



# PROFILE OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY



<b>County Area:</b>	921,600 acres
<b>Farm Land:</b>	812,629 acres
<b>Population:</b>	630,600 (2004)
<b>County Seat:</b>	Stockton

San Joaquin County ranks **number seven** in agricultural producing counties in the United States and is one of eleven California counties with a billion dollars or more production in crop value. There are more than 250 crops under local cultivation.

In addition, San Joaquin County continues to be the leading county in the nation for wine grape with approximately 98,000 bearing acres, which produce a total value of \$289.7 million in 2005. Other top grossing commodities in the county includes: dairy, \$314.6 million; almonds, \$166.6 million; tomatoes, \$103.6 million and walnuts, \$97.6 million and cherries, \$91.8 million. Twenty crops produced in the county ranked in the top five by value in California production. Values and harvested acreages of the county agricultural production in 2005 by category are:

Commodity	Value (millions)	Harvested Acreage
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$717,306	209,230
Vegetable Crop	\$263,553	84,328
Livestock & Poultry Products (milk)	\$333,642	--
Field Crops	\$160,948	399,547
Nursery Products	\$141,473	--
Livestock & Poultry	\$110,513	--
Apiary Products	\$12,664	--
Seed Crops	\$3,198	1,969
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,730,633</b>	<b>695,074</b>

San Joaquin County is one of the 27 original California counties founded in 1850. It is centrally located between the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys and forms the eastern border of the Delta area of five main rivers (the San Joaquin, Sacramento, Calaveras, Mokelumne and Stanislaus). Seventy-eight percent of all California waters flow through the Delta region, including 1100 miles of waterways in San Joaquin County. Situated midway between San Francisco bay and Lake Tahoe, it is the transition of the coastal region and the Sierra Nevada.

The topography varies from flat Delta farmland in the west to rolling hills in the east. The western portion of San Joaquin County lies below sea level and rises to 360 feet in the eastern border. The highest point is 3,626 feet of Mt. Boardman in the southwest corner as part of the coastal range.

Warm dry summers and moist winters characterize the climate. Average maximum summer temperature is about 93 degrees F and average winter minimums of 37 degrees F. Annual rainfall ranges from 18 total inches in the north to 10 inches in the south county.

Cool moist winds from the Pacific pass through the Delta, and as a result, the county has slightly lower summer temperatures and cooler nights than valley areas to the south or north.

Originally the area was home to the Miwok and Yokut Indian tribes. "San Joaquin" comes from "Joachim" and has religious significance. Spanish Lt. Gabriel Moraga gave the name to the main river in 1812.

There are 4,026 county farms with an average size of 209 acres that generate more than \$1.4 billion annually in on-farm value. Farm employment is the fifth largest source of jobs in the county, with many additional jobs in support industries and services. The median family income in the county is \$41,282.

The population density is about 403 persons per square mile. The population is diverse with 55.3% white, 27.7% Hispanic, 8.8% Asian or Pacific Islander, 6.7% black and 1% American Indian by the 2000 census.

The easternmost deepwater port of the Pacific coast is located in Stockton, the county seat. Stockton is also home to the University of the Pacific, established in 1850 as the College of the Pacific.

In May 1914, San Joaquin County growers were one of two regions in California to first establish a Farm Bureau and Cooperative Extension office in collaboration with the University of California. For over 92 years, San Joaquin County Cooperative Extension has played an important role in keeping the county's number one industry of agriculture current and productive.

Assistance has been provided to growers, the general public and other agencies to improve agricultural production and to deal with difficult environmental issues. Several thousand young people have gained valuable life skills from our 4-H Youth Program. Our education and outreach programs help to strengthen families and improve their nutrition and well being.

Current issues in San Joaquin County include water quality and quantity; air quality; invasive species and their control; agriculture/urban interface; labor availability and immigration; regulatory and tax effects on family farms viability; youth development and family health and nutrition. Leadership and support of the Cooperative Extension office in San Joaquin County have been important to maintain an agricultural community that can continue to be economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable.

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