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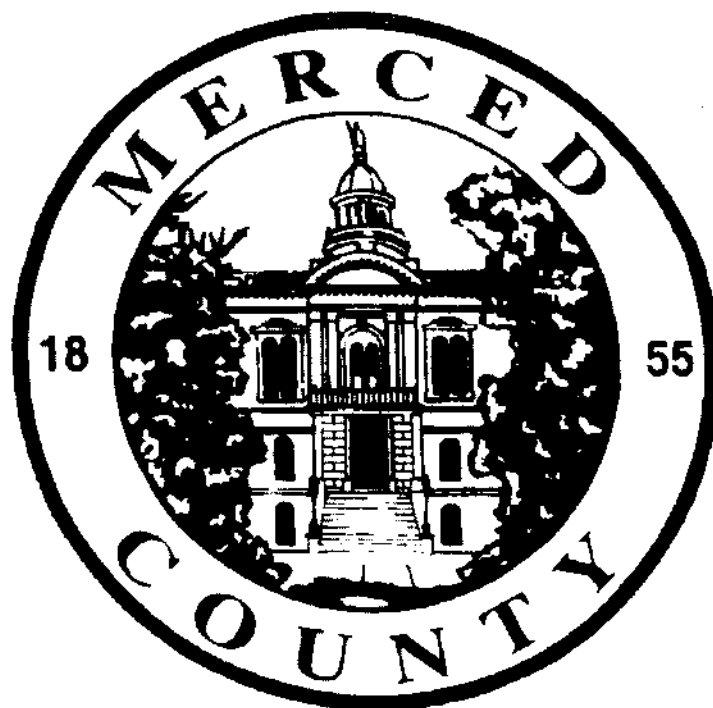
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Agricultural Commissioners' Crop Reports

Merced County

2000-2005

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



2000

**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 value.

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

I am pleased to submit the Year 2000 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This annual report is produced in accordance with the provisions of Sections 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 2000 total gross value of Merced County's leading industry posted a new high of \$1,538,538,000. This represents a slight 0.3% increase, \$4,512,000, above last year's highest ever gross value of production.

For 2000, the season started off with inclement weather for early crops and ended with near perfect fall harvesting weather. The growing season was cooler throughout than in a normal year.

The agricultural economy is in the worst financial condition that we've seen in many years. Profitability is the biggest challenge facing the Agriculture Industry today. Grower costs for services and supplies continue to increase, some astronomically, such as all types of energy. All the while, the return for most crops have fallen or not maintained pace with higher production costs. The only things keeping many growers in business have been Federal disaster payments and other government support or deficiency payments on several crops.

Cattle and calves, for the second year running showed an impressive gain in value, jumping to \$109,165,000, up \$38,586,000. The number of head marketed was up 110.5 % and price per hundredweight 16%. This is partially due to the fact that all of the dairy replacement heifer numbers are now included in the calculations.

Fresh market tomatoes posted a surprising second highest gain in value, \$36,171,000 for a total of \$81,136,000, helping move tomatoes into third place of all commodities. This was because of a 371 acre increase, yield up 13.3% per acre and price \$2.18 per 25 pound carton. Turkeys rebounded from last year to show the third highest increase of all commodities. They were valued at \$43,736,000, a \$20,679,000 increase as the number of birds grown was up 70.9 % and price six cents a pound.

Clingstone peaches was another bright spot in 2000, increasing to \$17,364,000 in value, up \$3,894,000. Acreage was down slightly, but yield increased 27% and price \$3.56 per ton. Other commodities showing small gains in total value included silage (corn), rice, fresh market chicken eggs and aquaculture (fish).

The top three crops in value the past few years, all took a beating in 2000. Milk, the county's leading commodity and consistent rising star, plunged \$28,074,000 slipping under one-half billion dollars in value to \$491,669,000. Even though production was up 10.8%, price was down 14.5 %, or \$1.95, per hundred weight. Almonds suffered a \$25,262,000 loss in value dropping to \$94,771,000 and from third place to fifth of all leading commodities. Even though price was up 10 cents pound, yield was down 500 pounds per acre.

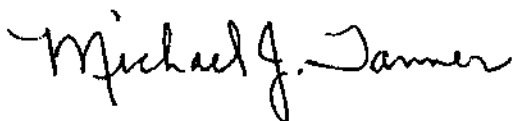
Chickens held onto second place while dropping \$10,818,000 in value to \$153,382,000. Production increased 1,704,405 birds, but price was down three cents per pound. Cotton slumped to \$69,830,000, losing \$6,070,000 in value. This was despite posting for the 2nd year in a row, another all-time high yield at 1545 pounds per acre, just over three bales of cotton. Acreage was up 2.7%, but price was a dismal 67.5 cents per pound.

Sugar beets fell \$5,894,000 in value to \$6,411,000. This is because acreage plummeted 53.5 % with the closing of two of the four sugarbeet processing plants in California. Only one plant remains in this area of the state. Yield increased 3.3 tons per acre with price down slightly. Processing tomatoes lost \$5,281,000 in value ending at \$31,495,000. Acreage dropped 2.6%, yield 4.6% and price \$4.47 per ton. Other commodities showing significant declines in total value included wine grapes, silage(other), irrigated pasture, pistachios and apricots.

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	2000	3,544	1.89	6,694	Ton	\$118.79	\$795,000
	1999	2,685	1.84	4,944	Ton	\$89.55	\$443,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	2000	1,297	1.34	1,739	Ton	\$642.42	\$1,117,000
	1999	1,426	1.33	1,903	Ton	\$661.12	\$1,258,000
BEANS (Dry Other)	2000	3,850	0.55	2,138	Ton	\$500.00	\$1,069,000
	1999	4,347	0.86	3,728	Ton	\$460.92	\$1,718,000
CORN * (Grain)	2000	6,654	5.36	36,667	Ton	\$122.50	\$4,389,000
	1999	5,339	4.97	26,527	Ton	\$105.13	\$2,789,000
COTTON (Lint)	2000	66,891	1545lb	206,796	500 lb.	\$337.68	\$69,830,000
	1999	65,109	1471lb	191,611	Bale	\$396.11	\$75,900,000
COTTON (Seed)	2000	---	---	67,829	Ton	\$151.00	\$10,242,000
	1999	---	---	58,187	Ton	\$162.71	\$9,487,000
HAY ** (Alfalfa)	2000	75,177	6.92	520,295	Ton	\$108.13	\$56,261,000
	1999	77,119	7.02	541,258	Ton	104.55	\$56,586,000
HAY (Grain)	2000	23,084	3.18	73,342	Ton	\$73.74	\$5,408,000
	1999	23,461	3.24	76,935	Ton	\$81.02	\$4,634,000
HAY (Sudan)	2000	3,030	5.49	16,623	Ton	\$67.56	\$1,123,000
	1999	3,817	3.83	14,600	Ton	\$63.10	\$921,000
OATS (Grain)	2000	2,727	2.25	6,141	Ton	\$77.55	\$476,000
	1999	3,778	3.16	11,954	Ton	\$88.20	\$1,054,000
PASTURE (Irrigated)	2000	59,000	---	---	Acre	\$125.00	\$7,375,000
	1999	59,000	---	---	Acre	\$187.50	\$11,063,000
PASTURE (Other)	2000	568,000	---	---	Acre	\$16.00	\$9,088,000
	1999	568,000	---	---	Acre	\$18.00	\$10,224,000
RICE	2000	4,146	4.36	18,059	Ton	\$324.61	\$5,862,000
	1999	3,935	3.52	13,835	Ton	\$262.78	\$3,636,000
SAFFLOWER	2000	443	1.50	665	Ton	\$225.00	\$150,000
	1999	353	1.00	353	Ton	\$275.00	\$97,000
SILAGE (Corn)	2000	66,352	27.81	1,845,437	Ton	\$19.59	\$36,148,000
	1999	63,403	27.67	1,754,443	Ton	\$19.25	\$33,775,000
SILAGE *** (Other)	2000	58,871	10.31	607,047	Ton	\$19.55	\$11,865,000
	1999	60,510	11.90	720,204	Ton	\$21.75	\$15,685,000
STRAW ****	2000	---	---	1,731	Ton	\$40.00	\$69,000
	1999	---	---	1,803	Ton	\$42.00	\$76,000
STUBBLE (Pasture)	2000	---	---	15,035	Acre	\$8.07	\$121,000
	1999	---	---	15,434	Acre	\$8.86	\$137,000
SUGAR BEETS	2000	5,725	30.00	171,750	Ton	\$37.33	\$6,411,000
	1999	12,304	26.69	328,416	Ton	\$37.47	\$12,305,000
WHEAT	2000	11,561	2.30	26,551	Ton	\$111.88	\$2,971,000
	1999	12,306	2.88	35,457	Ton	\$109.98	\$3,899,000
TOTAL	2000	960,352					\$230,750,000
	1999	966,892					\$245,647,000

* Includes Human Consumption Corn (except) and SORGHUM (Grain).

** HAY (Alfalfa) Includes Hay (Alfalfa-Cube)

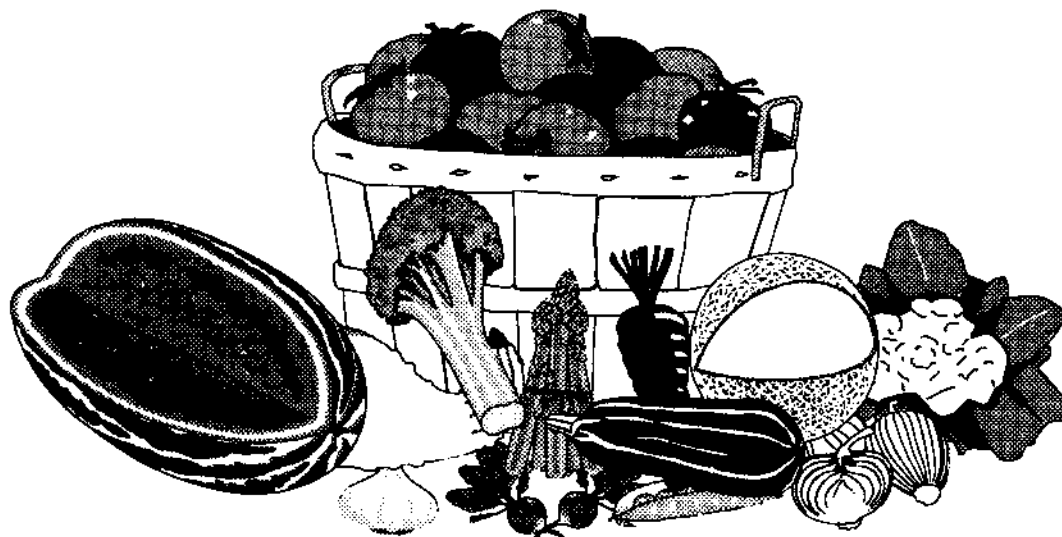
*** Includes Oat, Barley, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, and Wheat Forage Fodder; Alfalfa Green Chop; Clover; Winter Forage; and Vetch.

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

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (Freezer)	2000	2,309	1.74	4,025	Ton	\$451.97	\$1,819,000
	1999	2,766	1.76	4,881	Ton	\$443.95	\$2,167,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	2000	7,168	536.00	3,842,000	40 Lb Carton	\$4.50	\$17,289,000
	1999	8,534	488.26	4,166,811	Carton	\$4.13	\$17,209,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	2000	557	38.32	21,343	Ton	\$137.62	\$2,937,000
	1999	582	26.74	15,561	Ton	\$114.26	\$1,778,000
MELONS (Other)	2000	1,340	8.58	11,493	Ton	\$239.61	\$2,754,000
	1999	1,356	8.87	12,028	Ton	\$200.00	\$2,406,000
PEAS (Freezer)	2000	287	1.50	431	Ton	\$350.00	\$151,000
	1999	227	2.35	533	Ton	\$127.66	\$68,000
PEPPERS, BELL (Market)	2000	406	14.67	5,957	Ton	\$449.05	\$2,675,000
	1999	611	10.98	6,708	Ton	\$352.15	\$2,362,000
SWEET POTATOES	2000	9,056	12.90	116,848	Ton	\$490.28	\$57,289,000
	1999	8,306	13.28	110,329	Ton	\$507.19	\$55,958,000
TOMATOES (Market)	2000	11,500	1133.50	13,035,302	25 Lb. Carton	\$6.22	\$81,136,000
	1999	11,129	1000.15	11,130,646	Carton	\$4.04	\$44,985,000
TOMATOES (Processing)	2000	15,600	38.32	597,793	Ton	\$52.69	\$31,495,000
	1999	16,014	40.18	643,421	Ton	\$57.16	\$36,776,000
VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous) *	2000	2,218	----	----	----	----	\$8,907,000
	1999	2,867	----	----	----	----	\$9,949,000
TOTAL	2000	50,441					\$206,452,000
	1999	52,392					\$173,638,000

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



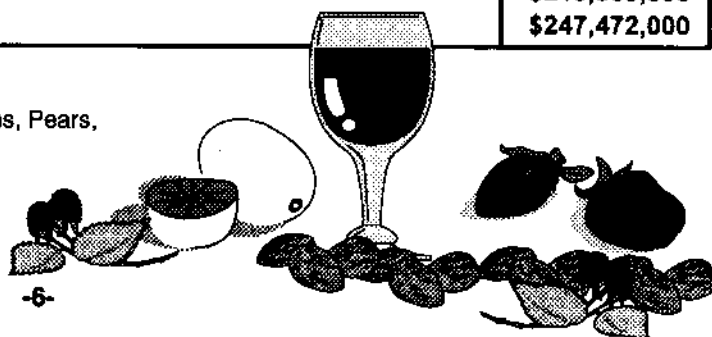
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	2000	77,314	0.61	47,386	Ton	\$2,000	\$94,771,000
	1999	77,416	0.86	66,685	Ton	\$1,800	\$120,033,000
ALMONDS (Hulls)	2000	----	----	103,309	Ton	\$74.25	\$7,671,000
	1999	----	----	121,901	Ton	\$58.51	\$7,132,000
APRICOTS	2000	1,947	3.54	6,889	Ton	\$670.52	\$4,619,000
	1999	2,040	11.01	22,468	Ton	\$296.13	\$6,654,000
FIGS (Dry)	2000	2,437	1.21	2,939	Ton	\$1,364.91	\$4,012,000
	1999	3,123	1.22	3,816	Ton	\$1,141.69	\$4,356,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	2000	1,204	1.75	2,107	Ton	\$877.50	\$1,849,000
	1999	1,150	1.83	2,105	Ton	\$1,425.00	\$2,999,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	2000	124	8.20	1,017	Ton	\$125.00	\$127,000
	1999	204	8.25	1,689	Ton	\$200.00	\$337,000
GRAPES (Wine)	2000	14,313	9.33	133,566	Ton	\$289.01	\$38,602,000
	1999	14,846	6.96	103,255	Ton	\$414.06	\$42,754,000
KIWI	2000	27	10.00	270	Ton	\$909.00	\$245,000
	1999	27	4.70	127	Ton	\$1,078.00	\$137,000
NECTARINES	2000	164	8.80	1,443	Ton	\$970.72	\$1,400,000
	1999	181	9.54	1,727	Ton	\$623.76	\$1,077,000
PEACHES (Clingstone)	2000	3,635	20.88	75,906	Ton	\$228.75	\$17,364,000
	1999	3,640	18.43	66,817	Ton	\$225.19	\$13,470,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	2000	1,792	18.82	33,722	Ton	\$206.64	\$6,968,000
	1999	1944	20.21	39,289	Ton	\$209.98	\$8,250,000
PISTACHIOS	2000	4,473	0.92	4,093	Ton	\$2,150.49	\$8,801,000
	1999	4,448	0.83	4,127	Ton	\$2,803.95	\$11,572,000
PLUMS	2000	36	3.90	140	Ton	\$918.40	\$129,000
	1999	75	9.64	723	Ton	\$909.55	\$658,000
PLUMS * (DRY)	2000	2,230	3.05	6,792	Ton	\$721.13	\$4,898,000
	1999	2,374	2.27	5,391	Ton	\$895.29	\$4,826,000
STRAWBERRIES	2000	553	7.34	4,061	Ton	\$866.64	\$3,519,000
	1999	386	9.82	3,791	Ton	\$811.10	\$3,075,000
WALNUTS (English)	2000	5,151	1.12	5,759	Ton	\$1,180.00	\$6,796,000
	1999	5,196	2.02	10,473	Ton	\$800.93	\$8,388,000
MISCELLANEOUS FROZEN FRUIT **	2000	----	----	2,116	Ton	\$296.70	\$628,000
	1999	----	----	1,127	Ton	\$228.40	\$257,000
MISCELLANEOUS***	2000	2,570	----	----	----	----	\$10,910,000
	1999	2,934	----	----	----	----	\$11,471,000
TOTAL	2000	117,970					\$213,309,000
	1999	120,029					\$247,472,000

* Formerly Recorded As Prunes

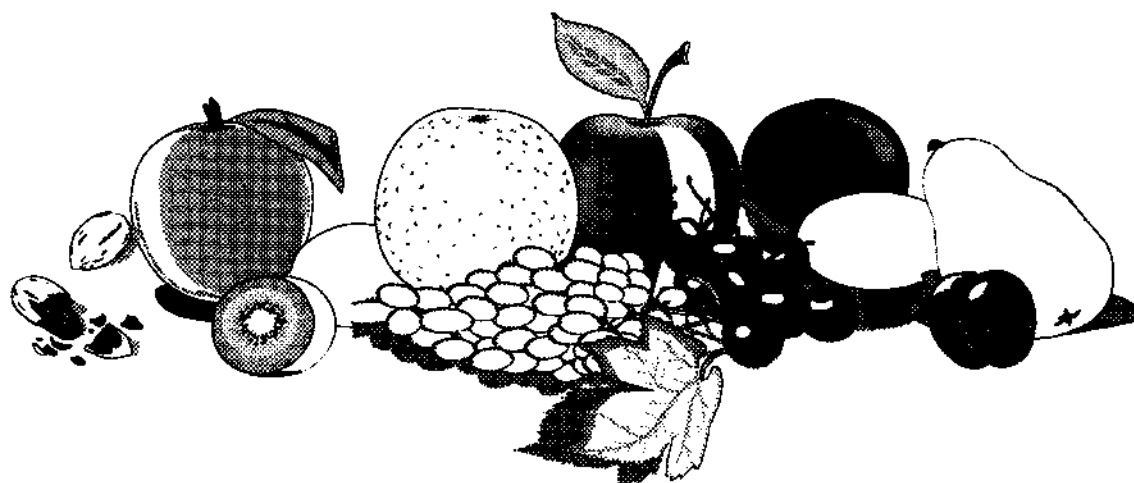
** Includes Apricots, Berries, Grapes, and Melons.

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



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 2000		YEAR 1996	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	77,314	7,951	72,001	7,804
APPLES	594	15	1,754	249
APRICOTS	1,947	23	1,907	181
BERRIES	293	0	219	20
CHERRIES	314	61	180	143
FIGS	2,710	300	3,308	125
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,338	0	1,569	84
GRAPES (Table)	433	0	222	201
GRAPES (Wine)	14,543	485	11,811	3,009
KIWI	27	0	41	0
MANDARINS	14	0	30	0
NECTARINES	164	56	198	16
OLIVES	20	0	61	0
ORANGES	47	0	47	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,635	168	3,993	369
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,792	312	1,801	499
PEARS	16	0	21	0
PECANS	41	10	42	2
PISTACHIOS	4,473	361	4,386	135
PLUMS	36	5	189	66
PRUNES	2,270	446	2,087	741
WALNUTS (English)	5,168	677	5,279	1,310
TOTAL	117,189	10,870	111,146	14,954



SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Certified Seeds *	2000	701	---	---	---	---	\$487,000
	1999	552	---	---	---	---	\$486,000
Non-Certified Seeds **	2000	1,329	---	---	---	---	\$1,202,000
	1999	1,763	---	---	---	---	\$1,282,000
TOTAL	2000	2,030					\$1,689,000
	1999	2,315					\$1,768,000

* Includes certified seed from Alfalfa, Wheat.

** Includes common and phytosanitary seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Chili, Corn, Cucumber, Fava Bean, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Oats, Onion, Pepper, Radish, Rye, Squash, Tomato, Vetch, Watermelon, and Wheat.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (Shells) *	2000	16,775	Ton	\$13.62	\$228,000
	1999	12,357		\$6.97	\$86,000
FIREWOOD	2000	15,839	Cord	\$66.12	\$1,364,000
	1999	32,416	Cord	\$89.22	\$2,898,000
FUEL (Co-generation) **	2000	27,591	Ton	\$22.50	\$621,000
	1999	97,174	Ton	\$15.75	\$1,530,000
MANURE ***	2000	889,973	Ton	\$9.13	\$8,127,000
	1999	1,395,966	Ton	\$5.73	\$7,998,000
TOTAL	2000				\$10,340,000
	1999				\$12,312,000

* For Fuel and Animal Bedding.

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

*** Livestock, Poultry.

NURSERY PRODUCTS



	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
TOTAL	2000	1,524	\$21,758,000
	1999	1,009	\$23,747,000

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

BEE INDUSTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	2000	52,000	Pound	\$1.55	\$81,000
	1999	37,865	Pound	\$1.60	\$61,000
BULK BEES *	2000	76,000	Pound	\$8.03	\$611,000
	1999	59,680	Pound	\$7.72	\$461,000
HONEY **	2000	3,400,000	Pound	\$0.49	\$1,666,000
	1999	2,462,551	Pound	\$0.55	\$1,354,000
POLLINATION ***	2000	181,000	Colony	\$40.44	\$7,320,000
	1999	177,532	Colony	\$38.20	\$6,782,000
QUEENS	2000	26,500	Each	\$5.89	\$156,000
	1999	27,870	Each	\$4.99	\$139,000
TOTAL	2000				\$9,834,000
	1999				\$8,797,000



* Includes bees sold as nuclei.

** Honey produced by 50,000 registered resident colonies in 2000.

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

AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	2000	1,825,000	Pound	\$2.09	\$3,814,000
	1999	1,206,000	Pound	\$1.97	\$2,380,000
TOTAL	2000				\$3,814,000
	1999				\$2,380,000

* Black Bass, 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 *	2000	359,783	1,625,350	Cwt.	\$67.16	\$109,165,000
	1999	170,920	1,219,300	Cwt.	\$57.88	\$70,579,000
CHICKENS (Fryers)	2000	83,235,954	414,545,051	Pound	\$0.37	\$153,382,000
	1999	81,531,549	410,501,007	Pound	\$0.40	\$164,200,000
CHICKENS ** (Other)	2000	909,816	3,884,149	Pound	\$0.26	\$1,028,000
	1999	1,760,214	7,431,312	Pound	\$0.18	\$1,307,000
GOATS	2000	6,142	---	Each	\$98.67	\$606,000
	1999	1,800	---	Each	\$83.30	\$150,000
HOGS AND PIGS	2000	17,436	29,816	Cwt.	\$51.59	\$1,538,000
	1999	17,092	29,024	Cwt.	\$41.95	\$1,218,000
OSTRICHES ***	2000	5,024	---	---	---	\$3,140,000
	1999	5,220	---	---	---	\$3,317,000
POULTRY **** (Miscellaneous)	2000	64,800	145,420	Pound	\$3.53	\$513,000
	1999	68,800	154,420	Pound	\$3.46	\$535,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	2000	31,320	37,449	Cwt.	\$79.85	\$2,990,000
	1999	23,260	26,889	Cwt.	\$70.89	\$1,908,000
TURKEYS	2000	3,764,275	88,247,371	Pound	\$0.50	\$43,736,000
	1999	2,202,448	51,991,573	Pound	\$0.44	\$23,057,000
TOTAL	2000					\$316,098,000
	1999					\$266,270,000

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

** Includes Meat Layers and Pullets.

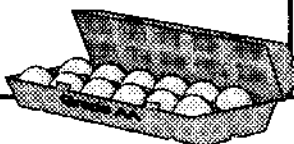
*** Includes Domestic and Slaughter Birds, Hides, and Blown Dry Eggs.

**** Chukar, Pheasant, and Squab.

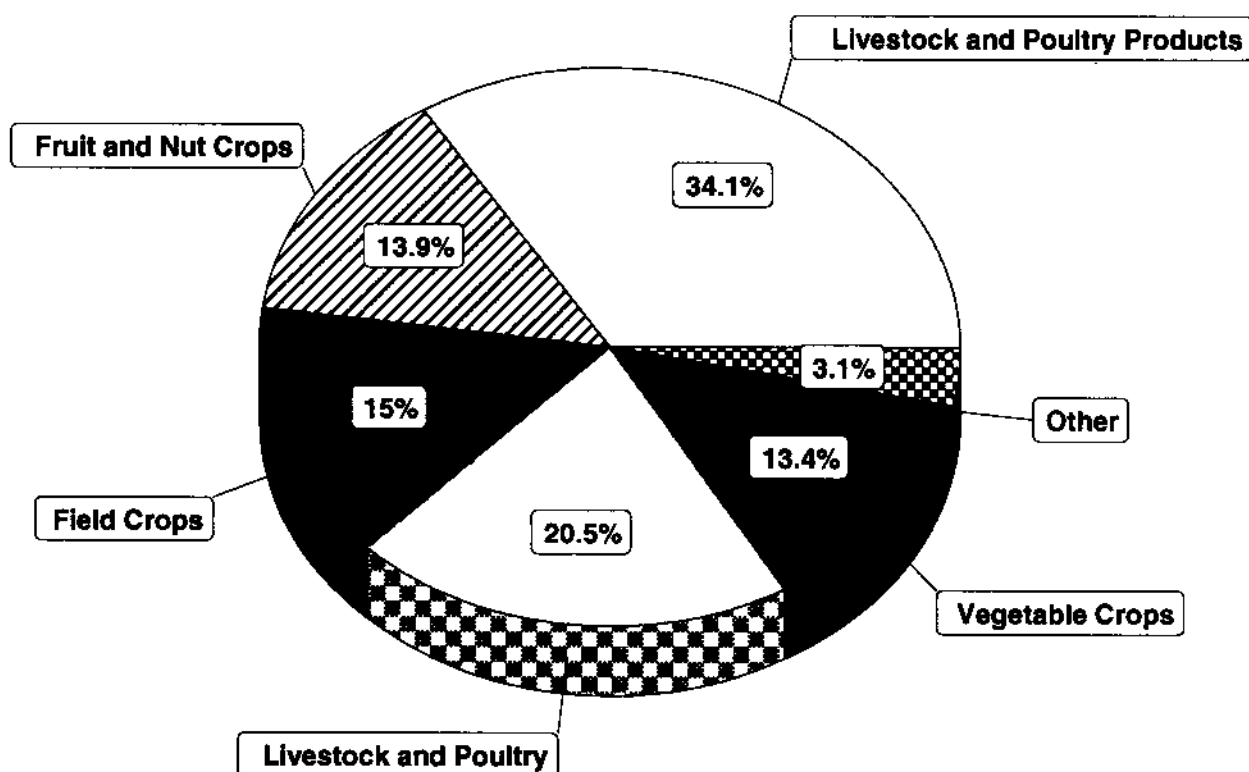
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS, CHICKEN (Market)	2000	60,602,280	Dozen	\$0.50	\$30,301,000
	1999	62,834,550	Dozen	\$0.46	\$28,778,000
EGGS, OTHER *	2000	2,569,280	Each	\$0.66	\$1,696,000
	---	-----	---	---	-----
EGGS, TURKEY (Hatching)	2000	-----	---	-----	-----
	1999	4,050,790	Each	\$0.66	\$2,665,000
MILK (Goat)	2000	27,172	Cwt.	\$28.00	\$761,000
	1999	24,903	Cwt.	\$30.81	\$767,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	2000	440,292	Cwt.	\$10.82	\$4,766,000
	1999	455,924	Cwt.	\$13.22	\$6,027,000
MILK (Market)	2000	42,227,165	Cwt.	\$11.53	\$486,903,000
	1999	38,109,502	Cwt.	\$13.48	\$513,716,000
WOOL	2000	180,000	Pound	\$0.37	\$66,600
	1999	135,000	Pound	\$0.30	\$40,500
TOTAL	2000				\$524,493,000
	1999				\$551,995,000

*Includes Misc. Eggs Other Than Chicken Eggs



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$162,321	COTTON	\$7,208,142	SORGHUM	\$19,516
CORN	\$1,022,603	OATS	\$4,616	WHEAT	\$1,050,892
		RICE	\$1,889,021		

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

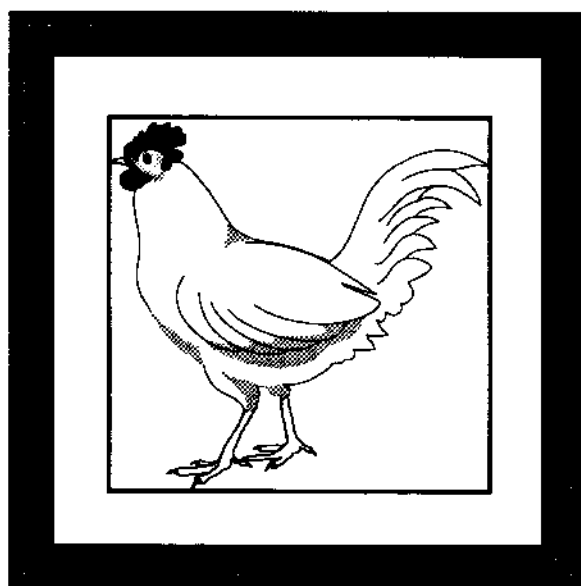
BEANS, DRIED	36 Acres	GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	10 Acres	TOMATOES (Fresh Mkt)	155 Acres
FIGS	40 Acres	MISC. VEGETABLES	16 Acres	PLUMS, DRIED	40 Acres
GRAPES (Wine)	230 Acres	TOMATOES (Processing)	1000 Acres	SWEET POTATOES	100 Acres
WALNUTS	17 Acres				

* Amount not included in total value of each crop, for 2000. (Source, FSA Office)

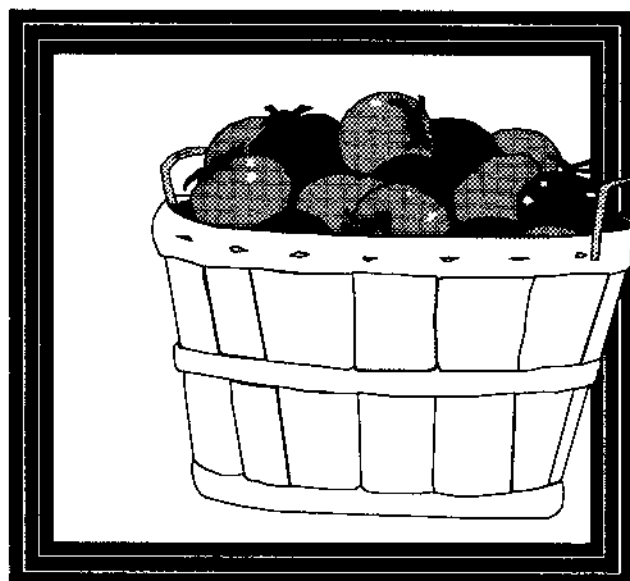
**The reported planted acreages were not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market or inability to harvest and transport. Acreages not included in total acres of each crop in 2000.



MERCED COUNTY



**TOP THREE
COMMODITIES**



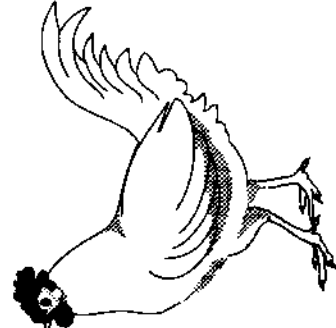
COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	2000	1999	1998	1997	1985	1980	1975
AQUACULTURE	\$3,814,000	\$2,380,000	\$1,148,000	\$2,809,000	---	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$9,834,000	\$8,797,000	\$6,062,000	\$4,565,000	\$3,682,000	\$2,923,000	\$1,085,000
FIELD CROPS	\$230,750,000	\$245,647,000	\$226,665,000	\$228,475,000	\$161,412,000	\$191,239,000	\$101,968,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$213,309,000	\$247,472,000	\$239,858,000	\$200,773,000	\$121,208,000	\$152,584,000	\$55,799,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	\$316,098,000	\$266,270,000	\$202,434,000	\$231,735,000	\$193,934,000	\$191,226,000	\$42,381,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$524,494,000	\$551,995,000	\$391,424,000	\$314,963,000	\$247,574,000	\$171,548,000	\$103,548,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$21,758,000	\$23,747,000	\$14,093,000	\$12,036,000	\$7,239,000	\$15,734,000	\$5,023,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$10,340,000	\$12,312,000	\$8,811,000	\$8,639,000	---	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$1,689,000	\$1,768,000	\$837,000	\$1,465,000	\$2,876,000	\$3,012,000	\$2,972,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$206,452,000	\$173,638,000	\$131,083,000	\$93,625,000	\$74,493,000	\$65,831,000	\$47,704,000
TOTAL	\$1,538,538,000	\$1,534,026,000	\$1,222,415,000	\$1,099,085,000	\$812,418,000	\$794,097,000	\$360,480,000

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 2000

1. MILK (1) \$491,669,000
 2. CHICKENS* (2) \$154,410,000
 3. TOMATOES** (4) \$112,631,000
 4. CATTLE (6) \$109,165,000
 5. ALMONDS (3) \$94,771,000
 6. COTTON (5) \$69,830,000
 7. SWEET POTATOES (8) \$57,289,000
 8. ALFALFA (7) \$56,261,000
 9. TURKEYS (13) \$43,736,000
 10. GRAPES (WINE) (9) \$38,729,000
 11. CORN SILAGE (10) \$36,148,000
 12. EGGS (MARKET) (11) \$30,301,000
- (Number in parenthesis denotes 1999 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/One New Site
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 albicuttalis</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 Countywide Countywide

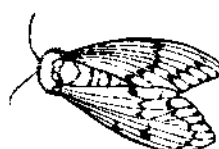
* Represents total number of individual sites, trees, acres, etc., incorporated in program efforts (survey, trap, servicing, releases, etc.)

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES
ALFALFA	1	223
ALMONDS	16	569
APRICOTS	2	90
DAIRY (MILK)	1	1 Dairy
HERBS	1	2
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES*	7	184
NECTARINES	1	10
OATS	3	115
PECAN	1	3
PEACHES	2	17.9
PISTACHIO	1	242
PLUMS	1	11
RAISINS	1	50
SWEET POTATOES	7	1,405
WALNUTS	2	71

* Includes Beans & Squash



PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING			
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	TRAPS IN SERVICE	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS
Apple Maggot	Apples	40	288
Cherry Fruit Flies	Cherries	19	38
European Corn Borer	Corn	5	55
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	5	28
Gypsy Moth	Trees	121	707
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter	Host Crops/Plants	2,591	16,527
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	108	614
Khapra Beetle	Grain	126	122
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	434	5,169
Melon Fly	Melons	56	462
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	5	55
Olive Fruit Fly	Olives	5	55
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	54	638
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes	110	1,053



PEST ERADICATION		
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM/TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State operated trapping program on 66,891 acres, combined with plowdown enforcement or host free period.
Red Imported Fire Ant	Almonds, Beehives, Nursery Stock	6,453 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.
Carthorn	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		
Live Ants	Cheese (CA))	Hold/Release
Q Rated Weed	B & B Dogwood (Or)	1 Reject/Treat/Release
Red Imported Fire Ants	Beehives (TX)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Red Imported Fire Ants	Truck (FL)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Not Properly Certified		
B & R Ozonium Root Rot	Baby's Breath (TX)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Roses (AL)	2 Rejected/1 Released
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Soil/Compost (SC)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Daylily (FL)	2 Rejected/Returned
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Canna (NC)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Caladium (FL)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Hydrangea (AL)	2 Rejected/Returned
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Strawberry (NC)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
European Corn Borer	Corn on Cob (NE)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
European Corn Borer	Geranium (NE)	2 Rejected/Destroyed
European Corn Borer	Dahlia (OH)	1 Rejected/Released
Pecan Case-Bearers	Inshell Pecan (GA)	1 Rejected/Destroyed



Improper Markings *			
Apple (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed	Pecan (OK)	1 Rejected/Released
Caladium (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed	Peppers/Fruit(Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Cut Fern (Unknown)	2 Rejected/Destroyed	Pepper/Plants (Mexico)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
DayLily (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released	Peppers (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released
Elm Tree (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released	Potato (NC)	1 Rejected/Released
Guava (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released	Roses (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Hollyhock (MI)	1 Rejected/Returned	Lily Mix (Unknown))	2 Rejected/Destroyed
Hydrangea (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed	Pear Seed (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released
Inshell Pecans (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed	Wood Chips (Unknown)	2 Rejected/Destroyed
Iris (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed		

*Represents Shipments

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



2001

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

**MICHAEL J. TANNER, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
DANIEL CISMOWSKI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

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DISCLAIMER: Numbers will not compute exactly due to computer rounding of production and price rates.
 This report is also available through our Internet Site:
www.co.merced.ca.us/ag

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Stephanie Guerrero – Typist Clerk II

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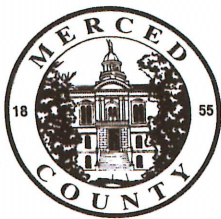
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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MICHAEL J. TANNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

DAN CISMOWSKI
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

TO: Mr. William J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary-California Department of food and Agriculture and the Honorable Board of Directors

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

It is with great pleasure that I submit the 2001 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This annual publication is produced in accordance with the provisions of Section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code. This report presents statistical information on the **acreage, yield or number, and gross value** of Agricultural products produced in the County. It includes a brief **Sustainable Agriculture Report** which summarizes biological control, pest prevention, pest detection, pest eradication and organic farming activities in our County.

Agriculture continues to be the County's major producing renewable industry and has posted a new all-time high gross value of \$1,703,038,000 for the 2001 year. This represents a 10.7% increase, \$164,500,000 in gross value, over the 2000 figures. Merced County's diversified Agriculture continues to provide a very strong base for our local economy. Through the multiplier effect, it has a local economic impact in excess of 5.9 billion dollars.

The weather for the 2001 growing season was somewhat erratic with hot spells followed by colder times throughout much of the growing season. This had its affect on the yield for most of our crops, resulting in lower production per acre. The Agriculture economy, as a whole, continues to be in a slump financially, as profit margins on an acre or yield basis are slim to none for many commodities. Profitability remains the highest challenge facing the Agricultural Industry. However, farmers and ranchers are resilient and the industry will make a strong comeback within the next few years.

Milk continues its impressive climb in value and importance. After last year's decline, it roared back with a \$625,750,000 value. This is a gain of \$134,081,000 (27.3%) reflecting much improved market prices and increased production, (over 4.6%). Milk is by far the number one commodity produced in the county, representing 36.7% of the total gross agricultural value.

Cattle and Calves, for the third year running, are pulling out of poor times, and have regained third place of all commodities with a \$143,333,000 value. The number of head marketed was up 19.5% and price per hundred weight up 19.2%. Almonds, after slumping last year, have rebounded to a value of \$116,313,000. Price fell by 5 cents per pound, but yield was up 220 pounds per acre and 7,710 additional acres came into production.

The miscellaneous category of fruit and nut crops leaped in value by \$9,550,000 to \$20,460,000. Most specialty crops and other minor crops are included here and the value per ton was dramatically higher in 2001. Also, frozen fruit is now included in this category.

Other commodities showing significant gains in total value include silage corn, walnuts, turkeys, hay (grain), chickens (fryers & broilers) and silage (other).

After a stellar year in 2000, market tomatoes almost reversed in value, spiraling to \$51,133,000 and dropping tomatoes from third to fifth place in leading commodities. The \$30,003,000 was the greatest loss in value of a single commodity last year. The loss was due to a small reduction in acres planted, with yield down 11.7% and price lower by 27.2%.

Wine grapes continued to slide in value dropping by \$14,113,000 to \$24,567,000. This was the result of 12.5% lower production and price down 27.6%

Due to a major producer and packer going out of business, Cantaloupes posted the third highest drop falling to \$12,288,000. This was a \$5,001,000 loss due to 37.4% less acres and yield down 3.7%. Price was up 81 cents per carton.

Sweet potatoes suffered a \$4,375,000 decline, falling to \$52,914,000. Acreage was down 10.2% and yield 8.8%, however price was up 12.8%. Merced County ranks number one in sweet potato production in California with over 80% of the acreage.

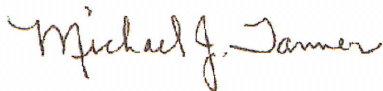
Other commodities showing significant declines in total value include pistachios, ostriches, apricots, clingstone peaches, sugar beets, fresh market chicken eggs and rice.

This report addresses the acreage, production, and gross value of Agriculture 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.

This is my last Annual Crop Report as your County Agricultural Commissioner. It has been a grand experience and great pleasure for me to serve the wonderful Merced County Agriculture Industry and those involved for the past forty years.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanner,
Agricultural Commissioner

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	2001	2,823	2.26	6,375	TON	\$90.63	\$578,000
	2000	3,544	1.89	6,694		\$118.79	\$795,000
BEANS (DRY LIMA)	2001	1,071	1.25	1,343	TON	\$705.45	\$947,000
	2000	1,297	1.34	1,739		\$642.42	\$1,117,000
BEANS (DRY OTHER)	2001	2,745	0.71	1,951	TON	\$529.43	\$1,033,000
	2000	3,850	0.56	2,138		\$500.00	\$1,069,000
CORN (GRAIN) *	2001	5,647	5.03	28,378	TON	\$119.51	\$3,392,000
	2000	6,654	5.36	35,667		\$122.50	\$4,369,000
COTTON (LINT)	2001	68,177	2.97	202,678	500 LB BALE	\$352.99	\$71,544,000
	2000	66,891	3.09	206,796		\$337.68	\$69,830,000
COTTON (SEED)	2001	---	---	67,475	TON	\$158.25	\$10,678,000
	2000	---	---	67,829		\$151.00	\$10,242,000
HAY (ALFALFA) **	2001	74,460	7.17	533,785	TON	\$130.73	\$69,784,000
	2000	75,177	6.92	520,295		\$108.13	\$56,261,000
HAY (GRAIN)	2001	25,056	3.49	87,473	TON	\$86.93	\$7,604,000
	2000	23,084	3.18	73,342		\$73.74	\$5,408,000
HAY (SUDAN)	2001	4,135	4.58	18,919	TON	\$96.47	\$1,825,000
	2000	3,030	5.49	16,623		\$67.56	\$1,123,000
OATS (GRAIN)	2001	3,043	3.08	9,368	TON	\$99.92	\$936,000
	2000	2,727	2.25	6,141		\$77.55	\$476,000
PASTURE (IRRIGATED)	2001	46,000	---	---	ACRE	\$150.00	\$6,900,000
	2000	59,000	---	---		\$125.00	\$7,375,000
PASTURE (OTHER)	2001	559,500	---	---	ACRE	\$16.33	\$9,137,000
	2000	568,000	---	---		\$16.00	\$9,088,000
RICE	2001	5,000	3.17	15,834	TON	\$306.81	\$4,858,000
	2000	4,146	4.36	18,059		\$324.60	\$5,862,000
SAFFLOWER	2001	485	0.71	346	TON	\$220.22	\$76,000
	2000	443	1.50	665		\$225.00	\$150,000
SILAGE (CORN)	2001	68,186	26.60	1,813,517	TON	\$22.47	\$40,748,000
	2000	66,352	27.81	1,845,437		\$19.59	\$36,148,000
SILAGE (OTHER) ***	2001	60,147	10.92	656,823	TON	\$21.18	\$13,909,000
	2000	58,871	10.31	607,047		\$19.55	\$11,865,000
STRAW ****	2001	---	---	1,542	TON	\$40.00	\$62,000
	2000	---	---	1,731		\$40.00	\$69,000
STUBBLE (PASTURE)	2001	---	---	14,892	ACRE	\$5.00	\$74,000
	2000	---	---	15,035		\$8.07	\$121,000
SUGAR BEETS	2001	3,909	32.68	127,764	TON	\$37.40	\$4,778,000
	2000	5,725	30.00	171,750		\$37.33	\$6,411,000
WHEAT	2001	10,865	2.02	21,994	TON	\$106.37	\$2,339,000
	2000	11,561	2.30	26,551		\$111.88	\$2,971,000
TOTAL	2001	941,249					\$251,202,000
	2000	960,352					\$230,751,000

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

** Includes HAY (Alfalfa-Cube).

*** Includes Oat, Rye Sorghum, Sudan, and Wheat Forage Fodder, Alfalfa Green Chop, Corn Earlage, and Winter Forage (2001)

Includes Oat, Barley, Rye Sorghum, Sudan, and Wheat Forage Fodder, Alfalfa Green Chop, Clover, Winter Forage, and Vetch. (2000)

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

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (FREEZER)	2001	2,988	1.58	4,725	TON	\$457.12	\$2,160,000
	2000	2,309	1.74	4,025		\$451.97	\$1,819,000
MELONS (CANTALOUPE)	2001	4,485	515.97	2,314,122	40LB CTN	\$5.31	\$12,288,000
	2000	7,168	535.99	3,842,000		\$4.50	\$17,289,000
MELONS (OTHER)	2001	899	8.50	7,642	TON	\$245.00	\$1,872,000
	2000	1,340	8.58	11,493		\$239.61	\$2,754,000
MELONS (WATERMELON)	2001	460	36.05	16,583	TON	\$139.24	\$2,309,000
	2000	557	38.32	21,343		\$137.62	\$2,937,000
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES *	2001	2,655	---	---	---	---	\$10,837,000
	2000	2,218	---	---		---	\$8,907,000
PEAS (FREEZER) **	2001	---	---	---	TON	---	---
	2000	287	1.50	431		\$350.00	\$151,000
PEPPERS, BELL (MARKET)	2001	381	12.07	4,600	TON	\$387.50	\$1,782,000
	2000	406	14.67	5,957		\$449.05	\$2,675,000
SWEET POTATOES	2001	8,136	11.76	95,647	TON	\$553.23	\$52,914,000
	2000	9,056	12.90	116,848		\$490.28	\$57,289,000
TOMATOES (MARKET)	2001	11,264	1,001.06	11,275,953	25LB CTN	\$4.53	\$51,133,000
	2000	11,500	1,133.50	13,035,302		\$6.22	\$81,136,000
TOMATOES (PROCESSING)	2001	17,265	37.02	639,156	TON	\$48.36	\$30,908,000
	2000	15,600	38.32	597,793		\$52.69	\$31,495,000
TOTAL	2001	48,533					\$166,203,000
	2000	50,441					\$206,451,000

* For 2001: Includes Artichoke, Asparagus, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Melon Culls, Okra, Onion, Oriental Vegetables, Pepper, Pole Tomato, Potato, Pumpkin, Radish, Squash, String Beans, and Tomatillos.
For 2000: Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Oriental Vegetable, Pumpkins, Radishes, String Beans, Spinach, Squash, and Tomatillos.

** For 2001: There were no Freezer Peas grown in Merced County.



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
ALMONDS (HULLS)	2001	---	---	124,816	TON	\$75.93	\$9,477,000	
	2000	---	---	103,309		\$74.25	\$7,671,000	
ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	2001	85,024	0.72	61,217	TON	\$1,900.00	\$116,313,000	
	2000	77,314	0.61	47,386		\$2,000.00	\$94,771,000	
APRICOTS	2001	1,920	4.08	7,833	TON	\$332.43	\$2,604,000	
	2000	1,947	3.54	6,889		\$670.52	\$4,619,000	
FIGS (DRY)	2001	3,148	0.84	2,641	TON	\$1,398.16	\$3,692,000	
	2000	2,437	1.21	2,939		\$1,364.91	\$4,012,000	
FROZEN FRUIT *	2001	---	---	---	TON	---	---	
	2000	---	---	2,116		\$296.70	\$628,000	
GRAPES (RAISIN TO WINE)	2001	106	6.33	671	TON	\$116.18	\$78,000	
	2000	124	8.20	1,017		\$125.00	\$127,000	
GRAPES (RAISIN)	2001	1,134	1.49	1,690	TON	\$654.00	\$1,105,000	
	2000	1,204	1.75	2,107		\$877.50	\$1,849,000	
GRAPES (WINE)	2001	14,411	8.12	117,056	TON	\$209.21	\$24,489,000	
	2000	14,313	9.33	133,566		\$289.01	\$38,602,000	
KIWI	2001	33	7.00	231	TON	\$850.00	\$196,000	
	2000	27	10.00	270		\$909.00	\$245,000	
MISCELLANEOUS **	2001	2029	---	---	---	---	\$20,460,000	
	2000	2,570	---	---		---	\$10,910,000	
NECTARINES	2001	137	7.44	1,019	TON	\$557.16	\$568,000	
	2000	164	8.80	1,443		\$970.72	\$1,400,000	
PEACHES (CLINGSTONE)	2001	3,651	18.03	65,826	TON	\$235.86	\$15,526,000	
	2000	3,635	20.88	75,908		\$228.75	\$17,364,000	
PEACHES (FREESTONE)	2001	1,758	16.05	28,216	TON	\$217.91	\$6,149,000	
	2000	1,792	18.82	33,722		\$206.64	\$6,968,000	
PISTACHIOS	2001	4,526	0.62	2,810	TON	\$2,134.66	\$5,999,000	
	2000	4,473	0.91	4,093		\$2,150.49	\$8,801,000	
PLUMS ***	2001	---	---	---	TON	---	---	
	2000	36	3.90	140		\$918.40	\$129,000	
PLUMS, DRIED	2001	2,331	2.68	6,241	TON	\$773.35	\$4,826,000	
	2000	2,230	3.05	6,792		\$721.13	\$4,898,000	
STRAWBERRIES	2001	335	15.81	5,296	TON	\$825.28	\$4,371,000	
	2000	553	7.34	4,061		\$866.64	\$3,519,000	
WALNUTS (ENGLISH)	2001	5,514	1.91	10,519	TON	\$1,060.23	\$11,152,000	
	2000	5,151	1.12	5,759		\$1,180.00	\$6,796,000	
TOTAL	2001	126,057					\$227,004,000	
	2000	117,970					\$213,310,000	

* For 2001: Frozen Fruit is now included in Miscellaneous Fruit and Nuts.
For 2000: Includes Berries, Grapes, and Melons.

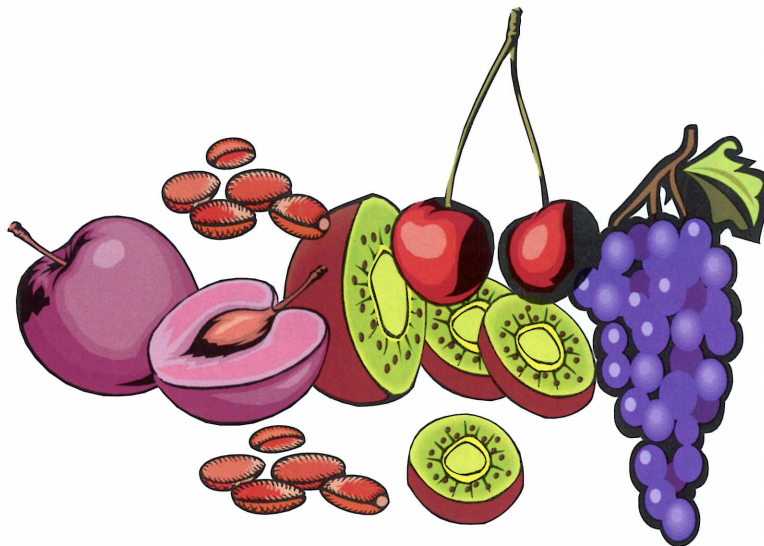
** For 2001: Includes Apples, Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Grapes (Frozen and Table), Cannery and Fresh Figs, Fresh and Dried Peaches, Fruit juices, Organic Fruits and Nuts, Pecans, Pears, Plums, and Plumcots.
For 2000: Includes Apples, Fresh Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans, Pears, Plumcots, Table Grapes, Cannery and Fresh Figs, Fresh Peaches, and Fruit Juices.

*** For 2001: Plums are now included in Miscellaneous Fruit and Nuts.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 2001		YEAR 1996	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	85,024	3,537	71,736	6,604
APPLES	577	27	1,442	217
APRICOTS	1,920	34	1,917	142
BERRIES	320	25	230	20
CHERRIES	319	57	248	75
FIGS	3,297	340	3,341	92
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,260	0	1,495	0
GRAPES (Table)	149	0	248	175
GRAPES (Wine)	14,644	59	11,227	4,616
KIWI	33	0	41	0
MANDARINS	14	0	30	0
NECTARINES	211	14	213	15
OLIVES	60	0	61	0
ORANGES	47	0	47	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,714	265	3,942	239
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,871	317	1,918	390
PEARS	13	0	21	0
PECANS	41	10	44	0
PISTACHIOS	4,620	447	4,428	93
PLUMS	35	26	202	48
PLUMS (Dried)	2,791	93	2,104	723
WALNUTS (English)	5,514	796	5,361	1,132
TOTAL	126,474	6,047	110,296	14,581



SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CERTIFIED SEEDS *	2001	---	---	---	ACRE	---	---
	2000	701	---	---			\$487,000
NON-CERTIFIED SEED **	2001	2,560	---	---	ACRE		\$1,963,000
	2000	1,329	---	---			\$1,202,000
TOTAL	2001	2,560					\$1,963,000
	2000	2,030					\$1,689,000

* For 2001: There were no Certified Seed crops grown in Merced County.
For 2000: Includes Certified Seed from Alfalfa, and Wheat

** For 2001: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Chili Pepper, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Oat, Onion, Pepper (bell), Rye, Squash, Tomato, and Wheat.
For 2000: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Chili Pepper, Corn, Cucumber, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Oats, Onion, Rye, Squash, Tomato and Vetch.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (SHELLS) *	2001	38,176	TON	\$19.43	\$742,000
	2000	16,775		\$13.62	\$228,000
FIREWOOD	2001	26,063	CORD	\$95.68	\$2,494,000
	2000	15,839		\$86.12	\$1,364,000
FUEL (COGENERATION) **	2001	18,825	TON	\$28.35	\$534,000
	2000	27,591		\$22.50	\$621,000
MANURE ***	2001	929,384	TON	\$6.10	\$5,669,000
	2000	889,973		\$9.13	\$8,127,000
TOTAL	2001				\$9,438,000
	2000				\$10,340,000

* For Fuel and Animal Bedding.

** Orchard Removal (Recorded in Dry Tons).

*** Livestock, Poultry.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS *	2001	1,120	---	---	---	---	\$22,233,000
	2000	1,524	---	---	---	---	\$21,758,000
TOTAL	2001	1,120					\$22,233,000
	2000	1,524					\$21,758,000

For 2001: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Citrus, Deciduous Fruit, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Nut Trees, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Other Vegetable Plants, Pits, and Cuttings, Roses, Strawberry Plants, Shrubs, Sweet Potato Plants, Tomato Plants, and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

2000: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Citrus, Deciduous Fruit, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Nut Trees, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Other Vegetable Plants, Pits and Cuttings, Roses, Strawberry Plants, Shrubs, Sweet Potato Plants, and Tomato Plants. The separate productions and values are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

BEE INDUSTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	2001	31,154	POUND	\$1.45	\$45,000
	2000	52,000		\$1.55	\$81,000
BULK BEES *	2001	75,000	POUND	\$9.00	\$675,000
	2000	76,000		\$8.03	\$610,000
HONEY **	2001	2,025,000	POUND	\$0.58	\$1,175,000
	2000	3,400,000		\$0.49	\$1,666,000
POLLINATION ***	2001	185,341	COLONY	\$43.68	\$8,096,000
	2000	181,000		\$40.44	\$7,320,000
QUEENS ****	2001	47,500	EACH	\$7.58	\$360,000
	2000	26,500		\$5.89	\$156,000
TOTAL	2001				\$10,350,000
	2000				\$9,833,000

* Includes Bees Sold As Nuclei.

** Honey Produced by 50,000 Resident Colonies

*** Pollination Colonies Include All Required to Pollinate Crops Grown in Merced County

**** Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.

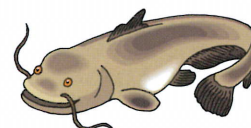
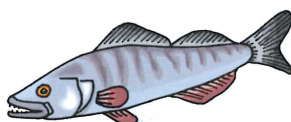
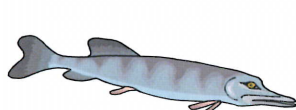


AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	2001	1,523,824	POUND	\$1.95	\$2,974,000
	2000	1,825,000		\$2.09	\$3,814,000
TOTAL	2001				\$2,974,000
	2000				\$3,814,000

* For 2001: Includes Black Bass, Carp, Catfish, Silver Carp, Striped Bass, Sturgeon, and Trout.

For 2000: Includes Black Bass, Catfish, Silver Carp, Striped Bass, Sturgeon, and Trout.



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
			LIVE-WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES *	2001	226,751	1,787,626	CWT	\$80.07	\$143,133,000
	2000	189,730	1,625,350		\$67.16	\$109,165,000
CHICKENS (FRYERS AND BROILERS)	2001	80,905,006	420,264,041	POUND	\$0.37	\$155,498,000
	2000	83,235,954	414,545,051		\$0.37	\$153,382,000
CHICKENS (OTHER) **	2001	1,750,483	7,502,174	POUND	\$0.14	\$1,084,000
	2000	909,816	3,884,149		\$0.26	\$1,028,000
GOATS	2001	5,532	----	HEAD	\$65.05	\$360,000
	2000	6,142	----		\$98.67	\$606,000
HOGS AND PIGS	2001	16,645	28,710	CWT	\$47.49	\$1,363,000
	2000	17,436	29,816		\$51.59	\$1,538,000
OSTRICHES ***	2001	3,880	----	HEAD	----	\$791,000
	2000	5,024	----		----	\$3,140,000
POULTRY (MISCELLANEOUS) ****	2001	68,360	148,574	POUND	\$3.61	\$536,000
	2000	64,800	145,420		\$3.53	\$513,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	2001	30,022	36,168	CWT	\$61.79	\$2,235,000
	2000	31,320	37,449		\$79.85	\$2,990,000
TURKEYS	2001	3,543,357	93,044,661	POUND	\$0.51	\$47,817,000
	2000	3,764,275	88,247,371		\$0.50	\$43,736,000
TOTAL	2001					\$352,817,000
	2000					\$316,098,000

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

** Includes Meat Layers and Pullets.

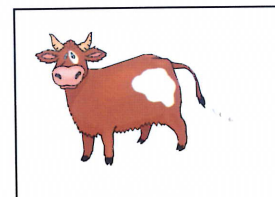
*** Includes Domestic and Slaughter Birds, Hides, and Blown Dry Eggs.

**** Includes Chukar, Pheasant, and Squab.

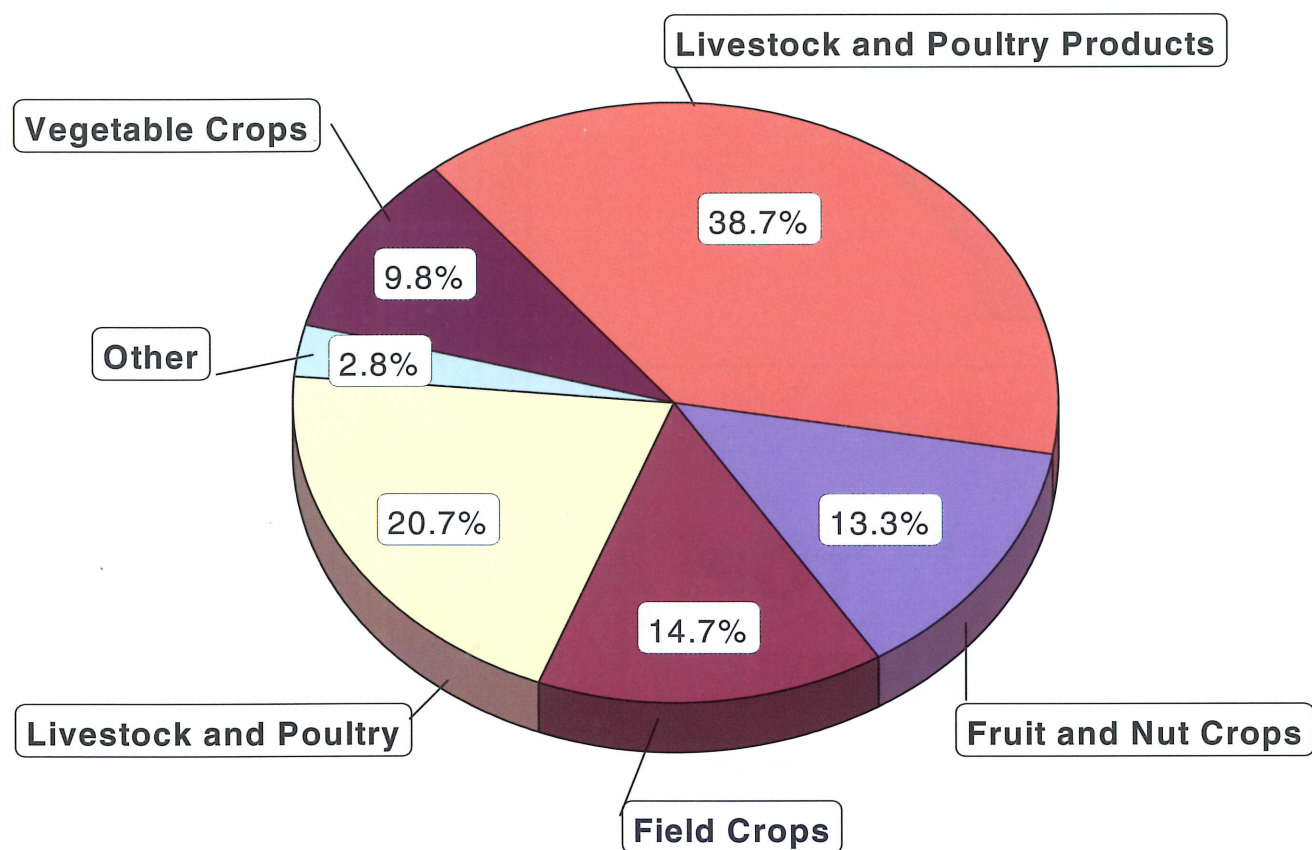
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS CHICKEN (MARKET)	2001	67,026,390	DOZEN	\$0.43	\$28,821,000
	2000	60,602,280		\$0.50	\$30,301,000
EGGS (OTHER) *	2001	4,826,025	EACH	\$0.67	\$3,233,000
	2000	2,569,280		\$0.66	\$1,696,000
MILK (GOAT)	2001	32,193	CWT	\$30.88	\$994,000
	2000	27,172		\$28.00	\$761,000
MILK (MANUFACTURING)	2001	483,513	CWT	\$13.77	\$6,658,000
	2000	440,292		\$10.82	\$4,766,000
MILK (MARKET)	2001	44,157,788	CWT	\$14.02	\$619,092,000
	2000	42,227,165		\$11.53	\$486,903,000
WOOL	2001	153,000	POUND	\$0.35	\$54,000
	2000	180,000		\$0.37	\$67,000
TOTAL	2001				\$658,853,000
	2000				\$524,493,000

* For 2001, 2000: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$49,983	COTTON	\$2,445,240	SORGHUM	\$6,430
CORN	\$333,223	OATS	\$1,246	WHEAT	\$329,985
		RICE	\$792,299		

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

CHERRIES	7 Acres	NECTARINES	54 Acres	PLUMS(Dried)	460 Acres
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	20 Acres	PEACHES (Cling)	43 Acres	SAFFLOWER	50 Acres
GRAPES (Wine)	233 Acres	PLUMS	5 Acres	SUDAN	80 Acres

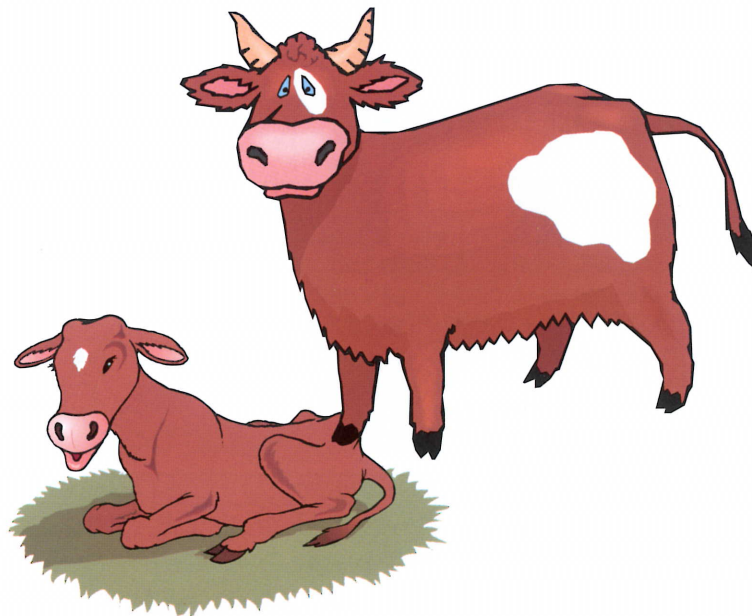
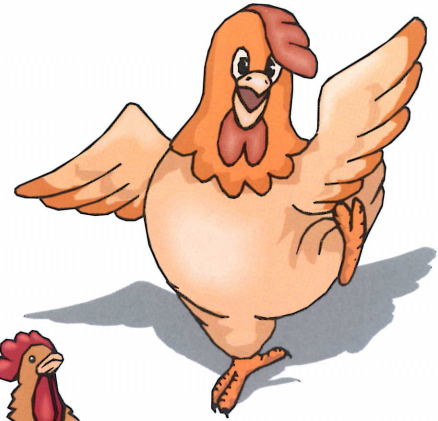
* Amounts not included in total value of each crop, except for cotton, for 2001. (Source: FSA Office)

** 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 2001.

MERCED COUNTY'S

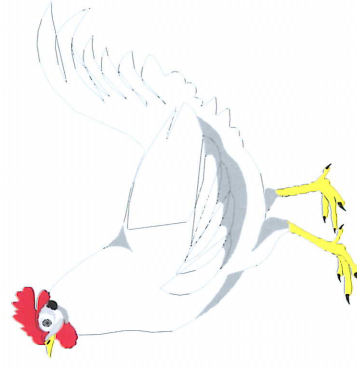
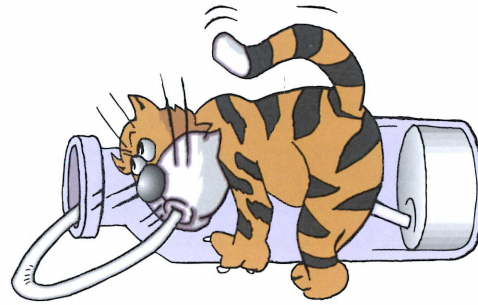


TOP THREE COMMODITIES



COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	2001	2000	1996	1991	1986	1981	1976
AQUACULTURE	\$2,974,000	\$3,814,000	\$1,382,000	\$1,459,000	---	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$10,350,000	\$9,833,000	\$7,480,000	\$4,672,000	\$3,464,000	\$2,812,000	\$1,493,000
FIELD CROPS	\$251,202,000	\$230,750,000	\$260,256,000	\$195,816,000	\$152,423,000	\$179,656,000	\$123,161,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$227,004,000	\$213,310,000	\$293,142,000	\$174,984,000	\$151,252,000	\$113,098,000	\$74,971,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	\$352,817,000	\$316,098,000	\$214,703,000	\$213,823,000	\$209,788,000	\$184,181,000	\$119,052,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$658,853,000	\$524,493,000	\$488,956,000	\$307,960,000	\$239,804,000	\$200,733,000	\$99,303,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$22,233,000	\$21,758,000	\$14,265,000	\$12,288,000	\$8,132,000	\$9,932,000	\$4,302,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$9,438,000	\$10,340,000	\$10,038,000	\$10,048,000	---	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$1,963,000	\$1,689,000	\$582,000	\$1,679,000	\$2,612,000	\$2,539,000	\$3,343,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$166,203,000	\$206,451,000	\$139,649,000	\$107,947,000	\$82,106,000	\$66,438,000	\$40,089,000
TOTAL	\$1,703,038,000	\$1,538,538,000	\$1,430,454,000	\$1,030,676,000	\$849,581,000	\$759,389,000	\$465,714,000



TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 2001

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|
| 1. MILK * | \$625,750,000 | (1) |
| 2. CHICKENS ** | \$156,582,000 | (2) |
| 3. CATTLE AND CALVES | \$143,133,000 | (4) |
| 4. ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS) | \$116,313,000 | (5) |
| 5. TOMATOES *** | \$82,040,000 | (3) |
| 6. COTTON (LINT) | \$71,544,000 | (6) |
| 7. HAY (ALFALFA) | \$69,784,000 | (8) |
| 8. SWEET POTATOES | \$52,914,000 | (7) |
| 9. TURKEYS | \$47,817,000 | (9) |
| 10. SILAGE (CORN) | \$40,748,000 | (11) |
| 11. EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET) | \$28,821,000 | (12) |
| 12. GRAPES (WINE) | \$24,489,000 | (10) |

(The number in parenthesis denotes the 2000 ranking)

* Includes Market and Manufacturing.

** Includes Fryers and Other Chickens.

*** Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.

MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	ORGANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
ASH WHITEFLY <i>Siphoninus phillyrea</i>	<i>Encarsia inaron</i> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
GRAPELEAF SKELETONIZER <i>Harrisina brillians</i>	<i>Ametadoria misella</i> (Parasitic Fly) <i>WGLS Granulosis</i> (Virus) <i>Apanteles harrisinae</i> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
ITALIAN THISTLE <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Limited
KLAMATH WEED <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i> (Leaf Feeding Beetle)	Two Sites
MILK THISTLE <i>Silybum marianum</i>	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Countywide
PUNCTURE VINE <i>Ribulus terrestris</i>	<i>Microlarinus lareynii</i> (Seed Weevil) <i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i> (Stem Weevil)	Countywide
RED GUM LERP PSYLLID <i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>	<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i> (Parasitoid Wasp)	One Site
RUSSIAN THISTLE <i>Salsola sp.</i>	<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i> (Case Bearing Moth) <i>Coleophora parthenica</i> (Russian Thistle Borer)	Countywide
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) <i>Larinus curtus</i> (Flower Weevil)	Countywide/One New Site Countywide Countywide/One New Site Two Sites

* 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
ALMONDS	18	781
COTTON	1	1
CUT FLOWERS	1	2
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS *	3	3 Facilities
MISC. FRUITS **	9	250
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES ***	6	251
PECAN	1	3
PISTACHIO	1	242
SWEET POTATOES	8	780
WALNUTS	2	70



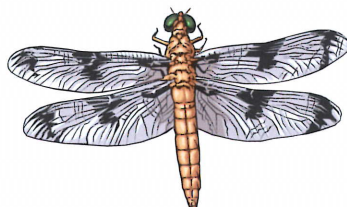
* Includes Milk and Chicken Eggs.

** Includes Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches (fresh and dried), Pluots, and Raisins.

*** Includes Beans, Squash, Leafy Lettuce, Tomatoes, and Legumes.

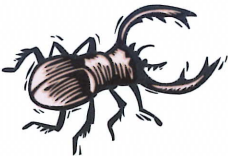
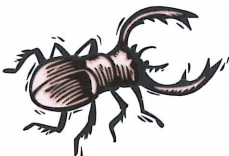
PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING

PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	TRAPS IN SERVICE	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS
Apple Maggot	Apples	32	286
Cherry Fruit Flies	Cherries	24	48
European Corn Borer	Corn	5	53
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	7	20
Gypsy Moth	Trees	128	679
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter	Host Crops/Plants	2,486	19,846
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	118	627
Khapra Beetle	Grain	126	126
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	442	5,142
Melon Fly	Melons	55	402
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	5	42
Olive Fruit Fly	Olives	6	78
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	56	622
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes	70	636



PEST ERADICATION

PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State operated trapping program on 68,177 acres, combined with plowdown enforcement or host free period.
Red Imported Fire Ant	Apples, Berries, Almonds Beehives, Nursery Stock, Pasture	2,262 acres were surveyed and trapped. An infestation on 1,500 acres was discovered in November. Comprehensive survey and treatment planned in 2002.
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, and tributaries.

PEST EXCLUSION		
PEST (INTERCEPTED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
Live Pests		
Boxwood Gall Midge	Boxwood (South Carolina)	1 Rejected/Held/Released
Glassy Winged Sharpshooter	Boxwood (South Carolina)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Live Ants	Nutrient Bar (Minnesota)	1 Rejected/Treat/Released
Live Ants	Candy (Tennessee)	1 Rejected/Treat/Released
Madagascar Hissing Cockroach	Pet Store	1 Rejected/Obtain Necessary Permit
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Clementine (Spain)	7 Rejected/Destroyed
RIFA & Q Rated Ants	Beehives (Louisiana)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Small Hive Beetle	Beehives (Florida)	9 Rejected/Treat/Ship out of State
Not Properly Certified		
Burrowing & Reniform Nematode	Sweet Potatoes (N. Carolina)	1 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Burrowing & Reniform Nema & Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes (Mississippi)	1 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Citrus Tristeza Virus	Citrus (Orange, CA)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
Cedar-Apple Rust	Cedar (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Cedar-Apple Rust	Juniper (Unknown)	2 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Cedar-Apple Rust	Juniper (Maine)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pine Boughs (Washington)	1 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
European Corn Borer'	Peppers (Colorado)	1 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Glassy Winged Sharpshooter	Azalea (San Diego, Ca)	1 Rejected/Released
Glassy Winged Sharpshooter	Gardenia (San Marcos, CA)	1 Rejected/Released
Glassy Winged Sharpshooter	Wine Grape (Fresno Co)	1 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Japanese Beetle	Verbena (Ohio)	1 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Ozonium Root Rot	Rose (Arizona)	2 Rejected/Obtain Certifications
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes (S. Carolina)	1 Rejected/Obtain Permit
Improper Markings		
 	Agave (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Apple Trees (Unknown)	3 Rejected/Destroyed
	Baby's Breath (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Bonsai (Washington)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Bulbs (Unknown)	3 Rejected/Destroyed
	Caladium (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Canna (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Crape Myrtle (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Cut Flowers (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released
	Daylily (Unknown)	53 Rejected/Destroyed
	Hosta (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Hydrangea (Unknown)	5 Rejected/Destroyed
	Iris (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Lilac (Unknown)	2 Rejected/Destroyed
	Redwood Seedlings (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Rose (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Rose (Unknown)	2 Rejected/Destroyed
	Verbena (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released
	Weigela (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Wisteria (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Destroyed
	Wreath (Unknown)	12 Rejected/Released

*Represents Shipments



NOTES

MERCED COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2139 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, California 95340-6495



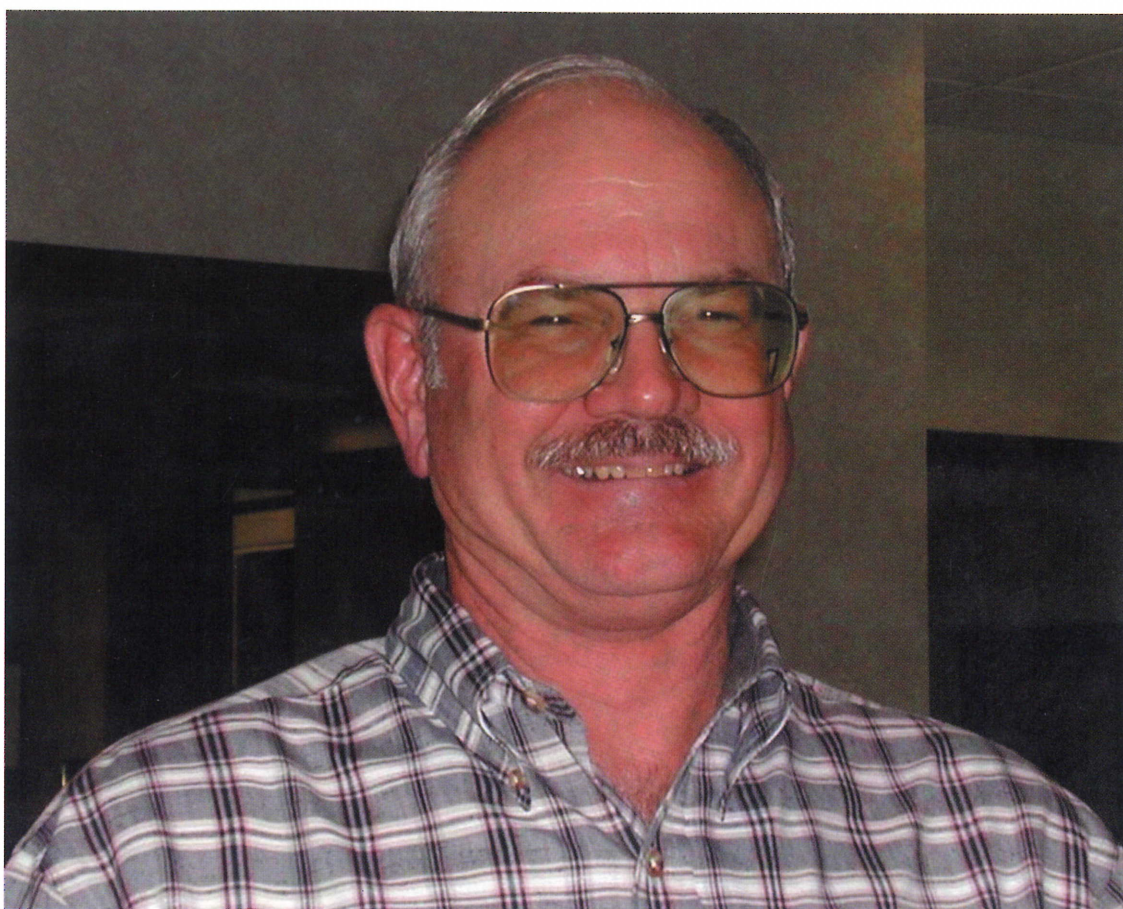
ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE

2002

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

**DAVID A.ROBINSON, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
DANIEL CISMOWSKI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**



DEDICATION

MICHAEL J. TANNER

The 2002 Merced County Crop Report is dedicated to Michael J. Tanner, who served as Agricultural Commissioner, Director of Weights and Measures, and Director of Animal Control for 20 years. In his over 20 years of experience prior to being appointed Department Head in 1983, Mike steadily promoted through all the staff levels in the Agricultural Commissioner Division from seasonal inspector to Assistant Agricultural Commissioner.

During Mike's tenure as Agricultural Commissioner, Merced County gross agricultural commodity values increased from \$ 721,750,000 in 1983 (8th largest county in California) to \$ 1,730,722,000 in 2002 (5th largest county).

A native of Merced County, raised in a farming family, Mike's lifelong passion for local agriculture was always evident. His tireless efforts on behalf of Merced County's growers will be his lasting legacy. The staff at the Merced County Department of Agriculture thanks Mike for his many years of dedicated service and hopes he enjoys a well-earned retirement.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

David A. Robinson
*Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and
Measures
Director of Animal Control*

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Equal Opportunity Employer

William J. "Bill" Lyons, Jr., Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Merced

Kathleen Crookham, Chairperson
Gloria Cortez Keene
Mike Nelson
Deidre Kelsey
Jerry O'Banion

Demitrios O. Tatum
County Executive Officer

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2002 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of Merced County's agricultural commodities.

The total gross production value of Merced County agricultural commodities in 2002 was \$1,730,722,000. This represents a \$30,337,000 (1.78%) increase from 2001 production values.

Market milk continues to be our leading value commodity even though the price declined by \$3.09 per hundredweight. Even with increased production, the lower price resulted in a reduction in value of \$108,245,000. Chickens remained our number two value commodity posting a \$41,445,000 increase in value due to a \$0.08/pound increase in price and a slight increase in production. Cattle and Calves, impacted by lower prices and a reduction in the growth rate of the dairy herd, fell to fourth place in all commodities with a value of \$140,780,000.

The almond crop had its best yield in 20 years with an average of .95 tons per acre. The increased production, coupled with improved prices, raised the crop value by 52.5% to \$177,383,000.

Due to depressed market prices cotton acreage reached a 16 year low with only 54,730 acres planted, down from the high of 84,835 acres in 1996. Sweet potato acreage rose by 1009 acres to 9145 acres. Even with lower prices, the increased acreage combined with improved yield raised the value to \$67,068,000. Merced County continues to rank number one in sweet potato production in California.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the costs of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers and ranchers, the staff of the University of California Cooperative Extension, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data. In addition, I would like to thank Mark Smith, Mike Quinn and Jeannie Nelson. Without their hard work, the publication of this report would have been impossible.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner

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DISCLAIMER: Numbers will not compute exactly due to computer rounding of production and price rates.

This report is also available through our Internet Site:

www.co.merced.ca.us/ag

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FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
BARLEY	2002	2,666	2.97	7,908	TON	\$97.58	\$772,000	
	2001	2,823	2.26	6,375		\$90.63	\$578,000	
BEANS (DRY LIMA)	2002	1,255	1.40	1,758	TON	\$769.82	\$1,354,000	
	2001	1,071	1.25	1,343		\$705.45	\$947,000	
BEANS (DRY OTHER)	2002	2,963	0.95	2,815	TON	\$578.55	\$1,628,000	
	2001	2,745	0.71	1,951		\$529.43	\$1,033,000	
CORN (GRAIN) *	2002	3,658	4.72	17,272	TON	\$136.01	\$2,349,000	
	2001	5,647	5.03	28,378		\$119.51	\$3,392,000	
COTTON (LINT)	2002	54,730	3.14	171,738	500 LB BALE	\$370.04	\$63,550,000	
	2001	68,177	2.97	202,678		\$352.99	\$71,544,000	
COTTON (SEED)	2002	---	1.05	57,467	TON	\$170.00	\$9,769,000	
	2001	---	0.99	67,475		\$158.25	\$10,678,000	
HAY (ALFALFA) **	2002	78,189	7.69	601,071	TON	\$122.84	\$73,836,000	
	2001	74,460	7.17	533,785		\$130.73	\$69,784,000	
HAY (GRAIN)	2002	31,245	3.71	115,929	TON	\$76.08	\$8,820,000	
	2001	25,056	3.49	87,473		\$86.93	\$7,604,000	
HAY (SUDAN)	2002	3,635	3.89	14,157	TON	\$77.18	\$1,093,000	
	2001	4,135	4.58	18,919		\$96.47	\$1,825,000	
OATS (GRAIN)	2002	4,045	2.71	10,982	TON	\$106.76	\$1,172,000	
	2001	3,043	3.08	9,368		\$99.92	\$936,000	
PASTURE (IRRIGATED)	2002	59,000	---	---	ACRE	\$140.00	\$8,260,000	
	2001	46,000	---	---		\$150.00	\$6,900,000	
PASTURE (OTHER)	2002	560,000	---	---	ACRE	\$16.00	\$8,958,000	
	2001	559,500	---	---		\$16.33	\$9,137,000	
RICE	2002	5,005	3.36	16,836	TON	\$194.12	\$3,268,000	
	2001	5,000	3.17	15,834		\$306.81	\$4,858,000	
SAFFLOWER	2002	528	1.25	660	TON	\$223.85	\$148,000	
	2001	485	0.71	346		\$220.22	\$76,000	
SILAGE (CORN)	2002	78,175	27.78	2,171,446	TON	\$22.20	\$48,201,000	
	2001	68,186	26.60	1,813,517		\$22.47	\$40,748,000	
SILAGE (OTHER) ***	2002	70,194	10.44	733,057	TON	\$21.06	\$15,441,000	
	2001	60,147	10.92	656,823		\$21.18	\$13,909,000	
STRAW ****	2002	---	---	2,002	TON	\$46.85	\$94,000	
	2001	---	---	1,542		\$40.00	\$62,000	
STUBBLE (PASTURE)	2002	---	---	15,638	ACRE	\$10.00	\$156,000	
	2001	---	---	14,892		\$5.00	\$74,000	
SUGAR BEETS	2002	4,386	36.90	161,850	TON	\$30.02	\$4,858,000	
	2001	3,909	32.68	127,764		\$37.40	\$4,778,000	
WHEAT	2002	14,419	2.28	32,820	TON	\$111.67	\$3,665,000	
	2001	10,865	2.02	21,994		\$106.37	\$2,339,000	
TOTAL	2002	974,093					\$257,394,000	
	2001	941,249					\$251,202,000	

* Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn) and Sorghum (Grain).

** Includes Hay (Alfalfa-Cube).

*** Includes Alfalfa Green Chop, Corn Earlage, Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat Forage Fodder and Winter Forage.

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

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
BEANS, LIMA (FREEZER)	2002	1,973	1.64	3,227	TON	\$441.83	\$1,426,000	
	2001	2,988	1.58	4,725		\$457.12	\$2,160,000	
MELONS (CANTALOUPE)	2002	5,753	386.18	2,221,694	40LB	\$4.75	\$10,553,000	
	2001	4,485	515.97	2,314,122	CTN	\$5.31	\$12,288,000	
MELONS (OTHER)	2002	904	7.79	7,043	TON	\$331.56	\$2,335,000	
	2001	899	8.50	7,642		\$245.00	\$1,872,000	
MELONS (WATERMELON)	2002	497	24.45	12,153	TON	\$125.98	\$1,531,000	
	2001	460	36.05	16,583		\$139.24	\$2,309,000	
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES *	2002	2,716	---	---	---	---	\$12,158,000	
	2001	2,655	---	---		---	\$10,837,000	
PEPPERS, BELL (MARKET)	2002	236	13.29	3,137	TON	\$556.35	\$1,745,000	
	2001	381	12.07	4,600		\$387.50	\$1,782,000	
SWEET POTATOES	2002	9,145	13.73	125,543	TON	\$534.23	\$67,068,000	
	2001	8,136	11.76	95,647		\$553.23	\$52,914,000	
TOMATOES (MARKET)	2002	10,460	1106.21	11,570,906	25LB	\$4.85	\$56,093,000	
	2001	11,264	1001.06	11,275,953	CTN	\$4.53	\$51,133,000	
TOMATOES (PROCESSING)	2002	18,200	37.11	675,367	TON	\$48.89	\$33,022,000	
	2001	17,265	37.02	639,156		\$48.36	\$30,908,000	
TOTAL	2002	49,884						\$185,932,000
	2001	48,533						\$166,203,000

* For 2002: Includes Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetable, Pumpkins, Radishes, String Beans, Spinach, Squash and Tomatillos.

For 2001: Includes Artichoke, Asparagus, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Melon Culls, Okra, Onion, Oriental Vegetables, Pepper, Pole Tomato, Potato, Pumpkin, Radish, Squash, String Beans and Tomatillos.



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
ALMONDS (HULLS)	2002	---	---	149,669	TON	\$75.72	\$11,333,000	
	2001	---	---	89,867		\$75.93	\$6,823,000	
ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	2002	83,535	0.95	79,189	TON	\$2,240.00	\$177,383,000	
	2001	85,024	0.72	61,217		\$1,900.00	\$116,313,000	
APRICOTS	2002	1,740	6.47	11,259	TON	\$305.52	\$3,440,000	
	2001	1,920	4.08	7,833		\$332.43	\$2,604,000	
FIGS (DRY)	2002	3,354	1.15	3,855	TON	\$1,448.05	\$5,582,000	
	2001	3,148	0.84	2,641		\$1,398.16	\$3,692,000	
GRAPES (RAISIN TO WINE)	2002	99	10.78	1,067	TON	\$113.43	\$121,000	
	2001	106	6.33	671		\$116.18	\$78,000	
GRAPES (RAISIN)	2002	887	2.27	2,013	TON	\$470.00	\$946,000	
	2001	1,134	1.49	1,690		\$654.00	\$1,105,000	
GRAPES (WINE)	2002	11,424	8.86	101,217	TON	\$276.67	\$28,004,000	
	2001	14,411	8.12	117,056		\$209.21	\$24,489,000	
KIWI*	2002	---	---	---	TON	----	---	
	2001	33	7.00	231		\$850.00	\$196,000	
MISCELLANEOUS **	2002	2,237	---	---	---	---	\$16,373,000	
	2001	2,029	---	---		---	\$20,460,000	
NECTARINES	2002	178	8.47	1,508	TON	\$497.25	\$750,000	
	2001	137	7.44	1,019		\$557.16	\$568,000	
PEACHES (CLINGSTONE)	2002	3,647	19.02	69,352	TON	\$235.02	\$16,299,000	
	2001	3,651	18.03	65,826		\$235.86	\$15,526,000	
PEACHES (FREESTONE)	2002	2,019	20.29	40,963	TON	\$216.21	\$8,857,000	
	2001	1,758	16.05	28,216		\$217.91	\$6,149,000	
PISTACHIOS	2002	4,374	1.12	4,913	TON	\$2,268.48	\$11,146,000	
	2001	4,526	0.62	2,810		\$2,134.66	\$5,999,000	
PLUMS, DRIED	2002	1,832	3.37	6,171	TON	\$756.01	\$4,665,000	
	2001	2,331	2.68	6,241		\$773.35	\$4,826,000	
STRAWBERRIES	2002	284	11.00	3,124	TON	\$1,023.77	\$3,198,000	
	2001	335	15.81	5,296		\$825.28	\$4,371,000	
WALNUTS (ENGLISH)	2002	5,726	1.21	6,940	TON	\$1,147.98	\$7,967,000	
	2001	5,514	1.91	10,519		\$1,060.23	\$11,152,000	
TOTAL	2002	121,336					\$296,063,000	
	2001	126,057					\$224,351,000	

* For 2002: Kiwis are now included in Miscellaneous Fruit and Nuts.

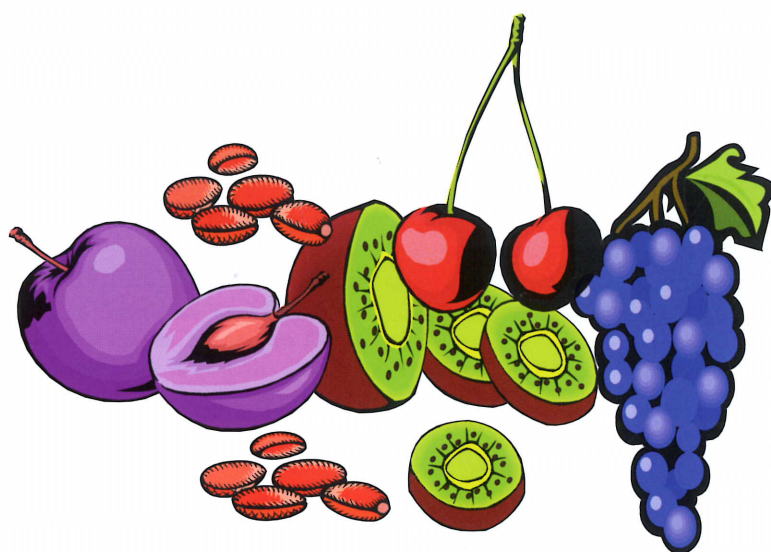
** For 2002: Includes Apples, Blueberries, Cane Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Grapes (Frozen and Table), Cannery and Fresh Figs, Fresh Peaches, and Fruit Juices, Jujubes, Kiwis, Organic Fruits and Nuts, Pecans, Pears, Persimmons, Plums and Plumcots.

For 2001: Includes Apples, Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Grapes (Frozen and Table), Cannery and Fresh Figs, Fresh and Dried Peaches, Fruit Juices, Organic Fruits and Nuts, Pecans, Pears, Plums and Plumcots.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 2002		YEAR 1997	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	83,535	4,575	72,186	7,846
APPLES	348	25	1,431	152
APRICOTS	1,740	1	1,946	72
BERRIES	325	20	230	0
CHERRIES	357	18	258	65
FIGS	3,775	49	3,188	62
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,164	0	1,451	11
GRAPES (Table)	149	0	423	0
GRAPES (Wine)	11,428	0	13,440	2,547
KIWI	33	0	33	0
MANDARINS	8	0	19	0
NECTARINES	178	35	198	13
OLIVES	12	0	60	0
ORANGES	49	0	47	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,647	350	3,985	111
PEACHES (Freestone)	2,019	159	1,970	338
PEARS	13	0	21	0
PECANS	41	10	42	5
PISTACHIOS	4,614	462	4,411	116
PLUMS	40	42	240	3
PLUMS (Dried)	2,274	56	2,134	667
WALNUTS (English)	5,726	488	4,925	1,219
TOTAL	121,475	6,290	112,638	13,227



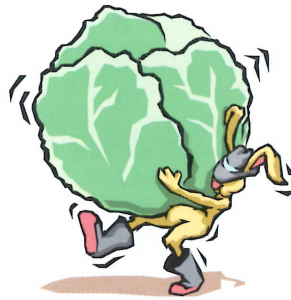
SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CERTIFIED SEEDS *	2002	---	---	---	ACRE	---	---
	2001	---	---	---		---	---
NON-CERTIFIED SEED **	2002	1,894	---	---	ACRE	---	\$937,000
	2001	2,560	---	---		---	\$1,963,000
TOTAL	2002	1,894					\$937,000
	2001	2,560					\$1,963,000

* For 2001 and 2002: There were no Certified Seed crops grown in Merced County.

** For 2002: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Barley, Basil, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrot, Chili Pepper, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Oat, Onion, Rye, Squash, Tomato and Wheat.

For 2001: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Chili Pepper, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Oats, Onion, Pepper (bell), Rye, Squash, Tomato and Wheat.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (SHELLS) *	2002	49,224	TON	\$16.35	\$805,000
	2001	38,176		\$19.43	\$742,000
FIREWOOD	2002	26,469	CORD	\$95.81	\$2,536,000
	2001	26,063		\$95.68	\$2,494,000
FUEL (COGENERATION) **	2002	20,500	TON	\$28.50	\$584,000
	2001	18,825		\$28.35	\$534,000
MANURE ***	2002	984,453	TON	\$3.83	\$3,774,000
	2001	929,384		\$6.10	\$5,669,000
TOTAL	2002				\$7,699,000
	2001				\$9,438,000

* For Fuel and Animal Bedding.

** Orchard Removal (Recorded in Dry Tons).

*** Livestock and Poultry.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS *	2002	926	---	---	---	---	\$21,991,000
	2001	1,120	---	---	---	---	\$22,233,000
TOTAL	2002	926					\$21,991,000
	2001	1,120					\$22,233,000

For 2002: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Deciduous Fruit, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Nut Trees, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Other Vegetable Plants, Pits and Cuttings, Strawberry Plants, Sweet Potato Plants, Tomato Plants and Turf. The separate productions and values are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

For 2001: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Citrus, Deciduous Fruit, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Nut Trees, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Other Vegetable Plants, Pits, and Cuttings, Roses, Strawberry Plants, Shrubs, Sweet Potato Plants, Tomato Plants and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

BEE INDUSTRY

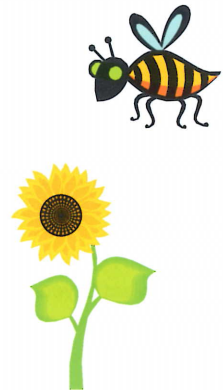
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	2002	46,792	POUND	\$1.20	\$56,000
	2001	31,154		\$1.45	\$45,000
BULK BEES *	2002	88,300	POUND	\$6.54	\$577,000
	2001	75,000		\$9.00	\$675,000
HONEY **	2002	3,041,500	POUND	\$1.25	\$3,802,000
	2001	2,025,000		\$0.58	\$1,175,000
POLLINATION ***	2002	175,770	COLONY	\$45.54	\$8,005,000
	2001	185,341		\$43.68	\$8,096,000
QUEENS ****	2002	39,250	EACH	\$6.52	\$256,000
	2001	47,500		\$7.58	\$360,000
TOTAL	2002	\$12,696,000			
	2001	\$10,350,000			

* Includes Bees Sold As Nuclei.

** Honey Produced by 55,000 Resident Colonies.

*** Pollination Colonies Include All Required to Pollinate Crops Grown in Merced County.

**** Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.

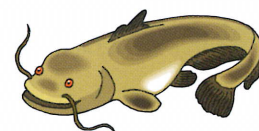
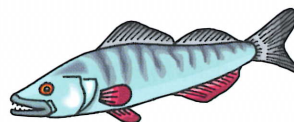
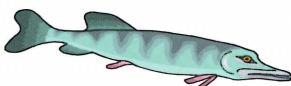


AQUACULTURE

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	2002	1,810,690	POUND	\$1.69	\$3,060,000
	2001	1,523,824		\$1.95	\$2,974,000
TOTAL	2002				\$3,060,000
	2001				\$2,974,000

* For 2002: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Sturgeon and Trout.

For 2001: Includes Black Bass, Carp, Catfish, Silver Carp, Striped Bass, Sturgeon and Trout.



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
			LIVE WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES *	2002	225,620	1,811,190	CWT	\$77.73	\$140,780,000
	2001	226,751	1,787,626		\$80.07	\$143,133,000
CHICKENS (FRYERS AND BROILERS)	2002	83,976,372	437,643,298	POUND	\$0.45	\$196,943,000
	2001	80,905,006	420,264,041		\$0.37	\$155,498,000
CHICKENS (OTHER) **	2002	1,958,588	8,363,562	POUND	\$0.16	\$1,338,000
	2001	1,750,483	7,502,174		\$0.14	\$1,084,000
GOATS	2002	4,850	---	HEAD	\$74.59	\$362,000
	2001	5,532	---		\$65.05	\$360,000
HOGS AND PIGS	2002	14,505	24,072	CWT	\$48.61	\$1,170,000
	2001	16,645	28,710		\$47.49	\$1,363,000
OSTRICHES ***	2002	1,440	---	---	---	\$777,000
	2001	3,880	---		---	\$791,000
POULTRY (MISCELLANEOUS) ****	2002	64,620	142,968	POUND	\$3.60	\$515,000
	2001	68,360	148,574		\$3.61	\$536,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	2002	30,905	37,762	CWT	\$81.14	\$3,064,000
	2001	30,022	36,168		\$61.79	\$2,235,000
TURKEYS	2002	2,717,609	69,003,811	POUND	\$0.58	\$40,048,000
	2001	3,543,357	93,044,661		\$0.51	\$47,817,000
TOTAL	2002					\$384,998,000
	2001					\$352,817,000

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

** Includes Meat Layers and Pullets.

*** Includes Domestic and Slaughter Birds, Hides and Blown Dry Eggs.

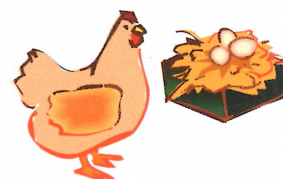
**** Includes Chukar, Pheasant and Squab.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

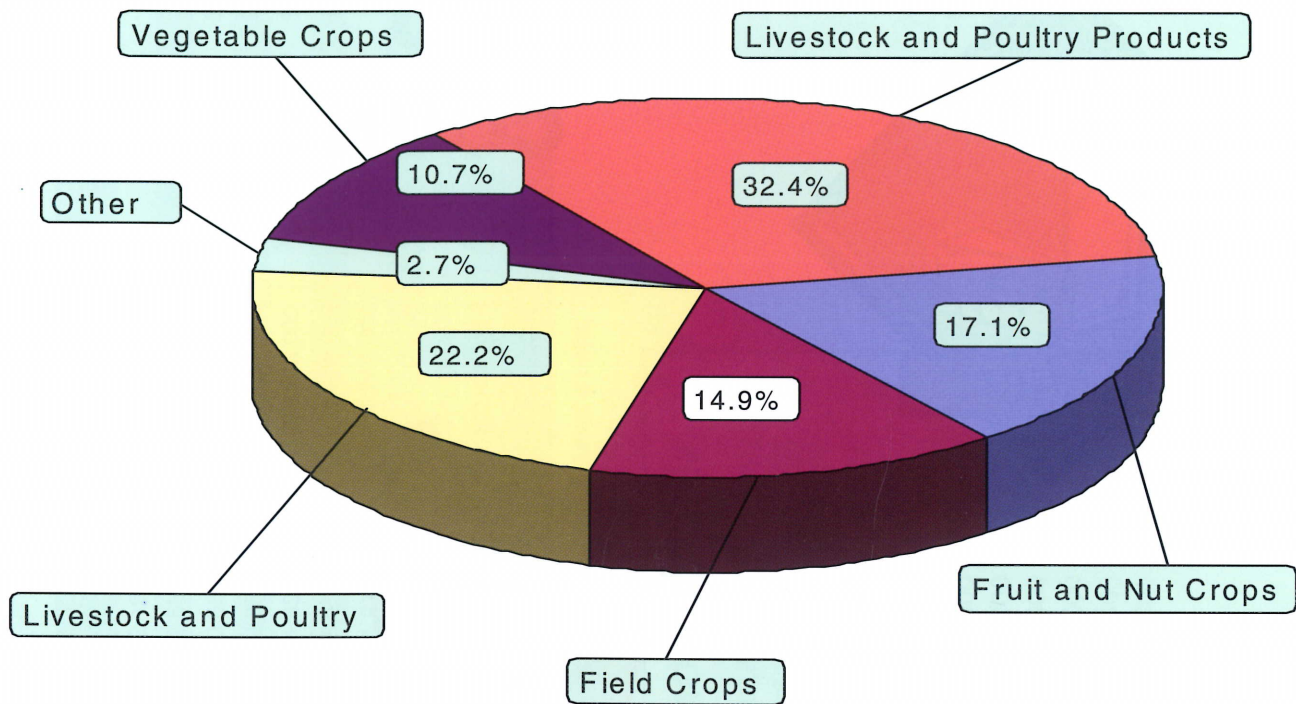
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS CHICKEN (MARKET)	2002	83,789,010	DOZEN	\$0.46	\$38,543,000
	2001	67,026,390		\$0.43	\$28,821,000
EGGS (OTHER) *	2002	5,205,078	EACH	\$0.64	\$3,356,000
	2001	4,826,025		\$0.67	\$3,233,000
MILK (GOAT)	2002	35,316	CWT	\$32.03	\$1,131,000
	2001	32,193		\$30.88	\$994,000
MILK (MANUFACTURING)	2002	552,089	CWT	\$10.84	\$5,985,000
	2001	483,513		\$13.77	\$6,658,000
MILK (MARKET)	2002	46,738,039	CWT	\$10.93	\$510,847,000
	2001	44,157,788		\$14.02	\$619,092,000
WOOL	2002	140,000	POUND	\$0.65	\$91,000
	2001	153,000		\$0.35	\$54,000
TOTAL	2002				\$559,953,000
	2001				\$658,853,000



* Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

BARLEY	\$10,918	OATS	\$2,011	SORGHUM	\$320
CORN	\$86,827	RICE	\$237,837	WHEAT	\$83,928
PFC Combination **	\$1,542,959	COTTON	\$689,912	DCP Combination **	\$2,314,316
CC COTTON		\$8,821,863**		CC RICE	
				\$617,357**	

* Amounts are not included in total value of each crop, except for cotton in 2002. (Source: FSA Office)

** PFC – Production Flexibility Program and DCP – Direct Cyclical Program Payments are a combination of all crops listed above. CC – Counter Cyclical payments are for cotton and rice only.

CROPS NOT HARVESTED *

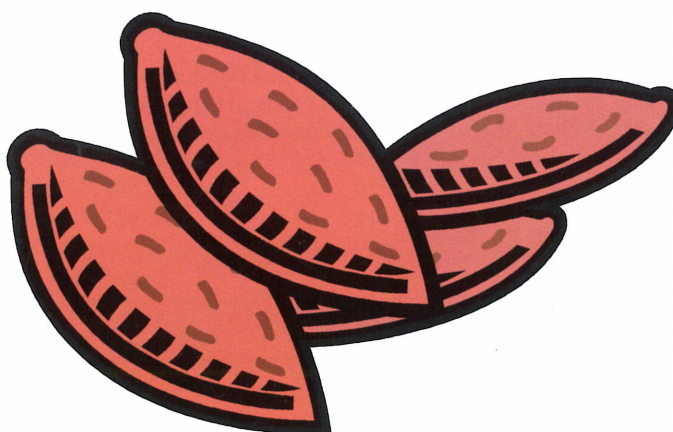
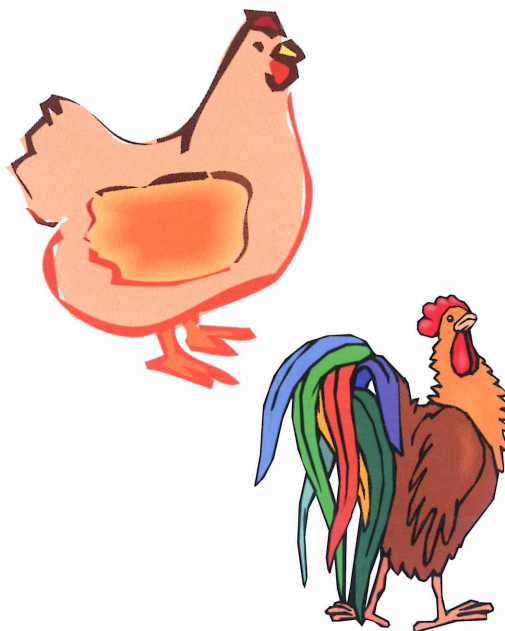
APRICOTS	75 Acres	GRAPES (WINE)	19 Acres	SAFFLOWER	36 Acres
BARLEY	320 Acres	OAT, HAY	160 Acres	SUDAN, HAY	65 Acres
GRAPES (Raisin)	46 Acres	PLUMS (DRIED)	442 Acres	WHEAT	1,100 Acres

* The reported planted acreage was not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market, or inability to harvest and transport. Acreage is not included in total acres of each crop in 2002.



MERCED COUNTY

TOP THREE COMMODITIES



COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	2002	2001	1997	1992	1987	1982	1977
AQUACULTURE	\$3,060,000	\$2,974,000	\$1,280,000	\$2,193,000	---	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$12,696,000	\$10,350,000	\$8,033,000	\$4,631,000	\$3,385,000	\$3,616,000	\$1,600,000
FIELD CROPS	\$257,394,000	\$251,202,000	\$284,482,000	\$200,689,000	\$174,576,000	\$171,140,000	\$111,042,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$296,063,000	* \$224,351,000	\$337,350,000	\$209,267,000	\$209,000,000	\$109,865,000	\$100,482,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	\$384,998,000	\$352,817,000	\$239,294,000	\$201,835,000	\$206,816,000	\$170,649,000	\$119,295,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$559,953,000	\$658,853,000	\$492,633,000	\$318,356,000	\$256,988,000	\$208,651,000	\$104,096,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$21,991,000	\$22,233,000	\$15,833,000	\$11,212,000	\$8,244,000	\$9,214,000	\$6,430,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$7,699,000	\$9,438,000	\$11,429,000	\$8,901,000	---	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$937,000	\$1,963,000	\$1,295,000	\$1,726,000	\$1,985,000	\$2,015,000	\$3,683,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$185,932,000	\$166,203,000	\$135,208,000	\$111,371,000	\$81,488,000	\$67,880,000	\$60,743,000
TOTAL	\$1,730,722,000	* \$1,700,385,000	\$1,526,837,000	\$1,070,181,000	\$942,482,000	\$743,030,000	\$507,369,000

* The values for Fruit and Nut Crops and Total for the year 2001 have been adjusted due to a recalculation of the value of Almond Hulls.

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 2002

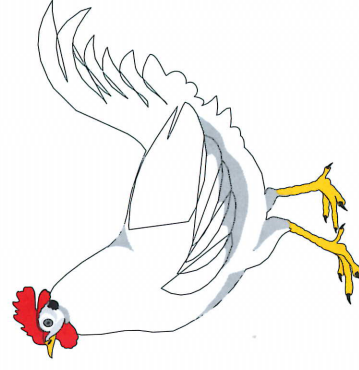
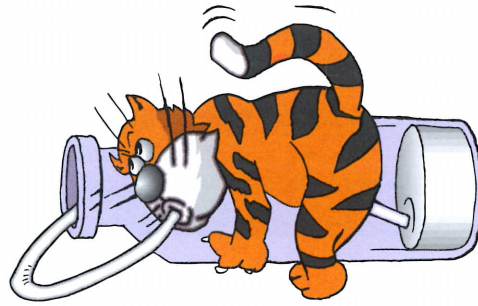
- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|
| 1. MILK * | \$516,832,000 | (1) |
| 2. CHICKENS ** | \$198,281,000 | (2) |
| 3. ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS) | \$177,383,000 | (4) |
| 4. CATTLE AND CALVES | \$140,780,000 | (3) |
| 5. TOMATOES *** | \$89,115,000 | (5) |
| 6. HAY (ALFALFA) | \$73,836,000 | (7) |
| 7. SWEET POTATOES | \$67,068,000 | (8) |
| 8. COTTON (LINT) | \$63,550,000 | (6) |
| 9. SILAGE (CORN) | \$48,201,000 | (10) |
| 10. TURKEYS | \$40,048,000 | (9) |
| 11. EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET) | \$38,543,000 | (11) |
| 12. GRAPES (WINE) | \$28,004,000 | (12) |

(The number in parenthesis denotes the 2001 ranking)

* Includes Market and Manufacturing.

