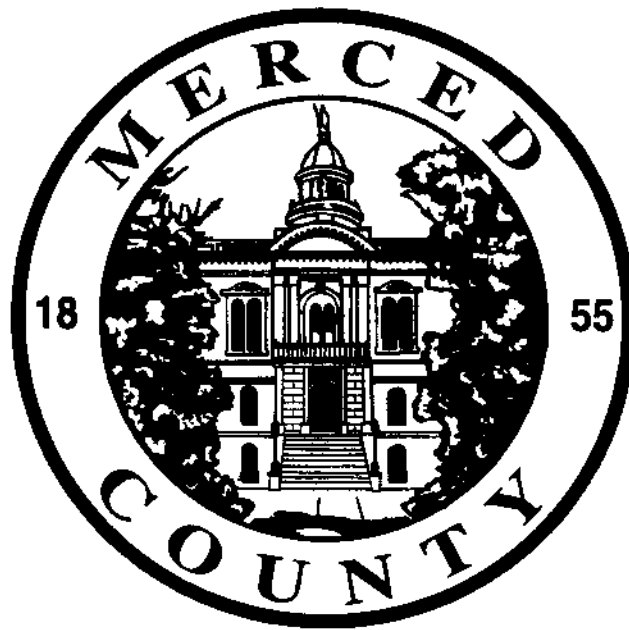


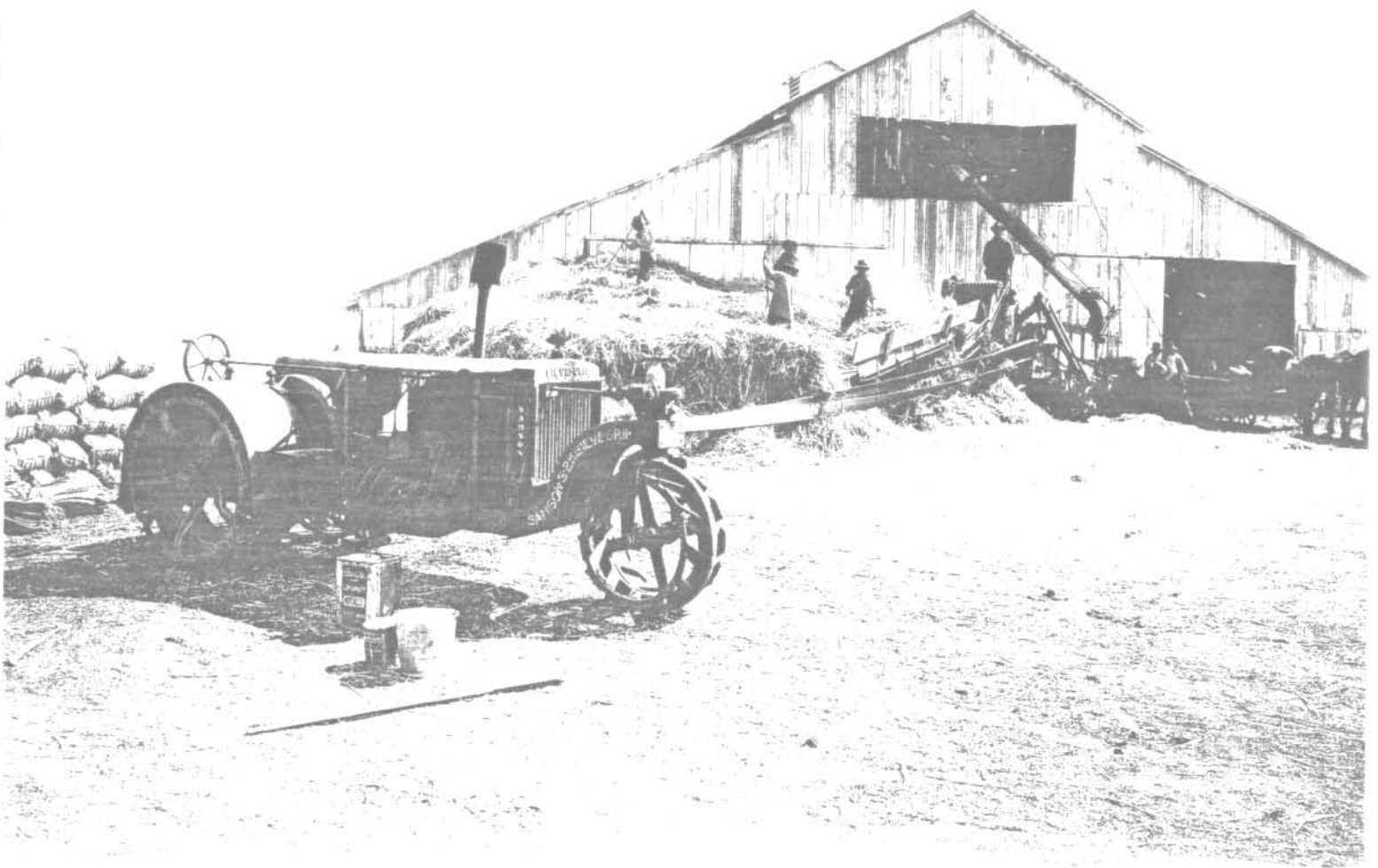
ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



1996

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

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



Picture courtesy of:
Merced County Historical Society Archives

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STAFF

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Michael J. Tanner**

**Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Gary Caseri**

**Deputy Director of Weights and Measures
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**Fieldworker
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Catherine M. Gilbert	Jesus Molina	Sheila K. Worthley
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER • WEIGHTS AND MEASURES • ANIMAL CONTROL

2139 Wardrobe Avenue
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Telephone (209) 385-7431

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

GARY CASERI
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

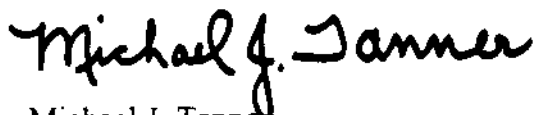
Market tomatoes for the second year in a row sustained the biggest loss in value of all commodities, dropping in value \$3,705,000 to \$31,143,000. Yield was down 7.6%, acreage by 3.8%, but price slightly up. Prunes dropped in total value to \$5,042,000, down \$2,027,000. Yield was down 24.1% and price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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Tanne
Agricultural Commissioner

FIELD CROPS

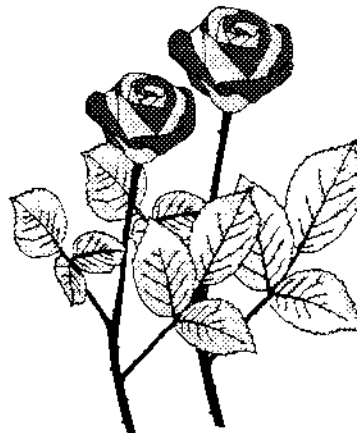
CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	1996	3,700	1.37	5,069	Ton	\$140.53	\$712,000
	1995	5,068	1.55	7,850	Ton	\$120.05	\$942,000
BEANS (Dry Lima)	1996	3,735	.99	3,698	Ton	\$895.53	\$3,312,000
	1995	3,135	1.30	4,075	Ton	\$757.62	\$3,087,000
BEANS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

- * Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not fresh corn).
- ** Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Earlage, Oats, Rye, and Wheat.
- *** Includes Alfalfa, Barley, Oats and Wheat. Stubble pasture not included in total acreage.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

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

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



OTHER AGRICULTURE

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

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

** Livestock, Poultry

SEED CROPS



CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

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

NON-CERTIFIED SEED CROPS

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

ALL SEED CROPS

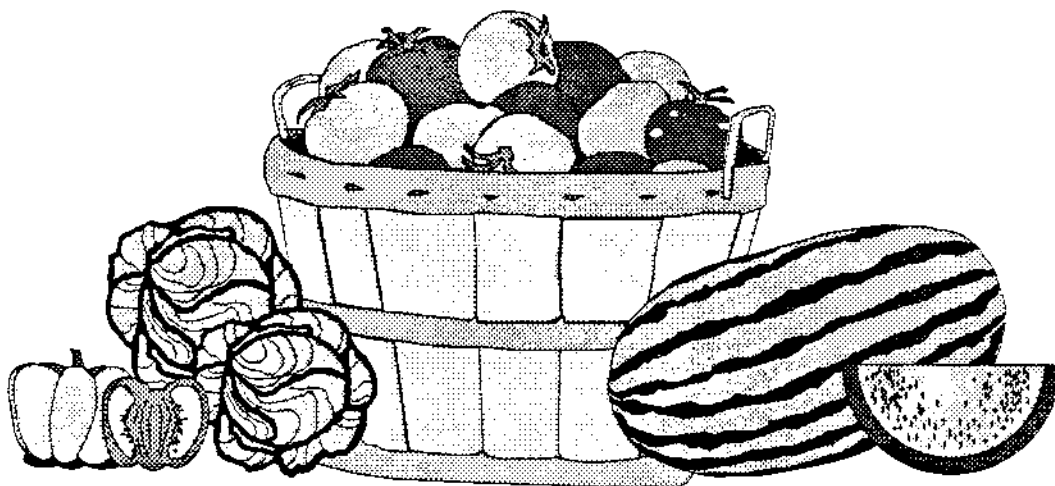
	YEAR	ACREAGE HARVESTED	TOTAL
TOTAL	1996	1,698	\$583,000
	1995	1,992	\$837,000

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

VEGETABLE CROPS

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

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

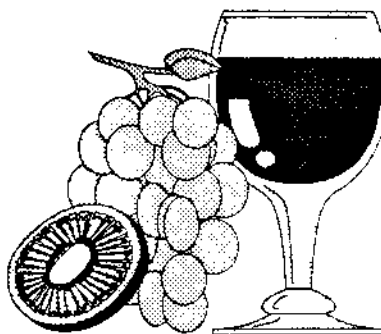


FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

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

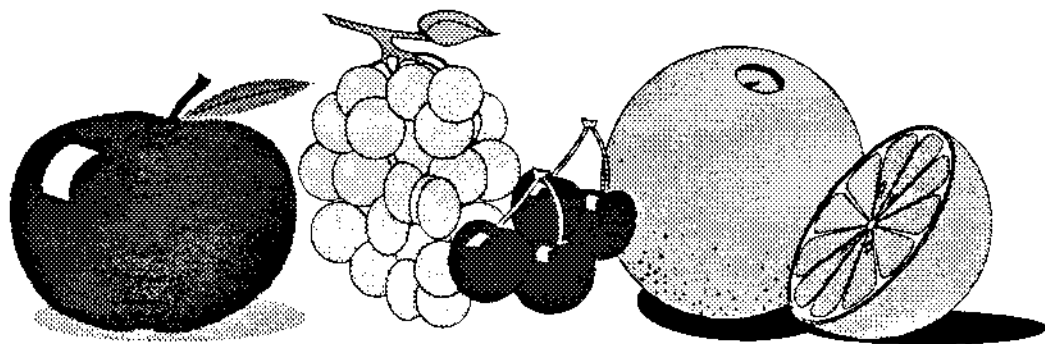
* Includes Berries, Grapes, and Melons.

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



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

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



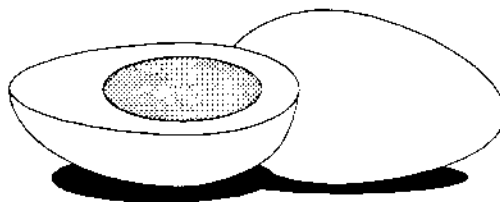
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

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

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

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

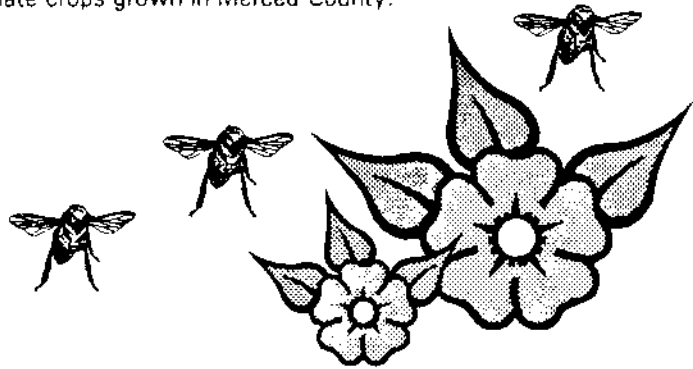
ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS, CHICKEN (Market)	1996	63,473,745	Dozen	\$0.64	\$40,623,000
	1995	53,145,860	Dozen	\$0.49	\$25,856,000
EGGS (Hatching)	1996	9,002,161	Each	\$0.69	\$6,211,000
	1995	8,155,430	Each	\$0.66	\$5,415,000
MILK (Goat)	1996	24,238	Cwt.	\$29.27	\$709,000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



BEE INDUSTRY

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

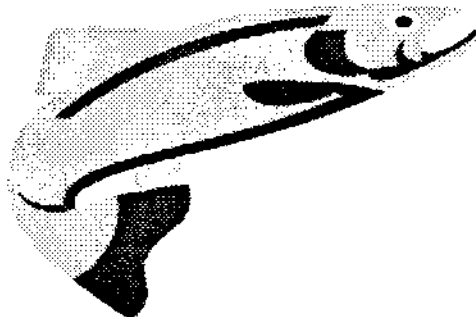
- * Includes bees sold as nuclei.
- ** Honey produced by 26,500 registered resident colonies in 1996 and 23,955 colonies for 1995.
- *** Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.



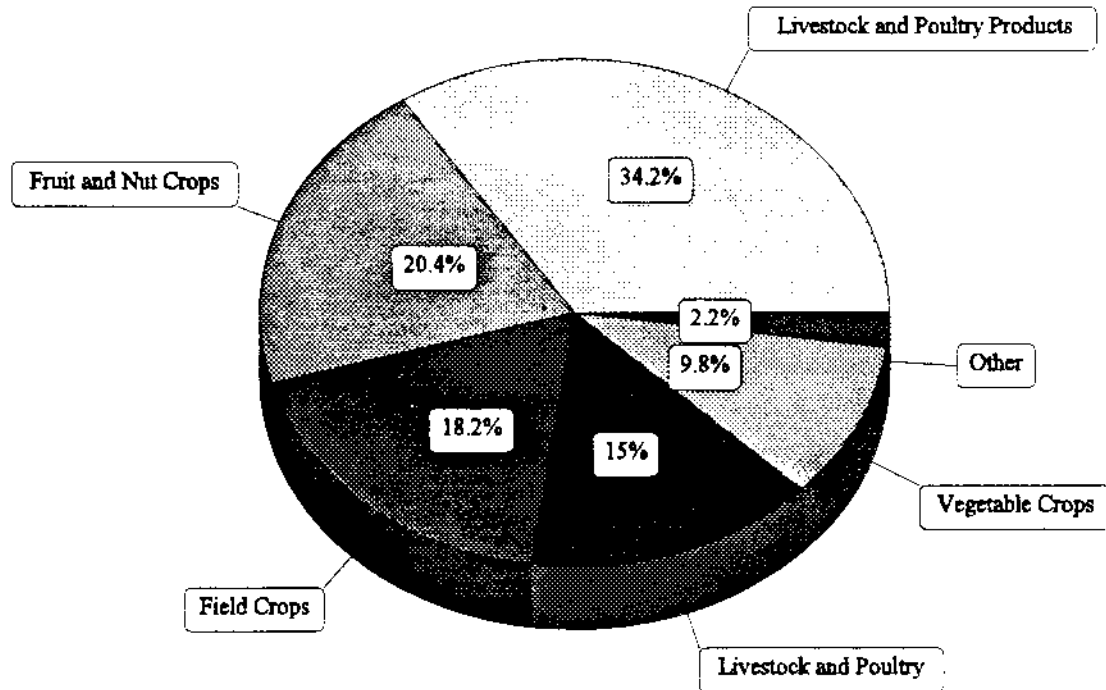
AQUACULTURE

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

- * Catfish, Trout, Bass



PERCENTAGE COMPARISON CHART



GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS *

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

CROPS NOT HARVESTED **

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

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

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

COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

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

TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 1996

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

(Number in parenthesis denotes 1995 ranking)

MERCED COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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

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

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

* Tomatoes, beans.

PEST DETECTION/TRAPPING

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



PEST ERADICATION

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



PEST EXCLUSION

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