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California Department of Food and Agriculture

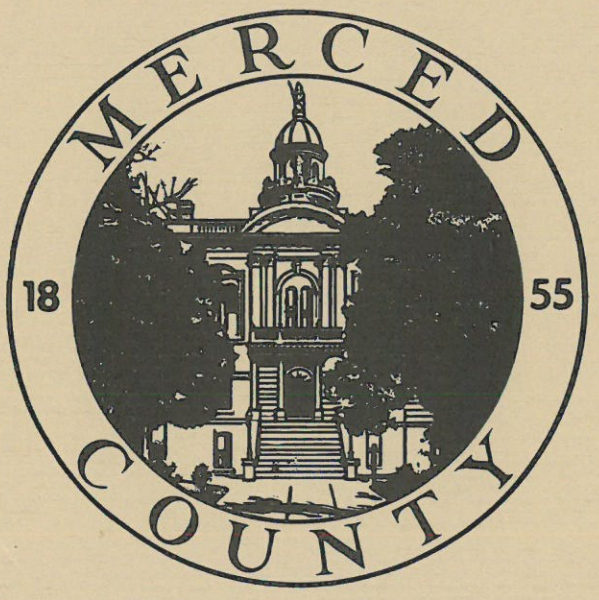
Agricultural Commissioners' Crop Reports

Merced County

1985-1989

ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1985

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MERCED, CALIFORNIA

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

HARRY A. KRUG
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Assistant Sealer
of Weights & Measures

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

Al Bardini, Chairman	Ann Klinger
Harvey Fonseca	Fred Wack
Albert E. Goman	

It is my pleasure to submit the 1985 Agricultural Crop Report as required by Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

After 1984's upsurge in gross agricultural value following three years of decline, Merced County's gross agricultural value has again dropped, coming in at $812,418,000. This is $27,609,000 less than the all time high for 1984. Even though yields increased for many commodities, prices were lower for most, contributing to a downturn in total gross value. Overall, weather conditions were good, but an unsettled spring, a summer hot spell in excess of 20 days over 100°F and early winter rains affected some 1985 crops.

I must emphasize that values shown in this report do not reflect net income to producers, but gross returns with no consideration given for the cost of production. It is well known that the farming sector, in general, continues in the throes of an economic crisis.

The brightest spot was the number one commodity, milk, bringing in $226,115,000, up $17,958,000. This was more than double the number two commodity, chickens, at $102,654,000, which increased $11,078,000. Cattle and calves valued at $61,505,000, moved up to third place, though declining in value by $6,198,000 due to significantly lower prices.

Other commodities showing the largest gains in value were market tomatoes at $22,866,000, due to increased acreage, but lower price; alfalfa hay at $43,489,000, as a result of more acreage and slightly higher price; and clingstone peaches at $14,099,000, due to increased acreage, production and value. Sheep and lambs were up $1,162,000, and bean seed $1,192,000.

Almonds, after posting the largest single increase in total income in 1984, had the greatest income loss, dropping to $58,752,000, down $20,624,000 due to lower price and production.

Cotton, after rebounding from the PIK Program, fell $6,670,000 to $40,230,000 due to fewer acres and lower price, despite higher yields. Cotton seed dropped by $3,347,000 as it's worth was 40% less. Wine grapes valued at $13,873,000, lost $4,818,000 mainly due to 2,785 abandoned acres. Sugar beets declined to $10,339,000, because acreage was 1/3 less, however, production was up.

Other significant losses were in sweet potatoes at $19,834,000, down $2,969,000; apricots at $463,000, losing $2,251,000, due to lack of market and price; dry figs at $1,184,000, down $2,018,000, as the result of a large drop in yield and price; nursery production at $7,239,000, a decline of $1,800,000; and cantaloupe melons at $12,684,000, losing $1,519,000, due to lower price.

I want to thank the various individuals, companies and governmental agencies, who gave their time in providing the information necessary to make this report possible. Special recognition goes to my staff, who have diligently collected information for this report, especially, Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist and Standards Inspector, who was responsible for compilation of this data.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner

Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

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FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1985-1984

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BARLEY	1985	9,450	1.69	16,000	Ton	$112.00	$ 1,792,000
	1984	9,330	1.70	15,900	Ton	120.00	1,908,000
BEANS	1985	4,590	1.30	5,970	Ton	468.00	2,794,000
(Dry Lima)	1984	3,830	0.96	3,680	Ton	690.00	2,539,000
BEANS	1985	5,210	0.65	3,390	Ton	380.00	1,288,000
(Dry Other)	1984	6,420	0.88	5,650	Ton	480.00	2,712,000
CORN	1985	14,900	3.87	57,700	Ton	113.00	6,520,000
(Grain)	1984	20,300	3.16	64,100	Ton	123.00	7,884,000
COTTON	1985	64,100	1160 lbs.	149,000	500 lb. bale	270.00	40,230,000
(Lint)	1984	67,400	1040 lbs.	140,000	500 lb. bale	335.00	46,900,000
COTTON	1985	----	----	60,700	Ton	87.00	5,281,000
(Seed)	1984	----	----	59,500	Ton	145.00	8,628,000
HAY	1985	62,900	6.85	431,000	Ton	96.60	41,635,000
(Alfalfa)	1984	59,700	6.90	412,000	Ton	95.00	39,140,000
HAY	1985	2,680	6.72	18,000	Ton	103.00	1,854,000
(Alfalfa-Cube)	1984	3,890	6.50	25,300	Ton	107.00	2,707,000
HAY	1985	12,100	3.37	40,800	Ton	70.00	2,856,000
(Grain)	1984	17,200	3.52	60,500	Ton	55.00	3,328,000
HAY	1985	245	2.63	644	Ton	45.00	29,000
(Sudan)	1984	1,520	4.25	6,460	Ton	65.00	420,000
OATS	1985	680	1.30	880	Ton	110.00	97,000
(Grain)	1984	530	1.40	740	Ton	125.00	93,000
PASTURE	1985	83,000	----	----	Acre	120.00	9,960,000
(Irrigated)	1984	83,000	----	----	Acre	115.00	9,545,000
PASTURE	1985	558,000	----	----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
(Other)	1984	558,000	----	----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
RICE	1985	10,500	3.90	41,000	Ton	150.00	6,150,000
	1984	11,600	3.72	43,200	Ton	133.00	5,746,000
SAFFLOWER	1985	1,960	0.90	1,760	Ton	253.00	445,000
	1984	2,630	1.12	2,950	Ton	240.00	708,000
SILAGE	1985	35,100	23.73	833,000	Ton	16.10	13,411,000
(Corn)	1984	36,700	22.00	807,000	Ton	17.00	13,719,000

FIELD CROPS (Continued)
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1985-1984

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
[1] SILAGE	1985	17,700	12.10	214,000	Ton	$ 15.65	$ 3,349,000
(Other)	1984	24,400	12.90	315,000	Ton	15.62	4,920,000
SORGHUM	1985	568	1.77	1,010	Ton	100.00	101,000
(Grain)	1984	1,260	2.25	2,840	Ton	105.00	298,000
STRAW	1985	----	----	1,600	Ton	35.00	56,000
	1984	----	----	1,500	Ton	35.00	53,000
[2] STUBBLE	1985	13,500	----	----	Acre	7.50	101,000
(Pasture)	1984	9,600	----	----	Acre	7.50	72,000
SUGAR BEETS	1985	10,500	26.76	281,000	Ton	36.79	10,339,000
	1984	15,900	23.90	380,000	Ton	36.99	14,056,000
WHEAT	1985	20,300	2.73	55,400	Ton	111.00	6,149,000
	1984	20,500	2.35	48,200	Ton	122.00	5,880,000
TOTAL	1985	914,483					$161,412,000
	1984	944,110					178,231,000

[1] Includes Alfalfa, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

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

SEED CROPS

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1985-1984

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS	1985	----	----	----	Lb.	----	----
	1984	120	1,783	214,000	Lb.	$0.260	$ 55,600
[1] SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1985	540	----	----	----	----	527,000
	1984	858	----	----	----	----	675,000
TOTAL	1985	540					$527,000
	1984	978					731,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1985	2,610	2,177	5,683,000	Lb.	$0.317	$1,802,000
	1984	926	2,125	1,968,000	Lb.	0.310	610,000
[2] SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1985	1,068	----	----	----	----	547,000
	1984	545	----	----	----	----	132,000
TOTAL	1985	3,678					$2,349,000
	1984	1,471					742,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1985	4,218	$2,876,000
	1984	2,449	1,473,000

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

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

VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1985-1984

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA (Freezer)	1985	4,070	1.68	6,840	Ton	$385.00	$ 2,633,000
	1984	5,360	1.47	7,880	Ton	370.00	2,916,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1985	9,340	194	1,812,000	90 lb. crates	7.00	12,684,000
	1984	8,080	187	1,511,000	90 lb. crates	9.40	14,203,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1985	1,660	17.00	28,200	Ton	60.00	1,692,000
	1984	1,480	18.18	26,900	Ton	70.00	1,883,000
MELONS (Other)	1985	710	9.06	6,430	Ton	171.00	1,099,000
	1984	579	8.76	5,070	Ton	210.00	1,065,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1985	775	1.75	1,360	Ton	242.00	329,000
	1984	765	1.20	918	Ton	250.00	230,000
PEPPERS BELL (Market)	1985	930	6.15	5,720	Ton	378.00	2,162,000
	1984	1,520	4.92	7,480	Ton	405.00	3,029,000
[1] PEPPERS (Processing)	1985	----	----	1,140	Ton	127.00	145,000
	1984	----	----	1,450	Ton	157.00	228,000
SWEET POTATOES	1985	4,970	9.28	46,100	Ton	426.00	19,639,000
	1984	5,080	9.34	47,500	Ton	475.00	22,563,000
SWEET POTATOES (Cannery)	1985	100	15.00	1,500	Ton	130.00	195,000
	1984	110	14.50	1,600	Ton	150.00	240,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1985	5,260	----	4,744,000	25 lb. ctns.	4.82	22,866,000
	1984	4,010	----	3,521,000	25 lb. ctns.	5.26	18,520,000
PROCESSING (From Market Acreage)	1985	----	----	400	Ton	49.50	19,800
	1984	----	----	6,820	Ton	54.00	368,000
PROCESSING (Canning Varieties)	1985	5,220	33.10	173,000	Ton	53.00	9,169,000
	1984	6,160	28.90	178,000	Ton	54.00	9,612,000
TOTAL TOMATOES	1985	10,480		233,000	Ton		32,055,000
	1984	10,170		229,000	Ton		28,500,000
[2] VEGETABLES (Miscellaenous)	1985	1,919					1,860,000
	1984	1,748					3,095,000
TOTAL	1985	34,954					$74,493,000
	1984	34,892					77,952,000

[1] From Market Acreage and processing varieties.

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

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1985-1984

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
ALMONDS	1985	61,654	0.70	43,200	Ton	$1,360.00	$ 58,752,000
(Kernel Basis)	1984	58,254	0.83	48,400	Ton	1,640.00	79,376,000
ALMONDS	1985	----	----	86,800	Ton	43.70	3,793,000
(Hull & Shells)	1984	----	----	86,200	Ton	48.00	4,138,000
APRICOTS	1985	535	6.32	3,380	Ton	137.00	463,000
	1984	1,483	7.01	10,400	Ton	261.00	2,714,000
FIGS	1985	100	7.10	710	Ton	250.00	178,000
(Cannery)	1984	190	6.00	1,140	Ton	250.00	285,000
*FIGS	1985	1,320	1.15	1,680	Ton	705.00	1,184,000
(Dry)	1984	1,330	2.00	3,100	Ton	1,033.00	3,202,000
GRAPES	1985	1,440	2.10	3,020	Ton	550.00	1,661,000
(Raisin)	1984	1,100	1.91	2,100	Ton	580.00	1,218,000
GRAPES	1985	935	8.47	7,920	Ton	75.00	594,000
(Raisin to Wine)	1984	2,097	8.10	17,000	Ton	76.00	1,292,000
GRAPES	1985	11,868	8.35	99,100	Ton	134.00	13,279,000
(Wine)	1984	15,133	9.05	137,000	Ton	127.00	17,399,000
KIWIS	1985	43	5.77	248	Ton	1,855.00	460,000
	1984	43	2.35	101	Ton	1,400.00	141,000
NECTARINES	1985	192	6.68	1,280	Ton	567.00	726,000
	1984	214	8.00	1,710	Ton	500.00	855,000
OLIVES	1985	----	----	----	Ton	----	----
	1984	45	2.88	130	Ton	365.00	47,000
PEACHES	1985	3,617	20.00	72,300	Ton	195.00	14,099,000
(Clingstone)	1984	3,381	19.50	65,900	Ton	190.00	12,521,000
PEACHES	1985	849	15.14	12,900	Ton	145.00	1,871,000
(Freestone)	1984	1,203	20.30	24,400	Ton	135.00	3,294,000
Misc. Frozen Fruit	1985	----	----	14,000	Ton	169.00	2,365,000
(Apricots, Grapes, Peaches)	1984	----	----	14,700	Ton	162.00	2,381,000
PISTACHIOS	1985	1,244	0.43	535	Ton	3,500.00	1,873,000
	1984	1,173	0.70	821	Ton	2,400.00	1,970,000
PLUMS	1985	151	3.30	498	Ton	671.00	334,000
	1984	145	3.58	519	Ton	428.00	222,000
PRUNES	1985	1,482	2.14	3,170	Ton	600.00	1,902,000
	1984	1,446	2.36	3,410	Ton	630.00	2,148,000
WALNUTS	1985	7,629	1.38	10,500	Ton	760.00	7,980,000
(English)	1984	7,428	1.35	10,000	Ton	702.00	7,020,000
[1]Miscellaneous	1985	2,722					9,694,000
	1984	2,191					11,931,000
TOTAL	1985	95,781					$121,208,000
	1984	94,856					152,154,000

[1] Includes Apples, Berries, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Pecans, Persimmons and Table Grapes.

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

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTINGS 1985-1980

CROPS	YEAR 1985 BEARING	YEAR 1985 NON-BEARING	YEAR 1980 BEARING	YEAR 1980 NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	61,654	4,595	44,673	11,919
APPLES	1,388	990	1,504	318
APRICOTS	1,540	247	1,507	5
CHERRIES	104	41	50	67
FIGS (Cannery)	100	----	356	----
FIGS (Dry)	1,420	2,354	972	299
GRAPES (Raisin)	3,062	9	2,806	296
GRAPES (Table)	103	30	98	77
GRAPES (Wine)	14,653	512	11,633	2,208
KIWI	43	----	48	31
NECTARINES	203	34	152	57
OLIVES	96	----	112	----
ORANGES	51	10	51	----
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,748	291	5,212	207
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,776	199	2,144	261
PEARS	15	6	1	91
PECANS	66	20	25	49
PERSIMMONS	19	----	13	----
PISTACHIOS	1,244	3,218	1,323	499
PLUMS	151	147	84	41
PRUNES	1,482	240	1,232	321
WALNUTS (Black)	53	18	69	----
WALNUTS (English)	7,629	1,006	6,947	1,071
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	38	34	115	26
TOTAL	100,638	14,001	81,127	17,843

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1985-1984

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN	1985	34,667,000	Doz.	$ 0.490	$ 16,985,000
(Market)	1984	31,538,000	Doz.	0.554	17,459,000
EGGS-TURKEY	1985	7,505,000	Each	0.50	3,753,000
(Hatching)	1984	5,658,000	Each	0.46	2,606,000
MILK	1985	12,300	Cwt.	21.46	264,000
(Goat)	1984	15,500	Cwt.	21.42	332,000
MILK	1985	16,644,000	Cwt.	12.17	202,557,000
(Market)	1984	14,716,000	Cwt.	12.84	188,953,000
MILK	1985	2,130,000	Cwt.	11.06	23,558,000
(Manufacturing)	1984	1,595,000	Cwt.	12.04	19,204,000
WOOL	1985	544,000	Lb.	0.84	457,000
	1984	541,000	Lb.	0.80	433,000
TOTAL	1985				$247,574,000
	1984				228,987,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1985-1984

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEESWAX	1985	10,300	Lb.	$ 1.08	$ 11,100
	1984	10,800	Lb.	1.10	11,900
BULK BEES	1985	16,200	Lb.	4.00	64,800
	1984	12,600	Lb.	4.21	53,000
[1] HONEY	1985	755,000	Lb.	0.51	385,000
	1984	1,082,000	Lb.	0.51	552,000
[2] NUCLEI	1985	1,500	Each	25.00	37,500
	1984	810	Each	18.00	14,600
[3] POLLINATION	1985	141,700	Colony	21.72	3,078,000
	1984	131,700	Colony	20.71	2,728,000
QUEENS	1985	18,900	Each	5.61	106,000
	1984	9,600	Each	5.16	49,500
TOTAL	1985				$3,682,000
	1984				3,409,000

[1] Honey produced by 27,600 colonies in 1985 and 32,800 colonies in 1984 owned by resident beekeepers.

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

[3] Pollination colonies include all colonies required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1985-1984

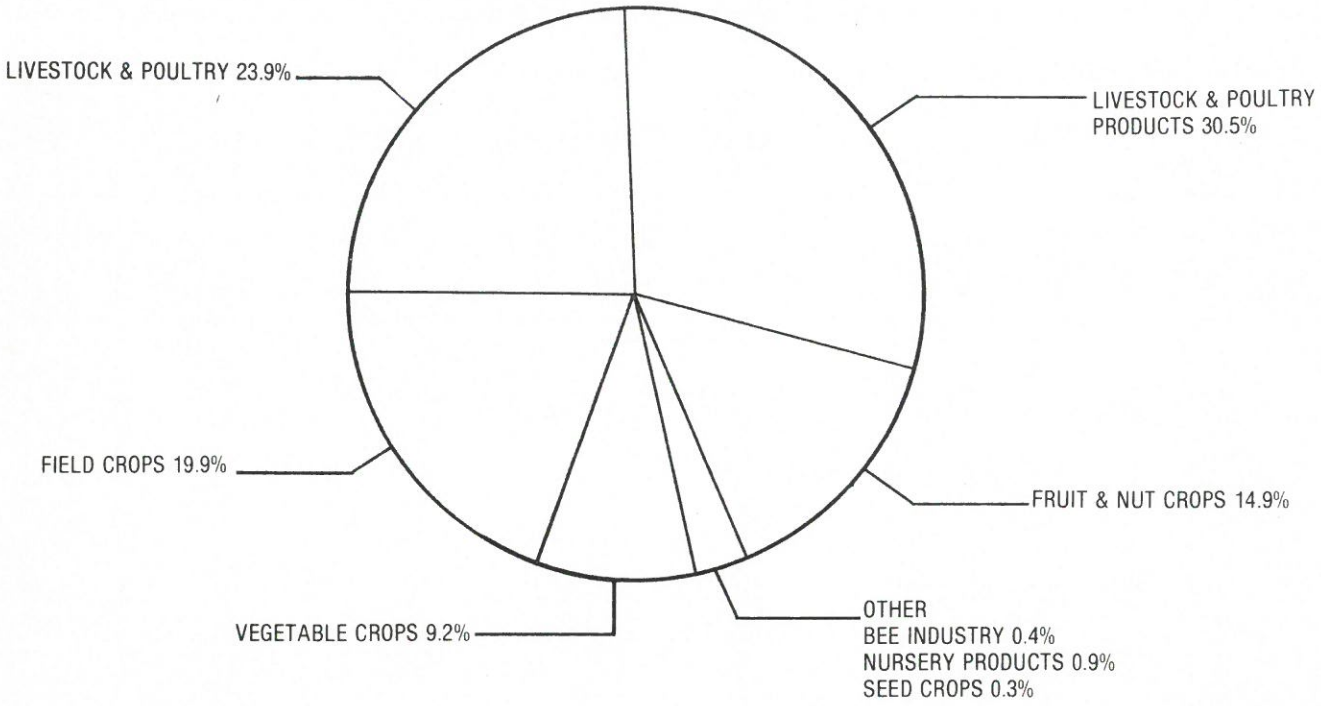
ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES	1985	154,000	1,251,000	Cwt.	$49.17	$61,505,000
	1984	147,000	1,235,000	Cwt.	54.82	67,703,000
FRYERS AND BROILERS	1985	63,668,000	297,481,000	Lb.	0.337	100,251,000
	1984	54,833,000	261,427,000	Lb.	0.343	89,559,000
OTHER CHICKENS	1985	2,675,000	7,152,000	Lb.	0.336	2,403,000
	1984	3,238,000	7,857,000	Lb.	0.257	2,017,000
GOATS	1985	650	----	Each	36.00	23,400
	1984	650	----	Each	30.00	19,500
HOGS AND PIGS	1985	52,200	111,600	Cwt.	47.70	5,323,000
	1984	45,800	92,100	Cwt.	55.95	5,153,000
HORSES	1985	1,150	----	Each	700.00	805,000
	1984	1,050	----	Each	675.00	709,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1985	60,000	69,500	Cwt.	61.42	4,269,000
	1984	55,100	58,700	Cwt.	52.93	3,107,000
TURKEYS	1985	2,072,000	40,556,000	Lb.	0.477	19,355,000
	1984	2,359,000	45,412,000	Lb.	0.452	20,514,000
TOTAL	1985					$193,934,000
	1984					188,782,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACREAGE, SALES AND VALUE 1985-1984

[1] **TOTAL**	1985	461		$7,239,000
	1984	425		9,039,000

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

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART FOR COMMODITIES



*GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

BARLEY	$ 31,000	HONEY	$ 31,000	SURGHUM	$ 12,000
CORN	33,000	RICE	1,628,000	WHEAT	975,000
COTTON	1,272,000			WOOL	623,000

**CROPS NOT HARVESTED IN 1985

APRICOTS	953 Acres	FIGS	100 Acres	GRAPES, WINE	2,785 Acres
BARLEY	260 Acres	GRAPES, RAISIN	597 Acres	NURSERY	31 Acres
CANTALOUPES	550 Acres			OLIVES	96 Acres

*Amount not included in total value of each crop for 1985 (Source: ASCS office).

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

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON SUMMARY 1985-1960

COMMODITIES	1985	1984	1980	1975	1970	1965	1960
Bee Industry	$ 3,682,000	$ 3,409,000	$ 2,923,000	$ 1,085,000	$ 370,000	$ 322,700	$ 151,400
Field Crops	161,412,000	178,231,000	191,239,000	101,968,000	45,783,000	40,884,300	38,048,800
Fruit and Nuts	121,208,000	152,154,000	152,584,000	55,799,000	29,752,000	18,054,600	14,282,600
Livestock & Poultry	193,934,000	188,782,000	191,226,000	42,381,000	56,362,000	34,600,000	22,162,600
Livestock & Poultry Products	247,574,000	228,987,000	171,548,000	103,548,000	40,672,000	26,444,800	24,934,200
Nursery Products	7,239,000	9,039,000	15,734,000	5,023,000	2,382,000	2,684,000	3,609,000
Seed Crops	2,876,000	1,473,000	3,012,000	2,972,000	469,300	1,533,500	1,175,300
Vegetable Crops	74,493,000	77,952,000	65,831,000	47,704,000	16,707,700	14,184,900	9,431,400
TOTAL	$812,418,000	$840,027,000	$794,097,000	$404,956,000	$191,860,300	$138,708,800	$113,835,300

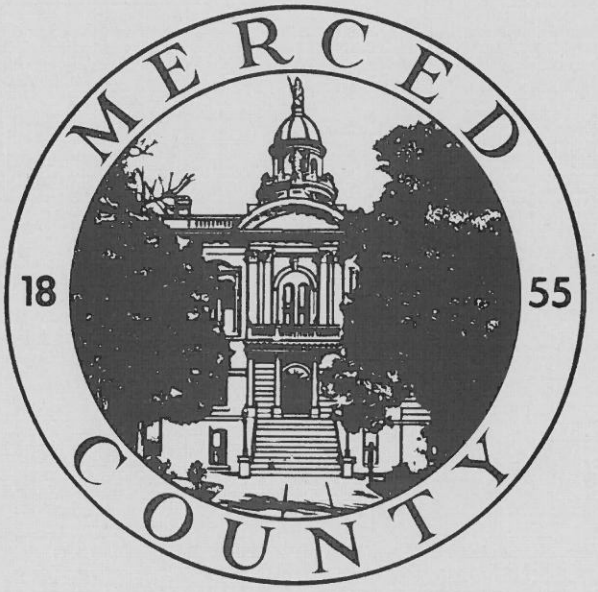
TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1985

MILK	$226,115,000 (1)	TOMATOES	$32,055,000 (7)
CHICKENS	102,654,000 (2)	CORN	19,931,000 (9)
CATTLE	61,505,000 (4)	SWEET POTATOES	19,834,000 (8)
ALMONDS	58,752,000 (3)	TURKEYS	19,355,000 (10)
ALFALFA	43,489,000 (6)	EGGS	16,985,000 (12)
COTTON	40,230,000 (5)	GRAPES	15,534,000 (11)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1984 RANKING

ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1986

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MERCED, CALIFORNIA

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 WEST WARDROBE AVENUE
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 385-7431
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340-6495

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

HARRY A. KRUG
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Assistant Sealer
of Weights & Measures

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

Ann Klinger, Chairman	Albert E. Goman
Michael Bogna	Anthony Whitehurst
Wyatt "Dub" Davenport	

I am pleased to submit the 1986 Agricultural Crop Report in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

County agriculture is showing signs of a rebound and has reached a new agricultural Gross Value high of $849,581,000. This is $28,463,000, a 3.46% increase over the adjusted 1985 Gross Value of $821,118,000 which placed Merced County sixth among the 58 Counties in California.

Factors having an adverse bearing on this year's agricultural report include the Dairy Herd Termination and other Government Production Control Programs, Raisin Grape Diversion Program, farm bankruptcies and foreclosures. The spring weather conditions caused poor pollination and crop set of fruit and nut crops in general. However, spring and summer temperatures were good with excellent fall harvesting weather and no significant rain for the remainder of the year.

The brightest spots were in fruit and nut crops, up $21,344,000, livestock and poultry, up $15,854,000 and vegetable crops, up $7,613,000. The largest gain posted was in miscellaneous fruit and nut crops, up $12,389,000, due to production and value increases in mainly apples, fresh peaches and table grapes. Chickens, the number two commodity increased $10,386,000 to $113,040,000. Almonds maintained its third place standing at $71,400,000 even though production was disasterous, down 61.5% but price was up 63%.

Commodities showing significant increases in value were cantaloupe melons at $21,815,000, up $9,131,000 due to increased acreage and price and sweet potatoes at $27,965,000, up $8,326,000 due to higher production and price. Sugar beets were up $4,353,000, chicken eggs $4,322,000, pistachios $4,187,000, cattle and calves $3,698,000, dry figs $2,691,000, other melons $2,559,000 and walnuts $2,014,000.

Milk, after several years of steady gains and the number one commodity at $214,005,000, had the greatest income loss, dropping $12,110,000 triggered by the Dairy Herd Termination Program and lower prices. Market tomatoes plunged $8,894,000 to $13,972,000 as a result of 37% fewer acres and a slight price reduction. Clingstone peaches dropped $5,766,000 to $8,333,000 due to less acreage and significantly lower yield and price.

Other commodities showing large losses were wheat at $2,939,000, down $3,210,000 due to 35% less acres and lower price and cotton at $37,298,000, down $2,932,000 as the result of lower acreage and yield, even though the price was up. Silage corn was down $2,239,000 and rice $2,042,000.

I must emphasize that values shown in this report do not reflect net income to producers, but gross returns with no consideration given for the cost of production.

I wish to thank those individuals, businesses and governmental agencies, who gave their time in providing the valuable information necessary to complete this report. Special recognition goes to my staff, who diligently collected information for this report, especially, Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Inspector, who was responsible for compilation of this data.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner

Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

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FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1986-1985

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BARLEY	1986	9,430	1.83	17,300	Ton	$ 92.00	$ 1,592,000
	1985	9,450	1.69	16,000	Ton	112.00	1,792,000
BEANS	1986	1,910	1.10	2,100	Ton	420.00	882,000
(Dry Lima)	1985	4,590	1.30	5,970	Ton	468.00	2,794,000
BEANS	1986	3,160	0.97	3,070	Ton	572.00	1,756,000
(Dry Other)	1985	5,210	0.65	3,390	Ton	380.00	1,288,000
CORN	1986	13,500	4.46	60,200	Ton	100.00	6,020,000
(Grain)	1985	14,900	3.87	57,700	Ton	113.00	6,520,000
COTTON	1986	53,500	1,025 lbs.	109,700	500 lb. bale	340.00	37,298,000
(Lint)	1985	64,100	1,160 lbs.	149,000	500 lb. bale	270.00	40,230,000
COTTON	1986	-----	-----	47,700	Ton	105.00	5,009,000
(Seed)	1985	-----	-----	60,700	Ton	87.00	5,281,000
HAY	1986	59,200	6.94	411,000	Ton	90.00	36,990,000
(Alfalfa)	1985	62,900	6.85	431,000	Ton	96.60	41,635,000
HAY	1986	7,660	7.05	54,000	Ton	114.00	6,156,000
(Alfalfa-Cube)	1985	2,680	6.72	18,000	Ton	103.00	1,854,000
HAY	1986	11,900	3.52	41,900	Ton	46.40	1,944,000
(Grain)	1985	12,100	3.37	40,800	Ton	70.00	2,856,000
HAY	1986	260	2.30	598	Ton	43.00	26,000
(Sudan)	1985	245	2.63	644	Ton	45.00	29,000
OATS	1986	2,230	1.70	3,790	Ton	94.00	356,000
(Grain)	1985	680	1.30	880	Ton	110.00	97,000
PASTURE	1986	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	120.00	9,960,000
(Irrigated)	1985	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	120.00	9,960,000
PASTURE	1986	558,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
(Other)	1985	558,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
RICE	1986	8,380	3.77	31,600	Ton	130.00	4,108,000
	1985	10,500	3.90	41,000	Ton	150.00	6,150,000
SAFFLOWER	1986	402	1.66	667	Ton	280.00	187,000
	1985	1,960	0.90	1,760	Ton	253.00	445,000
SILAGE	1986	31,300	23.48	735,000	Ton	15.20	11,172,000
(Corn)	1985	35,100	23.73	833,000	Ton	16.10	13,411,000

FIELD CROPS (Continued)
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1986-1985

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
[1] SILAGE	1986	24,800	11.33	281,000	Ton	$ 14.84	$ 4,170,000
(Other)	1985	17,700	12.10	214,000	Ton	15.65	3,349,000
SORGHUM	1986	285	2.40	684	Ton	98.00	67,000
(Grain)	1985	568	1.77	1,010	Ton	100.00	101,000
STRAW	1986	-----	-----	1,200	Ton	35.00	42,000
	1985	-----	-----	1,600	Ton	35.00	56,000
[2] STUBBLE	1986	14,500	-----	-----	Acre	5.65	82,000
(Pasture)	1985	13,500	-----	-----	Acre	7.50	101,000
SUGAR BEETS	1986	14,100	28.09	396,000	Ton	37.10	14,692,000
	1985	10,500	26.76	281,000	Ton	36.79	10,339,000
WHEAT	1986	13,100	2.31	30,300	Ton	97.00	2,939,000
	1985	20,300	2.73	55,400	Ton	111.00	6,149,000
TOTAL	1986	896,117					$152,423,000
	1985	914,483					161,412,000

[1] Includes Alfalfa, Earlage, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

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

SEED CROPS

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1986-1985

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
[1] SEED CROPS	1986	852	-----	-----	-----	-----	$ 392,000
(Miscellaneous)	1985	540	-----	-----	-----	-----	527,000
TOTAL	1986	852	-----				$ 392,000
	1985	540					527,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1986	3,136	2,450	7,683,000	Lb.	$0.280	$2,151,000
	1985	2,610	2,177	5,683,000	Lb.	0.317	1,802,000
[2] SEED CROPS	1986	211	-----	-----	-----	-----	69,000
(Miscellaneous)	1985	1,068	-----	-----	-----	-----	547,000
TOTAL	1986	3,347					$2,220,000
	1985	3,678					2,349,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1986	4,199					$2,612,000
	1985	4,218					2,876,000

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

[2] Includes common seed from Barley, Cabbage, Carrot, Cucumber, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Melons, Oats, Onions, Pepper, Rye, Squash, Sudan, and Wheat.

VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1986-1985

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA (Freezer)	1986	1,750	1.55	2,730	Ton	$433.00	$ 1,182,000
	1985	4,070	1.68	6,840	Ton	385.00	2,633,000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1986	11,300	197	2,226,000	90 Lb. crates	9.80	21,815,000
	1985	9,340	194	1,812,000	90 Lb. crates	7.00	12,684,000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1986	1,340	17.24	23,100	Ton	89.50	2,068,000
	1985	1,660	17.00	28,200	Ton	60.00	1,692,000
MELONS (Other)	1986	1,680	7.95	13,400	Ton	273.00	3,658,000
	1985	710	9.06	6,430	Ton	171.00	1,099,000
PEAS (Freezer)	1986	742	0.85	630	Ton	240.00	151,000
	1985	775	1.75	1,360	Ton	242.00	329,000
PEPPERS BELL (Market)	1986	251	9.92	2,490	Ton	414.00	1,031,000
	1985	930	6.15	5,720	Ton	378.00	2,162,000
[1] PEPPERS (Processing)	1986	-----	-----	563	Ton	64.00	36,000
	1985	-----	-----	1,140	Ton	127.00	145,000
SWEET POTATOES	1986	4,700	10.00	47,000	Ton	595.00	27,965,000
	1985	4,970	9.28	46,100	Ton	426.00	19,639,000
SWEET POTATOES (Cannery)	1986	-----	-----	-----	Ton	-----	-----
	1985	100	15.00	1,500	Ton	130.00	195,000
TOMATOES (Market)	1986	3,310	-----	2,923,000	25 Lb. ctns.	4.78	13,972,000
	1985	5,260	-----	4,744,000	25 Lb. ctns.	4.82	22,866,000
[2] TOMATOES (Processing)	1986	-----	-----	-----	Ton	-----	-----
	1985	-----	-----	400	Ton	49.50	19,800
TOMATOES (Processing)	1986	5,860	31.91	187,000	Ton	51.00	9,537,000
	1985	5,220	33.10	173,000	Ton	53.00	9,169,000
TOMATOES (All)	1986	9,170		224,000	Ton		23,509,000
	1985	10,480		233,000	Ton		32,055,000
[3] VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous)	1986	541					691,000
	1985	1,919					1,860,000
TOTAL	1986	31,474					$82,106,000
	1985	34,954					74,493,000

[1] From Market Acreage and Processing Varieties.

[2] From Market Acreage.

[3] Includes Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Garlic Onions, Processed Melons, Pumpkin, Spinach and Sweet Corn.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1986-1985

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
ALMONDS (Kernel Basis)	1986	62,895	.27	17,000	Ton	$4,200.00	$ 71,400,000
	*1985	61,654	0.70	43,200	Ton	1,560.00	67,392,000
ALMONDS (Hull & Shells)	1986	-----	-----	47,600	Ton	40.21	1,914,000
	1985	-----	-----	86,800	Ton	43.70	3,793,000
APRICOTS	1986	1,354	2.95	4,000	Ton	391.00	1,564,000
	1985	535	6.32	3,380	Ton	137.00	463,000
FIGS (Cannery)	1986	218	3.65	797	Ton	285.00	227,000
	1985	100	7.10	710	Ton	250.00	178,000
FIGS (Dry)	1986	3,573	1.08	3,860	Ton	1,004.00	3,875,000
	1985	1,320	1.15	1,680	Ton	705.00	1,184,000
GRAPES (Raisin)	1986	723	1.70	1,230	Ton	758.00	932,000
	1985	1,440	2.10	3,020	Ton	550.00	1,661,000
GRAPES (Raisin to Wine)	1986	1,386	7.65	10,600	Ton	100.00	1,060,000
	1985	935	8.47	7,920	Ton	75.00	594,000
GRAPES (Wine)	1986	12,054	8.63	104,000	Ton	140.00	14,560,000
	1985	11,868	8.35	99,100	Ton	134.00	13,279,000
KIWIS	1986	43	7.54	322	Ton	2,000.00	644,000
	1985	43	5.77	248	Ton	1,855.00	460,000
NECTARINES	1986	196	7.81	1,530	Ton	607.00	929,000
	1985	192	6.68	1,280	Ton	567.00	726,000
OLIVES	1986	55	2.90	160	Ton	561.00	90,000
	*1985	50	2.74	137	Ton	440.00	60,000
PEACHES (Clingstone)	1986	3,484	14.33	49,900	Ton	167.00	8,333,000
	1985	3,617	20.00	72,300	Ton	195.00	14,099,000
PEACHES (Freestone)	1986	884	16.00	14,100	Ton	140.00	1,974,000
	1985	849	15.14	12,900	Ton	145.00	1,871,000
Misc. Frozen Fruit (Apricots, Grapes,	1986	-----	-----	17,000	Ton	158.00	2,686,000
	1985	-----	-----	14,000	Ton	169.00	2,365,000
PISTACHIOS	1986	3,259	0.62	2,020	Ton	3,000.00	6,060,000
	1985	1,244	0.43	535	Ton	3,500.00	1,873,000
PLUMS	1986	188	2.30	432	Ton	959.00	414,000
	1985	151	3.30	498	Ton	671.00	334,000
PRUNES	1986	1,543	2.39	3,690	Ton	681.00	2,513,000
	1985	1,482	2.14	3,170	Ton	600.00	1,902,000
WALNUTS (English)	1986	8,009	1.20	9,610	Ton	1,040.00	9,994,000
	1985	7,629	1.38	10,500	Ton	760.00	7,980,000
[1] Miscellaneous	1986	2,680					22,083,000
	1985	2,722					9,694,000
TOTAL	1986	102,544					$151,252,000
	*1985	95,831					129,908,000

[1] Includes Apples, Berries, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Fresh Peaches, Pecans, Persimmons and Table Grapes.

* Revised

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTINGS 1986-1981

CROPS	YEAR 1986 BEARING	YEAR 1986 NON-BEARING	YEAR 1981 BEARING	YEAR 1981 NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	64,225	2,331	45,741	14,702
APPLES	1,520	858	1,822	-----
APRICOTS	1,562	225	1,407	78
CHERRIES	104	41	50	101
FIGS (Cannery)	218	-----	201	-----
FIGS (Dry)	3,573	101	1,020	-----
GRAPES (Raisin)	2,579	24	2,960	125
GRAPES (Table)	114	29	168	-----
GRAPES (Wine)	14,402	411	11,606	2,262
KIWIS	43	-----	32	11
NECTARINES	208	14	234	58
OLIVES	96	-----	92	-----
ORANGES	51	10	51	-----
PEACHES (Clinsgtone)	3,763	239	4,150	472
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,787	255	1,836	419
PEARS	15	6	39	53
PECANS	86	-----	36	49
PERSIMMONS	19	-----	13	-----
PISTACHIOS	3,259	1,064	1,363	459
PLUMS	188	117	121	39
PRUNES	1,543	179	1,338	214
WALNUTS (Black)	53	18	69	-----
WALNUTS (English)	8,009	719	7,183	1,180
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	47	18	107	26
TOTAL	107,464	6,659	81,640	20,681

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1986-1985

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN (Market)	1986	42,614,000	Doz.	$ 0.50	$ 21,307,000
	1985	34,667,000	Doz.	0.49	16,985,000
EGGS-TURKEY (Hatching)	1986	7,528,000	Each	0.50	3,764,000
	1985	7,505,000	Each	0.50	3,753,000
MILK (Goat)	1986	12,700	Cwt.	21.46	272,000
	1985	12,300	Cwt.	21.46	264,000
MILK (Market)	1986	17,131,000	Cwt.	11.72	200,775,000
	1985	16,644,000	Cwt.	12.17	202,557,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1986	1,225,000	Cwt.	10.80	13,230,000
	1985	2,130,000	Cwt.	11.06	23,558,000
WOOL	1986	524,000	Lb.	0.87	456,000
	1985	544,000	Lb.	0.84	457,000
TOTAL	1986				$239,804,000
	1985				247,574,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1986-1985

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEESWAX	1986	22,800	Lb.	$ 0.72	$ 16,400
	1985	10,300	Lb.	1.08	11,100
BULK BEES	1986	6,200	Lb.	4.00	24,800
	1985	16,200	Lb.	4.00	64,800
[1] HONEY	1986	1,371,000	Lb.	0.45	617,000
	1985	755,000	Lb.	0.51	385,000
[2] NUCLEI	1986	500	Each	25.00	12,500
	1985	1,500	Each	25.00	37,500
[3] POLLINATION	1986	131,700	Colony	20.77	2,735,000
	1985	141,700	Colony	21.72	3,078,000
QUEENS	1986	11,000	Each	5.27	58,000
	1985	18,900	Each	5.61	106,000
TOTAL	1986				$3,464,000
	1985				3,682,000

[1] Honey produced by 38,000 colonies in 1986 and 27,600 colonies in 1985 owned by resident beekeepers.

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

[3] Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1986-1985

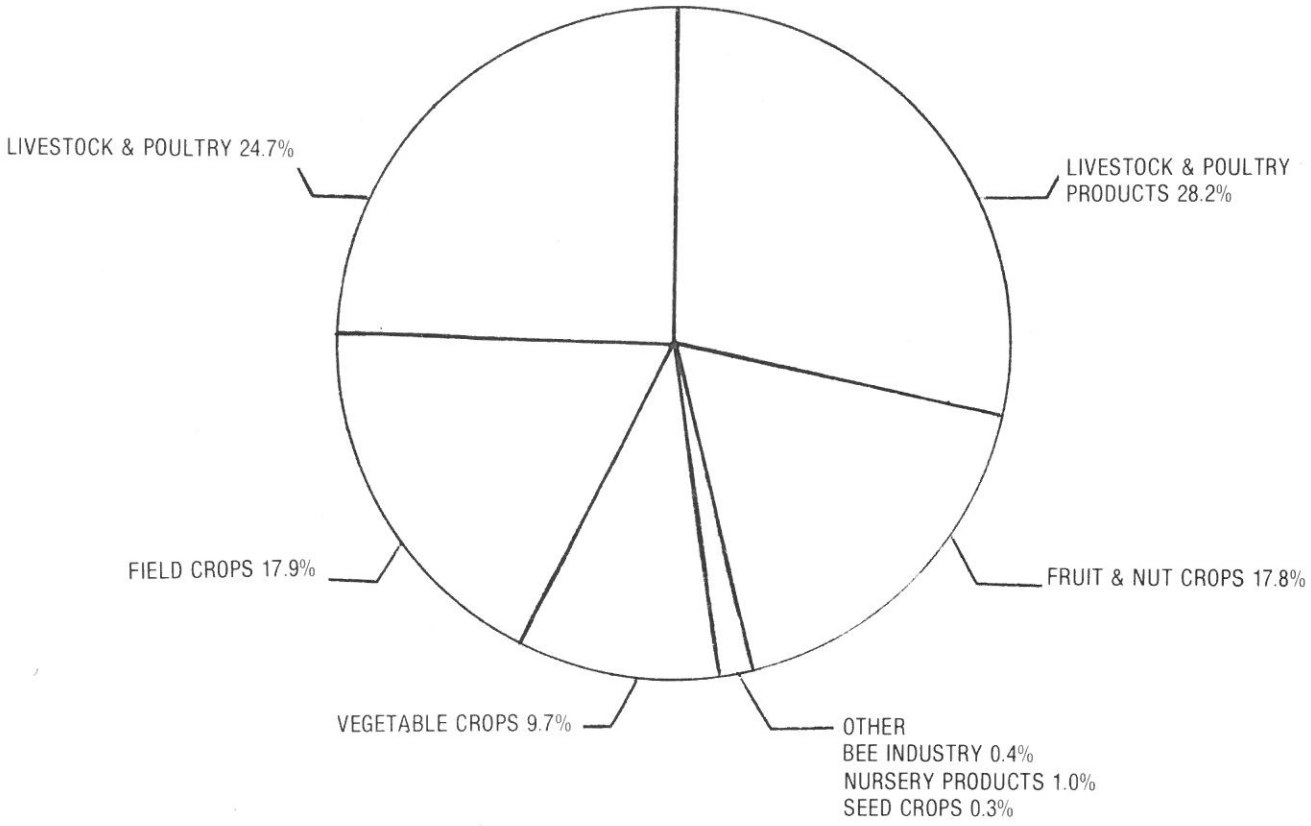
ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
CATTLE AND	1986	172,000	1,415,000	Cwt.	46.08	$ 65,203,000
CALVES	1985	154,000	1,251,000	Cwt.	49.17	61,505,000
CHICKENS	1986	66,499,000	309,399,000	Lb.	0.360	110,937,000
(Fryers and Broilers)	1985	63,668,000	297,481,000	Lb.	0.337	100,251,000
CHICKENS	1986	2,047,000	6,060,000	Lb.	0.347	2,103,000
(Other)	1985	2,675,000	7,152,000	Lb.	0.336	2,403,000
GOATS	1986	765	-----	Each	34.00	26,000
	1985	650	-----	Each	36.00	23,400
HOGS AND PIGS	1986	63,900	123,700	Cwt.	52.13	6,448,000
	1985	52,200	111,600	Cwt.	47.70	5,323,000
HORSES	1986	1,160	-----	Each	850.00	986,000
	1985	1,150	----	Each	700.00	805,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1986	62,000	68,800	Cwt.	61.19	4,141,000
	1985	60,000	69,500	Cwt.	61.42	4,269,000
TURKEYS	1986	2,299,000	45,327,000	Lb.	0.440	19,944,000
	1985	2,072,000	40,556,000	Lb.	0.477	19,355,000
TOTAL	1986					$209,788,000
	1985					193,934,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACRAGE, SALES AND VALUE 1986 - 1985

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
[1] **TOTAL**	1986	415	$8,132,000
	1985	461	7,239,000

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

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART FOR COMMODITIES



*GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

BARLEY	$ 22,000	[1] D.T.P.	$14,251,000	SORGHUM	$ 2,000
CORN	166,000	HONEY	147,000	WHEAT	880,000
COTTON	9,007,000	OATS	3,000	WOOL	633,000
		RICE	1,297,000		

**CROPS NOT HARVESTED IN 1985

ALMONDS	1,330 Acres	CORN, GRAIN	60 Acres	SEED ALFALFA	35 Acres
BARLEY	2,000 Acres	FIGS	50 Acres	SQUASH	300 Acres
BEANS (Garbanzo)	60 Acres	HONEYDEWS	50 Acres	TOMATOES (Processing)	68 Acres
CANTALOUPES	300 Acres	GRAPES, RAISIN	295 Acres	WHEAT	150 Acres
		GRAPES, WINE	1,247 Acres		

* Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1986 (Source: ASCS office).

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

[1] Dairy Termination Payment.

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON SUMMARY 1986-1985

COMMODITIES	1986	1985	1980	1975	1970	1965	1960
BEE INDUSTRY	$ 3,464,000	$ 3,682,000	$ 2,923,000	$ 1,085,000	$ 370,000	$ 322,700	$ 151,400
FIELD CROPS	152,423,000	161,412,000	191,239,000	101,968,000	45,783,000	40,884,300	38,048,800
FRUIT AND NUTS	151,252,000	*129,908,000	152,584,000	55,799,000	29,752,000	18,054,600	14,282,600
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	209,788,000	193,934,000	191,226,000	42,381,000	56,362,000	34,600,000	22,162,600
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	239,804,000	247,574,000	171,548,000	103,548,000	40,672,000	26,444,800	24,934,200
NURSERY PRODUCTS	8,132,000	7,239,000	15,734,000	5,023,000	2,382,000	2,684,000	3,609,000
SEED CROPS	2,612,000	2,876,000	3,012,000	2,972,000	469,300	1,533,500	1,175,300
VEGETABLE CROPS	82,106,000	74,493,000	65,831,000	47,704,000	16,070,700	14,184,900	9,431,400
TOTAL	$849,581,000	*$821,118,000	$794,097,000	$404,956,000	*$191,861,000	$138,708,800	$113,835,300

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1986

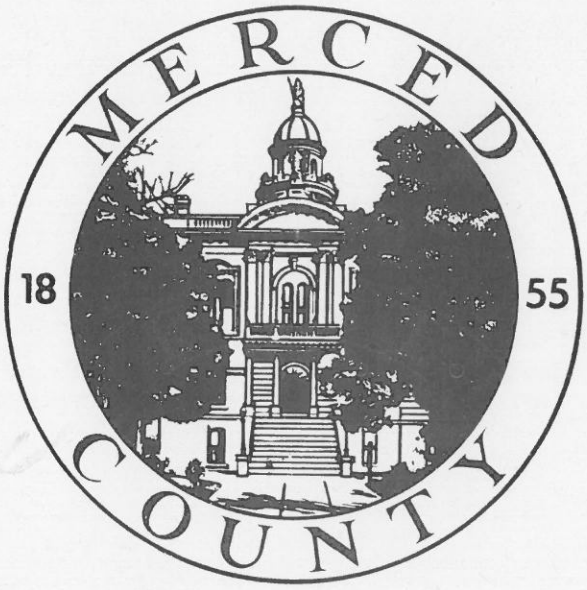
MILK	$214,005,000 (1)	SWEET POTATOES	$27,965,000 (9)
CHICKENS	113,040,000 (2)	TOMATOES	23,509,000 (7)
ALMONDS	71,400,000 (3) *	CANTALOUPES	21,815,000 (13)
CATTLE	65,203,000 (4) *	EGGS	21,307,000 (11)
ALFALFA	43,146,000 (5)	TURKEYS	19,944,000 (10)
COTTON	37,289,000 (6)	CORN	17,192,000 (8)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1985 RANKING

*Revised

ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1987

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MERCED, CALIFORNIA

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 WEST WARDROBE AVENUE
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 385-7431
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340-6495

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

HARRY A. KRUG
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Assistant Sealer
of Weights & Measures

TO: Jack C. Parnell, Director of Food and Agriculture, and the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Merced County:

Michael Bogna, Chairman	Dean Peterson
Wyatt "Dub" Davenport	Anthony Whitehurst
Ann Klinger	

I am very pleased to submit the 1987 Agricultural Crop Report as required by Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

County agriculture once again exhibited many healthful economic signs after five years of struggling to survive and overall decline. For the second year in a row a new record agricultural Gross Value has been reached amounting to $942,482,000. This is $95,613,000, an 11.3% increase over the adjusted 1986 Gross Value of $846,869,000 which had maintained Merced County's sixth place ranking among the 58 California Counties.

Reasons for a healthier agricultural report, to name a few, were due to an excellent growing year; good planting and harvesting weather; increased planted acreage; higher production for many crops and commodities; ending of the Dairy Herd Termination Program; stronger export and domestic markets; generally improved commodity prices; stabilized interest rates; and slowed farm foreclosures and bankruptcies.

The highlight in 1987 was in almonds with the largest crop ever produced, a record 1,760 pounds per acre County average, worth $119,280,000. Yield was up almost 70% from the prior year's disastrous production, however, the price fell by 50%. Chickens, the number two commodity in value increased $15,954,000 to $128,647,000 due to higher production and price. Cotton made a strong come back, up $14,506,000 for a total value of $51,804,000 and fourth place behind almonds. This was due to a 19% production increase, for a County record of 1,220 pounds per acre, acreage up over 9% and better price.

Milk, the number one commodity in the County at $224,128,000 increased $10,123,000 as production was up despite the Dairy Herd Termination Program, and lower prices. Other commodities showing the greatest gains in value were market tomatoes at $22,748,000, up $8,776,000 due to a 62.5% acreage increase but lower price; chicken eggs up $6,122,000 to $27,429,000 with a 43.4% production increase even though price was down 11%; sugar beets at $19,439,000 up $4,747,000 with a 35.5% acreage increase; and sweet potatoes at $25,269,000 rose $4,119,000 due to higher acreage, yield and value.

Cattle and calves posted the greatest loss, falling $19,146,000 to $46,057,000 as the result of lower gain and the number of head down 10%. Even though prices improved, total value pushed cattle and calves to fifth place. Cantaloupe melons dropped $10,887,000, almost 50% in total value, to $10,928,000 due to a 40% acreage reduction and 18.4% price decline.

Other commodities showing significant losses were miscellaneous fruit and nut crops at $19,085,000, down $2,998,000; other melons at $2,141,000, down $1,517,000 because of lower yield and price; and pistachios at $4,704,000, a decline of $1,356,000 due to lower production because of alternate bearing.

I must emphasize that values in this report do not reflect net income to producers, but gross returns with no consideration given for the cost of production.

I wish to thank those individuals, businesses and governmental agencies, who gave their time in providing the valuable information necessary to complete this report. Special recognition goes to my staff, who diligently collected information for this report, especially, Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Inspector, who was responsible for compilation of the data.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner

Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

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FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1987-1986

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BARLEY	1987	5,040	1.36	6,850	Ton	$ 85.00	$ 582,000
	1986	9,430	1.83	17,300	Ton	92.00	1,592,000
BEANS	1987	2,620	1.09	2,860	Ton	568.00	1,624,000
(Dry Lima)	1986	1,910	1.10	2,100	Ton	420.00	882,000
BEANS	1987	2,610	1.02	2,600	Ton	431.00	1,146,000
(Dry Other)	1986	3,160	0.97	3,070	Ton	572.00	1,756,000
CORN	1987	11,300	4.48	50,600	Ton	113.00	5,718,000
(Grain)	1986	13,500	4.46	60,200	Ton	100.00	6,020,000
COTTON	1987	58,500	1,220 lbs.	143,900	500 lb. bale	360.00	51,804,000
(Lint)	1986	53,500	1,025 lbs.	109,700	500 lb. bale	340.00	37,298,000
COTTON	1987	-----	-----	55,600	Ton	134.00	7,450,000
(Seed)	1986	-----	-----	47,700	Ton	105.00	5,009,000
HAY	1987	61,300	6.91	424,000	Ton	92.00	39,008,000
(Alfalfa)	1986	59,200	6.94	411,000	Ton	90.00	36,990,000
HAY	1987	7,740	6.82	52,800	Ton	105.00	5,544,000
(Alfalfa-Cube)	1986	7,660	7.05	54,000	Ton	114.00	6,156,000
HAY	1987	12,700	3.61	45,900	Ton	51.60	2,368,000
(Grain)	1986	11,900	3.52	41,900	Ton	46.40	1,944,000
HAY	1987	768	2.40	1,840	Ton	65.00	120,000
(Sudan)	1986	260	2.30	598	Ton	43.00	26,000
OATS	1987	2,760	1.75	4,830	Ton	125.00	604,000
(Grain)	1986	2,230	1.70	3,790	Ton	94.00	356,000
PASTURE	1987	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	110.00	9,130,000
(Irrigated)	1986	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	120.00	9,960,000
PASTURE	1987	557,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,963,000
(Other)	1986	558,000	-----	----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
RICE	1987	7,100	3.75	26,600	Ton	142.00	3,777,000
	1986	8,380	3.77	31,600	Ton	130.00	4,108,000
SAFFLOWER	1987	3.60	.65	234	Ton	320.00	75,000
	1986	402	1.66	667	Ton	280.00	187,000
SILAGE	1987	30,500	26.46	807,000	Ton	14.70	11,863,000
(Corn)	1986	31,300	23.48	735,000	Ton	15.20	11,172,000

FIELD CROPS (Continued)
ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1987-1986

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	YEAR	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
[1] SILAGE	1987	27,600	8.88	245,000	Ton	$ 16.40	$ 4,018,000
(Other)	1986	24,800	11.33	281,000	Ton	14.84	4,170,000
SORGHUM	1987	80	2.50	200	Ton	90.00	18,000
(Grain)	1986	285	2.40	684	Ton	98.00	67,000
STRAW	1987	-----	-----	1,000	Ton	35.00	35,000
	1986	-----	-----	1,200	Ton	35.00	42,000
[2] STUBBLE	1987	11,000	-----	-----	Acre	5.50	61,000
(Pasture)	1986	14,500	-----	-----	Acre	5.65	82,000
SUGAR BEETS	1987	19,100	28.43	543,000	Ton	35.80	19,439,000
	1986	14,100	28.09	396,000	Ton	37.10	14,692,000
WHEAT	1987	14,100	2.54	35,800	Ton	90.20	3,229,000
	1986	13,100	2.31	30,300	Ton	97.00	2,939,000
TOTAL	1987	904,178					$174,576,000
	1986	896,117					152,423,000

[1] Includes Alfalfa, Earlage, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

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

SEED CROPS
ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1987-1986

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS	1987	149	2,670	398,000	Lb.	$0.229	$ 91,000
	1986	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
[1] SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1987	496	-----	-----	-----	-----	350,000
	1986	852	-----	-----	-----	-----	392,000
TOTAL	1987	645					$441,000
	1986	852					392,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1987	1,628	2,003	3,261,000	Lb.	$0.244	$ 796,000
	1986	3,136	2,450	7,683,000	Lb.	0.280	2,151,000
[2] SEED CROPS (Miscellaneous)	1987	1,852	-----	-----	-----	-----	748,000
	1986	211	-----	-----	-----	-----	6,900
TOTAL	1987	3,480					$1,544,000
	1986	3,347					2,220,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1987	4,125	$1,985,000
	1986	4,199	2,612,000

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

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

VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1987-1986

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA (Freezer)	1987	3.490	1.20	4.190	Ton	$353.00	$ 1.479.000
	1986	1.750	1.55	2.730	Ton	433.00	1.182.000
MELONS (Cantaloupe)	1987	6.760	202	1.366.000	90 Lb. crates	8.00	10.928.000
	1986	11.300	197	2.226.000	90 Lb. crates	9.80	21.815.000
MELONS (Watermelon)	1987	1.730	16.60	28.700	Ton	73.80	2.118.000
	1986	1.340	17.24	23.100	Ton	89.50	2.068.000
MELONS (Other)	1987	1.880	5.37	10.100	Ton	212.00	2.141.000
	1986	1.680	7.95	13.400	Ton	273.00	3.658.000
PEAS (Freezer)	1987	430	1.12	482	Ton	240.00	116.000
	1986	742	0.85	630	Ton	240.00	151.000
PEPPERS BELL (Market)	1987	1.520	7.56	11.500	Ton	379.00	4.359.000
	*1986	1.251	9.92	12.400	Ton	414.00	5.134.000
[1] PEPPERS (Processing)	1987	-----	-----	383	Ton	138.00	53.000
	1986	-----	-----	563	Ton	64.00	36.000
SWEET POTATOES	1987	4.780	10.90	52.100	Ton	485.00	25.269.000
	*1986	4.700	10.00	47.000	Ton	450.00	21.150.000
TOMATOES (Market)	1987	5.380	-----	5.429.000	25 Lb. ctns.	4.19	22.748.000
	1986	3.310	-----	2.923.000	25 Lb. ctns.	4.78	13.972.000
TOMATOES (Processing)	1987	6.400	30.60	196.000	Ton	46.40	9.094.000
	1986	5.860	31.91	187.000	Ton	51.00	9.537.000
TOMATOES (All)	1987	11.780		263.900	Ton		31.842.000
	1986	9.170		224.000	Ton		23.509.000
[2] VEGETABLES (Miscellaneous)	1987	1.810					3.183.000
	1986	541					691.000
TOTAL	1987	34.180					$81.488.000
	*1986	32.474					79.394.000

1 From Market Acreage and Processing Varieties.

2 Includes Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Garlic, Onions, Processed Melons, Pumpkin, Spinach, Squash and Sweet Corn.

*Revised

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1987-1986

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
ALMONDS	1987	64,532	.88	56,800	Ton	$2,100.00	$119,280,000
(Kernel Basis)	1986	62,895	.27	17,000	Ton	4,200.00	71,400,000
ALMONDS	1987	-----	-----	147,000	Ton	32.60	4,792,000
(Hull & Shells)	1986	-----	-----	47,600	Ton	40.21	1,914,000
APRICOTS	1987	1,411	8.22	11,600	Ton	318.00	3,689,000
	1986	1,354	2.95	4,000	Ton	391.00	1,564,000
FIGS	1987	332	3.65	1,210	Ton	310.00	375,000
(Cannery)	1986	218	3.65	797	Ton	285.00	227,000
FIGS	1987	4,250	.86	3,660	Ton	1,326.00	4,853,000
(Dry)	1986	3,573	1.08	3,860	Ton	1,004.00	3,875,000
GRAPES	1987	1,151	1.80	2,070	Ton	706.00	1,461,000
(Raisin)	1986	723	1.70	1,230	Ton	758.00	932,000
GRAPES	1987	1,266	8.78	11,100	Ton	122.00	1,354,000
(Raisin to Wine)	1986	1,386	7.65	10,600	Ton	100.00	1,060,000
GRAPES	1987	13,104	8.35	109,000	Ton	161.00	17,549,000
(Wine)	1986	12,054	8.63	104,000	Ton	140.00	14,560,000
KIWIS	1987	43	5.40	232	Ton	1,820.00	422,000
	1986	43	7.54	322	Ton	2,000.00	644,000
NECTARINES	1987	184	8.32	1,530	Ton	597.00	913,000
	1986	196	7.81	1,530	Ton	607.00	929,000
OLIVES	1987	45	2.11	95	Ton	473.00	45,000
	1986	55	2.90	160	Ton	561.00	90,000
PEACHES	1987	3,504	16.90	59,200	Ton	189.00	11,189,000
(Clingstone)	1986	3,484	14.33	49,900	Ton	167.00	8,333,000
PEACHES	1987	704	18.60	13,100	Ton	145.00	1,900,000
(Freestone)	1986	884	16.00	14,100	Ton	140.00	1,974,000
Misc. Frozen	1987	-----	-----	15,800	Ton	165.00	2,607,000
Fruit (Apricots, Grapes)	1986	-----	-----	17,000	Ton	158.00	2,686,000
PISTACHIOS	1987	3,683	0.40	1,470	Ton	3,200.00	4,704,000
	1986	3,259	0.62	2,020	Ton	3,000.00	6,060,000
PLUMS	1987	173	2.57	445	Ton	400.00	178,000
	1986	188	2.30	432	Ton	959.00	414,000
PRUNES	1987	1,636	3.53	5,780	Ton	575.00	3,324,000
	1986	1,543	2.39	3,690	Ton	681.00	2,513,000
WALNUTS	1987	7,870	1.52	12,000	Ton	940.00	11,280,000
(English)	1986	8,009	1.20	9,610	Ton	1,040.00	9,994,000
[1] Miscellaneous	1987	3,644					19,085,000
	1986	2,680					22,083,000
TOTAL	1987	107,532					$209,000,000
	1986	102,544					151,252,000

[1]Includes Apples, Berries, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Fresh Peaches, Pecans, Persimmons and Table Grapes.

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTINGS 1987-1982

CROPS	YEAR 1987		YEAR 1982	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	64.532	2.317	48.510	15.000
APPLES	1.812	683	1.851	760
APRICOTS	1.485	200	1.480	47
CHERRIES	138	15	50	100
FIGS (Cannery)	332	-----	434	0
FIGS (Dry)	3.918	3	787	2.059
GRAPES (Raisin)	2.484	24	3.106	143
GRAPES (Table)	115	39	159	4
GRAPES (Wine)	13.907	430	12.922	2.191
KIWIS	41	-----	37	6
NECTARINES	221	8	209	22
OLIVES	96	-----	92	-----
ORANGES	51	6	60	1
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3.647	462	3.977	521
PEACHES (Freestone)	1.691	251	1.967	212
PEARS	15	12	15	-----
PECANS	86	-----	36	49
PERSIMMONS	13	-----	13	-----
PISTACHIOS	3.683	654	729	3.263
PLUMS	273	29	135	74
PRUNES	1.636	99	1.413	218
WALNUTS (Black)	42	18	69	-----
WALNUTS (English)	7.870	697	7.276	1.126
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	31	74	87	85
TOTAL	108.119	6.021	85.414	25.881

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1987-1986

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN	1987	61,088,000	Doz.	$ 0.449	$27,429,000
(Market)	1986	42,614,000	Doz.	0.50	21,307,000
EGGS	1987	8,595,000	Each	0.54	4,641,000
(Hatching)	1986	7,528,000	Each	0.50	3,764,000
MILK	1987	12,100	Cwt.	23.80	288,000
(Goat)	1986	12,700	Cwt.	21.46	272,000
MILK	1987	17,751,000	Cwt.	11.41	202,539,000
(Market)	1986	17,131,000	Cwt.	11.72	200,775,000
MILK	1987	2,062,000	Cwt.	10.47	21,589,000
(Manufacturing)	1986	1,225,000	Cwt.	10.80	13,230,000
WOOL	1987	528,500	Lb.	0.95	502,000
	1986	524,000	Lb.	0.87	456,000
TOTAL	**1987**				$256,988,000
	1986				239,804,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1987-1986

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEESWAX	1987	20,500	Lb.	$ .75	$15,000
	1986	22,800	Lb.	0.72	16,400
BULK BEES	1987	7,000	Lb.	4.00	28,000
	1986	6,200	Lb.	4.00	24,800
[1]HONEY	1987	1,060,000	Lb.	0.37	392,000
	1986	1,371,000	Lb.	0.45	617,000
[2]NUCLEI	1987	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1986	500	Each	25.00	12,500
[3]POLLINATION	1987	129,500	Colony	22.50	2,914,000
	1986	131,700	Colony	20.77	2,735,000
QUEENS	1987	6,600	Each	5.50	36,000
	1986	11,000	Each	5.27	58,000
TOTAL	**1987**				$3,385,000
	1986				3,464,000

[1] Honey produced by 34,200 colonies in 1987 and 38,000 colonies in 1986 owned by resident beekeepers.

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

[3] Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1987-1986

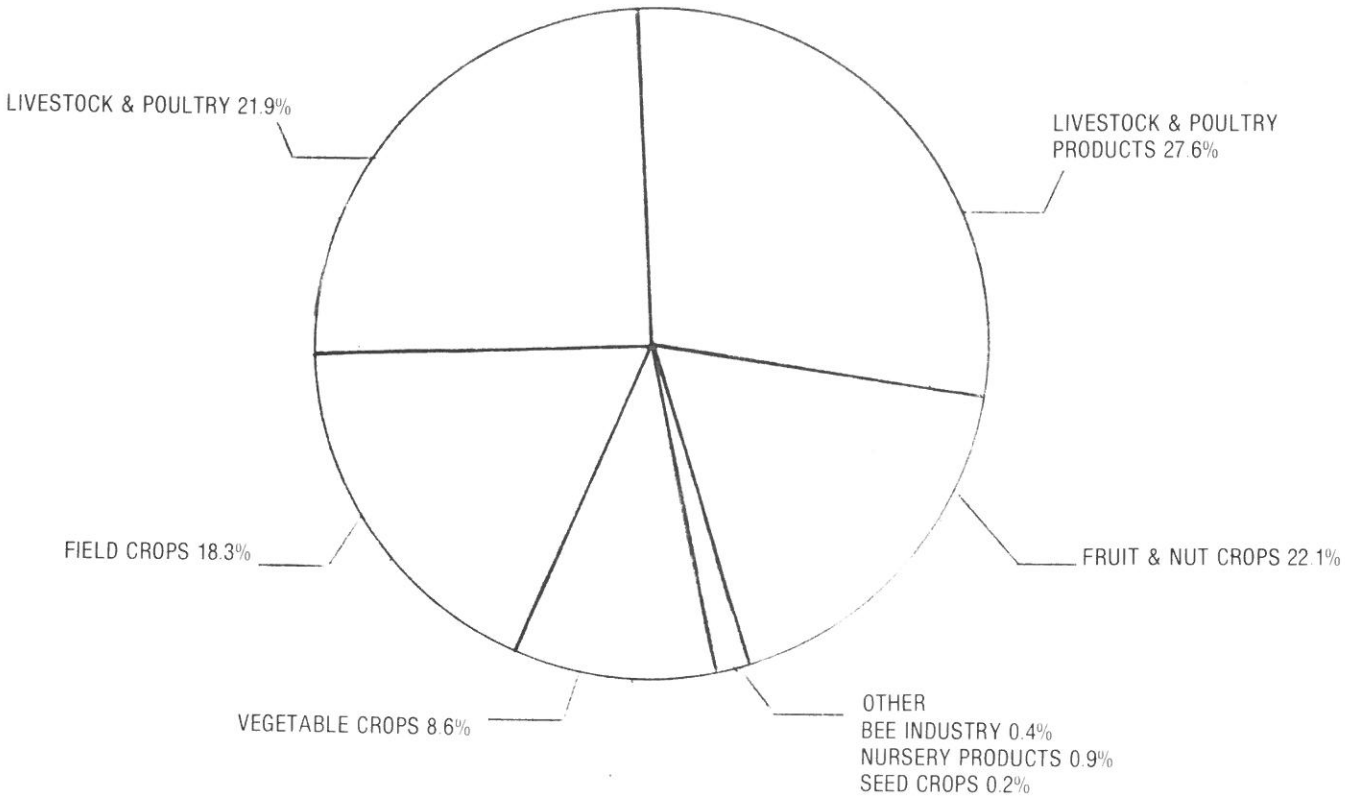
ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
CATTLE AND	1987	155,000	842,000	Cwt.	$54.70	$ 46,057,000
CALVES	1986	172,000	1,415,000	Cwt.	46.08	65,203,000
CHICKENS	1987	74,299,000	342,949,000	Lb.	0.370	126,891,000
(Fryers and Broilers)	1986	66,499,000	309,399,000	Lb.	0.360	110,937,000
CHICKENS	1987	1,456,000	5,952,000	Lb.	0.295	1,756,000
(Other)	1986	2,047,000	6,060,000	Lb.	0.347	2,103,000
GOATS	1987	725	-----	Each	36.00	26,000
	1986	765	-----	Each	34.00	26,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1987	54,500	117,000	Cwt.	57.50	6,728,000
	1986	63,900	123,700	Cwt.	52.13	6,448,000
HORSES	1987	1,140	-----	Each	825.00	941,000
	1986	1,160	-----	Each	850.00	986,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1987	65,800	79,800	Cwt.	61.30	4,892,000
	1986	62,000	68,800	Cwt.	61.19	4,141,000
TURKEYS	1987	2,617,000	56,759,000	Lb.	0.344	19,525,000
	1986	2,299,000	45,327,000	Lb.	0.440	19,944,000
TOTAL	1987					$206,816,000
	1986					209,788,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACREAGE, SALES AND VALUE 1987-1986

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
[1] **TOTAL**	1987	475	$8,244,000
	1986	415	8,132,000

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

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART FOR COMMODITIES



*GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

BARLEY	$ 5,000	[1] D.T.P	$14,615,000	WHEAT	$1,498,000
CORN	464,000	HONEY	171,000	WOOL	718,000
COTTON	8,144,000	RICE	991,000		

**CROPS NOT HARVESTED IN 1987

BARLEY	60 Acres	GRAPES, RAISIN	67 Acres	PEPPERS, BELL	70 Acres	WATERMELONS	50 Acres
BROCCOLI	91 Acres	GRAPES, WINE	781 Acres	PLUMS	100 Acres	WHEAT	138 Acres
CANTALOUPES	270 Acres	OATS	40 Acres	PUMPKINS	60 Acres		
CARROTS	135 Acres	OLIVES	51 Acres	SEED ALFALFA	35 Acres		

*Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1987 (Source: ASCS office).

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

[1] Daily Termination Payment.

Dairy

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON SUMMARY 1987-1962

COMMODITIES	1987	1986	1982	1977	1972	1967	1962
BEE INDUSTRY	$ 3,385,000	$ 3,464,000	$ 3,616,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 632,600	$ 318,000	$ 180,000
FIELD CROPS	174,576,000	152,423,000	171,140,000	111,041,500	61,909,200	40,200,600	35,291,800
FRUIT AND NUTS	209,000,000	151,252,000	109,865,000	100,481,500	40,578,170	20,587,300	17,632,500
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	206,816,000	209,788,000	170,649,000	119,294,800	57,198,600	39,040,110	22,395,500
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	256,988,000	239,804,000	208,651,000	104,095,500	55,281,400	32,035,700	25,942,400
NURSERY PRODUCTS	8,244,000	8,132,000	9,214,000	6,430,000	3,427,800	1,794,000	3,093,200
SEED CROPS	1,985,000	2,612,000	2,015,000	3,683,000	1,232,000	1,201,800	733,800
VEGETABLE CROPS	81,488,000	*79,394,000	67,880,000	60,742,800	24,370,000	18,118,340	13,376,400
TOTAL	$942,482,000	*$846,869,000	$743,030,000	$506,770,000	$244,630,670	$153,296,650	$118,645,600

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1987

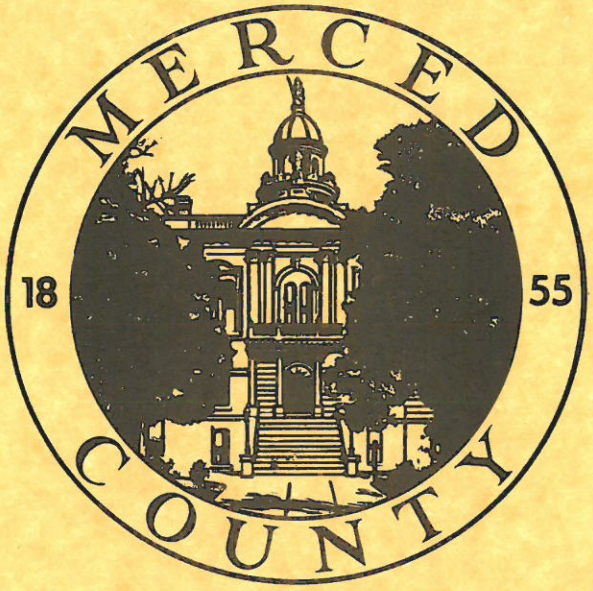
MILK	$ 224,128,000 (1)	TOMATOES	$31,842,000 (8)
CHICKENS	128,647,000 (2)	EGGS	27,429,000 (10)
ALMONDS	119,280,000 (3)	SWEET POTATOES	25,269,000 (7)
COTTON	51,804,000 (6)	TURKEYS	19,525,000 (11)
CATTLE	46,057,000 (4)	SUGAR BEETS	19,439,000 (14)
ALFALFA	44,552,000 (5)	GRAPES, WINE	18,903,000 (13)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1986 RANKING

*Revised

ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1988

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MERCED, CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL J. TANNER, Agricultural Commissioner

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 WEST WARDROBE AVENUE
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 385-7431
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340-6495

TO: Jack C. Parnell, Director, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Merced County:

Anthony Whitehurst, Chairman
Wyatt "Dub" Davenport
Ann Klinger
Michael Bogna
Dean Peterson

I am pleased to submit the 1988 Agricultural Crop Report as required by Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

A new record agricultural gross value has been set in Merced County for the third year in a row of $973,177,000. This is $30,695,000, a 3.26% increase above last year's gross value which maintained the County's sixth place ranking among California's 58 Counties. Our agriculture industry has rebounded and stabilized in most sectors. The financial picture is much improved and economy bright compared to several of the recent years.

The largest gain in 1988 was for chicken fryers and broilers, the number two commodity in value, worth $144,725,000. Production was up over 16%, nearly 12,000,000 birds, with price slightly reduced. Cantaloupes made a strong showing up $6,601,000 to $17,529,000, due to a 37.9% acreage increase and higher price. Cattle and calves are making a come back, after last year's large loss, up $5,417,000 to $51,474,000 because of price being up 26% even though number of head were down.

Turkeys increased $5,047,000 to $24,572,000 as production was up but price slightly less. Nursery products worth $13,248,000 posted a 60.7% gain as production was up and prices were better.

Pistachios, on their up year, gained $3,836,000 as production increased 125% but price fell 19.4%. Cotton seed was up $3,033,000 to $10,483,000 because cotton acreage reached an all-time high of 70,200 acres. Cotton lint production and price were down, however.

Almonds, after last year's largest ever crop, plunged $15,120,000 for the greatest loss of all commodities but still maintains its third place ranking at $104,160,000. Chicken eggs dropped $10,312,000 to $17,117,000 as a result of lower production and fractionally higher price.

Milk continues to be the County's number one commodity valued at $218,023,000 but fell by $6,105,000 as a result of lower prices. Other commodities showing significant losses were miscellaneous fruit and nut crops at $15,886,000, down $3,199,000; sugar beets at $16,600,000, lower by $2,839,000 due to an 18.8% acreage decline even though price stronger; and sweet potatoes at $22,599,000 dropped $2,670,000 as a result of 26.6% lower production but price up over 15%.

Two new categories have been included in the crop report for 1988. Aquaculture is being reported for the first time and is valued at $3,147,000. The second category is titled Other Agriculture and includes firewood, cogeneration fuel and manure, boosting the gross agricultural value by $8,731,000.

I must emphasize that values in this report do not reflect net income to producers, but gross returns with no consideration given for the cost of production.

I wish to thank those individuals, businesses and governmental agencies, who gave their time and assistance in providing the valuable information necessary to complete this report. Special recognition goes to my staff, who diligently collected information for the report, especially, Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Inspector, who was responsible for compilation of the data.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner

Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

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FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1988-1987

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BARLEY	1988	5,132	1.57	8,060	Ton	$110.00	$ 887,000
	1987	5,040	1.36	6,850	Ton	85.00	582,000
BEANS	1988	2,900	1.19	3,450	Ton	739.00	2,550,000
(Dry Lima)	1987	2,620	1.09	2,860	Ton	568.00	1,624,000
BEANS	1988	2,740	1.19	3,260	Ton	521.00	1,698,000
(Dry Other)	1987	2,610	1.02	2,600	Ton	431.00	1,146,000
CORN	1988	9,940	3.91	38,900	Ton	131.00	5,096,000
(Grain)	1987	11,300	4.48	50,600	Ton	113.00	5,718,000
COTTON	1988	70,200	1,130 lbs.	158,700	500 lb. bale	325.00	51,578,000
(Lint)	1987	58,500	1,220 lbs.	143,900	500 lb. bale	360.00	51,804,000
COTTON	1988	-----	-----	59,900	Ton	175.00	10,483,000
(Seed)	1987	-----	-----	55,600	Ton	134.00	7,450,000
HAY	1988	57,100	6.76	386,000	Ton	97.70	37,712,000
(Alfalfa)	1987	61,300	6.91	424,000	Ton	92.00	39,008,000
HAY	1988	13,100	6.50	85,200	Ton	113.00	9,628,000
(Alfalfa-Cube)	1987	7,740	6.82	52,800	Ton	105.00	5,544,000
HAY	1988	16,200	3.42	55,400	Ton	69.20	3,834,000
(Grain)	1987	12,700	3.61	45,900	Ton	51.60	2,368,000
HAY	1988	156	4.00	624	Ton	70.00	44,000
(Sudan)	1987	768	2.40	1,840	Ton	65.00	120,000
OATS	1988	2,308	1.61	3,720	Ton	165.00	614,000
(Grain)	1987	2,760	1.75	4,830	Ton	125.00	604,000
PASTURE	1988	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	110.00	9,130,000
(Irrigated)	1987	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	110.00	9,130,000
PASTURE	1988	557,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,963,000
(Other)	1987	558,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,975,000
RICE	1988	8,900	3.64	32,400	Ton	140.00	4,536,000
	1987	7,100	3.75	26,600	Ton	142.00	3,777,000
SAFFLOWER	1988	460	1.25	575	Ton	290.00	167,000
	1987	360	.65	234	Ton	320.00	75,000
SILAGE	1988	28,400	22.20	630,000	Ton	18.00	11,340,000
(Corn)	1987	30,500	26.46	807,000	Ton	14.70	11,863,000
[1] SILAGE	1988	32,900	10.67	351,000	Ton	17.20	6,037,000
(Other)	1987	27,600	8.88	245,000	Ton	16.40	4,018,000
SORGHUM	1988	320	2.50	800	Ton	102.00	82,000
(Grain)	1987	80	2.50	200	Ton	90.00	18,000
STRAW	1988	-----	-----	1,100	Ton	35.00	39,000
	1987	-----	-----	1,000	Ton	35.00	35,000
[2] STUBBLE	1988	12,100	-----	-----	Acre	10.00	121,000
(Pasture)	1987	11,000	-----	-----	Acre	5.50	61,000
SUGAR BEETS	1988	15,500	28.26	438,000	Ton	37.90	16,600,000
	1987	19,100	28.43	543,000	Ton	35.80	19,439,000
WHEAT	1988	12,900	2.71	35,000	Ton	120.00	4,200,000
	1987	14,100	2.54	35,800	Ton	90.20	3,229,000
TOTAL	1988	919,156					$183,339,000
	1987	904,178					174,576,000

[1] Includes Alfalfa, Earlage, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

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

NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACREAGE, SALES, AND VALUE 1988-1987

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
[1] TOTAL	1988	671	$13,248,000
	1987	475	8,244,000

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

OTHER AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1988

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Firewood	1988	15,940	Cords	$65.00	$1,036,000
[1] Fuel (Cogeneration)	1988	59,600	Tons	10.30	614,000
[2] Manure	1988	1,326,000	Tons	5.34	7,081,000
TOTAL	1988				$8,731,000

[1] Almond Shells, Cotton Stalks, Orchard Prunings, Rice and Wheat Straw.

[2] Livestock, Poultry.

SEED CROPS
ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1988-1987

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS	1988	149	1,860	277,000	Lb.	$0.340	$ 94,000
	1987	149	2,670	398,000	Lb.	0.229	91,000
[1]SEED CROPS	1988	1,145	-----	-----	-----	-----	588,000
(Miscellaneous)	1987	496	-----	-----	-----	-----	350,000
TOTAL	1988	1,294					$682,000
	1987	645					441,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1988	749	1,810	1,356,000	Lb.	$0.260	$ 353,000
	1987	1,628	2,003	3,261,000	Lb.	0.244	796,000
[2]SEED CROPS	1988	1,640					628,000
(Miscellaneous)	1987	1,852	----	-----	-----	-----	748,000
TOTAL	1988	2,389					$ 981,000
	1987	3,480					1,544,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1988	3,683	$1,663,000
	1987	4,125	1,985,000

[1] Includes certified seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Oats, Peppers, Rice, Rye, Sudan and Wheat.

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

VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1988-1987

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA	1988	4,136	1.24	5,130	Ton	$380.00	$ 1,949,000
(Freezer)	1987	3,490	1.20	4,190	Ton	353.00	1,479,000
MELONS	1988	9,324	208	1,939,000	90 lb. crates	9.04	17,529,000
(Cantaloupe)	1987	6,760	202	1,366,000	90 lb. crates	8.00	10,928,000
MELONS	1988	1,026	17.90	18,370	Ton	123.00	2,260,000
(Watermelon)	1987	1,730	16.60	28,700	Ton	73.80	2,118,000
MELONS	1988	1,423	7.94	11,300	Ton	227.00	2,565,000
(Other)	1987	1,880	5.37	10,100	Ton	212.00	2,141,000
PEAS	1988	800	1.22	976	Ton	240.00	234,000
(Freezer)	1987	430	1.12	482	Ton	240.00	116,000
PEPPERS	1988	1,236	6.42	7,940	Ton	401.00	3,184,000
BELL (Market)	1987	1,520	7.56	11,500	Ton	379.00	4,359,000
[1] PEPPERS	1988	-----	-----	3,440	Ton	158.00	544,000
(Processing)	1987	-----	-----	383	Ton	138.00	53,000
SWEET	1988	5,060	8.00	40,500	Ton	558.00	22,599,000
POTATOES	1987	4,780	10.90	52,100	Ton	485.00	25,269,000
TOMATOES	1988	5,240	-----	4,338,000	25 lb. ctns.	5.03	21,820,000
(Market)	1987	5,380	-----	5,429,000	25 lb. ctns.	4.19	22,748,000
TOMATOES	1988	6,050	29.90	181,000	Ton	48.20	8,724,000
(Processing)	1987	6,400	30.60	196,000	Ton	46.40	9,094,000
TOMATOES	1988	11,290		235,200	Ton		30,544,000
(All)	1987	11,780		263,900	Ton		31,842,000
[2] VEGETABLES	1988	1,892					3,329,000
(Miscellaneous)	1987	1,810					3,183,000
TOTAL	1988	36,187					$84,737,000
	1987	34,180					81,488,000

[1] From Market Acreage and Processing Varieties.

[2] Includes Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Onions. Processed Melons Pumpkin, Spinach, Squash, String Beans and Sweet Corn.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1988-1987

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
ALMONDS	1988	63,758	.73	46,500	Ton	$2,240.00	$104,160,000
(Kernel Basis)	1987	64,532	.88	56,800	Ton	2,100.00	119,280,000
ALMONDS	1988	-----	-----	94,600	Ton	54.70	5,175,000
(Hulls)	1987	-----	-----	147,000	Ton	32.60	4,792,000
APRICOTS	1988	1,333	6.12	8,160	Ton	333.00	2,717,000
	1987	1,411	8.22	11,600	Ton	318.00	3,689,000
FIGS	1988	175	3.50	613	Ton	280.00	172,000
(Cannery)	1987	332	3.65	1,210	Ton	310.00	375,000
FIGS	1988	4,047	0.96	3,880	Ton	1,445.00	5,607,000
(Dry)	1987	4,250	0.86	3,660	Ton	1,326.00	4,853,000
GRAPES	1988	1,419	1.95	2,770	Ton	888.00	2,460,000
(Raisin)	1987	1,151	1.80	2,070	Ton	706.00	1,461,000
GRAPES	1988	688	8.50	5,850	Ton	125.00	731,000
(Raisin to Wine)	1987	1,266	8.78	11,100	Ton	122.00	1,354,000
GRAPES	1988	13,875	8.11	113,000	Ton	183.00	20,679,000
(Wine)	1987	13,104	8.35	109,000	Ton	161.00	17,549,000
KIWIS	1988	43	5.70	245	Ton	1,480.00	363,000
	1987	43	5.40	232	Ton	1,820.00	422,000
NECTARINES	1988	216	7.60	1,640	Ton	577.00	946,000
	1987	184	8.32	1,530	Ton	597.00	913,000
OLIVES	1988	45	1.93	.87	Ton	427.00	37,000
	1987	45	2.11	.95	Ton	473.00	45,000
PEACHES	1988	3,451	17.68	61,000	Ton	204.00	12,444,000
(Clingstone)	1987	3,504	16.90	59,200	Ton	189.00	11,189,000
PEACHES	1988	706	15.65	11,000	Ton	150.00	1,650,000
(Freestone)	1987	704	18.60	13,100	Ton	145.00	1,900,000
Misc. Frozen Fruit	1988	-----	-----	14,300	Ton	174.00	2,488,000
(Apricots, Peaches, Grapes)	1987	-----	-----	15,800	Ton	165.00	2,607,000
PISTACHIOS	1988	3,678	0.90	3,310	Ton	2,580.00	8,540,000
	1987	3,683	0.40	1,470	Ton	3,200.00	4,704,000
PLUMS	1988	150	2.39	359	Ton	710.00	255,000
	1987	173	2.57	445	Ton	400.00	178,000
PRUNES	1988	1,657	2.72	4,510	Ton	736.00	3,319,000
	1987	1,636	3.53	5,780	Ton	575.00	3,324,000
WALNUTS	1988	7,618	1.60	12,200	Ton	1,000.00	12,200,000
(English)	1987	7,870	1.52	12,000	Ton	940.00	11,280,000
[1] Miscellaneous	1988	3,036					15,886,000
	1987	3,644					19,085,000
TOTAL	1988	105,895					$199,829,000
	1987	107,532					209,000,000

[1] Includes Apples, Berries, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Fresh Peaches, Pecans, Persimmons and Table Grapes.

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING 1988-1983

CROPS	YEAR 1988 BEARING	YEAR 1988 NON-BEARING	YEAR 1983 BEARING	YEAR 1983 NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	63,758	3,787	53,361	10,397
APPLES	1,694	907	1,734	1,008
APRICOTS	1,427	180	1,460	72
CHERRIES	142	12	50	95
FIGS (Cannery)	175	-----	143	-----
FIGS (Dry)	4,050	3	1,078	2,157
GRAPES (Raisin)	2,247	-----	3,263	59
GRAPES (Table)	218	20	144	13
GRAPES (Wine)	13,875	557	14,179	1,208
KIWI	43	-----	43	-----
NECTARINES	216	12	231	-----
OLIVES	73	-----	112	-----
ORANGES	55	-----	50	1
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,601	642	4,055	425
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,706	168	2,001	168
PEARS	14	17	15	-----
PECANS	58	-----	37	49
PERSIMMONS	13	-----	13	-----
PISTACHIOS	3,678	589	1,002	2,767
PLUMS	247	48	143	110
POMEGRANATES	2	-----	43	-----
PRUNES	1,657	39	1,445	282
WALNUTS (Black)	6	-----	58	9
WALNUTS (English)	7,618	897	7,323	1,066
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	78	44	90	61
TOTAL	106,651	7,922	92,073	19,947

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1988-1987

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN (Market)	1988	38,037,000	Doz.	$0.450	$17,117,000
	1987	61,088,000	Doz.	0.449	27,429,000
EGGS (Hatching)	1988	8,175,000	Each	0.57	4,660,000
	1987	8,595,000	Each	0.54	4,641,000
MILK (Goat)	1988	6,430	Cwt.	23.80	153,000
	1987	12,100	Cwt.	23.80	288,000
MILK (Market)	1988	18,749,000	Cwt.	10.88	203,989,000
	1987	17,751,000	Cwt.	11.41	202,539,000
MILK (Manufacturing)	1988	1,419,000	Cwt.	9.89	14,034,000
	1987	2,062,000	Cwt.	10.47	21,589,000
WOOL	1988	549,000	Lb.	0.99	544,000
	1987	528,500	Lb.	0.95	502,000
TOTAL	1988				$240,497,000
	1987				256,988,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1988-1987

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEESWAX	1988	21,300	Lb.	$ .85	$18,000
	1987	20,500	Lb.	.75	15,000
BULK BEES	1988	1,000	Lb.	4.00	4,000
	1987	7,000	Lb.	4.00	28,000
[1] HONEY	1988	1,106,000	Lb.	0.398	440,000
	1987	1,060,000	Lb.	0.37	392,000
[2] NUCLEI	1988	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1987	-----	-----	-----	-----
[3] POLLINATION	1988	127,300	Colony	23.70	3,017,000
	1987	129,500	Colony	22.50	2,914,000
QUEENS	1988	8,000	Each	5.20	42,000
	1987	6,600	Each	5.50	36,000
TOTAL	1988				$3,521,000
	1987				3,385,000

[1] Honey produced by 32,300 colonies in 1988 and 34,200 colonies in 1987 owned by resident beekeepers.

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

[3] Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1988-1987

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
CATTLE AND	1988	135,000	746,000	Cwt.	$ 69.00	$ 51,474,000
CALVES	1987	155,000	842,000	Cwt.	54.70	46,057,000
CHICKENS	1988	86,243,000	400,899,000	Lb.	0.361	144,725,000
(Fryers and Broilers)	1987	74,299,000	342,949,000	Lb.	0.370	126,891,000
CHICKENS	1988	1,150,000	4,261,000	Lb.	0.223	950,000
(Other)	1987	1,456,000	5,952,000	Lb.	0.295	1,756,000
GOATS	1988	790	-----	Each	36.00	28,000
	1987	725	-----	Each	36.00	26,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1988	55,200	117,000	Cwt.	47.30	5,534,000
	1987	54,500	117,000	Cwt.	57.50	6,728,000
HORSES	1988	1,110	-----	Each	925.00	1,027,000
	1987	1,140	-----	Each	825.00	941,000
[1] POULTRY	1988	240,000	302,000	Lb.	2.66	803,000
(Miscellaneous)	1987	-----	-----	-----	----	-----
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1988	68,100	89,800	Cwt.	59.60	5,352,000
	1987	65,800	79,800	Cwt.	61.30	4,892,000
TURKEYS	1988	3,421,000	70,609,000	Lb.	0.348	24,572,000
	1987	2,617,000	56,759,000	Lb.	0.344	19,525,000
TOTAL	1988					$234,465,000
	1987					206,816,000

[1]Chukar, Pheasant, Poussin.

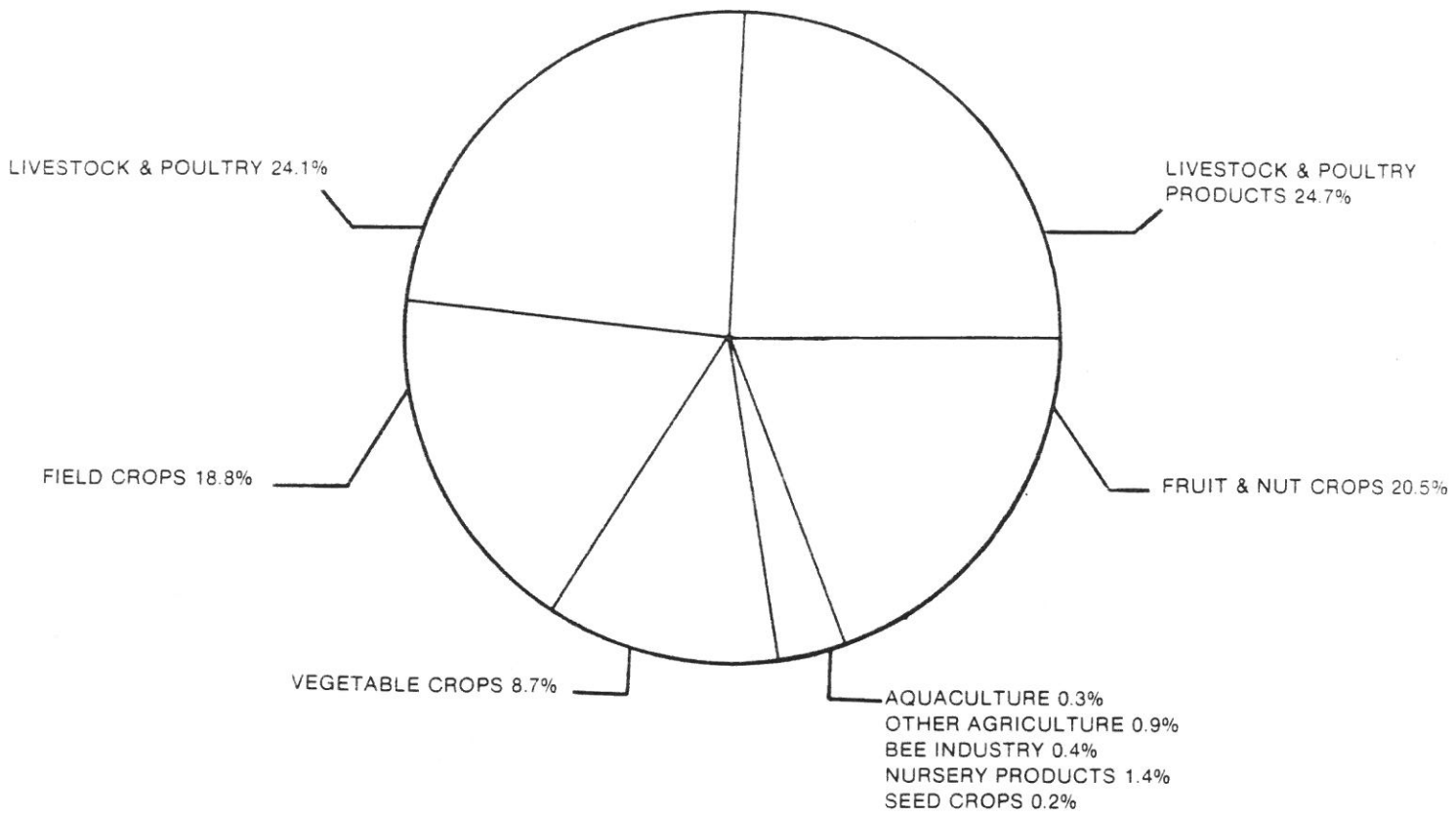
AQUACULTURE
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1988

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
[1]FISH FOR FOOD	1988	611,000	Lbs.	$1.38	$1,843,000
[2] FISH (Miscellaneous)	1988	50,274,000	Each	0.0458	2,304,000
TOTAL	1988				$3,147,000

[1]Catfish, Stripers, Trout

[2]Fingerlings, Goldfish

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART FOR COMMODITIES



*GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

BARLEY	$ 69,000	HONEY	$ 224,000	SORGHUM	$ 1,000
CORN	428,000	OATS	1,000	WHEAT	515,000
COTTON	7,823,000	RICE	3,053,000	WOOL	327,000

**CROPS NOT HARVESTED IN 1988

BARLEY	1,100 Acres	COTTON	350 Acres	PEPPERS, BELL	93 Acres	TOMATOES, FRESH	120 Acres
CASABAS	20 Acres	GRAPES, RAISIN	140 Acres	PLUMS	97 Acres	WHEAT	131 Acres
CANTALOUPES	220 Acres	OLIVES	28 Acres	RICE	136 Acres		

*Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1988 (Source: ASCS Office).

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

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON SUMMARY 1988-1963

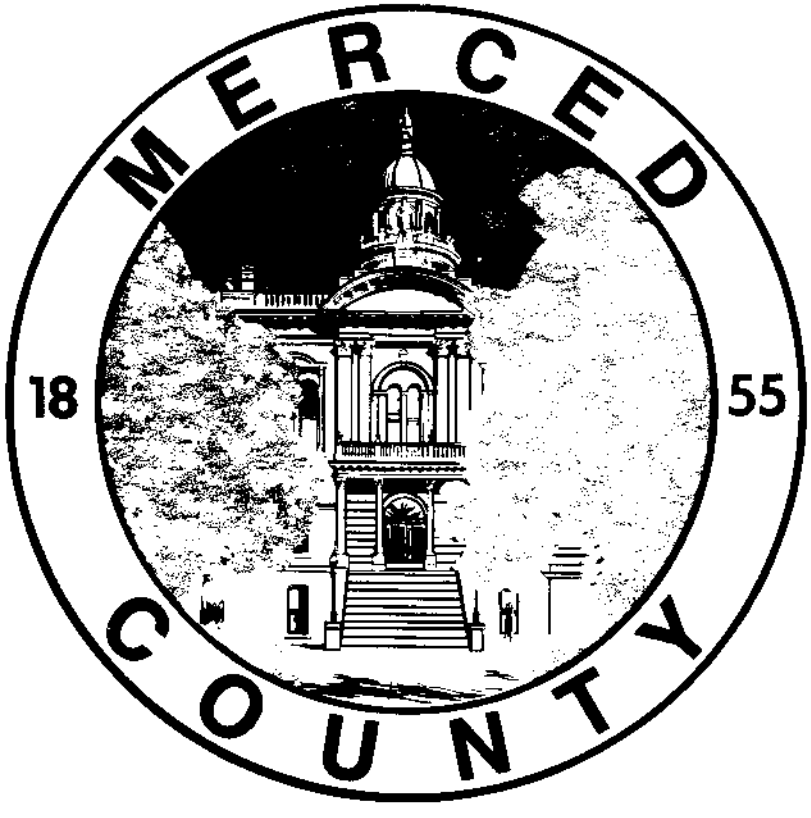
COMMODITIES	1988	1987	1983	1978	1973	1968	1963
AQUACULTURE	$ 3,147,000	$ -----	$ -----	$ -----	$ -----	$ -----	$ -----
BEE INDUSTRY	3,521,000	3,385,000	3,031,000	2,021,000	1,595,400	289,180	184,600
FIELD CROPS	183,339,000	174,576,000	156,920,000	96,344,000	78,936,600	39,729,200	38,736,800
FRUIT AND NUTS	199,829,000	209,000,000	93,382,000	86,243,000	69,085,560	24,519,840	17,785,100
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	234,465,000	206,816,000	174,255,000	132,959,000	83,836,000	41,023,800	22,757,600
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	240,497,000	256,988,000	215,455,000	118,519,000	72,020,000	34,843,100	25,124,100
NURSERY PRODUCTS	13,248,000	8,244,000	8,017,000	7,336,000	5,720,000	1,888,000	2,741,700
OTHER AGRICULTURE	8,731,000	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
SEED CROPS	1,663,000	1,985,000	1,381,000	2,643,000	842,000	892,400	974,600
VEGETABLE CROPS	84,737,000	81,488,000	69,309,000	50,828,000	32,669,000	23,120,700	15,316,000
TOTAL	$973,177,000	$942,482,000	$721,750,000	$496,693,000	$344,256,560	$ 166,306,220	$123,620,500

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1988

MILK	218,023,000 (1)	TOMATOES	30,544,000 (7)
CHICKENS	145,675,000 (2)	TURKEYS	24,572,000 (10)
ALMONDS	104,160,000 (3)	SWEET POTATOES	22,599,000 (9)
COTTON	51,578,000 (4)	GRAPES, WINE	21,410,000 (12)
CATTLE	51,474,000 (5)	CANTALOUPES	17,529,000 (4)
ALFALFA	47,340,000 (6)	EGGS	17,117,000 (8)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1987 RANKING

50th Annual Report of Agriculture



1989

Representing 50 Years of
County Agricultural Production
1939 - 1989

Merced County Department of Agriculture
Merced, California

Michael J. Tanner, Agricultural Commissioner
Gary Caseri, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 WEST WARDROBE AVENUE
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 385-7431
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340-6495

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

GARY CASERI
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

TO: Henry J. Voss, Director, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Merced County:

Dean Peterson, Chairman
Wyatt "Dub" Davenport
Ann Klinger
Michael Bogna
Anthony Whitehurst

I am extremely pleased to submit the 1989 Agricultural Crop Report, the fiftieth, as required by Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

It is with great pride that I am able to announce a record smashing agricultural gross value of $1,053,108,000 for Merced County. We have broken the magical one billion dollar barrier to become the sixth County in California of the 58 Counties to do so, and the fourth of the eight San Joaquin Valley Counties.

This year, to commemorate the 50th Annual Crop Report compiled by this office, we are featuring the first official report issued by the Agricultural Commissioner, Charles H. Kinsley, in 1939. Mr. Kinsley was Merced County Agricultural Commissioner from 1933 to 1945. He then joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture as a Regional Coordinator, retiring after 19 years in 1964. In that capacity, he served as liaison between the County Agricultural Commissioners and the State Department of Food and Agriculture. Mr. Kinsley was highly respected and dedicated to California agriculture.

Without a doubt, the Dairy Industry's production of milk is the County's number one agriculture industry in value at $259,159,000. This was a $41,136,000 increase due to higher production and price. Milk represents 24.6% of the total agriculture value. Chicken fryers and broilers, the number two commodity with the second highest gain, increased to $161,295,000, up $16,570,000. Price was fractionally up with production up over six million birds.

Market tomatoes made a strong showing for the second year in a row gaining $13,558,000 advancing to $35,378,000 due to increased acreage and price. Sweet potatoes enjoyed a good year increasing in value to $34,776,000, up 35% due to 920 more acres and production up 29.7%. Turkeys increased to $34,015,000 up $9,443,000 as a result of 954,000 more produced and price slightly up.

Increased value of significance was also realized in the production of alfalfa hay, processing tomatoes, corn silage, sugar beets, silage (other), chicken eggs, freestone peaches and wine grapes.

Almonds, for the second year in a row, suffered the greatest loss of all commodities dropping $23,960,000 to $80,200,000 still retaining its third place ranking. This was due to a decline in production of 17.7% and price 12%. Cantaloupes, following a good year, plunged to $10,109,000 losing $7,420,000 as a result of less acreage, production down 40.5% and lower price.

Cattle and calves after making a gain in 1988, fell by $5,690,000 to $45,784,000 as numbers were down 12,000 head and price by 16.9%. Pistachios, on their alternate bearing year, dropped by $4,835,000 as production was down 70% but price up 32%. Other significant losses occurred in alfalfa cubes and miscellaneous frozen fruit.

Merced County agriculture has made great strides and changed emphasis over the last 50 years while going from a twenty-one million to a one billion dollar industry. 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 farm gate prices except for fresh packed commodities which reflect an FOB, freight on board price.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to those who have provided the information and assistance necessary for my staff to compile this crop report under the direction of Richard Carlson, Agricultural Biologist and Standards Inspector. My thanks to the growers of Merced County who truly make AGRICULTURE our number one and most valued industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Tanner

Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

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ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE
1939

We have attached hereto a statistical survey of Merced County agriculture. This is the first official survey which has been made by this office for a number of years because of lack of funds, making it impossible for us to carry on work of this character with the accuracy which we feel should characterize any statistics issuing from an official source. Chapter 317, Statutes of 1939, however, requires that the commissioner compile reports of condition, acreage, production and value of agricultural products in his county. The statute also authorizes the commissioner to publish such statistics and requires that a copy thereof be transmitted to the Director of Agriculture.

In view of this legislative mandate, Senior Inspector E. M. Lilley of the Merced County Department of Agriculture was assigned the task of gathering, compiling, and checking the necessary data. This, we feel, Inspector Lilley accomplished in a very creditable manner, at the same time recognizing that an absolutely accurate report of this kind can only be compiled on the basis of more extensive surveys of the sources of information than we were able to give with the funds and manpower which we could spare from regulatory activities.

In studying this report one should always keep in mind the fact that it is not the compilation of the net income of agriculture in Merced County. For instance, we have computed the value of alfalfa hay produced in this county as being $3,226,728.00 and the value of milk as $4,510,000.00. However, the bulk of the alfalfa hay produced in Merced County was consumed by dairy cattle within the county and, therefore, became an item of cost in the production of the milk and beef resulting therefrom. We have, wherever possible, given the farm value or the value f.o.b. local shipping point. In some cases, however, it has been impossible to do this because of the fact that such commodities as wine grapes are frequently sold delivered at the winery. In the case of beef cattle, sheep and apiary products, any figures we might compile would be subject to criticism because of the semi-migratory character of such businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. Kinsley
Agricultural Commissioner

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS - MERCED COUNTY
SEASON 1939

CROP	PRODUCING ACRES	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE
ALMONDS	3,108	1,720	Ton	$ 360,340
APPLES	19	2,470	Box	1,729
APRICOTS	979	5,385	Ton	67,312
CHERRIES	14	7.5	Ton	675
CHESTNUTS	3	1,500	Lbs.	90
CITRUS	15	1,200	Box	1,080
FIGS (Kadota)	2,541	10,926	Ton	464,355
FIGS (All Other)	6,602	6,461	Ton (Dry)	711,180
GRAPES (Raisin)	9,220	71,916	Ton	593,307
GRAPES (Table)	-----	-----	-----	-----
GRAPES (Ship't)	-----	1,120	Ton	21,280
GRAPES (Winery)	-----	15,256	Ton	137,304
GRAPES (Wine)	3,522	12,122	Ton	146,676
NECTARINES	89	320	Ton	5,800
OLIVES	64	96	Ton	4,800
PEACHES (Cling #1)	2,855	31,235	Ton	624,700
PEACHES (Cling #2)	-----	4,685	Ton	14,055
PEACHES (Freestone)	2,975	-----	Ton	-----
PEACHES (Shipping)	-----	3,583	Ton	59,100
PEACHES (Canning)	-----	1,800	Ton	31,500
PEACHES (Dried)	-----	2,577	Ton (Dry)	*345,010
PEARS	16	20	Ton	400
PECANS	13	2,100	Lbs.	210
PERSIMMONS	11	25	Ton	1,375
PLUMS	124	316	Ton	10,195
PRUNES	120	210	Ton (Dry)	11,550
POMEGRANATES	21	10	Ton	220
QUINCES	2	3	Ton	75
WALNUTS	1,198	780	Ton	136,500
TOTAL	36,988			$3,750,818

*This figure includes drying cost of $103,080

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	PRODUCING ACRES	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE
ASPARAGUS	70	9,100	Crate	$ 13,923
BEANS - K.W.	143	14,300	Crate	32,175
CANEBERRIES	200	160,000	Crate	64,000
CANTALOUPES	1,030	160,150	Crate	147,690
CARROTS	75	128,216	Doz. Bu.	10,257
CASABAS	95	523	Ton	3,138
CELERY	4	1,100	Crate	660
CUCUMBERS	12	1,920	Lug	672
EGGPLANT	26	33,180	Lug	10,949
GARLIC	37	7,400	Lug	7,400
HONEYDEWS	207	1,449	Ton	10,143
LETTUCE	48	8,400	Crate	5,040
PEAS	250	18,750	Hamper	9,375
PERSIANS	10	50	Ton	600
PEPPERS - BELL	93	57,660	Crate	27,100
ELEPHANT EARS (Yams)	3	7,000	Lbs.	280
POTATOES	321	53,286	Sack	47,957
ONIONS	225	54,657	Sack	34,445
SPINACH	185	27,750	Crate	15,263
STRAWBERRIES	65	76,440	Crate	55,037
SQUASH - ITALIAN	27	5,700	Lug	2,423
SWEET CORN	250	17,500	Sack	30,625
TOMATOES (Shipping)	1,097	642,500	Lug	391,925
TOMATOES (Cannery)	-----	6,000	Ton	42,000
WATERMELONS	645	5,676	Ton	39,732
TOTAL	5,118	-----	-----	$1,002,809

FIELD CROPS

CROP	PRODUCING ACRES	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE
ALFALFA	75,923	379,615	Ton	$3,226,728
ALFALFA (Seed)	190	57,000	Lbs.	9,120
BARLEY	86,092	990,058	Sacks	824,718
BEANS (Black Eye)	7,120	46,280	Sacks	192,062
BEANS (Lima)	100	1,200	Sacks	3,360
BEANS (Pinto)	1,580	19,118	Sacks	76,472
BEANS (Bean Straw)	-----	5,000	Ton	10,000
COTTON	19,644	19,762	Bale	963,398
COTTON (Seed)	-----	7,658	Ton	*229,740
FLAX (Seed)	1,200	22,800	Bu.	45,600
GRAIN (Hay)	12,500	18,750	Ton	131,250
GRAIN (Pasture)	14,700	-----	-----	29,400
MILO	3,075	30,750	Sack	44,280
OATS	7,568	113,520	Sack	125,440
PEANUTS	800	520	Ton	33,800
PERMANENT PASTURE	12,637	-----	-----	215,925
PASTURE	-----	-----	-----	738,790
RICE	2,364	56,547	Sack	73,511
RYE	160	960	Sack	2,083
SILAGE (Corn and Sorghum)	5,700	68,400	Ton	205,200
SUDAN (Seed)	532	5,320	Sack	10,640
SUDAN (Pasture)	13,950	-----	-----	167,400
STUBBLE	106,160	-----	-----	53,080
SWEET POTATOES	3,857	403,675	Crate	504,594
SEED	-----	1,125	Ton	33,750
CULLS	-----	4,820	Ton	14,460
WHEAT	10,500	89,250	Sack	168,683
TOTAL	386,352	-----	-----	$8,133,484

*Includes cost of ginning.

NURSERY STOCK

ACRES - 68	PLANTS	VALUE
Fruit & Nut Trees	322,000	$32,200
Rooted Grape Vines	355,000	4,260
Strawberry Plants	1,500,000	10,500
Ornamentals	75,000	14,550
Rose Bushes	90,000	9,000
Cactus	8,000	800
Citrus (Navel Oranges)	1,800	2,250
TOTAL	2,351,800	$73,560

DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND BEES

Dairy Cattle - 81,929	
Milk - 12,000,000 lbs. Butter fat	$4,510,000
Cows - Bulls - Calves - 45,000	815,000
(Sold for beef and breeders)	
Beef Cattle - 60,000	1,072,000
Sheep	
Lambs & Ewes - 53,250	252,938
Wool - 480,000 lbs.	105,000
Hogs - 23,000	322,000
Turkeys - 205,000	482,776
Poults - 300,000 sold	105,000
Eggs - 200,000	30,000
Chickens - 79,236 Cases eggs	437,383
Baby chicks - 500,000	40,000
Meat: Broilers, Roasters, Fryers	106,588
Bees	
Honey - 8,000 colonies - 360,000 lbs.	10,800
Beeswax - 5,400 lbs.	1,188
TOTAL	$8,290,673

SUMMARY

Fruit and Nut Crops	$ 3,750,818
Field Crops	8,133,484
Vegetable Crops	1,002,809
Nursery Stock	73,560
Dairy Cattle	5,325,000
Beef Cattle	1,072,000
Sheep	357,938
Hogs	322,000
Turkeys	617,776
Chickens	583,971
Bees	11,988
GRAND TOTAL:	$21,251,344

CLASSIFICATION
MERCED COUNTY ACREAGE

Land Farmed	Acres
Fruit and Nut Crops	36,988
Field and Vegetable Crops	270,670
Pasture Land - Not Arable	545,290
Arable Land Not Farmed (Mostly Pastured)	311,252
Sloughs - Rivers - Ponds - Brush	
Building Sites - Railroads	
Roads - Canals - Ditches	55,000
TOTAL 1905 Sq. Miles	1,219,200 acres

FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1989-1988

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BARLEY	1989	3,050	1.65	5,030	Ton	$106.00	$ 533,000
	1988	5,132	1.57	8,060	Ton	110.00	887,000
BEANS	1989	3,200	1.06	3,390	Ton	676.00	2,292,000
(Dry Lima)	1988	2,900	1.19	3,450	Ton	739.00	2,550,000
BEANS	1989	2,340	.89	2,080	Ton	562.00	1,169,000
(Dry Other)	1988	2,740	1.19	3,260	Ton	521.00	1,698,000
CORN	1989	8,580	4.47	38,400	Ton	140.00	5,376,000
(Grain)	1988	9,940	3.91	38,900	Ton	131.00	5,096,000
COTTON	1989	60,800	1,220 lbs.	148,400	500 lb. bale	355.00	52,682,000
(Lint)	1988	70,200	1,130 lbs.	158,700	500 lb. bale	325.00	51,578,000
COTTON	1989	-----	-----	59,500	Ton	150.00	8,925,000
(Seed)	1988	-----	-----	59,900	Ton	175.00	10,483,000
HAY	1989	62,600	6.84	428,000	Ton	103.00	44,084,000
(Alfalfa)	1988	57,100	6.76	386,000	Ton	97.70	37,712,000
HAY	1989	7,910	6.35	50,200	Ton	118.00	5,924,000
(Alfalfa-Cube)	1988	13,100	6.50	85,200	Ton	113.00	9,628,000
HAY	1989	18,800	2.92	54,900	Ton	77.80	4,271,000
(Grain)	1988	16,200	3.42	55,400	Ton	69.20	3,834,000
HAY	1989	832	3.55	2,950	Ton	68.50	202,000
(Sudan)	1988	156	4.00	624	Ton	70.00	44,000
OATS	1989	2,460	2.20	5,410	Ton	150.00	812,000
(Grain)	1988	2,308	1.61	3,720	Ton	165.00	614,000
PASTURE	1989	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	110.00	9,130,000
(Irrigated)	1988	83,000	-----	-----	Acre	110.00	9,130,000
PASTURE	1989	557,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,963,000
(Other)	1988	557,000	-----	-----	Acre	12.50	6,963,000
RICE	1989	8,700	3.59	31,200	Ton	145.00	4,524,000
	1988	8,900	3.64	32,400	Ton	140.00	4,536,000
SAFFLOWER	1989	846	1.51	1,280	Ton	328.00	420,000
	1988	460	1.25	575	Ton	290.00	167,000
SILAGE	1989	34,900	25.56	892,000	Ton	18.30	16,324,000
(Corn)	1988	28,400	22.20	630,000	Ton	18.00	11,340,000
[1] SILAGE	1989	44,800	10.56	473,000	Ton	20.50	9,697,000
(Other)	1988	32,900	10.67	351,000	Ton	17.20	6,037,000
SORGHUM	1989	390	2.49	970	Ton	80.00	78,000
(Grain)	1988	320	2.50	800	Ton	102.00	82,000
STRAW	1989	-----	-----	1,600	Ton	35.00	56,000
	1988	-----	-----	1,100	Ton	35.00	39,000
[2] STUBBLE	1989	14,500	-----	-----	Acre	10.00	145,000
(Pasture)	1988	12,100	-----	-----	Acre	10.00	121,000
SUGAR BEETS	1989	16,800	28.45	478,000	Ton	43.70	20,889,000
	1988	15,500	28.26	438,000	Ton	37.90	16,600,000
WHEAT	1989	16,200	2.73	44,200	Ton	130.00	5,746,000
	1988	12,900	2.71	35,000	Ton	120.00	4,200,000
TOTAL	1989	933,208					$200,242,000
	1988	919,156					183,339,000

[1] Includes Alfalfa, Earlage, Oats, Sudan and Winter Forage.

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

NURSERY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION ACREAGE, SALES AND VALUE 1989-1988

	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL
	1989	631	$11,905,000
[1] TOTAL	1988	671	13,248,000

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

OTHER AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1989-1988

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
FIREWOOD	1989	16,200	Cords	$65.00	$1,053,000
	1988	15,940	Cords	65.00	1,036,000
[1] Fuel (Cogeneration)	1989	77,800	Tons	17.10	1,330,000
	1988	56,600	Tons	10.30	614,000
[2] Manure	1989	1,344,000	Tons	5.58	7,500,000
	1988	1,326,000	Tons	5.34	7,081,000
TOTAL					$9,883,000
					8,731,000

[1] Almond Shells, Cotton Stalks, Orchard Prunnings, Rice and Wheat Straw.

[2] Livestock, Poultry.

SEED CROPS
ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1989-1988

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS	1989	150	1,800	270,000	Lb.	$0.330	$ 89,000
	1988	149	1,860	277,000	Lb.	0.340	94,000
[1]SEED CROPS	1989	545	-----	-----	-----	-----	304,000
(Miscellaneous)	1988	1,145	-----	-----	-----	-----	588,000
TOTAL	1989	695	-----	-----	-----	-----	$393,000
	1988	1,294					682,000

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

BEANS	1989	922	2,151	1,983,000	Lb.	$0.299	$ 593,000
	1988	749	1,810	1,356,000	Lb.	0.260	353,000
[2]SEED CROPS	1989	2,947					1,225,000
(Miscellaneous)	1988	1,640					628,000
TOTAL	1989	3,869					$1,818,000
	1988	2,389					981,000

ALL SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1989	4,564					$2,211,000
	1988	3,683					1,663,000

[1] Includes certified seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Oats, Peppers, Rice, Rye and Wheat.

[2] Includes common seed from Cabbage, Carrot, Cucumber, Lettuce, Melons, Oats, Onions, Pepper, Rye, Squash, Tomato and Wheat.

VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1989-1988

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEANS-LIMA	1989	3,930	1.59	6,250	Ton	$500.00	$ 3,125,000
(Freezer)	1988	4,136	1.24	5,130	Ton	380.00	1,949,000
MELONS	1989	8,231	148	1,218,000	90 lb. crates	8.30	10,109,000
(Cantaloupe)	1988	9,324	208	1,939,000	90 lb. crates	9.04	17,529,000
MELONS	1989	1,190	13.10	15,600	Ton	105.00	1,638,000
(Watermelon)	1988	1,026	17.90	18,370	Ton	123.00	2,260,000
MELONS	1989	1,063	5.03	5,350	Ton	185.00	990,000
(Other)	1988	1,423	7.94	11,300	Ton	227.00	2,565,000
PEAS	1989	1,130	1.60	1,810	Ton	237.00	429,000
(Freezer)	1988	800	1.22	976	Ton	240.00	234,000
PEPPERS	1989	1,156	6.47	7,480	Ton	512.00	3,830,000
BELL (Market)	1988	1,236	6.42	7,940	Ton	401.00	3,184,000
[1]PEPPERS	1989	-----	-----	218	Ton	176.00	38,000
(Processing)	1988	-----	-----	3,440	Ton	158.00	544,000
SWEET	1989	5,980	10.38	62,100	Ton	560.00	34,776,000
POTATOES	1988	5,060	8.00	40,500	Ton	558.00	22,599,000
TOMATOES	1989	5,720	-----	6,409,000	25 lb. ctns.	5.52	35,378,000
(Market)	1988	5,240	-----	4,338,000	25 lb. ctns.	5.03	21,820,000
TOMATOES	1989	8,150	31.10	253,000	Ton	56.10	14,193,000
(Processing)	1988	6,050	29.90	181,000	Ton	48.20	8,724,000
TOMATOES	1989	13,870		347,000	Ton		49,571,000
(All)	1988	11,290		235,200	Ton		30,544,000
[2]VEGETABLES	1989	1,796					3,663,000
(Miscellaneous)	1988	1,892					3,329,000
TOTAL	1989	38,346					$108,169,000
	1988	36,187					84,737,000

[1]From Market Acreage and Processing Varieties.

[2]Includes Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Lettuce, Onions. Processed Melons, Popcorn, Pumpkin, Radiccio, Spinach, Squash, String Beans and Sweet Corn.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1989-1988

CROPS	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
ALMONDS	1989	64,645	.62	40,100	Ton	$2,000.00	$ 80,200,000
(Kernel Basis)	1988	63,758	.73	46,500	Ton	2,240.00	104,160,000
ALMONDS	1989	-----	-----	82,200	Ton	67.00	5,507,000
(Hulls)	1988	-----	-----	94,600	Ton	54.70	5,175,000
APRICOTS	1989	1,563	5.52	8,630	Ton	256.00	2,209,000
	1988	1,333	6.12	8,160	Ton	333.00	2,717,000
FIGS	1989	175	3.80	665	Ton	300.00	200,000
(Cannery)	1988	175	3.50	613	Ton	280.00	172,000
FIGS	1989	4,018	1.02	4,100	Ton	1,260.00	5,166,000
(Dry)	1988	4,047	0.96	3,880	Ton	1,445.00	5,607,000
GRAPES	1989	815	1.76	1,430	Ton	920.00	1,316,000
(Raisin)	1988	1,419	1.95	2,770	Ton	888.00	2,460,000
GRAPES	1989	782	9.87	7,720	Ton	133.00	1,027,000
(Raisin to Wine)	1988	688	8.50	5,850	Ton	125.00	731,000
GRAPES	1989	13,682	7.82	107,000	Ton	213.00	22,791,000
(Wine)	1988	13,875	8.11	113,000	Ton	183.00	20,679,000
KIWIS	1989	43	4.47	192	Ton	1,450.00	278,000
	1988	43	5.70	245	Ton	1,480.00	363,000
NECTARINES	1989	166	7.30	1,210	Ton	644.00	779,000
	1988	216	7.60	1,640	Ton	577.00	946,000
OLIVES	1989	33	5.94	196	Ton	600.00	118,000
	1988	45	1.93	87	Ton	427.00	37,000
PEACHES	1989	3,618	15.79	57,100	Ton	208.00	11,877,000
(Clingstone)	1988	3,451	17.68	61,000	Ton	204.00	12,444,000
PEACHES	1989	1,565	15.65	24,500	Ton	161.00	3,945,000
(Freestone)	1988	706	15.65	11,000	Ton	150.00	1,650,000
Misc. Frozen Fruit	1989	-----	-----	817	Ton	499.00	408,000
(Berries, Grapes)	1988	-----	-----	14,300	Ton	174.00	2,488,000
PISTACHIOS	1989	3,610	0.27	975	Ton	3,800.00	3,705,000
	1988	3,678	0.90	3,310	Ton	2,580.00	8,540,000
PLUMS	1989	159	3.32	528	Ton	589.00	311,000
	1988	150	2.39	359	Ton	710.00	255,000
PRUNES	1989	1,783	2.84	5,060	Ton	867.00	4,387,000
	1988	1,657	2.72	4,510	Ton	736.00	3,319,000
WALNUTS	1989	7,507	1.64	12,300	Ton	980.00	12,054,000
(English)	1988	7,618	1.60	12,200	Ton	1,000.00	12,200,000
[1]Miscellaneous	1989	2,869					15,039,000
	1988	3,036					15,886,000
TOTAL	1989	107,033					$171,317,000
	1988	105,895					199,829,000

[1] Includes Apples, Black Walnuts, Cherries, Citrus, Fresh Peaches, Pecans, Persimmons and Table Grapes.

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING 1989-1984

CROPS	YEAR 1989		YEAR 1984	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	64,645	4,569	58,254	7,335
APPLES	2,162	470	1,388	775
APRICOTS	1,563	192	1,535	141
CHERRIES	146	60	64	81
FIGS (Cannery)	175	-----	962	-----
FIGS (Dry)	3,381	3	558	2,354
GRAPES (Raisin)	2,112	3	3,207	57
GRAPES (Table)	219	-----	108	50
GRAPES (Wine)	13,692	441	15,517	910
KIWI	38	-----	43	-----
NECTARINES	166	54	214	20
OLIVES	60	14	112	-----
ORANGES	49	-----	50	5
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,618	795	3,533	433
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,731	117	1,745	250
PEARS	-----	17	15	-----
PECANS	59	13	15	-----
PERSIMMONS	13	-----	13	-----
PISTACHIOS	3,610	454	1,173	3,256
PLUMS	245	48	145	154
PRUNES	1,783	460	1,446	261
WALNUTS (Black)	2	-----	53	18
WALNUTS (English)	7,507	1,016	7,428	1,177
MISCELLANEOUS AND BERRIES	83	-----	38	68
TOTAL	107,059	8,735	97,667	17,365

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS 1989-1988

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
EGGS-CHICKEN	1989	32,415,000	Doz.	$ 0.62	$ 20,097,000
(Market)	1988	38,037,000	Doz.	0.45	17,117,000
EGGS	1989	10,402,000	Each	0.63	6,553,000
(Hatching)	1988	8,175,000	Each	0.57	4,660,000
MILK	1989	7,220	Cwt.	24.50	177,000
(Goat)	1988	6,430	Cwt.	23.80	153,000
MILK	1989	19,896,000	Cwt.	12.34	245,517,000
(Market)	1988	18,749,000	Cwt.	10.88	203,989,000
MILK	1989	1,176,000	Cwt.	11.60	13,642,000
(Manufacturing)	1988	1,419,000	Cwt.	9.89	14,034,000
WOOL	1989	571,000	Lb.	1.54	879,000
	1988	549,000	Lb.	0.99	544,000
TOTAL	1989				$286,865,000
	1988				240,497,000

BEE INDUSTRY 1989-1988

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
BEESWAX	1989	19,000	Lb.	$ 1.05	$ 20,000
	1988	21,300	Lb.	.85	18,000
[1] BULK BEES	1989	10,000	Lb.	4.00	40,000
	1988	1,000	Lb.	4.00	4,000
[2] HONEY	1989	988,000	Lb.	0.390	385,000
	1988	1,106,000	Lb.	0.398	440,000
[3] POLLINATION	1989	145,200	Colony	25.40	3,688,000
	1988	127,300	Colony	23.70	3,017,000
QUEENS	1989	9,000	Each	5.11	46,000
	1988	8,000	Each	5.20	42,000
TOTAL	1989				$4,179,000
	1988				3,521,000

[1] Includes bees sold as nuclei.

[2] Honey produced by 35,500 colonies in 1989 and 32,300 colonies in 1988 owned by resident beekeepers.

[3] Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1989-1988

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
CATTLE AND	1989	123,000	776,000	Cwt.	$ 59.00	$ 45,784,000
CALVES	1988	135,000	746,000	Cwt.	69.00	51,474,000
CHICKENS	1989	92,461,000	441,905,000	Lb.	0.365	161,295,000
(Fryers and Broilers)	1988	86,243,000	400,899,000	Lb.	0.361	144,725,000
CHICKENS	1989	1,317,000	5,260,000	Lb.	0.246	1,294,000
(Other)	1988	1,150,000	4,261,000	Lb.	0.223	950,000
GOATS	1989	870	-----	Each	44.00	38,000
	1988	790	-----	Ech	36.00	28,000
HOGS AND PIGS	1989	59,500	119,000	Cwt.	51.80	6,164,000
	1988	55,200	117,000	Cwt.	47.30	5,534,000
HORSES	1989	1,110	-----	Each	925.00	1,027,000
	1988	1,110	-----	Each	925.00	1,027,000
[1]POULTRY	1989	215,000	252,000	Lb.	2.60	655,000
(Miscellaneous)	1988	240,000	302,000	Lb.	2.66	803,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	1989	70,600	94,100	Cwt.	57.90	5,448,000
	1988	68,100	89,800	Cwt.	59.60	5,352,000
TURKEYS	1989	4,375,000	89,513,000	Lb.	0.380	34,015,000
	1988	3,421,000	70,609,000	Lb.	0.348	24,572,000
TOTAL	1989					$255,720,000
	1988					234,465,000

[1]Chukar, Pheasant, Poussin.

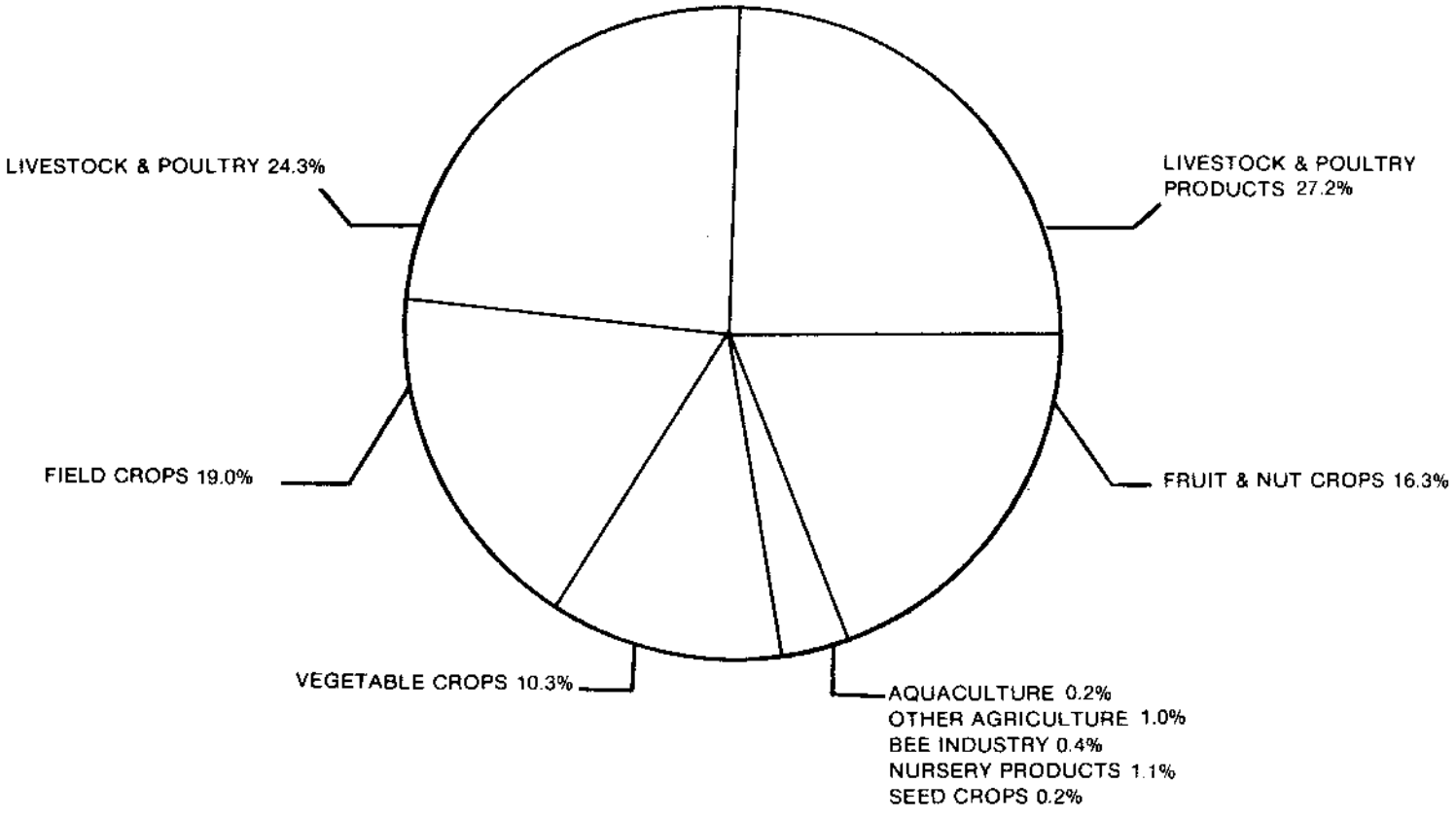
AQUACULTURE
PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1989-1988

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
[1]FISH FOR FOOD	1989	738,000	Lbs.	$ 1.78	$1,314,000
	1988	611,000	Lbs.	1.38	1,843,000
[2]FISH (Miscellaneous)	1989	34,284,000	Each	0.038	1,303,000
	1988	50,274,000	Each	0.0458	2,304,000
TOTAL	1989				$2,617,000
	1988				3,147,000

[1]Catfish, Stripers, Trout

[2]Fingerlings, Goldfish

PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART FOR COMMODITIES



*GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

BARLEY	$ 46,000	HONEY	$ 191,000	SORGHUM	$ 8,000
CORN	842,000	RICE	2,175,000	WHEAT	551,000
COTTON	9,928,000	LIVESTOCK FEED	1,235,000	WOOL	85,000

**CROPS NOT HARVESTED IN 1988

BROCCOLI	70 Acres	GRAPES, RAISIN	515 Acres	PEPPERS, BELL	184 Acres	TOMATOES, FRESH	86 Acres
CANTALOUPES	280 Acres	OLIVES	27 Acres	PLUMS	86 Acres		

*Amounts not included in total value of each crop for 1989 (Source: ASCS Office).

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

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON SUMMARY 1989-1939

COMMODITIES	1989	1988	1979	1969	1959	1949	1939
AQUACULTURE	$ 2,617,000	$ 3,147,000	$ ------	$ ------	$ ------	$ ------	$ ------
BEE INDUSTRY	4,179,000	3,521,000	2,006,000	536,000	110,000	58,000	12,000
FIELD CROPS	200,242,000	183,339,000	157,795,000	40,662,000	37,508,000	27,973,000	8,113,000
FRUIT AND NUTS	171,317,000	199,829,000	155,830,000	25,763,000	15,022,000	8,091,000	3,751,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	255,720,000	234,465,000	182,653,000	46,947,000	22,287,000	18,711,000	3,196,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	286,865,000	240,497,000	136,015,000	38,222,000	25,230,000	19,768,000	5,082,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	11,905,000	13,248,000	12,011,000	2,170,000	3,982,000	1,687,000	74,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	9,883,000	8,731,000	------	-----	------	------	------
SEED CROPS	2,211,000	1,663,000	3,228,000	756,000	943,000	21,000	20,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	108,169,000	84,737,000	51,419,000	17,229,000	10,607,000	4,578,000	1,003,000
TOTAL	$1,053,108,000	$973,177,000	$700,957,000	$172,485,000	$115,689,000	$80,887,000	$21,251,000

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1989

MILK	259,159,000 (1)	CATTLE	45,784,000 (5)
CHICKENS	162,589,000 (2)	SWEET POTATOES	34,776,000 (9)
ALMONDS	80,200,000 (3)	TURKEYS	34,015,000 (8)
COTTON	52,682,000 (4)	GRAPES, WINE	23,818,000 (10)
ALFALFA	50,008,000 (6)	SUGAR BEETS	20,889,000 (13)
TOMATOES	49,571,000 (7)	EGGS	20,097,000 (12)

NUMBER TO RIGHT OF LISTING DENOTES 1988 RANKING