** Includes Fryers and Other Chickens.

*** Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.



MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	ORGANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM *
ASH WHITEFLY <i>Siphoninus phillyreae</i>	<i>Encarsia inaron</i> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
GRAPELEAF SKELETONIZER <i>Harrisina brillians</i>	<i>Ametadoria misella</i> (Parasitic Fly) <i>WGLS Granulosis</i> (Virus) <i>Apanteles harrisinae</i> (Parasitic Wasp)	Countywide
ITALIAN THISTLE <i>Carduus sp.</i>	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Limited
KLAMATH WEED <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i> (Leaf Feeding Beetle)	Two Sites
MILK THISTLE <i>Silybum marianum</i>	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> (Seed-Head Weevil)	Countywide
PUNCTURE VINE <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	<i>Microthrips lareynii</i> (Seed Weevil) <i>Microthrips lypriformis</i> (Stem Weevil)	Countywide
RED GUM LERP PSYLLID <i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>	<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i> (Parasitoid Wasp)	Eight Sites
RUSSIAN THISTLE <i>Salsola sp.</i>	<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i> (Case Bearing Moth) <i>Coleophora parthenica</i> (Russian Thistle Borer)	Countywide
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) <i>Larinus curtus</i> (Flower Weevil) <i>Chaetorellia succinea</i> (False Peacock Fly)	Countywide/One New Site Countywide Countywide/One New Site Two Sites Countywide

* 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
ALMONDS	18	781
COTTON	1	1
CUT FLOWERS	1	2
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS *	4	4 Facilities
MISC. FRUITS **	9	250
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES ***	7	296
PECAN	1	3
PISTACHIO	1	310
SWEET POTATOES	6	472
WALNUTS	2	70



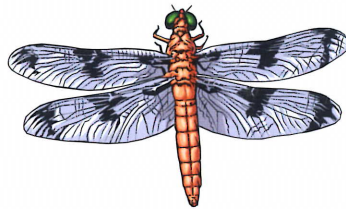
* Includes Milk and Chicken Eggs.

** Includes Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums (fresh and dried), Pluots and Raisins.

*** Includes Beans, Squash, Leafy Lettuce, Tomatoes and Legumes.

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING

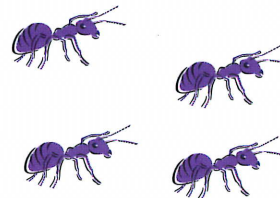
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	TRAPS IN SERVICE	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS
Apple Maggot	Apples	26	200
Cherry Fruit Flies	Cherries	28	56
European Corn Borer	Corn	5	53
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pines	5	28
Gypsy Moth	Trees	148	816
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter	Host Crops/Plants	491	19,846
Japanese Beetle	Turf, Roses	138	793
Khapra Beetle	Grain	128	127
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit	467	6,087
Melon Fly	Melons	99	937
Mexican Fruit Fly	Fruit	79	1,045
Nantucket Pine Tip Moth	Pines	5	34
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit	114	1,487
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potatoes	90	904



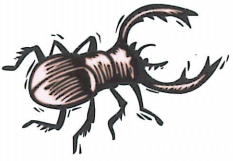
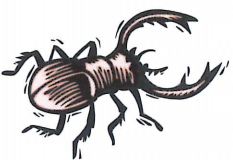
PEST ERADICATION

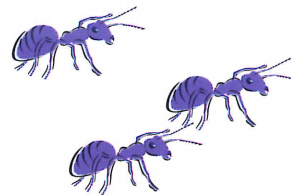
PEST (INSECT)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM TRAPS IN SERVICE
Pink Bollworm	Cotton	State operated trapping program on 54,730 acres, combined with plowdown enforcement or host free period.
Red Imported Fire Ant	Apples, Berries, Almonds, Beehives, Nursery Stock, Pasture	Initial discovery of this pest infestation occurred in Nov. 2001. During 2002, County personnel surveyed and trapped 8,233 acres. 18,454 trap inspections were made. A total of 4,300 acres has been found infested in the County. CDFA personnel made multiple insecticide applications to most of the infested acreage. Good results are already evident but survey and eradication efforts are expected to take another 3 to 4 years.
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, and tributaries.

PEST EXCLUSION		
PEST (INTERCEPTED)	SOURCE	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Live Pests		
Citrus Canker	Red Pepper Corn (Thailand)	1 Destroyed
Ground Beetle Larvae	Oxalis With Roots-Soil (VA)	Released Per ID
Live Ants	Beneficial Insects (CA)	Treated/Returned
Magnolia Scale	Foliage Lei (HI)	1 Destroyed
Snail	Wisteria (AL)	Released Per ID
Unilobe Scale	Foliage Lei (HI)	1 Destroyed
Not Properly Certified		
Apple Maggot Ordinance	Apple Fruit (CA)	1 Released
Burrowing & Reneform Nematode	Juniper (MS)	1 Returned to Shipper
Burrowing & Reneform Nematode	Peanut Fruit W/Roots-Soil (Unknown)	2 Destroyed
Burrowing & Reneform Nematode	Sweet Potato Seed (NC)	1 Destroyed
Burrowing & Reneform Nematode	Various Plants With Roots (Unknown)	3 Released (Obtained Certs)
Cedar-Apple Rust Disease	Juniper (MS)	1 Returned to Shipper
Cedar Apple Rust Disease	Wreath (Unknown)	1 Released
Cereal Leaf Beetle	Bulbs With Roots-Soil (Unknown)	3 Destroyed
European Corn Borer	Corn (ears) (OH)	2 Destroyed
European Corn Borer	Geranium (CT)	1 Released
Federal Permit	Pineapple Fruit (Costa Rica)	1 Destroyed
Glassy Winged Sharpshooter	Various Plants (CA)	2 Released
Gypsy Moth	Wreath (Unknown)	1 Released
Japanese Beetle	Plants With Roots/Soil (Unknown)	3 Destroyed
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Citrus & Avocado Fruit (Unknown)	1 Released (Obtained Certs)
Nursery Stock Cert	Lucky Bamboo (CA)	1 Destroyed
Nursery Stock Cert	Plants With Roots-Soil (Unknown)	3 Destroyed
Nursery Stock Cert	Plants With Roots (CA)	4 Released
Nursery Stock Cert	Sweet Potato Seed (LA, SC)	2 Released (Obtained Certs)
Nut Tree Pest	Pecans (Unknown)	1 Released (Obtained Certs)
Oriental Fruit Fly	Citrus & Avocado Fruit (Unknown)	1 Released (Obtained Certs)
Ozonium Root Rot	Cana (OK)	1 Destroyed
Ozonium Root Rot	Rose (AZ)	2 Destroyed
Pierce's Disease	Citrus (Unknown)	1 Released
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potato Seed (LA, SC)	2 Released (Obtained Certs)
Sweet Potato Weevil	Sweet Potato (Unknown)	1 Destroyed
Tristeza	Citrus Plants (Unknown)	1 Destroyed



PEST EXCLUSION CONT'D

Improper Markings		
	Apple & Pear Fruit (Unknown)	2 Released
	Azalea (Unknown)	1 Released
	Bermuda Grass Rhizomes (Unknown)	2 Released
	Cedar Cuttings (Unknown)	1 Released
	Citrus, Avocado Fruit (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released (Obtained Certs)
	Citrus Fruit (Unknown)	1 Rejected/Released
	Cut Flowers (Unknown)	15 Rejected/Released
	Cut Flowers (Unknown)	5 Destroyed
	Ginseng (Unknown)	1 Released
	Lucky Bamboo (Unknown)	1 Destroyed
	Peanut Fruit w/ Roots/Soil (Unknown)	1 Destroyed
	Pecans (Unknown)	1 Released (Obtained Certs)
	Pepper Fruit (Unknown)	1 Released
	Pineapple Fruit (Costa Rica)	1 Destroyed
	Plants with Roots/Soil (Unknown)	4 Rejected/Destroyed
	Plumeria Cuttings (Unknown)	2 Released
	Sweet Potato (Unknown)	1 Destroyed
	Various Bulbs, Tubers (Unknown)	15 Rejected/Destroyed
	Various Plants w/Roots (Unknown)	6 Rejected/Released (Obtained Certs)
	Wreath (Unknown)	3 Released



**MERCED COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2139 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, California 95340-6495**

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE

2003

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

DAVID A. ROBINSON, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
DANIEL CISMOWSKI, ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

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and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Merced

Deidre Kelsey, Chairperson
Kathleen Crookham Gloria Cortez Keene
Mike Nelson Jerry O'Banion

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Demitrios O. Tatum
County Executive Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2003 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of Merced County's agricultural commodities.

The total gross production value of Merced County agricultural commodities in 2003 was \$1,918,231,000. This represents a \$187,509,000 (10.83%) increase from 2002 production values.

The price of market milk, our leading value commodity, increased by \$.44 per hundredweight (cwt) and volume increased by 1,864,559 cwt. The total value of market milk increased by \$41,765,000 over that of 2002. Chickens remained our number two value commodity posting a \$33,119,000 increase in value due to a \$.04/pound increase in price and a 30,324,452 pound increase in production. Cattle and Calve numbers improved this year, remaining in fourth place with a value of \$168,661,000. Due to strong consumer demand, lower production, and a \$.23 per dozen increase in price, the value of Chicken Eggs increased by \$9,941,000.

Almond crop yield backed off last year's high with an average of .81 tons per acre. However, higher prices raised the crop value by 19.44% to \$211,861,000.

Merced County, again for 2003, was ranked number one in sweet potato production in California. Sweet potato acreage rose by 392 acres to 9537 acres. The increased acreage, combined with improved prices raised the value by 32.98% to \$89,186,000. This year's market tomato price was one of the highest on record, with a \$2.62 increase per 25 pound carton. The market tomato value was \$81,298,000, a 44.93% increase.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the costs of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers and ranchers, the staff of the University of California Cooperative Extension, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data. In addition, I would like to thank Mark Smith and Jeannie Nelson. Without their hard work, the publication of this report would have been impossible.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

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DISCLAIMER:

Numbers will not compute exactly due to computer rounding of production and price rates.

This report is also available through our Internet Site:

www.co.merced.ca.us/ag

TWELVE LEADING

FARM COMMODITIES 2003

1.	MILK *	556,855,000	(1)
2.	CHICKENS **	230,725,000	(2)
3.	ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	211,861,000	(3)
4.	CATTLE AND CALVES	168,661,000	(4)
5.	TOMATOES ***	111,052,000	(5)
6.	SWEET POTATOES	89,186,000	(7)
7.	HAY (ALFALFA)	68,986,000	(6)
8.	COTTON (LINT)	68,218,000	(8)
9.	EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	48,484,000	(11)
10.	TURKEYS	48,436,000	(10)
11.	SILAGE (CORN)	44,772,000	(9)
12.	ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS	30,404,000	(13)

(The number in parenthesis denotes the 2002 ranking)

* Includes Market and Manufacturing.

** Includes Fryers and Other Chickens.

*** Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.



FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	2003	3,615	2.74	9,921	TON	\$112.44	\$1,116,000
	2002	2,666	2.97	7,908	TON	\$97.58	\$772,000
BEANS (DRY LIMA)	2003	871	1.29	1,122	TON	\$748.62	\$840,000
	2002	1,255	1.40	1,758	TON	\$769.82	\$1,354,000
BEANS (DRY OTHER)	2003	3,050	0.90	2,743	TON	\$580.53	\$1,593,000
	2002	2,963	0.95	2,815	TON	\$578.55	\$1,628,000
CORN (GRAIN) (1)	2003	6,173	4.84	29,872	TON	\$129.55	\$3,870,000
	2002	3,658	4.72	17,272	TON	\$136.01	\$2,349,000
COTTON (LINT)	2003	63,685	2.78	177,297	500 LB	\$384.77	\$68,218,000
	2002	54,730	3.14	171,738	BALE	\$370.04	\$63,550,000
COTTON (SEED)	2003	---	0.97	61,966	TON	\$190.00	\$11,773,000
	2002	---	1.05	57,467	TON	\$170.00	\$9,769,000
HAY (ALFALFA) (2)	2003	86,067	7.25	623,999	TON	\$110.56	\$68,986,000
	2002	78,189	7.69	601,071	TON	\$122.84	\$73,836,000
HAY (GRAIN) (3)	2003	29,855	2.83	84,369	TON	\$69.98	\$5,904,000
	2002	31,245	3.71	115,929	TON	\$76.08	\$8,820,000
HAY (SUDAN)	2003	3,840	2.61	10,034	TON	\$82.40	\$827,000
	2002	3,635	3.89	14,157	TON	\$77.18	\$1,093,000
MISC FIELD CROPS (4)	2003	1,928	---	---	---	---	\$390,000
	2002	---	---	---	---	---	---
OATS (GRAIN) (5)	2003	---	---	---	---	---	---
	2002	4,045	2.71	10,982	TON	\$106.76	\$1,172,000
PASTURE (IRRIGATED)	2003	59,000	---	59,000	ACRE	\$135.00	\$7,965,000
	2002	59,000	---	59,000	ACRE	\$140.00	\$8,260,000
PASTURE (OTHER)	2003	560,000	---	560,000	ACRE	\$17.00	\$9,520,000
	2002	560,000	---	560,000	ACRE	\$16.00	\$8,958,000
RICE	2003	4,807	3.46	16,612	TON	\$254.34	\$4,225,000
	2002	5,005	3.36	16,836	TON	\$194.12	\$3,268,000
SAFFLOWER (6)	2003	---	---	---	---	---	---
	2002	528	1.25	660	TON	\$223.85	\$148,000
SILAGE (ALFALFA) (7)	2003	---	1.25	107,584	TON	\$24.00	\$2,582,000
	2002	---	---	---	---	---	---
SILAGE (CORN)	2003	78,812	26.42	2,081,849	TON	\$21.51	\$44,772,000
	2002	78,175	27.78	2,171,446	TON	\$22.20	\$48,201,000
SILAGE (OTHER) (8)	2003	55,906	13.20	738,154	TON	\$15.46	\$11,414,000
	2002	70,194	10.44	733,057	TON	\$21.06	\$15,441,000
STRAW (9)	2003	---	---	2,949	TON	\$42.21	\$124,000
	2002	---	---	2,002	TON	\$46.85	\$94,000
STUBBLE (PASTURE)	2003	---	---	14,631	ACRE	\$20.00	\$293,000
	2002	---	---	15,638	ACRE	\$10.00	\$156,000
SUGAR BEETS	2003	3,377	33.00	111,441	TON	\$41.63	\$4,639,000
	2002	4,386	36.90	161,850	TON	\$30.02	\$4,858,000
WHEAT	2003	17,596	1.57	27,590	TON	\$119.36	\$3,293,000
	2002	14,419	2.28	32,820	TON	\$111.67	\$3,665,000
TOTAL	2003	978,582					\$252,345,000
	2002	974,093					\$257,394,000

- (1) For 2003: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn).
For 2002: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Corn) and Sorghum (Grain).
- (2) For 2002: Includes Hay (Alfalfa-Cube).
- (3) For 2003: Includes Forage, Oat, and Wheat Hay.
- (4) For 2003: New Field Crop Category for 2003 which includes Oat (Grain) and Safflower.
- (5) For 2003: Oats (Grain) is now included in Miscellaneous Field Crops.
- (6) For 2003: Safflower is now included in Miscellaneous Field Crops.
- (7) For 2003: Silage (Alfalfa) has been added as a new Field Crop category.
- (8) For 2003: Includes Clover, Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat, and Winter Forage.
For 2002: Includes Alfalfa Green Chop, Corn Earlage, Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat Forage Fodder and Winter Forage.
- (9) For 2003: Includes Barley, Oats, Wheat, Dry Beans and Rice.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (FREEZER)	2003	1,579	1.82	2,872	TON	\$450.52	\$1,294,000
	2002	1,973	1.64	3,227		\$441.83	\$1,426,000
MELONS (CANTALOUPE)	2003	4,078	563.43	2,297,656	40LB	\$6.16	\$14,154,000
	2002	5,753	386.18	2,221,694	CTN	\$4.75	\$10,553,000
MELONS (OTHER)	2003	1,097	16.67	18,288	TON	\$231.37	\$4,231,000
	2002	904	7.79	7,043		\$331.56	\$2,335,000
MELONS (WATERMELON) *	2003	---	---	---	TON	---	---
	2002	497	24.45	12,153		\$125.98	\$1,531,000
MISC VEGETABLES **	2003	3,211	---	---	---	---	\$14,240,000
	2002	2,716	---	---		---	\$12,158,000
PEPPERS, BELL (MARKET) ***	2003	---	---	---	---	---	---
	2002	236	13.29	3,137		\$556.35	\$1,745,000
SWEET POTATOES	2003	9,537	13.63	130,024	TON	\$685.92	\$89,186,000
	2002	9,145	13.73	125,543		\$534.23	\$67,068,000
TOMATOES (MARKET)	2003	9,856	1,103.71	10,878,191	25LB	\$7.47	\$81,298,000
	2002	10,460	1,106.21	11,570,906	CTN	\$4.85	\$56,093,000
TOMATOES (PROCESSING)	2003	16,621	34.42	572,113	TON	\$52.01	\$29,754,000
	2002	18,200	37.11	675,367		\$48.89	\$33,022,000
TOTAL	2003	45,979					\$234,157,000
	2002	49,884					\$185,932,000

* For 2003: Watermelons are now included in Melons (Other).

** For 2003: Includes Asparagus, Beans (Green), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber (Pickle), Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetables, Peas, Pepper, (Market and Processed Bell and Chile), Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Tomatillo, and Tomato (Pole).

For 2002: Includes Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chile Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetables, Pumpkin, Radish, String Beans, Spinach, Squash and Tomatillo.

*** For 2003: Peppers, Bell (Market) are now included in Miscellaneous Vegetables.



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
ALMONDS (HULLS)	2003	---	---	141,497	TON	\$76.16	\$10,776,000	
	2002	---	---	149,669		\$75.72	\$11,333,000	
ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	2003	85,476	0.81	69,236	TON	\$3,060.00	\$211,861,000	
	2002	83,535	0.95	79,189		\$2,240.00	\$177,383,000	
APRICOTS	2003	1,544	4.68	7,224	TON	\$277.00	\$2,001,000	
	2002	1,740	6.47	11,259		\$305.52	\$3,440,000	
FIGS (DRY)	2003	3,758	1.02	3,843	TON	\$1,407.08	\$5,408,000	
	2002	3,354	1.15	3,855		\$1,448.05	\$5,582,000	
GRAPES (RAISIN TO WINE)	2003	133	9.93	1,321	TON	\$104.00	\$137,000	
	2002	99	10.78	1,067		\$113.43	\$121,000	
GRAPES (RAISIN)	2003	959	2.09	2,004	TON	\$600.00	\$1,203,000	
	2002	887	2.27	2,013		\$470.00	\$946,000	
GRAPES (WINE)	2003	11,366	9.76	110,932	TON	\$261.75	\$29,036,000	
	2002	11,424	8.86	101,217		\$276.67	\$28,004,000	
MISCELLANEOUS *	2003	2,401	---	---	---	---	\$11,304,000	
	2002	2,237	---	---		---	\$16,373,000	
NECTARINES	2003	149	9.98	1,486	TON	\$363.55	\$540,000	
	2002	178	8.47	1,508		\$497.25	\$750,000	
PEACHES (CLINGSTONE)	2003	2,694	19.29	51,954	TON	\$232.52	\$12,080,000	
	2002	3,647	19.02	69,352		\$235.02	\$16,299,000	
PEACHES (FREESTONE)	2003	1,869	20.59	38,486	TON	\$219.14	\$8,434,000	
	2002	2,019	20.29	40,963		\$216.21	\$8,857,000	
PISTACHIOS	2003	4,272	0.27	1,158	TON	\$2,600.00	\$3,010,000	
	2002	4,374	1.12	4,913		\$2,268.48	\$11,146,000	
PLUMS, DRIED	2003	2,064	3.09	6,377	TON	\$750.08	\$4,784,000	
	2002	1,832	3.37	6,171		\$756.01	\$4,665,000	
STRAWBERRIES	2003	252	9.33	2,351	TON	\$940.40	\$2,211,000	
	2002	284	11.00	3,124		\$1,023.77	\$3,198,000	
WALNUTS (ENGLISH)	2003	6,050	1.40	8,443	TON	\$1,113.96	\$9,405,000	
	2002	5,726	1.21	6,940		\$1,147.98	\$7,967,000	
TOTAL	2003	122,987						\$312,191,000
	2002	121,336						\$296,063,000

* For 2003: Includes Apples, Blueberries, Cane Berries, Figs (Cannery, Freezer, and Fresh), Cherries, Citrus, Grapes (Frozen and Table), Fresh Peaches, Fruit Juices, Jujubes, Kiwis, Organic Fruits and Nuts, Pecans, Pears, Persimmons, Plums and Plumcots.

For 2002: Includes Apples, Blueberries, Cane Berries, Cherries, Citrus, Grapes (Frozen and Table), Figs (Cannery and Fresh), Fresh Peaches, Fruit Juices, Jujubes, Kiwis, Organic Fruits and Nuts, Pecans, Pears, Persimmons, Plums and Plumcots.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 2003		YEAR 1998	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	85,476	3,075	74,182	6,274
APPLES	298	25	1,590	32
APRICOTS	1,709	0	1,893	100
BERRIES	320	0	202	90
CHERRIES	329	18	294	23
FIGS	3,758	10	3,095	0
GRAPES (Raisin)	1,092	0	1,400	6
GRAPES (Table)	149	0	422	0
GRAPES (Wine)	11,366	0	14,102	1,495
KIWI	33	0	27	0
MANDARINS	8	0	17	0
NECTARINES	173	16	194	9
OLIVES	12	0	60	0
ORANGES	49	0	46	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,730	229	3,943	31
PEACHES (Freestone)	2,038	89	2,158	127
PEARS	13	0	21	0
PECANS	42	9	42	5
PERSIMMON	2	0	0	0
PISTACHIOS	4,582	280	4,437	145
PLUMS	40	42	218	3
PLUMS (Dried)	2,064	50	2,082	640
POMEGRANATE	12	0	0	0
WALNUTS (English)	6,050	460	5,218	735
TOTAL	123,345	4,303	115,643	9,715



SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
NON-CERTIFIED SEED *	2003	2,318	---	---	---	---	\$1,283,000
	2002	1,894	---	---	---	---	\$937,000
TOTAL	2003	2,318					\$1,283,000
	2002	1,894					\$937,000

- * For 2003: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Barley, Cabbage, Carrot, Lettuce, Lima Bean, Oat, Onion, Rye, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.
 For 2002: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Barley, Basil, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrot, Chili Pepper, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Oat, Onion, Rye, Squash, Tomato and Wheat.

OTHER AGRICULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (SHELLS) *	2003	57,676	TON	\$11.77	\$679,000
	2002	49,224		\$16.35	\$805,000
FIREWOOD **	2003	29,699	CORD	\$97.92	\$2,908,000
	2002	26,469		\$95.81	\$2,536,000
FUEL (COGENERATION) ***	2003	12,475	TON	\$31.00	\$387,000
	2002	20,500		\$28.50	\$584,000
MANURE ****	2003	890,038	TON	\$3.52	\$3,134,000
	2002	984,453		\$3.83	\$3,774,000
TOTAL	2003				\$7,107,000
	2002				\$7,699,000

- * For 2003: For Animal Bedding.
 For 2002: For Fuel and Animal Bedding.
 ** For 2003: Orchard Removal (Recorded in Cords).
 *** For 2003, 2002: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removal (Recorded in Dry Tons).
 **** For 2003, 2002: Includes Livestock and Poultry.



NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS *	2003	1,440	---	---	---	---	\$30,404,000
	2002	926	---	---	---	---	\$21,991,000
TOTAL	2003	1,440					\$30,404,000
	2002	926					\$21,991,000

* For 2003, 2002: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Deciduous Fruit, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Nut Trees, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Other Vegetable Plants, Pits and Cuttings, Strawberry Plants, Sweet Potato Plants, Tomato Plants and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

BEE INDUSTRY

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	2003	54,128	LB	\$1.25	\$68,000
	2002	46,792		\$1.20	\$56,000
BULK BEES *	2003	89,600	LB	\$8.23	\$737,000
	2002	88,300		\$6.54	\$577,000
HONEY **	2003	3,518,350	LB	\$1.37	\$4,820,000
	2002	3,041,500		\$1.25	\$3,802,000
POLLINATION ***	2003	177,477	COLONY	\$46.69	\$8,286,000
	2002	175,770		\$45.54	\$8,005,000
QUEENS ****	2003	37,200	EACH	\$7.41	\$276,000
	2002	39,250		\$6.52	\$256,000
TOTAL	2003				\$14,187,000
	2002				\$12,696,000

* For 2003: Includes bees sold as nuclei and packaged bees.

For 2002: Includes bees sold as nuclei.

** For 2003, 2002: Honey produced by 55,000 resident colonies.

*** For 2003, 2002: Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

**** For 2003, 2002: Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.



AQUACULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH *	2003	1,214,680	LB	\$1.98	\$2,405,000
	2002	1,810,690		\$1.69	\$3,060,000
TOTAL	2003				\$2,405,000
	2002				\$3,060,000

* For 2003: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Striped Bass, Sturgeon and Trout.

For 2002: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Sturgeon and Trout.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

CROP	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER HEAD	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES *	2003	233,540	7.98	1,864,691	CWT	\$90.45	\$168,661,000
	2002	225,620	8.03	1,811,190		\$77.73	\$140,780,000
CHICKENS (FRYERS AND BROILERS)	2003	89,998,599	5.20	467,967,750	LB	\$0.49	\$230,062,000
	2002	83,976,372	5.21	437,643,298		\$0.45	\$196,943,000
CHICKENS (OTHER) **	2003	1,239,611	4.31	5,338,250	LB	\$0.12	\$663,000
	2002	1,958,588	4.27	8,363,562		\$0.16	\$1,338,000
GOATS	2003	6,000	---	6,000	HEAD	\$91.22	\$547,000
	2002	4,850	---	4,850		\$74.59	\$362,000
HOGS AND PIGS	2003	12,596	1.77	22,294	CWT	\$51.21	\$1,142,000
	2002	14,505	1.66	24,072		\$48.61	\$1,170,000
OSTRICHES ***	2003	---	---	---	HEAD	---	---
	2002	1,440	---	1,440		\$539.76	\$777,000
POULTRY (MISCELLANEOUS) ****	2003	61,670	2.37	145,850	LB	\$3.70	\$540,000
	2002	64,620	2.21	142,968		\$3.60	\$515,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	2003	35,987	1.38	49,604	CWT	\$90.53	\$4,491,000
	2002	30,905	1.22	37,762		\$81.14	\$3,064,000
TURKEYS	2003	2,998,556	25.53	76,550,539	LB	\$0.63	\$48,436,000
	2002	2,717,609	25.39	69,003,811		\$0.58	\$40,048,000
TOTAL	2003	94,586,559					\$454,542,000
	2002	88,994,509					\$384,998,000

* For 2003, 2002: Includes Cull Dairy and Beef Cows, Replacement Dairy and Beef Heifers, Calves and Stocker Cattle.

** For 2003, 2002: Includes Meat Layers and Pullets.

*** For 2003: Ostriches are now included in Poultry (Miscellaneous).

For 2002: Includes Domestic and Slaughter Birds, Hides and Blown Dry Eggs.

**** For 2003: Includes Chukar, Ostriches (Domestic and Slaughter Birds), Pheasant, and Squab.

For 2002: Includes Chukar, Pheasant and Squab.

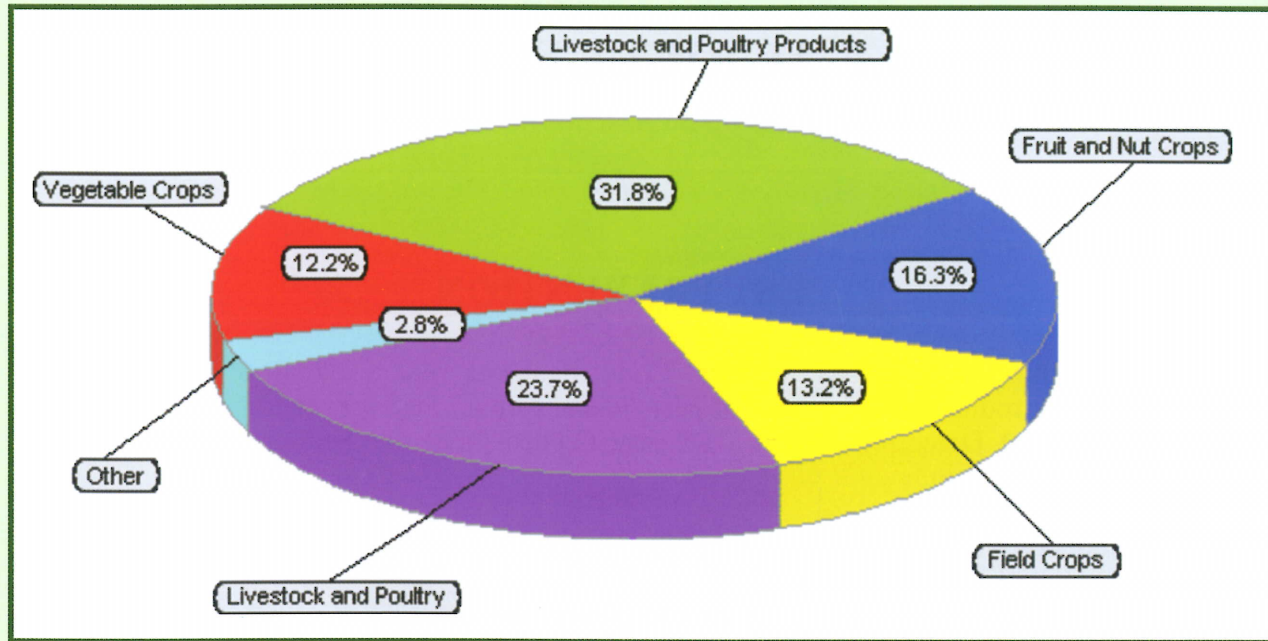


LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS (OTHER) *	2003	4,849,279	EACH	\$0.56	\$2,713,000
	2002	5,205,078		\$0.64	\$3,356,000
EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	2003	70,266,870	DOZN	\$0.69	\$48,484,000
	2002	83,789,010		\$0.46	\$38,543,000
MILK (GOAT)	2003	44,850	CWT	\$31.51	\$1,413,000
	2002	35,316		\$32.03	\$1,131,000
MILK (MANUFACTURING)	2003	358,992	CWT	\$11.82	\$4,243,000
	2002	552,089		\$10.84	\$5,985,000
MILK (MARKET)	2003	48,602,598	CWT	\$11.37	\$552,612,000
	2002	46,738,039		\$10.93	\$510,847,000
WOOL	2003	200,814	LB	\$0.72	\$145,000
	2002	140,000		\$0.65	\$91,000
TOTAL	2003				\$609,610,000
	2002				\$559,953,000

* For 2003, 2002: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

\$11,192	BARLEY
\$248,728	CORN
\$588,017	COTTON
\$1,932,361	MILK
\$213,810	OATS
\$445,404	RICE
\$22,045	WOOL
\$122,870	LAMB MEAT
\$7,554,018	DCP Combination **

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

** DCP - Direct Cyclical Program Payments are a combination of all crops listed above.

CROPS NOT HARVESTED *

APRICOTS	150 ACRES	PEACHES (CLING)	643 ACRES	PEACHES (FREE)	149 ACRES
----------	-----------	-----------------	-----------	----------------	-----------

* The reported planted acreage was not harvested due to crop failures, adverse weather, poor market or inability to harvest and transport. Acreage not included in total acres of each crop in 2003.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT

PEST PREVENTION

The California Food and Agricultural Code mandates pest prevention programs to prevent the introduction and spread of pests in California. Pest prevention involves Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection, Pierce's Disease Control, and the Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program.

Pest Exclusion Program:

Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent the introduction of pests, injurious to agriculture, that are not of common occurrence in Merced County.

A total of 6,643 inspections of incoming plant material were made in 2003. Shipments are inspected at United Parcel Service, United States Post Offices, Federal Express and incoming trucks. 66 shipments were rejected, 8 for the presence of significant agricultural pests. These shipments were infested with 2 "A"-Rated (pests of agricultural importance not known to occur in California) and 6 "Q"-Rated pests (pests of unknown agricultural importance not known to occur in California). The other 58 rejections were for other live pests, material not properly certified, or improper container markings.

Listed below are the A- and Q-rated pests intercepted in 2003:

Magnolia White Scale A-Rated	Leech Q-Rated	Physidae Snail Q-Rated	Unilobed Scale Q-Rated
Red Imported Fire Ant A-Rated	Pyralidae Moth Q-Rated	Polygyridae Snail Q-Rated	Various Aquatic Plants Q-Rated

Pierce's Disease Control Program:

To prevent the introduction of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) into Merced County, all shipments of nursery stock from infested counties are inspected. GWSS has the ability to spread **Pierce's Disease** rapidly among grape vines with devastating results. 1,111 shipments of nursery stock from infested counties were inspected in 2003. One shipment was found to have viable egg masses. It was rejected and returned to point of origin.

Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program:

This program prevents the spread of injurious pests from Merced County to foreign countries through inspection and certification of exported plants and plant commodities. In 2003, 3,993 export shipments were inspected and issued **Phytosanitary Certificates**.

Pest Detection Program:

Pest Detection uses visual inspection and insect traps that target specific exotic insects of high agricultural and economic importance.

The trapping program in Merced County targeted the following pests:

Apple Maggot (<i>Rhagoletis pomonella</i>)	European Corn Borer (<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>)
European Pine Shoot Moth (<i>Rhyacionia buoliana</i>)	Gypsy Moth (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (<i>Homalodisca coagulata</i>)	Japanese Beetle (<i>Popillia japonica</i>)
Khapra Beetle (<i>Trogoderma granarium</i>)	Mediterranean Fruit Fly (<i>Ceratitis capitata</i>)
Melon Fly (<i>Dacus cucurbitae</i>)	Mexican Fruit Fly (<i>Anastrepha ludens</i>)
Oriental Fruit Fly (<i>Dacus dorsalis</i>)	Sweet Potato Weevil (<i>Cylas formicarius elegantulus</i>)

A total of 1,810 pest detection traps were placed in Merced County and inspected a total of 19,949 times during the 2003 trapping season.

Three special surveys were conducted in 2003, in response to exclusion alerts received from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and any product found was rejected and removed from the marketplace: These surveys include:

- Manzano peppers from Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize due to the discovery of *Anastrepha* sp. larvae infesting the fruit in a shipment from Mexico;
- Potpourri pinecones from India due to the interception of live wood-boring beetle larvae (*Cerambycidae*); and
- Ya pears from China due to the detection of *Alternaria* sp. (a serious fungal disease).

PEST ERADICATION

The **Pest Eradication Program** endeavors to eliminate infestations of significant agricultural pests with limited distribution before they are able to cause ongoing economic cost to California agriculture.

Both ongoing eradication efforts directed toward current infestations and detection of previously eradicated pests were conducted in Merced County during 2003.

Ongoing eradication efforts include Pink Bollworm, Red Imported Fire Ant, and Purple Mustard.

The Pink Bollworm is a significant cotton pest with eradication efforts consisting of a State operated detection trapping program in conjunction with County enforcement of the host-free period from January 1 through March 9. In 2003 63,685 acres were trapped for Pink Bollworm. Two notices of violation were issued by the Merced County Agricultural Commissioner for 74 acres of cotton that were not plowed down before January 1, 2004.

Initial discovery of a Red Imported Fire Ant infestation occurred in Nov. 2001. A total of 4,300 acres has been found infested in the County. CDFA personnel made multiple insecticide applications to most of the infested acreage During 2003. County personnel surveyed and trapped 243 locations. 3,386 inspections were made. Good progress toward eradication is evident but survey and eradication efforts are expected to take another 2 to 3 years.

Ongoing detection and eradication efforts continue for Purple Mustard. Ongoing detection efforts continue for Camelthorn, Carolina Horse Nettle, and Hydrilla.

Successful eradication projects include Sweet Potato Weevil and Banana Waterlily. None have been detected since the end of their respective eradication projects.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The **Biological Control (Biocontrol) Program** uses natural enemies to suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the biocontrol agent becomes established it is self-perpetuating, reducing the need to use pesticides. The following are pests found in Merced County and their Biocontrol Agents.

PEST	ORGANISM
Ash Whitefly (<i>Siphoninus phillyreae</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Encarsia inaron</i>)
Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (<i>Harrisina brillians</i>)	Parasitic Fly (<i>Ametadoria misella</i>) Virus (<i>WGLS Granulosis</i>) Parasitic Wasp (<i>Apanteles harrisinae</i>)
Italian Thistle (<i>Carduus sp.</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Klamath Weed (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Leaf Beetle (<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i>)
Milk Thistle (<i>Silybum marianum</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Puncture Vine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Seed Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lareynii</i>) Stem Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i>)
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i>)
Russian Thistle (<i>Salsola sp.</i>)	Case-bearer Moth (<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i>) Russian Thistle Borer (<i>Coleophora parthenica</i>)
Yellowstar Thistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>) Seed-Head Gall Fly (<i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>) Hairy Weevil (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>) False Peacock Fly (<i>Chaetorellia succinea</i>) Flower Weevil (<i>Larinus curtus</i>)

ORGANIC FARMING

Merced County had 40 registered growers of organic commodities in 2003. These growers farmed 1,654 acres to produce organic alfalfa, almonds, apricots, Asian pears, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pecans, pistachios, plums (fresh and dried), pluots, raisins, walnuts, beans, squash, leafy lettuce, legumes, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes. There were also 5 facilities producing organic chicken eggs and milk.

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Merced, California 95340-6495**

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



C O U N T Y

ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE

2004





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

David A. Robinson
*Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and
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Director of Animal Control*

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A. G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

And

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Merced

Jerry O'Banion, Chairman

Kathleen Crookham Deidre Kelsey

Mike Nelson John Pedrozo

Demitrios O. Tatum
County Executive Officer

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2004 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of Merced County's agricultural commodities.

For the first time, Merced County agriculture surpassed the 2 billion dollar mark in gross production value of agricultural commodities. With a gross production value of \$2,365,494,000 in 2004, Merced County agricultural commodities increased \$447,263,000 (23.32%) from 2003 production values.

This increase is due largely to an increase in price on some of our leading commodities such as: milk, almonds, chickens, and livestock. The price of milk (the county's number one commodity) increased by \$3.44/cwt for market milk and \$3.38/cwt for manufacturing milk. This along with a slight increase in production raised the overall value by \$185,930,000, a 33.4% increase over the 2003 value. The value of the almond crop increased \$104,074,000 over the 2003 value. This represents a 49.1% increase in value which allowed almonds to recapture the number two commodity spot. Chickens dropped to third position even though they had a price increase of \$0.13/lb, with an overall increase in value of \$70,496,000.

The 2004 growing season was also very conducive to high yield production with both cotton and processing tomatoes reaching all time highs of 3.42 bales/acre and 41.0 tons/acre respectively. Egg production in Merced County also increased, due to major laying facility expansions facilitated by favorable market conditions over the last two years as well as reduced production in Southern California.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the costs of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers and ranchers, the staff of the University of California Cooperative Extension, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data. In addition, I would like to thank Mark Smith, Mike Quinn, Jeannie Nelson and Maryann Harding. Without their hard work, the publication of this report would have been impossible.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner

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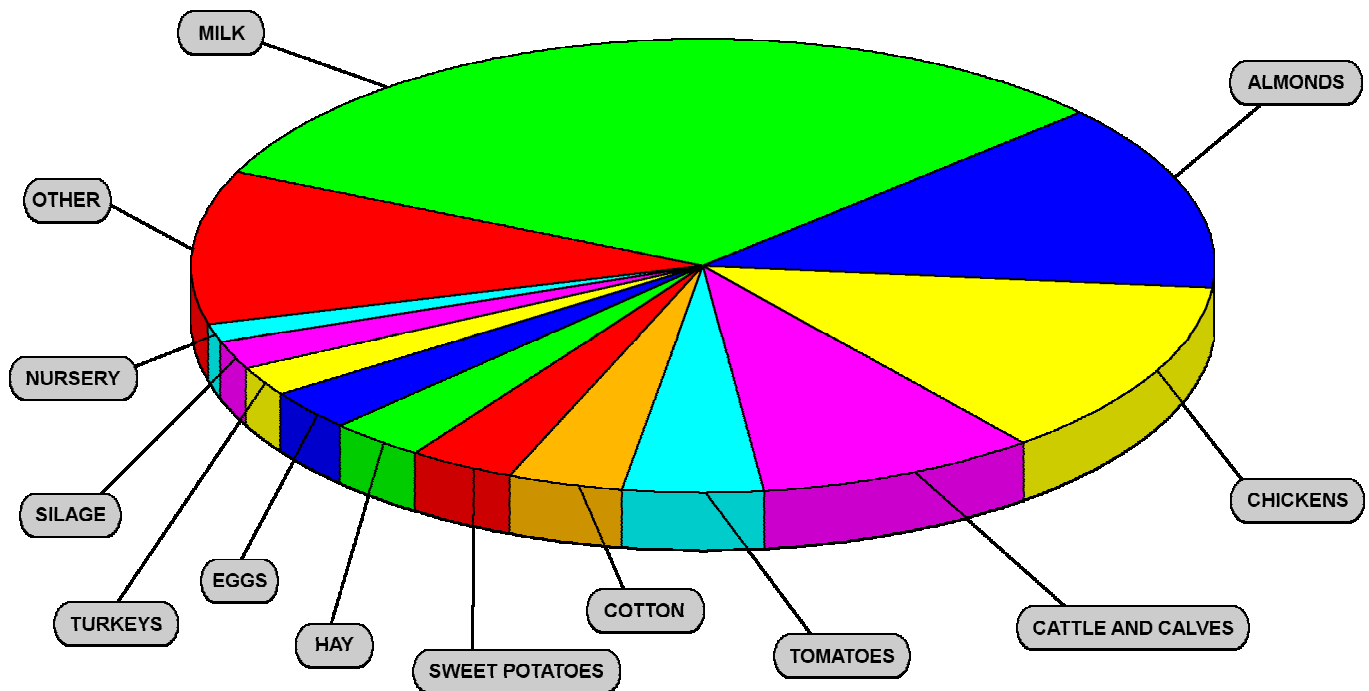
TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 2004

1.	MILK ⁽¹⁾	\$742,785,000	(1)
2.	ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	\$315,935,000	(3)
3.	CHICKENS	\$300,558,000	(2)
4.	CATTLE AND CALVES	\$209,041,000	(4)
5.	TOMATOES ⁽²⁾	\$105,098,000	(5)
6.	COTTON (LINT)	\$85,478,000	(8)
7.	SWEET POTATOES	\$79,182,000	(6)
8.	HAY (ALFALFA)	\$71,500,000	(7)
9.	EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	\$68,508,000	(9)
10.	TURKEYS	\$50,043,000	(10)
11.	SILAGE (CORN)	\$47,862,000	(11)
12.	ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$30,354,000	(12)

(The numbers in parenthesis denotes the 2003 ranking)

(1) Includes Market and Manufacturing.

(2) Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.



FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	2004	5,143	2.40	12,361	TON	\$120.53	\$1,490,000
	2003	3,615	2.74	9,921	TON	\$112.44	\$1,116,000
BEANS (DRY LIMA)	2004	911	1.32	1,199	TON	\$766.51	\$919,000
	2003	871	1.29	1,122	TON	\$748.62	\$840,000
BEANS (DRY OTHER)	2004	2,532	1.11	2,817	TON	\$603.05	\$1,699,000
	2003	3,050	0.90	2,743	TON	\$580.53	\$1,593,000
CORN (GRAIN) ⁽¹⁾	2004	6,319	5.83	36,832	TON	\$133.26	\$4,908,000
	2003	6,173	4.84	29,872	TON	\$129.55	\$3,870,000
COTTON (LINT)	2004	69,205	3.42	236,500	500 LB BALE	\$361.43	\$85,478,000
	2003	63,685	2.78	177,297	500 LB BALE	\$384.77	\$68,218,000
COTTON (SEED)	2004	---	1.37	94,161	TON	\$170.00	\$16,007,000
	2003	---	0.97	61,966	TON	\$190.00	\$11,773,000
HAY (ALFALFA)	2004	79,481	6.96	553,288	TON	\$129.23	\$71,500,000
	2003	86,067	7.25	623,999	TON	\$110.56	\$68,986,000
HAY (GRAIN) ⁽²⁾	2004	31,206	2.66	83,022	TON	\$80.60	\$6,691,000
	2003	29,855	2.83	84,369	TON	\$69.98	\$5,904,000
HAY (SUDAN)	2004	3,449	2.89	9,963	TON	\$94.25	\$939,000
	2003	3,840	2.61	10,034	TON	\$82.40	\$827,000
MISCELLANEOUS FIELD CROPS ⁽³⁾	2004	2,655	---	---	---	---	\$955,000
	2003	1,928	---	---	---	---	\$390,000
PASTURE (IRRIGATED)	2004	59,000	---	59,000	ACRE	\$140.00	\$8,260,000
	2003	59,000	---	59,000	ACRE	\$135.00	\$7,965,000
PASTURE (OTHER)	2004	560,000	---	560,000	ACRE	\$20.00	\$11,200,000
	2003	560,000	---	560,000	ACRE	\$17.00	\$9,520,000
RICE	2004	4,810	2.49	11,978	TON	\$272.61	\$3,265,000
	2003	4,807	3.46	16,612	TON	\$254.34	\$4,225,000
SILAGE (ALFALFA)	2004	---	1.05	83,455	TON	\$39.69	\$3,312,000
	2003	---	1.25	107,584	TON	\$24.00	\$2,582,000
SILAGE (CORN)	2004	75,810	26.40	2,001,734	TON	\$23.91	\$47,862,000
	2003	78,812	26.42	2,081,849	TON	\$21.51	\$44,772,000
SILAGE (OTHER) ⁽⁴⁾	2004	56,654	12.59	713,552	TON	\$16.47	\$11,756,000
	2003	55,906	13.20	738,154	TON	\$15.46	\$11,414,000
STRAW ⁽⁵⁾	2004	---	---	2,763	TON	\$41.61	\$115,000
	2003	---	---	2,949	TON	\$42.21	\$124,000
STUBBLE (PASTURE)	2004	---	---	13,512	ACRE	\$22.00	\$297,000
	2003	---	---	14,631	ACRE	\$20.00	\$293,000
SUGAR BEETS	2004	4,485	34.00	152,490	TON	\$39.38	\$6,005,000
	2003	3,377	33.00	111,441	TON	\$41.63	\$4,639,000
WHEAT	2004	12,489	2.27	28,327	TON	\$120.07	\$3,401,000
	2003	17,596	1.57	27,590	TON	\$119.36	\$3,293,000
TOTAL	2004	974,149					\$286,060,000
	2003	978,582					\$252,345,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn).

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Includes Barley, Forage, Oat, and Wheat Hay.
For 2003: Includes Forage, Oat, and Wheat Hay.

⁽³⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Oat Grain and Safflower.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2004: Includes Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat, and Winter Forage.
For 2003: Includes Clover, Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat, and Winter Forage.

⁽⁵⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Straw from Barley, Bean (Dry), Oat, Rice and Wheat.



VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (FREEZER)	2004	2,763	1.71	4,724	TON	\$460.06	\$2,173,000
	2003	1,579	1.82	2,872		\$450.52	\$1,294,000
MELONS (CANTALOUPE)	2004	3,184	678.02	2,158,818	40LB CTN	\$4.70	\$10,146,000
	2003	4,078	563.43	2,297,656		\$6.16	\$14,154,000
MELONS (OTHER) ⁽¹⁾	2004	984	19.91	19,596	TON	\$248.93	\$4,878,000
	2003	1,097	16.67	18,288		\$231.37	\$4,231,000
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES ⁽²⁾	2004	3,766	---	---	---	---	\$14,796,000
	2003	3,211	---	---		---	\$14,240,000
SWEET POTATOES	2004	10,084	12.25	123,529	TON	\$641.00	\$79,182,000
	2003	9,537	13.63	130,024		\$685.92	\$89,186,000
TOMATOES (MARKET)	2004	10,383	1,104.55	11,468,563	25LB CTN	\$6.37	\$73,101,000
	2003	9,856	1,103.71	10,878,191		\$7.47	\$81,298,000
TOMATOES (PROCESSING)	2004	15,600	41.01	639,681	TON	\$50.02	\$31,997,000
	2003	16,621	34.42	572,113		\$52.01	\$29,754,000
TOTAL	2004	46,764					\$216,275,000
	2003	45,979					\$234,157,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Honeydew, Korean Melon, Mixed Melons, and Watermelon.

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Includes Asparagus, Beans (Green), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetables, Peas, Pepper (Market Bell, Processed Bell and Chile), Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Sunflower, Tomatillo, and Tomato (Pole).

For 2003: Includes Asparagus, Beans (Green), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber (Pickle), Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetables, Peas, Pepper (Market Bell, Processed Bell and Chile), Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Tomatillo, and Tomato (Pole).



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (HULLS)	2004	---	---	134,615	TON	\$83.77	\$11,276,000
	2003	---	---	141,497		\$76.16	\$10,776,000
ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	2004	86,370	0.80	68,681	TON	\$4,600.00	\$315,935,000
	2003	85,476	0.81	69,236		\$3,060.00	\$211,861,000
APRICOTS	2004	1,272	6.16	7,835	TON	\$287.78	\$2,255,000
	2003	1,544	4.68	7,224		\$277.00	\$2,001,000
FIGS (DRY)	2004	3,092	0.92	2,852	TON	\$1,936.98	\$5,524,000
	2003	3,758	1.02	3,843		\$1,407.08	\$5,408,000
GRAPES (RAISIN TO WINE) ⁽¹⁾	2004	---	---	---	TON	---	---
	2003	133	9.93	1,321		\$104.00	\$137,000
GRAPES (RAISIN)	2004	750	1.81	1,357	TON	\$1,194.19	\$1,620,000
	2003	959	2.09	2,004		\$600.00	\$1,203,000
GRAPES (WINE)	2004	10,729	7.78	83,485	TON	\$251.46	\$20,993,000
	2003	11,366	9.76	110,932		\$261.75	\$29,036,000
MISCELLANEOUS ⁽²⁾	2004	2,738	---	---	---	---	\$14,532,000
	2003	2,401	---	---		---	\$11,304,000
NECTARINES	2004	115	8.19	942	TON	\$527.28	\$497,000
	2003	149	9.98	1,486		\$363.55	\$540,000
PEACHES (CLINGSTONE)	2004	3,310	16.88	55,870	TON	\$241.46	\$13,491,000
	2003	2,694	19.29	51,954		\$232.52	\$12,080,000
PEACHES (FREESTONE)	2004	1,799	20.12	36,200	TON	\$219.38	\$7,942,000
	2003	1,869	20.59	38,486		\$219.14	\$8,434,000
PISTACHIOS	2004	4,068	1.48	6,012	TON	\$2,892.14	\$17,388,000
	2003	4,272	0.27	1,158		\$2,600.00	\$3,010,000
PLUMS, DRIED	2004	1,929	0.62	1,190	TON	\$1,025.14	\$1,220,000
	2003	2,064	3.09	6,377		\$750.08	\$4,784,000
STRAWBERRIES	2004	377	9.84	3,710	TON	\$890.19	\$3,302,000
	2003	252	9.33	2,351		\$940.40	\$2,211,000
WALNUTS (ENGLISH)	2004	5,919	1.55	9,170	TON	\$1,206.74	\$11,066,000
	2003	6,050	1.40	8,443		\$1,113.96	\$9,405,000
TOTAL	2004	122,468					\$427,040,000
	2003	122,987					\$312,191,000

(1) For 2004: Grapes (Raisin to Wine) is now included in Miscellaneous Fruit and Nut.

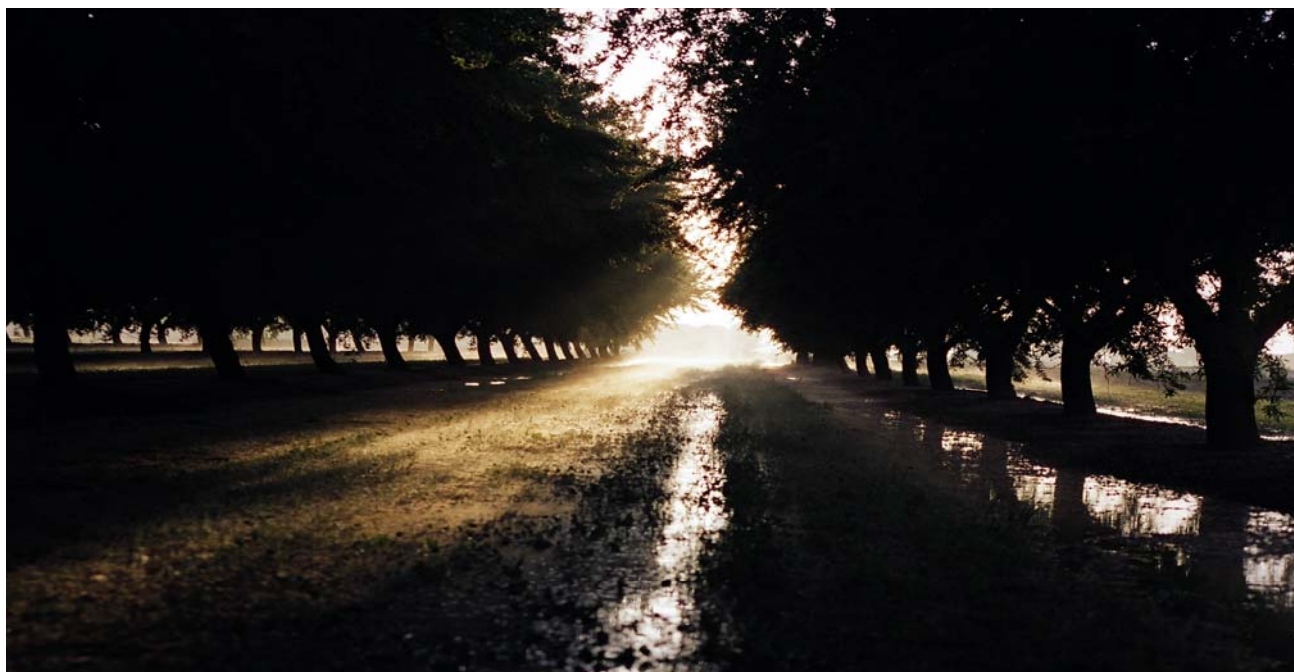
(2) For 2004: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cane Berry, Cherry, Citrus, Fig (Cannery, Freezer and Fresh Market), Fruit Juice, Grape (Frozen and Raisin to Wine), Jujube, Kiwi, Olive, Organic Fruit and Nut, Peach (Fresh Market), Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum and Plumcot.

For 2003: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cane Berry, Cherry, Citrus, Fig (Cannery, Freezer and Fresh Market), Fruit Juice, Grape (Frozen and Table), Jujube, Kiwi, Organic Fruit and Nut, Peach (Fresh Market), Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum and Plumcot.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 2004		YEAR 1999	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	86,382	7,666	77,461	5,002
APPLES	203	0	966	0
APRICOTS	1,352	0	2,040	32
BERRIES	273	0	292	0
CHERRIES	335	3	316	66
FIGS	3,446	0	3,123	0
GRAPES (Raisin)	834	0	1,354	0
GRAPES (Table)	124	0	423	0
GRAPES (Wine)	10,729	314	14,886	559
JUJUBE	10	10	0	0
KIWI	33	0	27	0
MANDARINS	9	0	17	0
NECTARINES	139	15	181	1
OLIVES	12	0	60	0
ORANGES	50	2	47	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,685	143	3,640	38
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,827	161	1,944	200
PEARS	13	0	17	0
PECANS	37	5	42	10
PERSIMMON	2	0	0	0
PISTACHIOS	4,628	76	4,448	154
PLUMS	74	17	75	5
PLUMS (Dried)	1,947	50	2,374	347
PLUOT	72	0	0	0
POMEGRANATE	12	0	0	0
WALNUTS (English)	5,919	508	5,196	473
TOTAL	122,147	8,970	118,929	6,887



SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS ⁽¹⁾	2004	1,888	---	---	---	---	\$873,000
	2003	2,318	---	---	---	---	\$1,283,000
TOTAL	2004	1,888					\$873,000
	2003	2,318					\$1,283,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Artichoke, Barley, Bean (Blackeye), Cabbage, Cauliflower, Corn, Cotton, Lettuce, Mizuna, Oat, Onion, Pepper (Jalapeno), Rye, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.
For 2003: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Barley, Cabbage, Carrot, Lettuce, Lima Bean, Oat, Onion, Rye, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (SHELLS) ⁽¹⁾	2004	54,953	TON	\$21.59	\$1,186,000
	2003	57,676		\$11.77	\$679,000
FIREWOOD ⁽²⁾	2004	22,749	CORD	\$108.44	\$2,467,000
	2003	29,699		\$97.92	\$2,908,000
FUEL (COGENERATION) ⁽³⁾	2004	49,050	TON	\$32.00	\$1,570,000
	2003	12,475		\$31.00	\$387,000
MANURE ⁽⁴⁾	2004	531,053	TON	\$4.59	\$2,438,000
	2003	890,038		\$3.52	\$3,134,000
TOTAL	2004				\$7,660,000
	2003				\$7,107,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004, 2003: For Animal Bedding.

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Includes Orchard Prunings and Removal for Firewood. (Recorded in cords).
For 2003: Orchard Removal (Recorded in cords).

⁽³⁾ For 2004: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removal for Fuel (Recorded in Dry Tons).
For 2003: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removal (Recorded in Dry Tons).

⁽⁴⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Livestock and Poultry Manure.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS ⁽¹⁾	2004	1,920	---	---	---	---	\$30,354,000
	2003	1,440	---	---		---	\$30,404,000
TOTAL	2004	1,920					\$30,354,000
	2003	1,440					\$30,404,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Pits and Cuttings, Turf, and Vegetable Transplants. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

For 2003: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Deciduous Fruit, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Nut Trees, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Other Vegetable Plants, Pits and Cuttings, Strawberry Plants, Sweet Potato Plants, Tomato Plants and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

BEE INDUSTRY

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	2004	43,054	LB	\$1.30	\$56,000
	2003	54,128		\$1.25	\$68,000
BULK BEES ⁽¹⁾	2004	75,000	LB	\$8.59	\$644,000
	2003	89,600		\$8.23	\$737,000
HONEY ⁽²⁾	2004	2,798,500	LB	\$0.80	\$2,239,000
	2003	3,518,350		\$1.37	\$4,820,000
POLLINATION ⁽³⁾	2004	160,229	COLONY	\$54.79	\$8,779,000
	2003	177,477		\$46.69	\$8,286,000
QUEENS ⁽⁴⁾	2004	26,500	EACH	\$6.13	\$162,000
	2003	37,200		\$7.41	\$276,000
TOTAL	2004				\$11,880,000
	2003				\$14,187,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Bees Sold as Bulk Bees, Nuclei, and Packaged Bees.
For 2003: Includes Bees Sold as Nuclei and Packaged Bees.

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Honey produced by 50,000 resident colonies.
For 2003: Honey produced by 55,000 resident colonies.

⁽³⁾ For 2004, 2003: Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.

AQUACULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH ⁽¹⁾	2004	1,302,000	LB	\$2.13	\$2,778,000
	2003	1,214,680		\$1.98	\$2,405,000
TOTAL	2004				\$2,778,000
	2003				\$2,405,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Sturgeon and Trout.

For 2003: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Striped Bass, Sturgeon and Trout.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

CROP	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
			LIVE WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES ⁽¹⁾	2004	284,816	2,233,984	CWT	\$93.57	\$209,041,000
	2003	233,540	1,864,691		\$90.45	\$168,661,000
CHICKENS (FRYERS AND BROILERS)	2004	92,029,540	486,434,139	LB	\$0.62	\$300,558,000
	2003	89,998,599	467,967,750		\$0.49	\$230,062,000
CHICKENS (OTHER) ⁽²⁾	2004	---	---	LB	---	---
	2003	1,239,611	5,338,250		\$0.12	\$663,000
GOATS ⁽³⁾	2004	---	---	HEAD	---	---
	2003	6,000	6,000		\$91.22	\$547,000
HOGS AND PIGS ⁽⁴⁾	2004	---	---	CWT	---	---
	2003	12,596	22,294		\$51.21	\$1,142,000
LIVESTOCK (MISCELLANEOUS) ⁽⁵⁾	2004	18,613	---	---	---	\$2,054,000
	2003	---	---		---	---
POULTRY (MISCELLANEOUS) ⁽⁶⁾	2004	223,620	---	---	---	\$1,153,000
	2003	61,670	---		---	\$540,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	2004	33,010	49,012	CWT	\$98.24	\$4,815,000
	2003	35,987	49,604		\$90.53	\$4,491,000
TURKEYS	2004	3,009,626	79,701,111	LB	\$0.63	\$50,043,000
	2003	2,998,556	76,550,539		\$0.63	\$48,436,000
TOTAL	2004	95,599,225				\$567,663,000
	2003	94,586,559				\$454,542,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Cull Cows and Bulls, Calves and Replacement Heifers (for Dairy and Beef); Stocker Cattle.
For 2003: Includes Cull Cows and Replacement Heifers (for Dairy and Beef); Beef Calves, and Stocker Cattle.

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Chickens (Other) are now included in Poultry (Miscellaneous).
For 2003: Includes Meat Layers and Pullets.

⁽³⁾ For 2004: Goats are now included in Livestock (Miscellaneous).

⁽⁴⁾ For 2004: Hogs and Pigs are now included in Livestock (Miscellaneous).

⁽⁵⁾ For 2004: New Category Including Goats, Hogs, and Pigs.

⁽⁶⁾ For 2004: Includes Chukar, Pheasant, Chicken Pullets, and Squab.
For 2003: Includes Chukar, Ostriches (Domestic and Slaughter Birds), Pheasant, and Squab.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

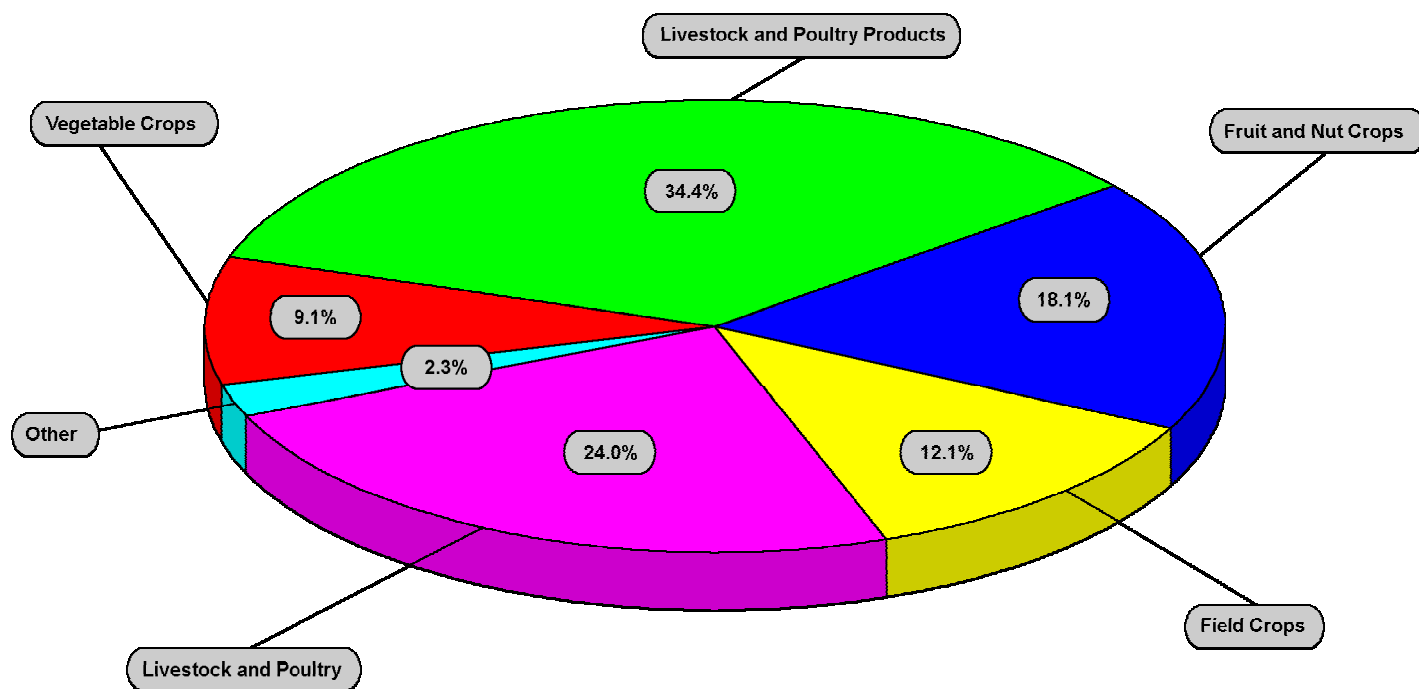
CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS (OTHER) ⁽¹⁾	2004	4,360,561	EACH	\$0.55	\$2,414,000
	2003	4,849,279		\$0.56	\$2,713,000
EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	2004	105,397,050	DOZN	\$0.65	\$68,508,000
	2003	70,266,870		\$0.69	\$48,484,000
MILK (GOAT)	2004	33,503	CWT	\$30.69	\$1,028,000
	2003	44,850		\$31.51	\$1,413,000
MILK (MANUFACTURING)	2004	300,519	CWT	\$15.20	\$4,568,000
	2003	358,992		\$11.82	\$4,243,000
MILK (MARKET)	2004	49,845,825	CWT	\$14.81	\$738,217,000
	2003	48,602,598		\$11.37	\$552,612,000
WOOL	2004	228,800	LB	\$0.77	\$176,000
	2003	200,814		\$0.72	\$145,000
TOTAL	2004				
	2003				
		\$814,911,000			
		\$609,610,000			

⁽¹⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.



COMMODITY VALUE COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	2004	1994	1984	1974
AQUACULTURE	\$2,778,000	\$1,185,000	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$11,880,000	\$5,305,000	\$3,409,000	\$1,576,000
FIELD CROPS	\$286,060,000	\$245,794,000	\$178,231,000	\$112,475,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$427,040,000	\$257,883,000	\$152,154,000	\$60,212,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION	\$567,663,000	\$204,887,000	\$188,782,000	\$68,143,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$814,911,000	\$359,410,000	\$228,987,000	\$75,986,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$30,354,000	\$14,923,000	\$9,039,000	\$4,056,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$7,660,000	\$8,273,000	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$873,000	\$2,035,000	\$1,473,000	\$1,335,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$216,275,000	\$152,024,000	\$77,952,000	\$35,368,000
TOTAL	\$2,365,494,000	\$1,251,719,000	\$840,027,000	\$359,151,000



2004 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT

PEST PREVENTION

The California Food and Agricultural Code mandates pest prevention programs to prevent the introduction and spread of pests in California. Pest prevention involves Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection, Pierce's Disease Control, and the Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program.

Pest Exclusion Program:

Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent the introduction of pests, injurious to agriculture, that are not of common occurrence in Merced County.

A total of 5,077 shipments of incoming plant material were inspected in 2004. Shipments are inspected at United Parcel Service, United States Post Offices, Federal Express and trucking terminals. 24 shipments were rejected, 4 for the presence of significant agricultural pests. Three shipments were infested with Red Imported Fire Ant, considered an "A"-Rated pest of agricultural importance under active eradication in California. One shipment contained unidentified "Q"-Rated plants (pests of unknown agricultural importance not known to occur in California). The other 20 rejections were for other live pests, material not properly certified, or improper container markings.



Pierce's Disease Control Program:

To prevent the introduction of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) into Merced County, all shipments of nursery stock from infested counties are inspected. GWSS has the ability to spread **Pierce's Disease** rapidly among grape vines with devastating results. 1,142 shipments of nursery stock from infested counties were inspected in 2004. All inspections were negative for the presence of GWSS during 2004.

Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program:

This program prevents the spread of injurious pests from Merced County to foreign counties through inspection and certification of exported plants and plant commodities. In 2004, 4,099 export shipments were inspected and issued **Phytosanitary Certificates**.

Pest Detection Program:

Pest Detection uses visual inspection and insect traps that target specific exotic insects of high agricultural and economic importance.

The trapping program in Merced County targeted the following pests:

Apple Maggot (<i>Rhagoletis pomonella</i>)	European Corn Borer (<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>)
European Pine Shoot Moth (<i>Rhyacionia buoliana</i>)	Gypsy Moth (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (<i>Homalodisca coagulata</i>)	Japanese Beetle (<i>Popillia japonica</i>)
Khapra Beetle (<i>Trogoderma granarium</i>)	Mediterranean Fruit Fly (<i>Ceratitidis capitata</i>)
Melon Fly (<i>Dacus cucurbitae</i>)	Mexican Fruit Fly (<i>Anastrepha ludens</i>)
Oriental Fruit Fly (<i>Dacus dorsalis</i>)	Sweet Potato Weevil (<i>Cylas formicarius elegantulus</i>)
Vine Mealybug (<i>Planococcus ficus</i>)	

A total of 1,873 pest detection traps were placed in Merced County and inspected a total of 19,139 times during the 2004 trapping season.

PEST ERADICATION

The **Pest Eradication Program** endeavors to eliminate infestations of significant agricultural pests with limited distribution before they are able to cause ongoing economic cost to California agriculture.

Ongoing detection and eradication efforts continued during 2004 for Pink Bollworm, Red Imported Fire Ant, Purple Mustard, and Water Hyacinth.

Ongoing detection efforts continue for Camelthorn, Carolina Horse Nettle, and Hydrilla.

Successful eradication projects include Sweet Potato Weevil and Banana Waterlily. None have been detected since the end of their respective eradication projects.

The Pink Bollworm is a significant cotton pest with eradication efforts consisting of a State operated detection trapping program in conjunction with County enforcement of the host-free period from January 1 through March 10. In 2004, 69,205 acres were trapped for Pink Bollworm. No Merced County growers were found to be in violation of the host-free period requirement during 2004.

Merced County's Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) eradication program started in November 2001. At the height CDFA had 4,300 acres under treatment. Very good progress is being made toward eradication. At the end of 2004, 600 acres were still under treatment with the rest of the acreage under intensive post treatment survey. County personnel surveyed and trapped an additional 74 locations. 6,225 baited trap inspections were made.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The **Biological Control (Biocontrol) Program** uses natural enemies to suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the biocontrol agent becomes established it is self-perpetuating, reducing the need to use pesticides. The following are pests found in Merced County and their Biocontrol Agents.

PEST	ORGANISM
Ash Whitefly (<i>Siphoninus phillyreae</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Encarsia inaron</i>)
Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (<i>Harrisina brillians</i>)	Parasitic Fly (<i>Ametadoria misella</i>) Parasitic Wasp (<i>Apanteles harrisinae</i>) Virus (<i>WGLS Granulosis</i>)
Italian Thistle (<i>Carduus sp.</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Klamath Weed (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Leaf Beetle (<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i>)
Milk Thistle (<i>Silybum marianum</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Puncture Vine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Seed Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lareynii</i>) Stem Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i>)
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i>)
Russian Thistle (<i>Salsola sp.</i>)	Case-bearer Moth (<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i>) Russian Thistle Borer (<i>Coleophora parthenica</i>)
Yellowstar Thistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	False Peacock Fly (<i>Chaetorellia succinea</i>) Flower Weevil (<i>Larinus curtus</i>) Hairy Weevil (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>) Rust Fungus (<i>Puccinia jaceae</i> var. <i>solstitialis</i>) Seed-Head Gall Fly (<i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>) Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>)



This is an encarsia wasp that parasitizes the ash whitefly. The ash whitefly is a pest of many types of trees in California.

ORGANIC FARMING

Merced County has 52 registered growers of organic commodities. These growers farmed 1,863 acres to produce organic alfalfa, almonds, apricots, Asian pears, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pecans, pistachios, plums (fresh and dried), pluots, raisins, walnuts, beans, squash, leafy lettuce, legumes, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes. There are also 5 facilities producing organic chicken eggs and milk.

EXPORTED COMMODITIES

Alfalfa Hay	Pistachios	Rye Hay
Almonds	Propagative Stock	Strawberry Nursery Stock
Garlic	Prunes	Sudan Hay
Oat Hay	Radicchio	Tomatoes
Onion Seed	Raspberry Nursery Stock	Walnut Burls
Pecans		Walnuts

EXPORTS GO TO THESE COUNTRIES

Algeria	Greece	Netherlands
Argentina	Guatemala	New Zealand
Australia	Honduras	Norway
Austria	Hong Kong	Philippines
Belgium	India	Poland
Brazil	Indonesia	Russian Federation
Bulgaria	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Italy	Singapore
Canary Islands	Japan	South Africa
China	Jordan	Spain
Colombia	Korea, Republic of	Sweden
Costa Rica	Kuwait	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Latvia	Taiwan
Denmark	Lebanon	Thailand
Ecuador	Lithuania	Trinidad & Tobago
Egypt	Luxembourg	Tunisia
El Salvador	Malaysia	Turkey
Estonia	Melilla	United Arab Emirates
France	Mexico	United Kingdom
Germany	Morocco	Venezuela



MERCED COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FACTS *

- 81.5% of the land area in Merced County is farmland.
- There are a total of 2,964 farms, averaging 339 acres, for a total of 1,006,127 acres of farmland in Merced County.
- The total county acreage is 1,234,364 acres.
- The average age of Merced County farmers is 54.9 years old.

* Above data is from the USDA 2002 California Census of Agriculture.

TOP FIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCING COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA AND THE WORLD

County	Rank	Gross Value	Total County Acres	Top Commodity	Value
Fresno	1	\$4,691,224,200	3,816,144	Grapes	\$592,099,000
Tulare	2	\$4,039,524,000	3,087,340	Milk	\$1,367,136,000
Monterey	3	\$3,392,309,318	2,126,050	Lettuce	\$950,534,000
Kern	4	\$3,142,481,400	5,210,217	Grapes	\$521,870,000
Merced	5	\$2,365,494,000	1,234,364	Milk	\$742,785,000



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Kristen Rasmussen

Sheila Worthley

Jesus Molina

**MERCED COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2139 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, California 95340-6495**

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



**ANNUAL
REPORT OF AGRICULTURE
2005**



MERCED COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855 – 2005

The County of Merced celebrated its 150 year anniversary in 2005. In April 2005, the Merced County Courthouse Museum, along with other museums and historical societies in the county, collectively put together a historical presentation displaying the county's history.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office would like to thank Sarah Lim, Courthouse Museum Director, and her staff for all their help in assisting us with the pictures that you see in the 2005 Crop Report.



The Merced County Courthouse, which was built in 1875, is one of the oldest historical buildings in California. The building was built by State Capitol Architect, Albert A. Bennett and is Italianate in style.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

David A. Robinson
*Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control*

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Equal Opportunity Employer

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

And

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Merced

Mike Nelson, Chairman

Kathleen Crookham Deidre Kelsey

Jerry O'Banion John Pedrozo

Demitrios O. Tatum
County Executive Officer

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2005 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of Merced County's agricultural commodities.

Last year Merced County agriculture surpassed the 2 billion dollar mark in gross production value of agricultural commodities for the second consecutive year. With a gross production value of \$2,390,367,000 in 2005, Merced County agricultural commodities increased \$24,873,000 (1.05%) from 2004 production values.

The price of milk dropped slightly in 2005 resulting in a reduction in value of \$30,898,000, however milk remains the county's number one commodity with an overall value of \$711,887,000. Chickens regained the number two spot over almonds with a total value of \$299,685,000; down slightly from last year's figure of \$300,558,000. Almonds came in at number three in 2005 with a value of \$292,995,000; down from last year's value of \$315,935,000. Almond's price increase of \$0.55/pound was not enough to offset the drop in production of .21 tons/acre. The commodity with the largest increase in overall value for 2005 was cattle & calves (the fourth leading commodity). Due mainly to higher prices it increased by \$62,480,000 for a total value of \$271,521,000. Egg production in Merced County continued to increase, due to more laying facility expansions coming on line in 2005. The market egg price dropped \$0.10/dozen, but with the increased production the overall value of chicken eggs rose by \$6,771,000 to \$75,279,000.

The 2005 growing season was plagued by multiple rain events from mid February through mid May severely impacting almond pollination, cherry harvest, and strawberry harvest. Tomato yields were adversely impacted by cool wet weather in late spring and by several hot spells later in the growing season that resulted in reduced setting of fruit, primarily to processing tomatoes. Cotton yields were also down due to rain and cool weather right after planting and by very high temperatures for extended periods of time in July and early August, which damaged young boll formation.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the costs of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers and ranchers, the staff of the University of California Cooperative Extension, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data. In addition, I would like to thank Mark E. Smith, Mike Quinn, Maryann Harding, and Terri Cruickshanks. Without their hard work, the publication of this report would have been impossible.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner

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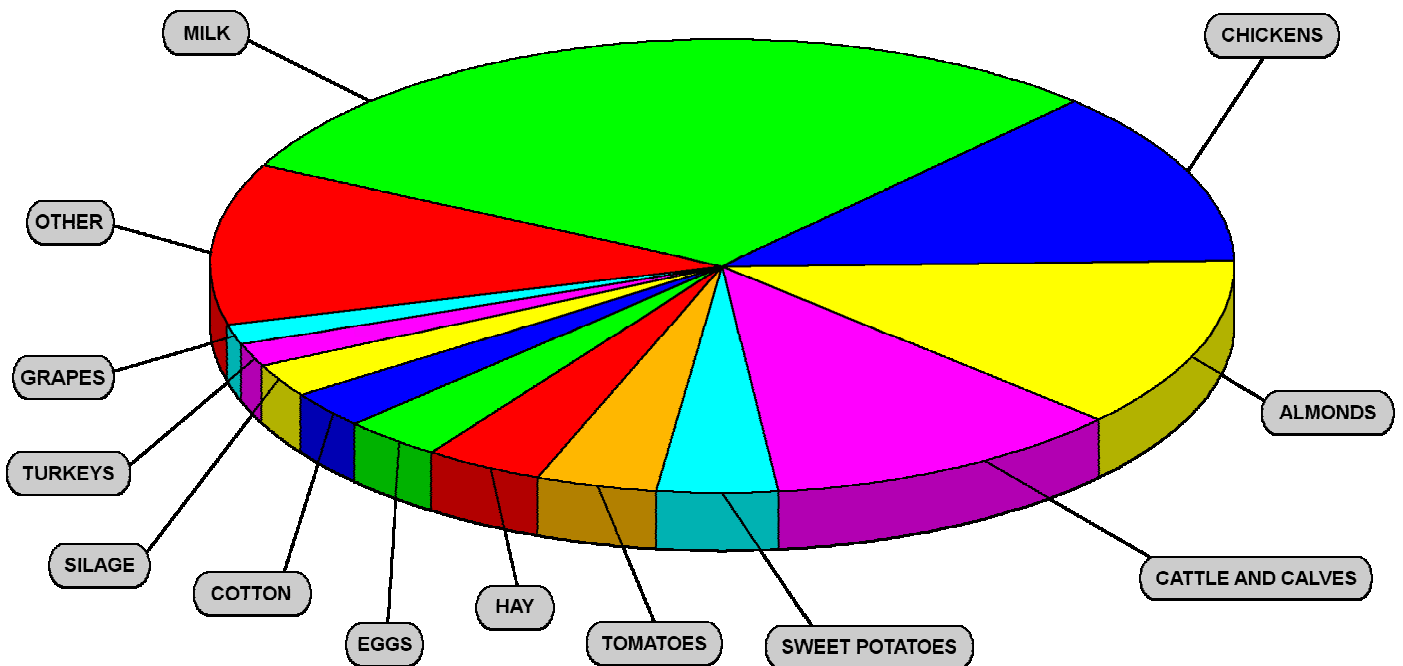
TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 2005

1.	MILK ⁽¹⁾	711,887,000	(1)
2.	CHICKENS	299,685,000	(3)
3.	ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	292,995,000	(2)
4.	CATTLE AND CALVES	271,521,000	(4)
5.	SWEET POTATOES	91,213,000	(7)
6.	TOMATOES ⁽²⁾	90,952,000	(5)
7.	HAY (ALFALFA)	89,315,000	(8)
8.	EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	75,279,000	(9)
9.	COTTON (LINT)	62,564,000	(6)
10.	SILAGE (CORN)	57,098,000	(11)
11.	TURKEYS	39,558,000	(10)
12.	GRAPES (WINE)	34,367,000	(13)

(The number in parenthesis denotes the 2004 ranking)

(1) Includes Market and Manufacturing.

(2) Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.



FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
BARLEY	2005	4,610	2.19	10,106	TON	\$98.81	\$999,000	
	2004	5,143	2.40	12,361		\$120.53	\$1,490,000	
BEANS (DRY LIMA)	2005	892	1.44	1,285	TON	\$839.05	\$1,078,000	
	2004	911	1.32	1,199		\$766.51	\$919,000	
BEANS (DRY OTHER)	2005	1,686	1.29	2,169	TON	\$800.00	\$1,735,000	
	2004	2,532	1.11	2,817		\$603.05	\$1,699,000	
CORN (GRAIN) ⁽¹⁾	2005	6,019	5.13	30,855	TON	\$129.47	\$3,995,000	
	2004	6,319	5.83	36,832		\$133.26	\$4,908,000	
COTTON (LINT)	2005	63,670	2.60	165,589	500 LB BALE	\$377.83	\$62,564,000	
	2004	69,205	3.42	236,500		\$361.43	\$85,478,000	
COTTON (SEED)	2005	---	0.89	56,784	TON	\$160.00	\$9,085,000	
	2004	---	1.37	94,161		\$170.00	\$16,007,000	
HAY (ALFALFA)	2005	78,560	7.72	606,586	TON	\$147.24	\$89,315,000	
	2004	79,481	6.96	553,288		\$129.23	\$71,500,000	
HAY (GRAIN) ⁽²⁾	2005	31,978	3.31	105,769	TON	\$94.61	\$10,007,000	
	2004	31,206	2.66	83,022		\$80.60	\$6,691,000	
HAY (SUDAN)	2005	4,067	3.71	15,103	TON	\$101.24	\$1,529,000	
	2004	3,449	2.89	9,963		\$94.25	\$939,000	
MISCELLANEOUS FIELD CROPS ⁽³⁾	2005	1,164	---	---	---	---	\$411,000	
	2004	2,655	---	---		---	\$955,000	
PASTURE (IRRIGATED)	2005	59,000	---	59,000	ACRE	\$141.55	\$8,351,000	
	2004	59,000	---	59,000		\$140.00	\$8,260,000	
PASTURE (OTHER)	2005	560,000	---	560,000	ACRE	\$21.77	\$12,191,000	
	2004	560,000	---	560,000		\$20.00	\$11,200,000	
RICE	2005	4,366	3.42	14,916	TON	\$226.45	\$3,378,000	
	2004	4,810	2.49	11,978		\$272.61	\$3,265,000	
SILAGE (ALFALFA)	2005	---	1.25	98,200	TON	\$33.91	\$3,330,000	
	2004	---	1.05	83,455		\$39.69	\$3,312,000	
SILAGE (CORN)	2005	82,114	26.23	2,153,879	TON	\$26.51	\$57,098,000	
	2004	75,810	26.40	2,001,734		\$23.91	\$47,862,000	
SILAGE (OTHER) ⁽⁴⁾	2005	60,336	13.75	829,575	TON	\$17.39	\$14,430,000	
	2004	56,654	12.59	713,552		\$16.47	\$11,756,000	
STRAW ⁽⁵⁾	2005	---	---	6,310	TON	\$37.58	\$237,000	
	2004	---	---	2,763		\$41.61	\$115,000	
STUBBLE (PASTURE)	2005	---	---	19,640	ACRE	\$20.00	\$393,000	
	2004	---	---	13,512		\$22.00	\$297,000	
SUGAR BEETS	2005	3,621	32.00	115,872	TON	\$41.00	\$4,751,000	
	2004	4,485	34.00	152,490		\$39.38	\$6,005,000	
WHEAT	2005	11,325	2.29	25,981	TON	\$116.78	\$3,034,000	
	2004	12,489	2.27	28,327		\$120.07	\$3,401,000	
TOTAL	2005	973,408					\$287,912,000	
	2004	974,149					\$286,060,000	

⁽¹⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn).

⁽²⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Barley, Forage, Oat, and Wheat Hay.

⁽³⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Oat Grain and Safflower.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat, and Winter Forage.

⁽⁵⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Straw from Barley, Bean (Dry), Oat, Rice and Wheat.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
BEANS, LIMA (FREEZER)	2005	2,821	1.72	4,845	TON	\$477.85	\$2,315,000	
	2004	2,763	1.71	4,724		\$460.06	\$2,173,000	
MELONS (CANTALOUPE)	2005	3,872	557.76	2,159,632	40LB CTN	\$4.26	\$9,192,000	
	2004	3,184	678.02	2,158,818		\$4.70	\$10,146,000	
MELONS (OTHER) ⁽¹⁾	2005	1,738	34.87	60,600	TON	\$168.25	\$10,196,000	
	2004	984	19.91	19,596		\$248.93	\$4,878,000	
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES ⁽²⁾	2005	3,134	---	---	---	---	\$16,087,000	
	2004	3,766	---	---		---	\$14,796,000	
SWEET POTATOES	2005	10,257	15.03	154,163	TON	\$591.67	\$91,213,000	
	2004	10,084	12.25	123,529		\$641.00	\$79,182,000	
TOMATOES (MARKET)	2005	10,502	1,065.78	11,192,792	25LB CTN	\$5.89	\$65,973,000	
	2004	10,383	1,104.55	11,468,563		\$6.37	\$73,101,000	
TOMATOES (PROCESSING)	2005	14,873	33.38	496,457	TON	\$50.31	\$24,979,000	
	2004	15,600	41.01	639,681		\$50.02	\$31,997,000	
TOTAL	2005	47,197					\$219,957,000	
	2004	46,764					\$216,275,000	

⁽¹⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Honeydew, Korean Melon, Mixed Melons, and Watermelon.

⁽²⁾ For 2005: Includes Asparagus, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Corn (Fresh Market), Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Oriental Vegetables, Pea, Pepper (Bell and Spice), Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Sunflower, Tomatillo, and Tomato (Pole).
For 2004: Includes Asparagus, Beans (Green), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetables, Peas, Pepper (Market Bell, Processed Bell and Chile), Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Sunflower, Tomatillo, and Tomato (Pole).



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (HULLS)	2005	---	---	105,633	TON	\$97.10	\$10,257,000
	2004	---	---	134,615		\$83.77	\$11,276,000
ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	2005	87,123	0.59	51,403	TON	\$5,700.00	\$292,995,000
	2004	86,370	0.80	68,681		\$4,600.00	\$315,935,000
APRICOTS	2005	1,137	5.25	5,970	TON	\$284.34	\$1,698,000
	2004	1,272	6.16	7,835		\$287.78	\$2,255,000
FIGS (DRY)	2005	2,850	1.18	3,375	TON	\$1,315.19	\$4,438,000
	2004	3,092	0.92	2,852		\$1,936.98	\$5,524,000
GRAPES (RAISIN)	2005	694	1.70	1,182	TON	\$1,171.00	\$1,384,000
	2004	750	1.81	1,357		\$1,194.19	\$1,620,000
GRAPES (WINE)	2005	11,542	10.71	123,574	TON	\$278.11	\$34,367,000
	2004	10,729	7.78	83,485		\$251.46	\$20,993,000
MISCELLANEOUS ⁽¹⁾	2005	2,305	---	---	---	---	\$10,982,000
	2004	2,738	---	---		---	\$14,532,000
NECTARINES ⁽²⁾	2005	---	---	---	TON	---	---
	2004	115	8.19	942		\$527.28	\$497,000
PEACHES (CLINGSTONE)	2005	3,253	17.21	55,985	TON	\$237.41	\$13,291,000
	2004	3,310	16.88	55,870		\$241.46	\$13,491,000
PEACHES (FREESTONE)	2005	1,772	23.21	41,130	TON	\$218.88	\$9,003,000
	2004	1,799	20.12	36,200		\$219.38	\$7,942,000
PISTACHIOS	2005	4,024	0.42	1,671	TON	\$4,654.61	\$7,777,000
	2004	4,068	1.48	6,012		\$2,892.14	\$17,388,000
PLUMS, DRIED	2005	1,856	2.86	5,312	TON	\$1,319.73	\$7,010,000
	2004	1,929	0.62	1,190		\$1,025.14	\$1,220,000
STRAWBERRIES	2005	202	12.50	2,525	TON	\$873.76	\$2,206,000
	2004	377	9.84	3,710		\$890.19	\$3,302,000
WALNUTS (ENGLISH)	2005	5,948	1.47	8,763	TON	\$1,630.61	\$14,289,000
	2004	5,919	1.55	9,170		\$1,206.74	\$11,066,000
TOTAL	2005	122,706					\$409,696,000
	2004	122,468					\$427,040,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2005: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Citrus, Fig (Cannery, Freezer and Fresh Market), Fruit Juice, Grape (Frozen and Raisin to Wine), Jujube, Kiwi, Nectarine, Olive, Organic Fruit and Nut, Peach (Fresh Market), Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum, Plumcot, and Pomegranate.
For 2004: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cane Berry, Cherry, Citrus, Fig (Cannery, Freezer and Fresh Market), Fruit Juice, Grape (Frozen and Raisin to Wine), Jujube, Kiwi, Olive, Organic Fruit and Nut, Peach (Fresh Market), Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum and Plumcot.

⁽²⁾ For 2005: Nectarines are now included in Miscellaneous Fruit and Nut.



1927 - Kadota Figs - possibly near Le Grand

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 2005		YEAR 2000	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	87,159	8,558	77,314	7,951
APPLES	203	0	594	15
APRICOTS	1,272	0	1,947	23
BERRIES	283	0	293	0
CHERRIES	338	2	314	61
FIGS	3,022	0	2,710	300
GRAPES (Raisin)	771	0	1,338	0
GRAPES (Table)	124	0	433	0
GRAPES (Wine)	11,542	301	14,543	485
JUJUBE	20	0	0	20
KIWI	33	0	27	0
MANDARINS	9	1	14	0
NECTARINES	112	25	164	56
OLIVES	12	0	20	0
ORANGES	4	1	47	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,649	72	3,635	168
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,790	173	1,792	312
PEARS	13	0	16	0
PECANS	32	5	41	10
PERSIMMON	2	0	5	0
PISTACHIOS	4,584	241	4,473	361
PLUMS	78	12	36	5
PLUMS (Dried)	1,902	38	2,270	446
PLUOT	72	0	15	33
POMEGRANATE	12	0	2	10
WALNUTS (English)	5,948	474	5,168	677
TOTAL	122,986	9,903	117,211	10,933



SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS ⁽¹⁾	2005	2,708	---	---	---	---	\$3,319,000
	2004	1,888	---	---	---	---	\$873,000
TOTAL	2005	2,708					\$3,319,000
	2004	1,888					\$873,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2005: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Artichoke, Barley, Bean (Dry), Broccoli, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Mustard, Oat, Onion, Pumpkin, Rye, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.
For 2004: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Artichoke, Barley, Bean (Blackeye), Cabbage, Cauliflower, Corn, Cotton, Lettuce, Mizuna, Oat, Onion, Pepper (Jalapeno), Rye, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (SHELLS) ⁽¹⁾	2005	35,425	TON	\$22.13	\$784,000
	2004	54,953		\$21.59	\$1,186,000
FIREWOOD ⁽²⁾	2005	20,545	CORD	\$115.07	\$2,364,000
	2004	22,749		\$108.44	\$2,467,000
FUEL (COGENERATION) ⁽³⁾	2005	49,000	TON	\$35.00	\$1,715,000
	2004	49,050		\$32.00	\$1,570,000
MANURE ⁽⁴⁾	2005	973,745	TON	\$3.18	\$3,099,000
	2004	531,053		\$4.59	\$2,438,000
TOTAL	2005				\$7,962,000
	2004				\$7,660,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2005, 2004: For Animal Bedding.

⁽²⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Orchard Prunings and Removal for Firewood. (Recorded in cords).

⁽³⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removal for Fuel (Recorded in Dry Tons).

⁽⁴⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Livestock and Poultry Manure.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS ⁽¹⁾	2005	1,735	---	---	---	---	\$33,329,000
	2004	1,920	---	---	---	---	\$30,354,000
TOTAL	2005	1,735					\$33,329,000
	2004	1,920					\$30,354,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Bud Wood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Pits and Cuttings, Turf, and Vegetable Transplants. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

BEE INDUSTRY

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	2005	65,385	LB	\$1.75	\$114,000
	2004	43,054		\$1.30	\$56,000
BULK BEES ⁽¹⁾	2005	69,400	LB	\$10.30	\$715,000
	2004	75,000		\$8.59	\$644,000
HONEY ⁽²⁾	2005	4,250,000	LB	\$0.63	\$2,678,000
	2004	2,798,500		\$0.80	\$2,239,000
POLLINATION ⁽³⁾	2005	133,376	COLONY	\$81.60	\$10,883,000
	2004	160,229		\$54.79	\$8,779,000
QUEENS ⁽⁴⁾	2005	28,300	EACH	\$11.10	\$314,000
	2004	26,500		\$6.13	\$162,000
TOTAL	2005				\$14,704,000
	2004				\$11,880,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Bees Sold as Bulk Bees, Nuclei, and Packaged Bees.

⁽²⁾ For 2005, 2004: Honey produced by 50,000 resident colonies.

⁽³⁾ For 2005, 2004: Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.

AQUACULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH ⁽¹⁾	2005	1,187,000	LB	\$1.96	\$2,327,000
	2004	1,302,000		\$2.13	\$2,778,000
TOTAL	2005				\$2,327,000
	2004				\$2,778,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Sturgeon and Trout.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

CROP	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
			PER HEAD	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
CATTLE AND CALVES ⁽¹⁾	2005	297,999	8.37	2,493,536	CWT	\$108.89	\$271,521,000	
	2004	284,816	7.84	2,233,984		\$93.57	\$209,041,000	
CHICKENS (FRYERS)	2005	93,612,430	5.34	499,474,373	LB	\$0.60	\$299,685,000	
	2004	92,029,540	5.29	486,434,139		\$0.62	\$300,558,000	
LIVESTOCK (MISCELLANEOUS) ⁽²⁾	2005	30,097	---	---	---	---	\$3,407,000	
	2004	18,613	---	---		---	\$2,054,000	
POULTRY (MISCELLANEOUS) ⁽³⁾	2005	254,000	---	---	---	---	\$1,441,000	
	2004	223,620	---	---		---	\$1,153,000	
SHEEP AND LAMBS	2005	36,525	1.52	55,598	CWT	\$91.93	\$5,111,000	
	2004	33,010	1.48	49,012		\$98.24	\$4,815,000	
TURKEYS	2005	2,168,576	29.09	63,090,238	LB	\$0.63	\$39,558,000	
	2004	3,009,626	26.48	79,701,111		\$0.63	\$50,043,000	
TOTAL	2005	96,399,627					\$620,723,000	
	2004	95,599,225					\$567,663,000	

⁽¹⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Calves, Cull Bulls (Dairy and Beef), Cull Cows (Dairy and Beef), Replacement Heifers (Dairy and Beef) and Stocker Cattle.

⁽²⁾ For 2005: Includes Goats, Hogs, and Pigs.
For 2004: New Category Including Goats, Hogs, and Pigs.

⁽³⁾ For 2005, 2004: Includes Chukar, Pheasant, Pullets, and Squab.



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS (OTHER) ⁽¹⁾	2005	3,898,808	EACH	\$0.54	\$2,115,000
	2004	4,360,561		\$0.55	\$2,414,000
EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	2005	136,870,358	DOZN	\$0.55	\$75,279,000
	2004	105,397,050		\$0.65	\$68,508,000
MILK (GOAT)	2005	35,055	CWT	\$28.94	\$1,014,000
	2004	33,503		\$30.69	\$1,028,000
MILK (MANUFACTURING)	2005	1,189,063	CWT	\$14.79	\$17,586,000
	2004	300,519		\$15.20	\$4,568,000
MILK (MARKET)	2005	49,663,884	CWT	\$13.98	\$694,301,000
	2004	49,845,825		\$14.81	\$738,217,000
WOOL	2005	204,048	LB	\$0.70	\$143,000
	2004	228,800		\$0.77	\$176,000
TOTAL	2005				\$790,438,000
	2004				\$814,911,000

(1) For 2005, 2004: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.



2005 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT

PEST PREVENTION

The California Food and Agricultural Code mandates pest prevention programs to prevent the introduction and spread of pests in California. Pest prevention involves Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection, Pierce's Disease Control, and the Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program.

Pest Exclusion Program:

Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent the introduction of pests, injurious to agriculture, that are not of common occurrence in Merced County.

A total of 6,257 shipments of incoming plant material were inspected in 2005. Shipments are inspected at United Parcel Service, United States Post Offices, Federal Express and trucking terminals. 29 shipments were rejected. Two of the shipments rejected were infested with Red Imported Fire Ant, considered an "A"-Rated pest of agricultural importance not known to occur in California. The other 27 rejections were for other live pests, material not properly certified, or improper container markings.

Seed inspection during 2005 detected the presence of "B"-Rated Jointed Goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*) seed contamination in forage crop seed mixture, which had been planted in four fields totaling 312 acres in Merced County. Jointed Goatgrass is a potential major pest of small grain crops, primarily wheat. "B"-Rating indicates a pest with limited distribution in the State with eradication at the discretion of the county agricultural commissioner. Since there is no known establishment of Jointed Goatgrass in Merced County, the planted fields were placed under compliance agreement to control any potential movement of seed from the planted fields. With the assistance of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the 4 fields were visually surveyed three times in 2005 and no Jointed Goatgrass plants were discovered. Additional survey is planned in 2006 to verify that the Jointed Goatgrass did not become established in Merced County.

Pierce's Disease Control Program:

To prevent the introduction of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) into Merced County, all shipments of nursery stock from infested counties are inspected. GWSS has the ability to spread **Pierce's Disease** rapidly among grape vines with devastating results. 947 shipments of nursery stock from infested counties were inspected in 2005. One shipment was found to contain viable GWSS eggs. The shipment was rejected and returned to origin.

In addition, all nurseries in the county and 2,161 residential yards were visually inspected for GWSS presence during 2005. No GWSS was detected.

Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program:

This program prevents the spread of injurious pests from Merced County to foreign counties through inspection and certification of exported plants and plant commodities. In 2005, 3,492 export shipments were inspected and issued **Phytosanitary Certificates**.

Pest Detection Program:

Pest Detection uses visual inspection and insect traps that target specific exotic insects of high agricultural and economic importance.

The trapping program in Merced County targeted the following pests:

Apple Maggot (<i>Rhagoletis pomonella</i>)	European Corn Borer (<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>)
European Pine Shoot Moth (<i>Rhyacionia buoliana</i>)	Gypsy Moth (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (<i>Homalodisca coagulate</i>)	Japanese Beetle (<i>Popillia japonica</i>)
Khapra Beetle (<i>Trogoderma granarium</i>)	Mediterranean Fruit Fly (<i>Ceratitis capitata</i>)
Melon Fly (<i>Dacus cucurbitae</i>)	Mexican Fruit Fly (<i>Anastrepha ludens</i>)
Oriental Fruit Fly (<i>Dacus dorsalis</i>)	Sweet Potato Weevil (<i>Cylas formicarius elegantulus</i>)
Vine Mealy Bug (<i>Planococcus ficus</i>)	

A total of 1,796 pest detection traps were placed in Merced County and inspected a total of 18,838 times during the 2005 trapping season.

PEST ERADICATION

The **Pest Eradication Program** endeavors to eliminate infestations of significant agricultural pests with limited distribution before they are able to cause ongoing economic cost to California agriculture.

Ongoing detection and eradication efforts continued during 2005 for Pink Bollworm, Red Imported Fire Ant, Purple Mustard, and Water Hyacinth.

Ongoing detection efforts continue for Camelthorn, Carolina Horse Nettle, and Hydrilla.

Successful eradication projects include Sweet Potato Weevil and Banana Waterlily. None have been detected since the end of their respective eradication projects.

The Pink Bollworm is a significant cotton pest with eradication efforts consisting of a State operated detection trapping program in conjunction with County enforcement of the host-free period from January 1 through March 10. In 2005, 63,670 acres were trapped for Pink Bollworm. No Merced County growers were found to be in violation of the host-free period requirement during 2005.

Merced County's Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) eradication program started in November 2001. At the height the California Department of Food and Agriculture had 4,300 acres under treatment. Very good progress is being made toward eradication. At the end of 2005, 550 acres were still under treatment with the rest of the acreage under intensive post treatment survey. Post treatment survey was completed on 430 acres and restrictions on these fields lifted. County personnel surveyed and trapped an additional 92 locations. 5,902 baited trap inspections were made.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The **Biological Control (Biocontrol) Program** uses natural enemies to suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the biocontrol agent becomes established it is self-perpetuating, reducing the need to use pesticides. The following are pests found in Merced County and their Biocontrol Agents.

PEST	ORGANISM
Ash Whitefly (<i>Siphoninus phillyreae</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Encarsia inaron</i>)
Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (<i>Harrisina brillians</i>)	Parasitic Fly (<i>Ametadoria misella</i>) Virus (<i>WGLS Granulosis</i>) Parasitic Wasp (<i>Apanteles harrisinae</i>)
Italian Thistle (<i>Carduus sp.</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Klamath Weed (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Leaf Beetle (<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i>)
Milk Thistle (<i>Silybum marianum</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Puncture Vine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Seed Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lareynii</i>) Stem Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i>)
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i>)
Russian Thistle (<i>Salsola sp.</i>)	Case-bearer Moth (<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i>) Russian Thistle Borer (<i>Coleophora parthenica</i>)
Yellowstar Thistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>) Seed-Head Gall Fly (<i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>) Hairy Weevil (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>) False Peacock Fly (<i>Chaetorellia succinea</i>) Rust Fungus (<i>Puccinia jaceae</i> var. <i>solstitialis</i>)

ORGANIC FARMING

Merced County has 56 registered growers of organic commodities. These growers farmed 1,981 acres to produce organic alfalfa, almonds, apricots, Asian pears, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pecans, pistachios, plums (fresh and dried), pluots, raisins, walnuts, beans, squash, leafy lettuce, legumes, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes. There are also 5 facilities producing organic chicken eggs and milk.

EXPORTED COMMODITIES

Alfalfa Hay	Onion Seed	Rye Hay
Almonds	Pecans	Strawberry Nursery Stock
Cantaloupe	Pistachios	Sudan Hay
Fig	Propagative Stock	Sweet Potato
Garlic	Prunes	Tomatoes
Honeydew	Radicchio	Walnut Burls
Oat Hay	Raspberry Nursery Stock	Walnuts

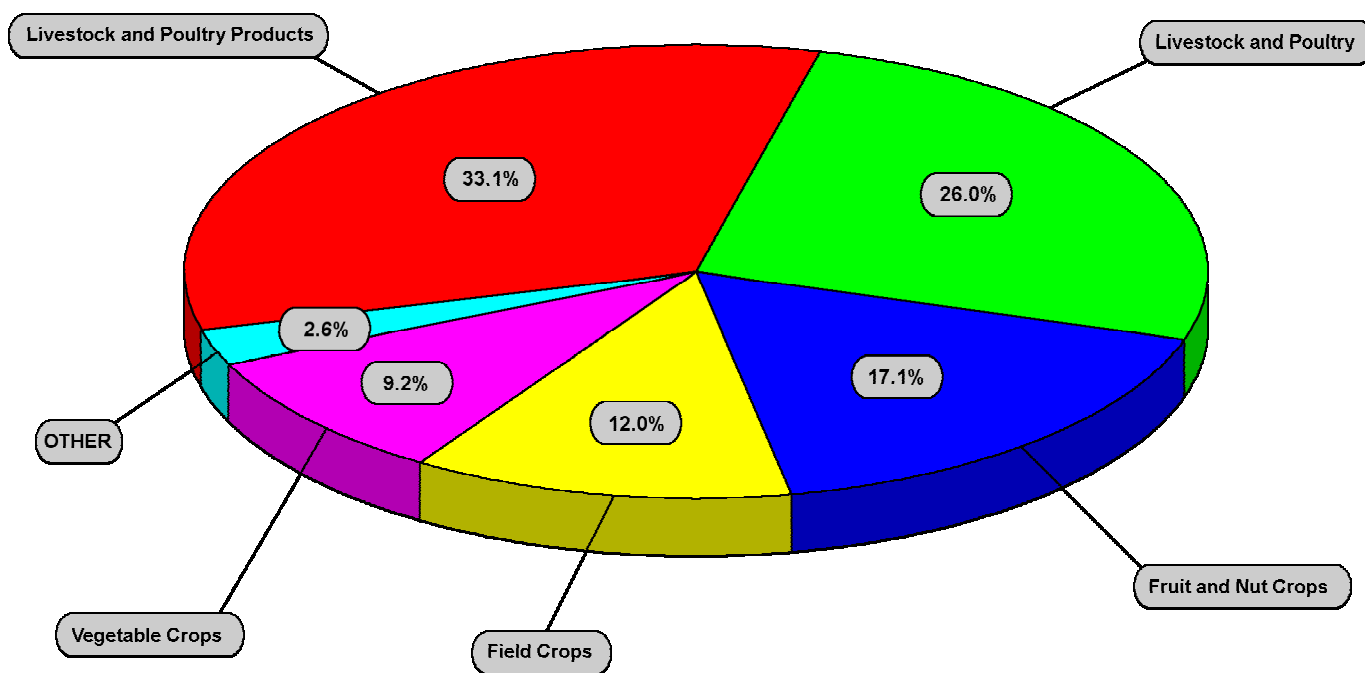
EXPORTS GO TO THESE COUNTRIES

Algeria	Estonia	Luxembourg	Singapore
Argentina	Finland	Malaysia	Slovakia
Armenia	France	Malta	Slovenia
Australia	Georgia	Mauritius	South Africa
Austria	Germany	Melilla	Spain
Azerbaijan	Greece	Mexico	Sweden
Bahrain	Guatemala	Monaco	Switzerland
Belarus	Honduras	Morocco	Syria
Belgium	Hong Kong	Nepal	Taiwan
Brazil	India	Netherlands	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Indonesia	New Zealand	Thailand
Canada	Israel	Norway	Trinidad & Tobago
Canary Islands	Italy	Oman	Tunisia
Chile	Japan	Pakistan	Turkey
China	Jordan	Philippines	Ukraine
Colombia	Kazakhstan	Poland	United Arab Emirates
Costa Rica	Korea, Republic of	Portugal	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Kuwait	Qatar	Uruguay
Czech Republic	Latvia	Romania	Uzbekistan
Denmark	Lebanon	Russian Federation	Vatican City State
Ecuador	Liechtenstein	San Marino	Venezuela
Egypt	Lithuania	Saudi Arabia	Vietnam
El Salvador			



COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	2005	1995	1985	1975
AQUACULTURE	\$2,327,000	\$1,148,000	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$14,704,000	\$6,063,000	\$3,682,000	\$1,086,000
FIELD CROPS	\$287,912,000	\$226,667,000	\$161,412,000	\$101,969,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$409,696,000	\$239,867,000	\$121,208,000	\$55,799,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION	\$620,723,000	\$202,435,000	\$193,934,000	\$42,381,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$790,438,000	\$391,424,000	\$247,574,000	\$103,548,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$33,329,000	\$14,093,000	\$7,239,000	\$5,023,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$7,962,000	\$8,811,000	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$3,319,000	\$837,000	\$2,876,000	\$2,972,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$219,957,000	\$131,084,000	\$74,493,000	\$47,704,000
TOTAL	\$2,390,367,000	\$1,222,428,000	\$812,418,000	\$360,481,000



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STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE