



**ANNUAL
REPORT OF AGRICULTURE
2005**



MERCED COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855 – 2005

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

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



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



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And

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Merced

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County Executive Officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner

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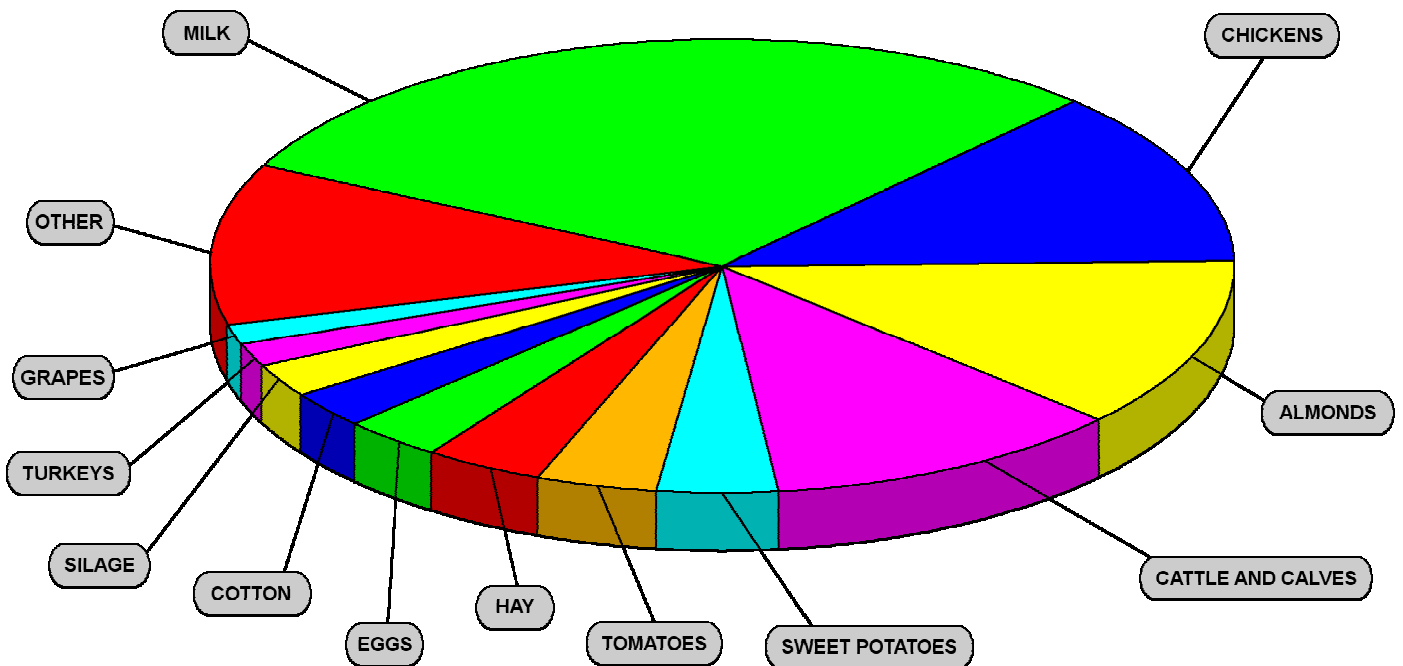
TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 2005

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

(The number in parenthesis denotes the 2004 ranking)

(1) Includes Market and Manufacturing.

(2) Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.



FIELD CROPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

VEGETABLE CROPS

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

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

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



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

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

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

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



1927 - Kadota Figs - possibly near Le Grand

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

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



SEED CROPS

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

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



OTHER AGRICULTURE

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

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

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

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

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

NURSERY PRODUCTS

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

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

BEE INDUSTRY

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

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

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

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

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

AQUACULTURE

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

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

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

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

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

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

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



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

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

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



2005 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT

PEST PREVENTION

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

Pest Exclusion Program:

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

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

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

Pierce's Disease Control Program:

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

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

Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program:

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

Pest Detection Program:

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

The trapping program in Merced County targeted the following pests:

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

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

PEST ERADICATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

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

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

ORGANIC FARMING

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

EXPORTED COMMODITIES

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

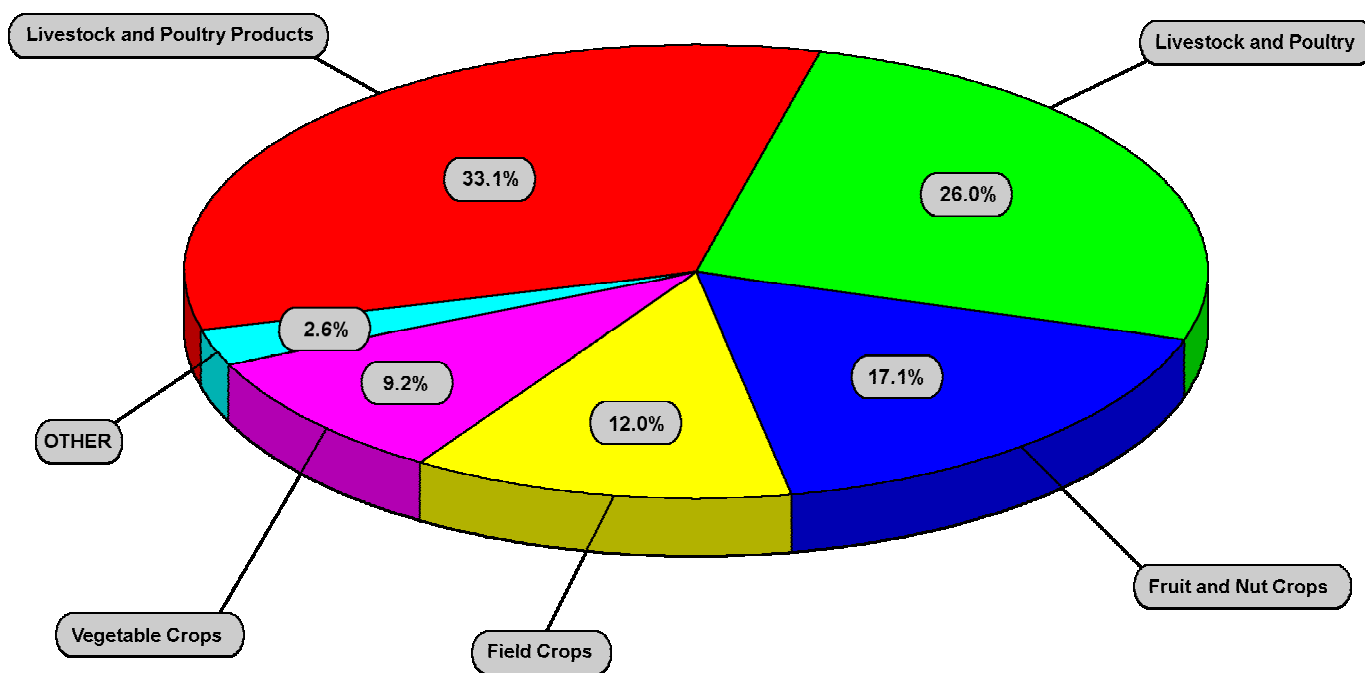
EXPORTS GO TO THESE COUNTRIES

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



COMMODITY VALUE CROP COMPARISON

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



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STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE