MERCED COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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2012 REPORT ON AGRICULTURE

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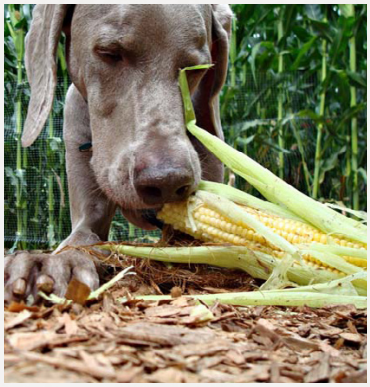
Merced County Corn

Most of the corn grown in Merced County is grown for cattle feed. Of the roughly 100,000 acres of corn grown in Merced County in 2012, 90 percent was grown as a feed for dairy cows known as silage. When corn is used for silage, the entire plant is green chopped and stored in covered piles for later feeding.

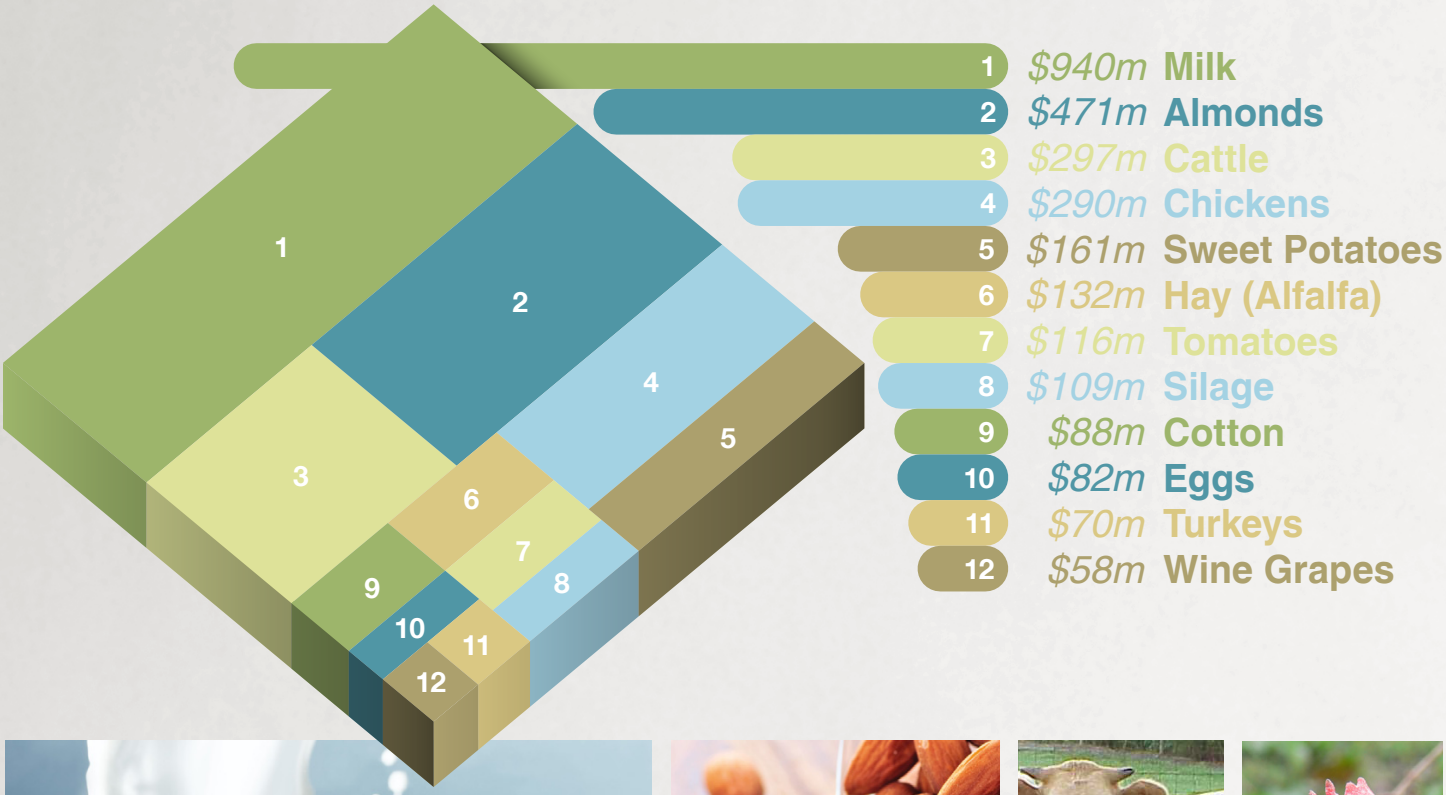
Grain corn production of 14,144 acres is small when compared to silage corn. Grain corn can be used for multiple purposes; it is used for human consumption in products like corn chips, masa, or tortillas, used as grain feed for livestock, or used to produce ethanol for use as a gasoline additive.

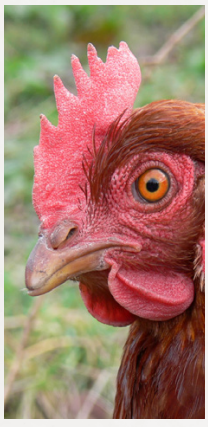
Found at farmers markets and farm stands throughout the county, sweet corn is available throughout the summer. Consumed fresh on the cob, sweet corn is picked when immature (milk stage) and prepared and eaten as a vegetable, rather than a grain. Less than a hundred acres were grown in 2012, making it the smallest portion of the corn acreage in the county.



Top Twelve Leading Farm Commodities

RANK	CROP	VALUE	2011 RANK	
1	**Milk** *(includes Market & Manufacturing)*	$940,236,000	1	
2	**Almonds** *(Kernel Basis)*	$471,363,000	2	
3	**Cattle & Calves**	$296,891,000	3	
4	**Chickens** *(includes Fryers & Other Chickens)*	$290,180,000	4	
5	**Sweet Potatoes**	$160,543,000	5	
6	**Hay** *(Alfalfa)*	$131,885,000	6	
7	**Tomatoes** *(includes Market & Processing Tomatoes)*	$115,710,000	9	⬆⬆
8	**Silage** *(Corn)*	$109,221,000	7	⬇
9	**Cotton** *(includes Acala & Pima Cotton)*	$88,372,000	8	⬇
10	**Chicken Eggs** *(Market)*	$81,726,000	10	
11	**Turkeys**	$69,843,000	11	
12	**Wine Grapes**	$57,787,000	12	
		$2,813,757,000		





MERCED COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Karen Ross, *Secretary*
California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Merced
Deidre F. Kelsey, *Chairman*
Linn Davis **Jerry O'Banion**
John Pedrozo **Hubert "Hub" Walsh**
James L. Brown, *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 2012 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of Merced County's agricultural commodities.

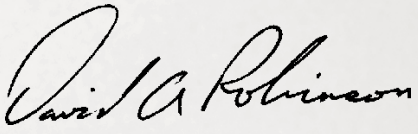
Merced County agriculture commodities grossed $3,280,206,000, in 2012 for a record high. This is the third time that Merced County agriculture has surpassed the three-billion-dollar mark in gross production value. Overall, the 2012 growing season was again good for most crops. These figures represent 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.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 2012 CROP YEAR

- In spite of a 14.6% drop in value of $161,145,000, milk remains the county's number one commodity with an overall value of $940,236,000. Much of the decrease is due to the decrease in price for both market milk and milk used in manufacturing and a 40% drop in production of milk used in manufacturing.
- Almonds held steady as the second leading commodity with a gross production value of $471,363,000. A significant increase in price and a modest increase in acreage contributed to a 18.68% increase in overall value.
- Cattle & Calves remain the number three commodity with a gross production value of $296,891,000. Cattle prices and production remained steady with an overall increase in value of 2.1%
- Chickens remained the number four commodity. Although there was a slight drop in production and prices increased a modest 4.69% for a total of $290,180,000, gross production value was achieved.
- Sweet potatoes remained the number five commodity despite the slight decrease in production and slight increase in prices. Total production value was $160,543,000, up 0.9% from 2011.
- Alfalfa hay remained the number six leading crop where Corn silage dropped from the number seven spot to number eight. Although prices were down for alfalfa hay, an increase in both acreage and production provided for an overall increase production value.
- Tomatoes jumped from number nine in 2011 to number seven in 2012. An increase in acreage for both market and manufacturing combined with higher prices and production equated to a total production value of $115,710,000. This is an increase of$26,442,000 (29.6%).

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers and ranchers, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data for this report.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Robinson, *Agricultural Commissioner*

Field Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Barley	2012	1,349	1.98	2,671	Ton	$175.59	$469,000
	2011	2,294	2.37	5,441		$169.38	$922,000
Beans (Dry Lima)	2012	872	1.38	1,203	Ton	$900.01	$1,083,000
	2011	1,278	1.34	1,710		$913.31	$1,561,000
Corn (Grain) (1)	2012	14,144	6.04	85,425	Ton	$245.21	$20,947,000
	2011	15,992	6.14	98,121		$244.89	$24,029,000
Cotton (Acala)	2012	43,860	3.50	153,299	500 Lb Bale	$469.36	$71,952,000
	2011	47,010	2.97	139,804		$576.34	$80,575,000
Cotton (Pima)	2012	8,265	3.03	25,041	500 Lb Bale	$655.73	$16,420,000
	2011	8,595	2.62	22,525		$810.45	$18,255,000
Cotton (Seed)	2012	—	1.28	66,582	Ton	$378.77	$25,220,000
	2011	—	1.03	57,473		$200.00	$11,495,000
Hay (Alfalfa)	2012	83,930	7.09	595,351	Ton	$221.52	$131,885,000
	2011	76,682	6.67	511,811		$242.82	$124,279,000
Hay (Grain) (2)	2012	35,365	4.31	152,492	Ton	$149.18	$22,748,000
	2011	32,802	3.62	118,804		$133.38	$15,846,000
Hay (Sudan)	2012	10,170	4.03	41,022	Ton	$162.83	$6,679,000
	2011	9,939	2.17	21,583		$137.65	$2,971,000
Misc. Field Crops (3)	2012	2,540	—	—	—	—	$2,882,000
	2011	2,364	—	—		—	$1,253,000
Pasture (Irrigated)	2012	26,597	—	26,597	Acre	$161.91	$4,306,000
	2011	26,597	—	26,597		$167.34	$4,451,000
Pasture (Other)	2012	562,461	—	562,461	Acre	$20.33	$11,435,000
	2011	562,471	—	562,471		$19.03	$10,704,000
Rice	2012	2,408	3.78	9,111	Ton	$377.59	$3,440,000
	2011	2,261	4.31	9,742		$359.47	$3,502,000
Silage (Alfalfa)	2012	—	2.37	198,774	Ton	$62.98	$12,519,000
	2011	—	2.34	179,198		$64.85	$11,621,000
Silage (Corn)	2012	89,555	26.96	2,414,844	Ton	$45.23	$109,221,000
	2011	87,768	27.07	2,375,923		$45.24	$107,475,000
Silage (Other) (4)	2012	73,143	14.62	1,069,052	Ton	$33.11	$35,397,000
	2011	66,206	13.63	902,409		$30.32	$27,361,000
Straw (5)	2012	—	—	3,473	Ton	$59.02	$205,000
	2011	—	—	3,808		$43.88	$167,000
Stubble (Pasture)	2012	—	—	15,107	Acre	$50.00	$755,000
	2011	—	—	13,803		$50.00	$690,000
Wheat	2012	14,943	3.51	52,499	Ton	$242.49	$12,730,000
	2011	16,675	3.03	50,503		$245.54	$12,401,000
Total	2012	969,601					$490,294,000
	2011	958,933					$459,557,000

(1) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn) & grain for feed.
(2) For 2012: Includes Barley, Oat, Rye Grass & Wheat.
For 2011: Includes Oat, Rye Grass & Wheat.
(3) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Beans (Dry Other), Corn Stalks & Earledge, Milo, Oat Grain & Safflower.
(4) For 2012: Includes Oat, Sorghum, Sudan, Triticale, Wheat & Winter forage.
For 2011: Includes Oat, Sudan & Wheat.
(5) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Straw from Barley, Bean (Dry), Oat, Rice & Wheat.

Disclaimer: Numbers will not compute exactly due to computer rounding of production and value rates.

Livestock & Poultry Products

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Eggs (Other) (1)	2012	29,673,330	Each	$0.45	$11,402,000
	2011	1,825,000		$0.45	$821,000
Eggs, Chicken (Market)	2012	97,875,270	Dozen	$0.83	$81,726,000
	2011	107,030,520		$0.80	$85,196,000
Milk (Goat)	2012	120,002	Cwt	$36.57	$4,388,000
	2011	119,840		$36.46	$4,369,000
Milk (Manufacturing)	2012	2,101,725	Cwt	$17.84	$37,501,000
	2011	3,521,729		$18.71	$65,892,000
Milk (Market)	2012	58,722,098	Cwt	$15.37	$902,735,000
	2011	55,581,797		$18.63	$1,035,489,000
Wool	2012	158,652	Lb	$1.65	$262,000
	2011	128,684		$1.15	$148,000
Total	2012				$1,038,014,000
	2011				$1,191,915,000

(1) For 2012: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs and Organic Chicken Eggs.
For 2011: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.

Livestock & Poultry Production

CROP	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION PER HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Cattle & Calves (1)	2012	308,813	8.96	2,767,953	Cwt	$107.26	$296,891,000
	2011	337,231	8.48	2,859,517		$101.70	$290,823,000
Chickens (Fryers & Broilers)	2012	74,730,693	5.78	431,943,406	Lb	$0.67	$290,180,000
	2011	77,622,697	5.75	446,330,508		$0.64	$285,652,000
Livestock (Miscellaneous) (2)	2012	46,978	—	—	—	—	$5,198,000
	2011	43,351	—	—		—	$6,203,000
Poultry (Miscellaneous) (3)	2012	66,000	—	—	—	—	$639,000
	2011	61,000	—	—		—	$535,000
Sheep & Lambs	2012	36,566	1.35	49,517	Cwt	$135.37	$6,703,000
	2011	27,553	1.41	38,987		$167.22	$6,519,000
Turkeys	2012	2,630,479	30.09	79,151,113	Lb	$0.88	$69,843,000
	2011	2,627,453	28.87	75,854,568		$0.87	$65,993,000
Total	2012	77,819,529					$669,453,000
	2011	80,719,285					$655,726,000

(1) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Calves, Cull Bulls (Dairy & Beef), Cull Cows (Dairy & Beef), Replacement Heifers (Dairy & Beef) & Stocker Cattle.
(2) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Dairy & Meat Goats sold for meat.
(3) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Chukar, Pheasant & Squab.

Seed Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	VALUE TOTAL
Seed Crops (1)	2012	4,756	$5,929,000
	2011	3,613	$2,113,000
Total	2012	4,756	$5,929,000
	2011	3,613	$2,113,000

(1) For 2012: Includes Certified, Common & Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Oat, Triticale & Wheat.
For 2011: Includes Certified, Common & Phytosanitary Seed from Barley, Cotton, Kohlrabi, Mustard, Oat, Radish, Triticale, Tomato,and Wheat,

Fruit & Nut Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Almonds (Hulls)	2012	—	—	198,286	Ton	$132.72	$26,316,000
	2011	—	—	206,858		$129.46	$26,780,000
Almonds (Kernel Basis)	2012	97,647	0.98	96,133	Ton	$4,903.22	$471,363,000
	2011	98,504	1.05	103,429		$3,840.00	$397,168,000
Apricots	2012	389	16.55	6,441	Ton	$400.00	$2,576,000
	2011	349	12.54	4,378		$390.00	$1,707,000
Figs (Dry)	2012	946	1.00	946	Ton	$1,500.00	$1,419,000
	2011	950	1.19	1,127		$1,795.35	$2,024,000
Grapes (Raisin)	2012	420	2.44	1,025	Ton	$1,708.82	$1,752,000
	2011	544	1.96	1,067		$1,682.23	$1,794,000
Grapes (Wine)	2012	12,243	11.18	136,873	Ton	$422.20	$57,787,000
	2011	11,617	10.05	116,771		$429.72	$50,179,000
Miscellaneous (1)	2012	3,403	—	—	—	—	$19,054,000
	2011	2,209	—	—		—	$19,578,000
Peaches (Clingstone)	2012	2,222	15.67	34,820	Ton	$311.30	$10,840,000
	2011	2,412	18.90	45,578		$292.07	$13,312,000
Peaches (Freestone)	2012	1,728	18.36	31,713	Ton	$271.69	$8,616,000
	2011	1,756	21.76	38,209		$258.29	$9,869,000
Pistachios	2012	5,016	1.33	6,648	Ton	$5,290.79	$35,171,000
	2011	5,162	0.65	3,373		$4,175.51	$14,082,000
Plums, Dried	2012	1,681	3.74	6,282	Ton	$1,334.64	$8,385,000
	2011	1,646	2.61	4,295		$1,439.38	$6,182,000
Strawberries	2012	91	3.03	276	Ton	$988.45	$272,000
	2011	82	5.01	408		$1,274.24	$520,000
Walnuts (English)	2012	5,049	1.47	7,427	Ton	$2,821.57	$20,957,000
	2011	5,147	1.63	8,372		$2,980.68	$24,954,000
Total	2012	130,835					$664,510,000
	2011	130,377					$568,151,000

