983 (Source: ASCS office).

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

CROP VALUE COMPARISON SUMMARY 1953-1983

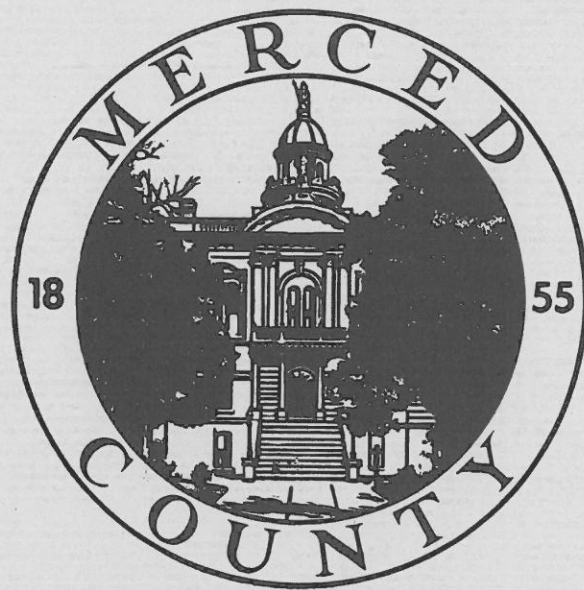
COMMODITIES	1983	1978	1973	1968	1963	1958	1953
Bee Industry	3,031,000	2,021,000	1,595,400	289,180	184,600	163,100	107,450
Field Crops	156,920,000	96,344,000	78,936,600	39,729,200	38,736,800	32,968,972	31,846,102
Fruit and Nuts	93,382,000	86,243,000	69,085,560	24,519,840	17,785,100	14,494,042	10,891,104
Livestock & Poultry	174,255,000	132,959,000	83,836,000	41,023,800	22,757,600	22,529,994	19,813,441
Livestock & Poultry Products	215,455,000	118,519,000	72,020,000	34,843,100	25,124,100	24,390,723	21,542,091
Nursery Products	8,017,000	7,336,000	5,720,000	1,888,000	2,741,700	2,940,000	2,005,100
Seed Crops	1,381,000	2,643,000	842,000	892,400	974,600	803,952	398,687
Vegetable Crops	69,309,000	50,828,000	32,669,000	23,120,700	15,316,000	8,739,949	9,111,065
TOTAL	\$721,750,000	496,893,000	344,256,560	166,306,220	123,620,500	107,030,732	95,715,040

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1983

MILK	196,622,000 (1)	COTTON	23,103,000 (6)
CHICKENS	87,481,000 (2)	TOMATOES	21,116,000 (8)
CATTLE	59,775,000 (3)	CORN	18,882,000 (10)
ALFALFA	50,486,000 (4)	TURKEYS	17,694,000 (13)
ALMONDS	36,720,000 (5)	SUGAR BEETS	17,633,000 (9)
SWEET POTATOES	26,405,000 (7)	GRAPES	16,936,000 (11)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1982 RANKING

ANNUAL
REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1984

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MERCED, CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL J. TANNER, Agricultural Commissioner
HARRY A. KRUG, Assistant



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 WEST WARDROBE AVENUE
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 385-7431
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340

MICHAEL J. TANNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control
HARRY A. KRUG
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Assistant Sealer
of Weights & Measures

LOS BANOS OFFICE:
342 "D" Street
Telephone (209) 826-0133
Los Banos, California 93635

TO: Clare Berryhill, Director of Food and Agriculture, and the
Honorable Board of Supervisors of Merced County:

Harvey Fonseca, Chairman
Al Bardini
Albert E. Goman

Ann Klinger
Fred Wack

I am very pleased to submit the 1984 Agricultural Crop Report in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

After three consecutive years of decline, Merced County's gross agricultural value has shown a significant gain, reaching an all time high of \$840,027,000. This is \$118,277,000 more in value than the 1983 year and surpasses the previous high in 1980 by \$45,930,000. The higher value has been primarily the result of increased acreages and production and not necessarily increased commodity values. The main factors for this increase were the elimination of the government payment-in-kind (PIK) program which idled over 50,000 acres in the County and the extremely good growing conditions which prevailed throughout most of the year. The high summer temperatures did have a detrimental effect on some crops but helped others.

It must be emphasized that values shown do not reflect net income to producers but gross returns with no consideration given for the cost of production.

Marketing of milk continues to rank Number 1 in gross receipts among all commodities in the County at \$208,157,000. Poultry increased again bringing in \$112,090,000 with fryers and broilers up \$4,189,000 and turkeys up \$2,820,000 due to improved prices even though production was down for fryers. Cattle and calves valued at \$67,703,000 increased \$7,928,000 as a result of higher prices and number of animals marketed.

Even though the price was down, the largest single increase in total income was from almonds which produced \$42,656,000 more in value due to the record breaking crop and increased bearing acreage. Other crops showing significant gains in value were market tomatoes at \$18,520,000 due to increased production and price, cantaloupes at \$14,203,000 due to a 41½% acreage increase and better price, clingstone peaches at \$12,521,000 as the result of higher production and value but less acreage, and corn grain at \$7,884,000 even with reduced price but a 152% acreage increase.

Cotton rebounded this year despite a lesser price, up \$23,797,000 as PIK was eliminated thus adding 30,600 acres along with higher production. Alfalfa slipped from fourth to sixth in value at \$41,487,000, down \$8,999,000 as a result of lower acreage and price. Even with a higher price, sweet potatoes dropped to eighth at \$22,803,000 due to decreased acreage and production. Sugar beets showed a \$3,577,000 decline because of fewer acres, lower production and value.

I would like to thank the various individuals, companies and governmental agencies who gave their time in providing the information needed to make this report possible. I also wish to recognize my staff, who have diligently collected information for this report, particularly, Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist and Standards Inspector, who was responsible for compilation of the data.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner
Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

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**FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1984-1983**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1984	9,330	1.70	15,900	Ton	\$120.00	\$1,908,000
	1983	9,240	1.71	15,800	Ton	126.00	1,991,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1984	3,830	0.96	3,680	Ton	690.00	2,539,000
	1983	4,410	1.02	4,510	Ton	540.00	2,214,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	1984	6,420	0.88	5,650	Ton	480.00	2,712,000
	1983	4,130	0.81	3,350	Ton	600.00	2,010,000
CORN (Grain)	1984	20,300	3.16	64,100	Ton	123.00	7,884,000
	1983	8,060	3.24	26,100	Ton	144.00	3,758,000
COTTON (Lint)	1984	67,400	1040 lbs.	140,000	500 lb. bale	335.00	46,900,000
	1983	36,800	860 lbs.	63,300	500 lb. bale	365.00	23,103,000
COTTON (Seed)	1984	----	----	59,500	Ton	145.00	8,628,000
	1983	----	----	26,900	Ton	167.00	4,492,000
HAY (Alfalfa)	1984	59,700	6.90	412,000	Ton	95.00	39,140,000
	1983	59,000	6.70	395,000	Ton	115.00	45,425,000
HAY (Alfalfa-Cube)	1984	3,890	6.50	25,300	Ton	107.00	2,707,000
	1983	6,050	6.88	41,600	Ton	122.00	5,061,000
HAY (Grain)	1984	17,200	3.52	60,500	Ton	55.00	3,328,000
	1983	18,500	3.40	62,900	Ton	71.00	4,466,000
HAY (Sudan)	1984	1,520	4.25	6,460	Ton	65.00	420,000
	1983	215	3.00	645	Ton	60.00	39,000
OATS (Grain)	1984	530	1.40	740	Ton	125.00	93,000
	1983	1,840	1.50	2,760	Ton	140.00	386,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	1984	83,000	----	----	Acre	115.00	9,545,000
	1983	83,000	----	----	Acre	115.00	9,545,000
PASTURE (Other)	1984	558,000	----	----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
	1983	558,000	----	----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
RICE	1984	11,600	3.72	43,200	Ton	133.00	5,746,000
	1983	9,020	3.30	29,800	Ton	140.00	4,172,000
SAFFLOWER	1984	2,630	1.12	2,950	Ton	240.00	708,000
	1983	340	1.26	430	Ton	330.00	142,000
SILAGE (Corn)	1984	36,700	22.00	807,000	Ton	17.00	13,719,000
	1983	34,600	23.00	796,000	Ton	19.00	15,124,000
1 SILAGE (Other)	1984	24,400	12.90	315,000	Ton	15.62	4,920,000
	1983	19,300	13.68	263,000	Ton	18.30	4,814,000
SORGHUM (Grain)	1984	1,260	2.25	2,840	Ton	105.00	298,000
	1983	580	2.60	1,510	Ton	120.00	181,000

FIELD CROPS (Continued)
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1984-1983

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
STRAW	1984	----	----	1,500	Ton	\$ 35.00	\$ 53,000
	1983	----	----	1,500	Ton	35.00	53,000
² STUBBLE (Pasture)	1984	9,600	----	----	Acre	7.50	72,000
	1983	7,500	----	----	Acre	7.50	56,000
SUGAR BEETS	1984	15,900	23.90	380,000	Ton	36.99	14,056,000
	1983	19,100	24.03	459,000	Ton	38.42	17,633,000
WHEAT	1984	20,500	2.35	48,200	Ton	122.00	5,880,000
	1983	19,700	2.02	39,700	Ton	133.00	5,280,000
TOTAL	1984	944,110					\$178,231,000
	1983	891,885					156,920,000

¹ Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

² Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats and Wheat. Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

**SEED CROPS
ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1984-1983**

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS	1984	120	1,783	214,000	Lb.	\$0.260	\$ 55,600
	1983	205	1,878	385,000	Lb.	0.387	149,000
¹ SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1984	858	----	----	----	----	675,000
	1983	1,270	----	----	----	----	587,000
TOTAL	1984	978					\$731,000
	1983	1,475					736,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1984	926	2,125	1,968,000	Lb.	\$0.310	\$610,000
	1983	1,050	1,878	1,972,000	Lb.	0.226	445,000
² SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1984	545	----	----	----	----	132,000
	1983	811	----	----	----	----	200,000
TOTAL	1984	1,471					\$742,000
	1983	1,861					645,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1984	2,449					\$1,473,000
	1983	3,336					1,381,000

¹Includes certified seed from Barley, Oats, Rice, Sudan and Wheat.

²Includes common seed from Barley, Carrot, Cucumber, Melons, Oats, Onions, Pepper, Rice, Rye, Squash, Tomato and Wheat.

**VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1984-1983**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA (Freezer)	1984	5,360	1.47	7,880	Ton		
	1983	5,500	1.33	7,320	Ton	\$370.00	\$ 2,916,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1984	8,080	187	1,511,000	90 lb. crates	9.40	14,203,000
	1983	5,710	203	1,159,000	90 lb. crates	7.00	8,113,000
MELONS (Watermelons)	1984	1,480	18.18	26,900	Ton	70.00	1,883,000
	1983	1,590	14.02	22,300	Ton	60.00	1,338,000
MELONS (Other)	1984	579	8.76	5,070	Ton	210.00	1,065,000
	1983	645	8.10	5,220	Ton	200.00	1,044,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1984	765	1.20	918	Ton	250.00	230,000
	1983	1,570	1.40	2,200	Ton	200.00	440,000
PEPPERS BELL (Market)	1984	1,520	4.92	7,480	Ton	405.00	3,029,000
	1983	1,470	7.14	10,500	Ton	380.00	3,990,000
¹ PEPPERS (Processing)	1984	----	----	1,450	Ton	157.00	228,000
	1983	----	----	2,700	Ton	139.00	375,000
SWEET POTATOES	1984	5,080	9.34	47,500	Ton	475.00	22,563,000
	1983	5,410	10.97	59,400	Ton	440.00	26,136,000
SWEET POTATOES (Cannery)	1984	110	14.50	1,600	Ton	150.00	240,000
	1983	110	16.30	1,790	Ton	150.00	269,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1984	4,010	----	3,521,000	25 lb. ctns.	5.26	18,520,000
	1983	4,020	----	2,616,000	25 lb. ctns.	4.11	10,747,000
PROCESSING (From Market Acreage)	1984	----	----	6,820	Ton	54.00	368,000
	1983	----	----	4,100	Ton	53.70	220,000
PROCESSING (Canning Varieties)	1984	6,160	28.90	178,000	Ton	54.00	9,612,000
	1983	6,690	28.20	189,000	Ton	53.70	10,149,000
TOTAL	1984	10,170		229,000	Ton		28,500,000
TOMATOES	1983	10,710		226,000	Ton		21,116,000
² VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous)	1984	1,748					3,095,000
	1983	1,925					3,780,000
TOTAL	1984	34,892					\$77,952,000
	1983	34,640					69,309,000

¹ From Market Acreage and processing varieties.

² Includes Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Garlic, Lettuce, Onions, Pimentos, Pumpkin, Spinach and Sweet Corn.

**FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1984-1983**

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		HARVESTED		PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1984	58,254		0.83	48,400	Ton	\$1,640.00	\$ 79,376,000
	1983	51,161		0.30	15,300	Ton	2,400.00	36,720,000
ALMONDS (Hulls & Shells)	1984	----		----	86,200	Ton	48.00	4,138,000
	1983	----		----	31,400	Ton	67.00	2,104,000
APRICOTS	1984	1,483		7.01	10,400	Ton	261.00	2,714,000
	1983	1,460		8.50	12,400	Ton	275.00	3,410,000
FIGS (Cannery)	1984	190		6.00	1,140	Ton	250.00	285,000
	1983	143		6.30	900	Ton	275.00	248,000
* FIGS (Dry)	1984	1,330		2.00	3,100	Ton	1,033.00	3,202,000
	1983	1,078		1.96	2,110	Ton	880.00	1,857,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1984	1,100		1.91	2,100	Ton	580.00	1,218,000
	1983	1,200		1.70	2,040	Ton	680.00	1,387,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1984	2,097		8.10	17,000	Ton	76.00	1,292,000
	1983	1,800		8.00	14,400	Ton	100.00	1,440,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1984	15,133		9.05	137,000	Ton	127.00	17,399,000
	1983	14,179		7.30	104,000	Ton	149.00	15,496,000
KIWIS	1984	43		2.35	101	Ton	1,400.00	141,000
	1983	43		0.70	30	Ton	1,700.00	51,000
NECTARINES	1984	214		8.00	1,710	Ton	500.00	855,000
	1983	157		6.69	1,050	Ton	451.00	474,000
OLIVES	1984	45		2.88	130	Ton	365.00	47,000
	1983	----		----	----	Ton	----	----
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1984	3,381		19.50	65,900	Ton	190.00	12,521,000
	1983	3,999		14.50	58,000	Ton	158.00	9,164,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1984	1,203		20.30	24,400	Ton	135.00	3,294,000
	1983	1,436		18.00	25,800	Ton	135.00	3,483,000
Misc. Frozen Fruit (Apricots Grapes, Peaches)	1984	----		----	14,700	Ton	162.00	2,381,000
	1983	----		----	10,100	Ton	178.00	1,808,000
PISTACHIOS	1984	1,173		0.70	821	Ton	2,400.00	1,970,000
	1983	1,180		0.30	354	Ton	2,900.00	1,027,000
PLUMS	1984	145		3.58	519	Ton	428.00	222,000
	1983	122		2.57	314	Ton	684.00	215,000
PRUNES	1984	1,446		2.36	3,410	Ton	630.00	2,148,000
	1983	1,445		3.00	4,340	Ton	629.00	2,730,000
WALNUTS (English)	1984	7,428		1.35	10,000	Ton	702.00	7,020,000
	1983	7,323		1.40	10,300	Ton	600.00	6,180,000
1 Miscellaneous	1984	2,191						11,931,000
	1983	2,075						5,588,000
TOTAL	1984	96,856						\$152,154,000
	1983	91,001						93,382,000

¹ Includes Apples, Berries, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans and Persimmons.

* Total production and value includes acreage classified as non-bearing.

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING 1984-1979

CROPS	YEAR 1984		YEAR 1979	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	58,254	7,335	42,097	5,096
APPLES	1,388	775	1,650	172
APRICOTS	1,535	141	1,516	59
CHERRIES	64	81	50	32
FIGS (Cannery)	962	----	356	----
FIGS (Dry)	558	2,354	972	299
GRAPES (Raisin)	3,207	57	2,815	32
GRAPES (Table)	108	50	101	----
GRAPES (Wine)	15,517	910	12,047	288
KIWI	43	----	48	8
NECTARINES	214	20	253	35
OLIVES	112	----	113	----
ORANGES	50	5	51	----
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,533	433	5,279	337
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,745	250	2,172	270
PEARS	15	----	3	91
PECANS	66	20	25	49
PERSIMMONS	13	----	13	----
PISTACHIOS	1,173	3,256	572	744
PLUMS	145	154	128	35
PRUNES	1,446	261	1,205	304
WALNUTS (Black)	53	18	84	----
WALNUTS (English)	7,428	1,177	6,916	757
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	38	68	15	26
TOTAL	97,667	17,365	78,481	8,634

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1984-1983

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN (Market)	1984	31,538,000	Doz.	\$ 0.554	\$ 17,459,000
	1983	31,432,000	Doz.	0.500	15,667,000
EGGS-TURKEY (Hatching)	1984	5,658,000	Each	0.46	2,606,000
	1983	6,068,000	Each	0.42	2,571,000
MILK (Goat)	1984	15,500	Cwt.	21.42	332,000
	1983	13,000	Cwt.	16.78	218,000
MILK (Market)	1984	14,716,000	Cwt.	12.84	188,953,000
	1983	13,923,000	Cwt.	12.79	178,075,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1984	1,595,000	Cwt.	12.04	19,204,000
	1983	1,529,000	Cwt.	12.13	18,547,000
WOOL	1984	541,000	Lb.	0.80	433,000
	1983	510,000	Lb.	0.74	377,000
TOTAL	1984				\$228,987,000
	1983				215,455,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1984-1983

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	1984	10,800	Lb.	\$ 1.10	\$ 11,900
	1983	11,200	Lb.	1.30	14,600
BULK BEES	1984	12,600	Lb.	4.21	53,000
	1983	21,000	Lb.	4.46	93,600
HONEY	¹ 1984	1,082,000	Lb.	0.51	552,000
	² 1983	804,000	Lb.	0.49	394,000
³ NUCLEI	1984	810	Each	18.00	14,600
	1983	1,350	Each	21.66	29,000
⁴ POLLINATION	1984	131,700	Colony	20.71	2,728,000
	1983	120,100	Colony	20.26	2,433,000
QUEENS	1984	9,600	Each	5.16	49,500
	1983	13,400	Each	5.00	67,000
TOTAL	1984				\$3,409,000
	1983				3,031,000

¹ Honey produced by 32,800 colonies owned by resident beekeepers.

² Honey produced by 28,700 colonies owned by resident beekeepers.

³ Average three frames per Nuclei, and includes frames of bees and brood sold by the frame.

⁴ Pollination colonies include all colonies required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

**LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1984-1983**

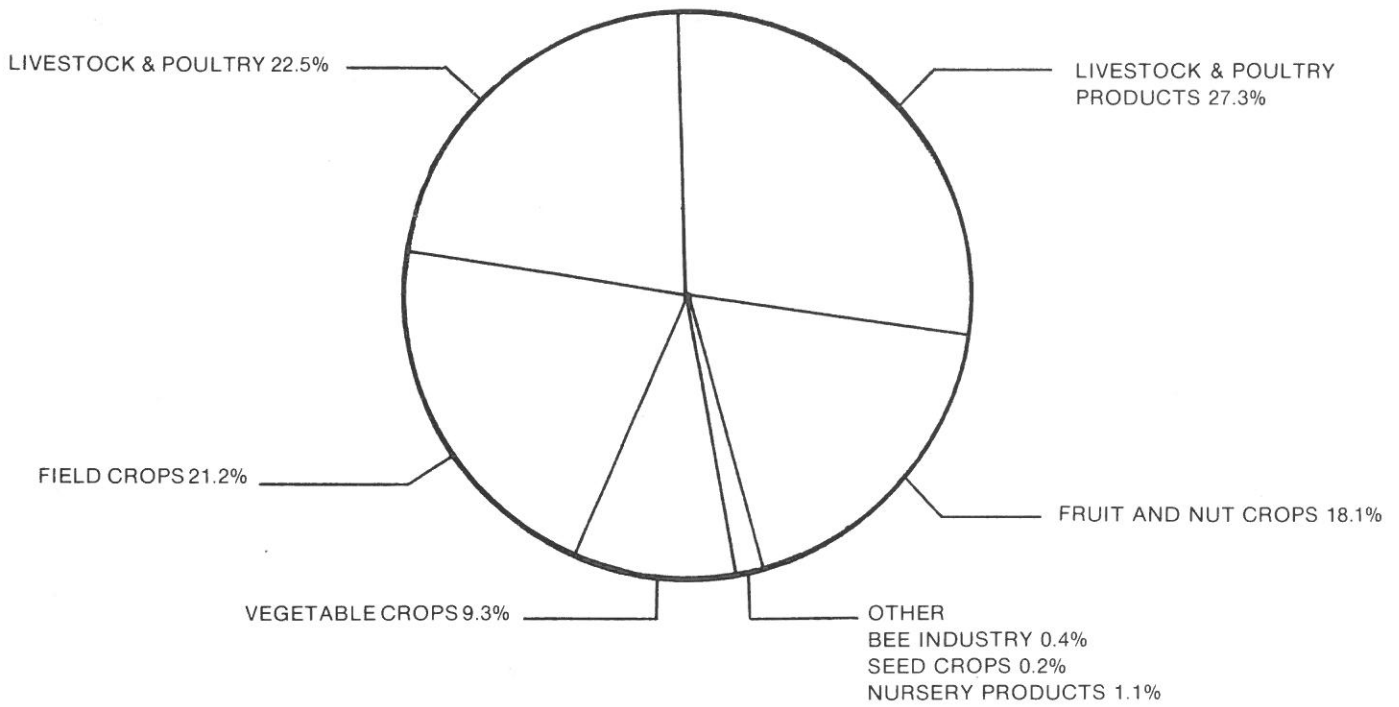
ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF		UNIT	VALUE	
		HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1984	147,000	1,235,000	Cwt.	\$ 54.82	\$ 67,703,000
	1983	144,500	1,165,000	Cwt.	51.30	59,775,000
FRYERS AND BROILERS	1984	54,833,000	261,427,000	Lb.	0.343	89,559,000
	1983	64,422,000	295,071,000	Lb.	0.289	85,370,000
OTHER CHICKENS	1984	3,238,000	7,857,000	Lb.	0.257	2,017,000
	1983	4,072,000	9,811,000	Lb.	0.215	2,111,000
GOATS	1984	650	----	Each	30.00	19,500
	1983	500	----	Each	27.00	13,500
HOGS AND PIGS	1984	45,800	92,100	Cwt.	55.95	5,153,000
	1983	50,200	94,300	Cwt.	52.00	4,904,000
HORSES	1984	1,050	----	Each	675.00	709,000
	1983	1,100	----	Each	650.00	715,000
SHEEP AND LAMB	1984	55,100	58,700	Cwt.	52.93	3,107,000
	1983	55,200	54,000	Cwt.	53.00	2,872,000
TURKEYS	1984	2,359,000	45,412,000	Lb.	0.452	20,514,000
	1983	2,268,000	42,740,000	Lb.	0.414	17,694,000
RABBITS	1984	----	----	Lb.	----	----
	1983	12,500	50,000	Lb.	0.85	42,500
TOTAL	1984					\$188,782,000
	1983					174,255,000

**NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACREAGE, SALES AND VALUE 1984-1983**

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
¹ TOTAL	1984	425	\$9,039,000
	1983	504	8,017,000

¹ Includes Budwood, Pits and Cuttings; Citrus, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees; Grapevines; Roses, 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.

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART FOR COMMODITIES



***GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS**

BARLEY	\$ 30,100	HONEY	\$ 6,300	SORGHUM	\$ 32,000
CORN	40,000	RICE	1,425,000	WHEAT	810,000
COTTON	4,900,000			WOOL	424,000

****CROPS NOT HARVESTED IN 1984**

BARLEY	275 Acres	CANTALOUPE	375 Acres	OLIVES	67 Acres
BEANS	40 Acres	GRAPES, WINE	384 Acres	SORGHUM	30 Acres
		NURSERY	12 Acres		

* Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1984 (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 SUMMARY 1959-1984

COMMODITIES	1984	1983	1979	1974	1969	1964	1959
Bee Industry	\$ 3,409,000	\$ 3,031,000	\$ 2,006,000	\$ 1,575,500	\$ 535,750	\$ 178,000	
Field Crops	178,231,000	156,920,000	157,795,000	112,474,600	40,862,100	39,966,000	\$ 110,066
Fruit and Nuts	152,154,000	93,382,000	155,830,000	60,212,320	25,762,690	21,593,500	37,508,056
Livestock & Poultry	188,782,000	174,255,000	182,652,800	68,143,000	46,947,600	30,380,000	15,021,616
Livestock & Poultry Products	228,987,000	215,455,000	136,015,000	75,985,600	38,222,200	25,295,500	22,286,769
Nursery Products	9,039,000	8,017,000	12,011,000	4,056,000	2,170,000	2,656,000	25,230,327
Seed Crops	1,473,000	1,381,000	3,228,000	1,335,400	756,500	963,900	3,981,995
Vegetable Crops	77,952,000	69,309,000	51,419,000	35,368,400	17,228,600	16,127,100	943,347
TOTAL	\$840,027,000	\$721,750,000	\$700,957,000	\$359,151,720	\$172,485,400	\$137,133,000	\$115,689,503

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1984

MILK	\$208,157,000 (1)	TOMATOES	\$28,500,000 (8)
CHICKENS	91,576,000 (2)	SWEET POTATOES	22,803,000 (6)
ALMONDS	79,376,000 (5)	CORN	21,603,000 (9)
CATTLE	67,703,000 (3)	TURKEYS	20,514,000 (10)
COTTON	46,900,000 (7)	GRAPES	18,691,000 (12)
ALFALFA	41,847,000 (4)	EGGS	17,459,000 (14)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1983 RANKING