

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1997

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

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

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

WHAT DOES THE DEPARTMENT DO?

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

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

Agricultural Commissioner

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

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

Sealer of Weights and Measures

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

STAFF

Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Michael J. Tanner

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Gary Caseri

Deputy Director of Weights and Measures
Dennis L. Gudgel

Deputy Agricultural Commissioners
Daniel L. Cismowski
Clifton H. Piper

Agricultural Biologists

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

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

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

Weights and Measures Inspectors

Karen S. Arburua
Kevin J. Gonzalves

Ronald E. Dobson
William E. Leslie

Ronald J. Dugdale

Automation Systems Analyst II

Michael J. Quinn

Administrative Services Staff

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

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

Fieldworker

Juventino Magana

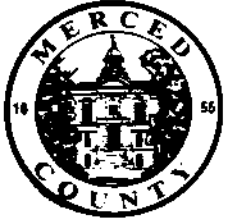
Agricultural Aides/Seasonal

Milford Esau

Jesus Molina

Tiffany A. Martin

Sheila K. Worthley



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner • Weights and Measures • Animal Control

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

GARY CASERI
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

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

Ms. Kathleen Crookham, Chairperson, District 2

Ms. Gloria Cortez Keene, District 1

Mr. Joe Rivero, District 3

Ms. Deidre Kelsey, District 4

Mr. Jerry O'Banion, District 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanner
Agricultural Commissioner

FIELD CROPS

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

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

NURSERY PRODUCTS



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

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



OTHER AGRICULTURE

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

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

SEED CROPS



CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

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

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

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

ALL SEED CROPS

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

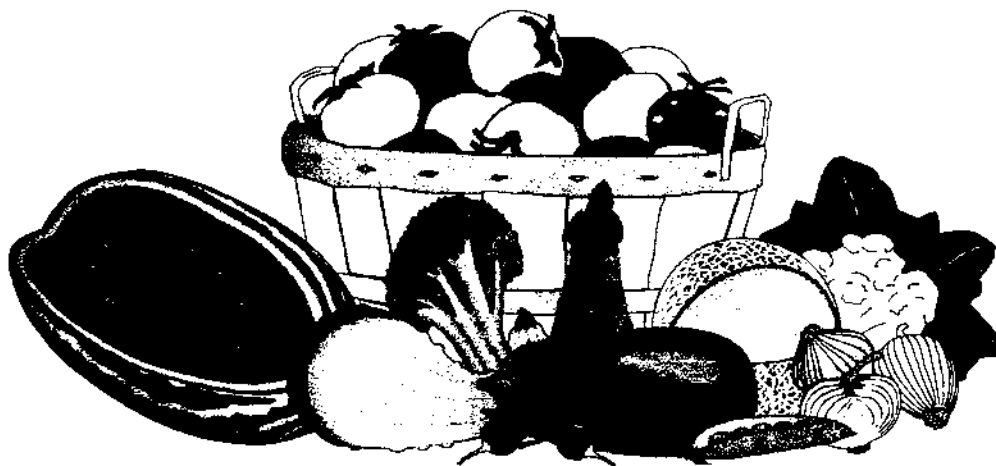
* Includes certified seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Blackeye Beans, and Cotton.

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

VEGETABLE CROPS

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

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



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

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

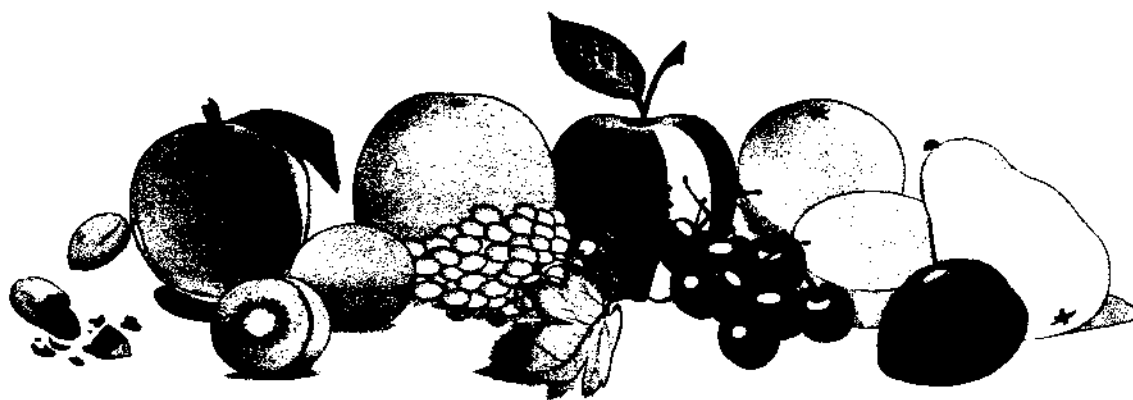
* Includes Berries, Grapes, Melons and Peaches.

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



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

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



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

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

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

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

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

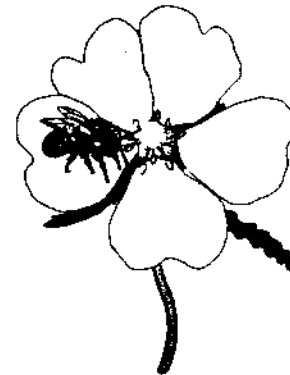


BEE INDUSTRY



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

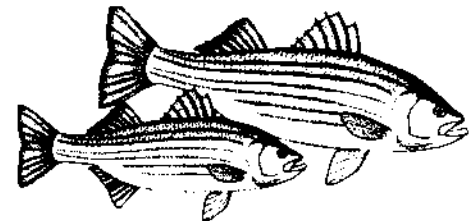
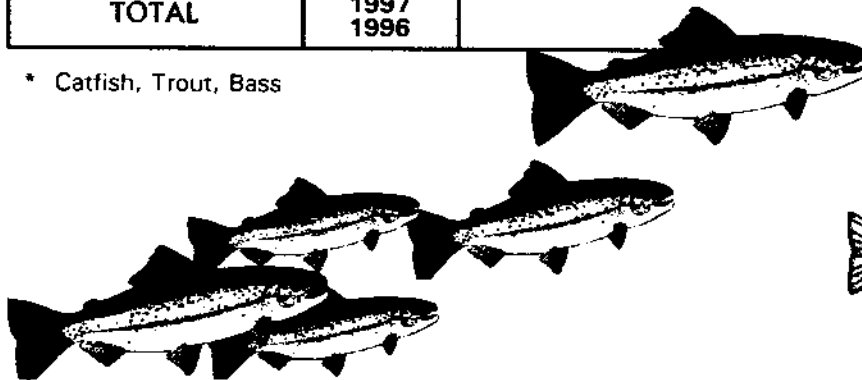
- * Includes bees sold as nuclei.
- ** Honey produced by 26,500 registered resident colonies in 1996 and 23,955 colonies for 1995.
- *** Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.



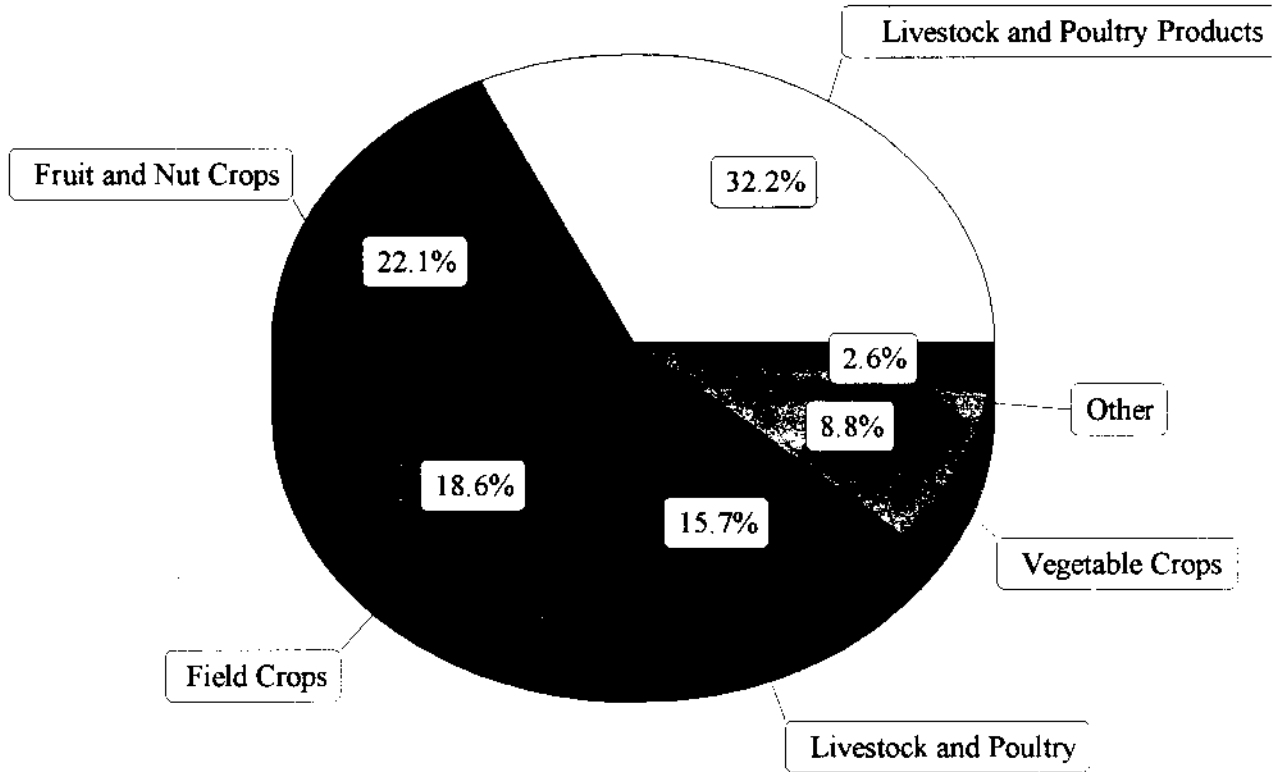
AQUACULTURE

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

- * Catfish, Trout, Bass



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

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

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

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

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

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

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

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



TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1997

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

(Number in parenthesis denotes 1996 ranking)

MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



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

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

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

* Tomatoes, beans.

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING

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



PEST ERADICATION

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



PEST EXCLUSION

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