(1) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Fig (Fresh), Grape (Raisin to Wine), Kiwi, Nectarine, Olives, Orange, Organic Fruit & Nut, Pear (Asian), Pecan, Persimmon, Plum, Pluot & Pomegranate.
For 2011: Also includes Fruit Juice.

Nursery Products

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	VALUE TOTAL
All Nursery Products (1)	2012	1,554	$47,736,000
	2011	1,392	$41,828,000
Total	2012	1,554	$47,736,000
	2011	1,392	$41,828,000

(1) For 2012: Includes Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Crown & Cuttings, Decorative Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental & Shade Trees, Transplant (Strawberry & Vegetable) & Turf. The separate production & value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.
For 2011: Includes Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Crowns & Cuttings, Deciduous Fruit & Nut Tress, Decorative Plants. Dried Flowers, Greenhouse Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental & Shade Trees, Transplants (Strawberry & Vegetable) & Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Fruit & Nut Acreage Planting

CROPS	BEARING 2012	NON-BEARING 2012	BEARING 2007	NON-BEARING 2007
Almonds	98,522	2,002	88,131	3,616
Apples	2	0	121	0
Apricots	389	0	1,124	0
Berries	25	0	145	0
Cherries	366	42	458	3
Figs	946	381	2,177	0
Grapes (Raisin)	420	0	711	1
Grapes (Table)	5	0	124	0
Grapes (Wine)	12,243	920	9,818	0
Jujubes	0	0	20	0
Kiwis	26	0	33	0
Mandarins	16	0	9	0
Nectarines	41	0	124	3
Olives	55	22	2	0
Oranges	9	0	6	0
Peaches (Clingstone)	2,222	36	3,248	10
Peaches (Freestone)	1,728	9	1,821	154
Pears	7	0	6	0
Pecans	26	0	37	0
Persimmons	35	0	17	0
Pistachios	5,577	77	4,527	229
Plums	74	0	90	0
Plums (Dried)	1,681	205	1,737	49
Pluots	15	0	71	0
Pomegranates	355	12	12	0
Walnuts (English)	5,257	510	5,773	329
Total	130,042	4,216	120,342	4,394

Vegetable Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Beans, Lima (Freezer)	2012	356	1.25	445	Ton	$900.00	$400,000
	2011	524	1.46	766		$569.00	$436,000
Melons (Cantaloupe) (1)	2012	2,699	745.64	2,012,173	40lb Ctn	$6.61	$13,291,000
	2011	4,527	638.86	2,892,119		$5.65	$16,326,000
Melons (Other) (2)	2012	974	51.79	50,422	Ton	$244.78	$12,342,000
	2011	2,003	29.62	59,335		$225.91	$13,404,000
Misc. Vegetables (3)	2012	3,240	—	—	—	—	$21,098,000
	2011	2,801	—	—		—	$20,237,000
Sweet Potatoes (4)	2012	15,059	15.04	226,487	Ton	$708.84	$160,543,000
	2011	16,651	13.83	230,220		$691.05	$159,094,000
Tomatoes (Market) (5)	2012	7,954	1,418.98	11,287,049	25lb Ctn	$5.58	$63,009,000
	2011	6,524	1,255.78	8,192,409		$5.44	$44,564,000
Tomatoes (Processing)	2012	15,046	51.39	773,177	Ton	$68.16	$52,701,000
	2011	13,000	51.20	665,586		$67.17	$44,704,000
Total	2012	45,327					$323,386,000
	2011	46,030					$298,765,000

(1) For 2012 & 2011: Price reflects wholesale after packing & shipping.
(2) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Honeydew, Mixed Melons & Watermelon.
(3) For 2012: Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cilantro, Cucumber, Fennel, Garlic, Leek, Melons (Organic), Onion, Parsley, Pepper (Bell, Spice), Radicchio, Spice/Herb, Squash & Tomatillo,
For 2011: Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage (Napa), Cantaloupe (Organic), Cilantro, Corn (Fresh), Cucumber, Dill, Garlic, Leek Majoram, Onion, Parsley, Pepper (Bell, Spice), Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radish, Rosemary, Sage, Spice/Herb & Squash.
(4) (5) For 2012 & 2011: Price reflects wholesale after packing & shipping.

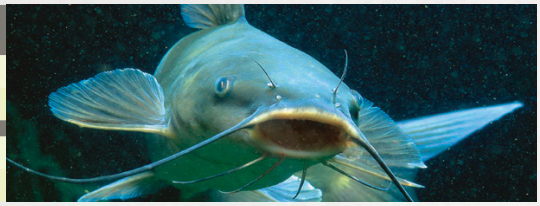
Bee Industry

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Beeswax	2012	17,925	Lb	$2.25	$40,000
	2011	34,070		$2.62	$89,000
Bulk Bees (1)	2012	57,710	Lb	$13.40	$773,000
	2011	81,465		$13.43	$1,094,000
Honey (2)	2012	1,165,109	Lb	$1.88	$2,190,000
	2011	2,214,523		$1.66	$3,676,000
Pollination (3)	2012	152,222	Colony	$145.97	$22,220,000
	2011	147,756		$144.19	$21,305,000
Queens (4)	2012	17,742	Each	$14.05	$249,000
	2011	28,725		$14.63	$420,000
Total	2012				$25,473,000
	2011				$26,585,000

(1) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Bees sold as Bulk Bees, Nuclei & Packaged Bees.
(2) For 2012: Honey produced by 46,168 resident colonies.
For 2011: Honey produced by 48,598 resident colonies.
(3) For 2012 & 2011: Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.
(4) For 2012 & 2011: Includes Mated Queens & Queen Cells.

Aquaculture

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Fish (1)	2012	639,878	Lb	$2.98	$1,906,000
	2011	759,598		$2.83	$2,149,000
Total	2012				$1,906,000
	2011				$2,149,000



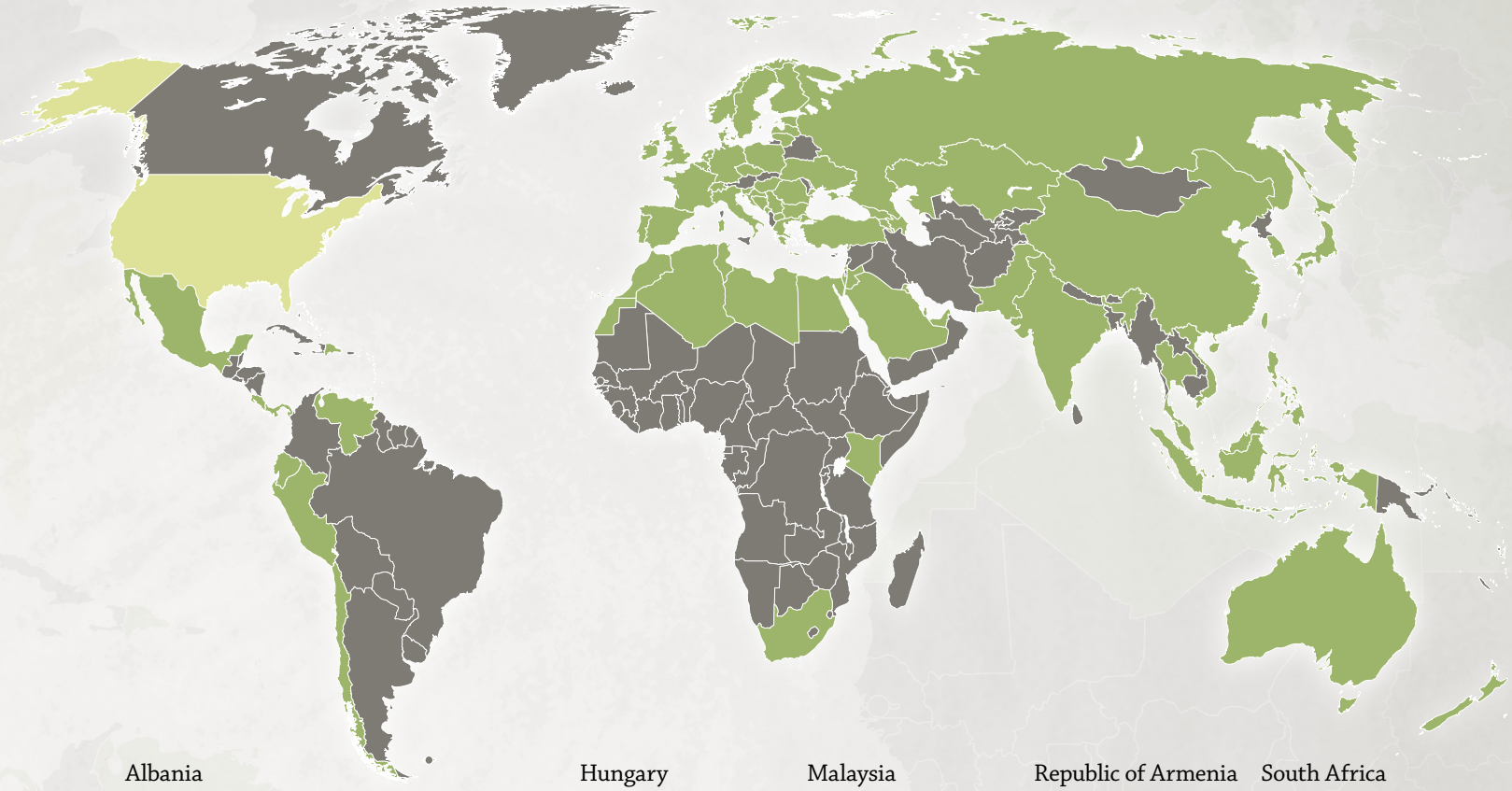
(1) For 2012: Includes Catfish, Goldfish, Striped Bass, Trout & White Sturgeon.
For 2011: Includes Catfish, Mosquito Fish, Perch, Silver Carp, Sturgeon & Trout.

Other Agriculture

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Almond (Shells) (1)	2012	64,417	Ton	$21.49	$1,384,000
	2011	70,115		$20.40	$1,430,000
Firewood (2)	2012	15,993	Cord	$179.21	$2,866,000
	2011	17,067		$175.78	$3,000,000
Fuel (Cogeneration) (3)	2012	69,434	Ton	$40.00	$2,777,000
	2011	85,633		$40.00	$3,425,000
Manure (4)	2012	1,436,261	Ton	$4.51	$6,478,000
	2011	956,252		$5.46	$5,224,000
Total	2012				$13,505,000
	2011				$13,080,000

(1) For 2012 & 2011: For Animal Bedding.
(2) For 2012 & 2011: Includes orchard prunings & removals for firewood (recorded in cords).
(3) For 2012 & 2011: Includes orchard prunings & orchard removals for fuel (recorded in dry tons).
(4) For 2012 & 2011: Includes livestock & poultry manure.

Countries Of Export



Albania
Algeria
Australia
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Canary Islands
Chile
China
Costa Rica
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
England
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hong Kong
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kingdom of Bahrain
Kuwait
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Lybia
Malaysia
Mexico
Montenegro
Morroco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Kazakhstan
Republic of Kenya
Republic of Korea
Republic of Latvia
Republic of Macedonia
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Singapore
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
Venezuela
Vietnam

Products Of Export

Alfalfa Hay
Almond
Blackberry
Blueberry
Broccoli
Celery
Chicory
Endive
Fennel
Fig
Garlic
Lettuce
Oat Hay
Onion
Pecan
Pistachio Nut
Prune
Radicchio
Raisin
Raspberry
Strawberry
Sudan Hay
Sweet Potato
Timothy Hay
Tomato
Treviso
Walnut

Organic Farming

Merced County had 56 growers of organic commodities, 4 organic processors, and 8 organic handlers in 2012. These growers farmed a total of 31,314 acres to produce assorted organic field crops, berries, fruits, nuts, vegetables, as well as, organic pastureland, fallow farmland, and rangeland. Organic eggs, livestock, milk, and poultry were also produced.

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 5,041 shipments of incoming plant material were inspected in 2012. Shipments are inspected at United Parcel Service, United States Post Offices, Federal Express and trucking terminals. Eight shipments were rejected. The eight rejections were for live pests, material not properly certified, or improper container markings. One rejection was an "A" rated pest (Red Imported Fire Ant).

PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM

To prevent the introduction of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) into Merced County, which is the main insect vector of Pierce's Disease, all shipments of nursery stock from infested counties shipped by nurseries under a Master Compliance Agreement, are inspected. GWSS has the ability to spread Pierce's Disease rapidly among grape vines with devastating results. Three hundred and three shipments of nursery stock from infested counties were inspected in 2012.

In addition, all nurseries receiving nursery stock from GWSS infested areas plus 4,134 residential yards were inspected for GWSS presence during 2012. No GWSS were detected.

FEDERAL PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

This program ensures that plants and plant commodities exported to foreign countries from Merced County are free from injurious pests. In 2012, the Merced County staff inspected and issued Phytosanitary Certificates for 6,240 export shipments.

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:

- Asian Citrus Psyllid *(Diaphorina citri Kuwayama)*
- Apple Maggot *(Rhagoletis pomonella)*
- European Pine Shoot Moth *(Rhyacionia buoliana)*
- Glassy-winged Sharpshooter *(Homalodisca coagulate)*
- Light Brown Apple Moth (Epiphyas postvittana)
- Khapra Beetle *(Trogoderma granarium)*
- Melon Fly *(Dacus cucurbitae)*
- Oriental Fruit Fly *(Dacus dorsalis)*
- Vine Mealy Bug *(Planococcus ficus)*
- European Corn Borer *(Ostrinia nubilalus)*
- Gypsy Moth *(Lymantria dispar)*
- Japanese Beetle *(Popillia japonica)*
- Mediterranean Fruit Fly *(Ceratitis capitata)*
- Mexican Fruit Fly *(Anastrepha ludens)*
- Sweet Potato Weevil *(Cylas formicarius elegantulus)*

A total of 1,937 pest detection traps were placed in Merced County and inspected a total of 15,816 times during the 2012 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.

Successful eradication projects include Sweet Potato Weevil, Banana Waterlily, Japanese Dodder, and European Grapevine Moth (EGVM)

Only limited detection and eradication efforts for the invasive weeds; South American Sponge Plant ("A" Rated), Purple Loosestrife ("B Rated), and Purple Mustard ("B Rated") were conducted during 2012, due to budget constraints. Little or no work is anticipated to be done in 2013.

Detection and eradication efforts for the insect pest Pink Bollworm continues. *There were no Pink Bollworm moths trapped in Merced County during 2012.* The Pink Bollworm is a major cotton pest. Eradication efforts included a State operated trapping program of 52,125 acres in conjunction with County enforcement of the host-free period from January 1 through March 10, also known as cotton plowdown. Treatment is accomplished by mating disruption utilizing pheromones and sterile moths.

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

European Grapevine Moth (EGVM)

The European Grapevine Moth (EGVM), also known as Lobesia botrana, is a destructive pest of grapes (wine, table, raisin, and wild grapes); however, it will also feed on a number of other hosts.

The EGVM was discovered (Fall 2009) in the Napa Valley of California, where it caused considerable crop damage. This was the first ever recorded find in the United States. Larvae prefer to feed on flowers and the inside of berries, causing significant damage and possible exposure to fungal infections. By mid-summer 2010, EGVM detections had been made in Fresno, Merced, and San Joaquin counties in the San Joaquin Valley.

In May of 2010 there were four positive finds for EGVM in Merced County, all of which, were found in the same vineyard and during the same time frame. This resulted in a portion of Merced County being placed under a Federal Quarantine restricting the movement of host commodities and the ability to export to some countries.

Over the past two years a cooperative eradication effort made by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the Merced County Agriculture Commissioner (MCAC), and affected growers proved to be successful. On March 8, 2012 USDA officially lifted the quarantine in Merced County.

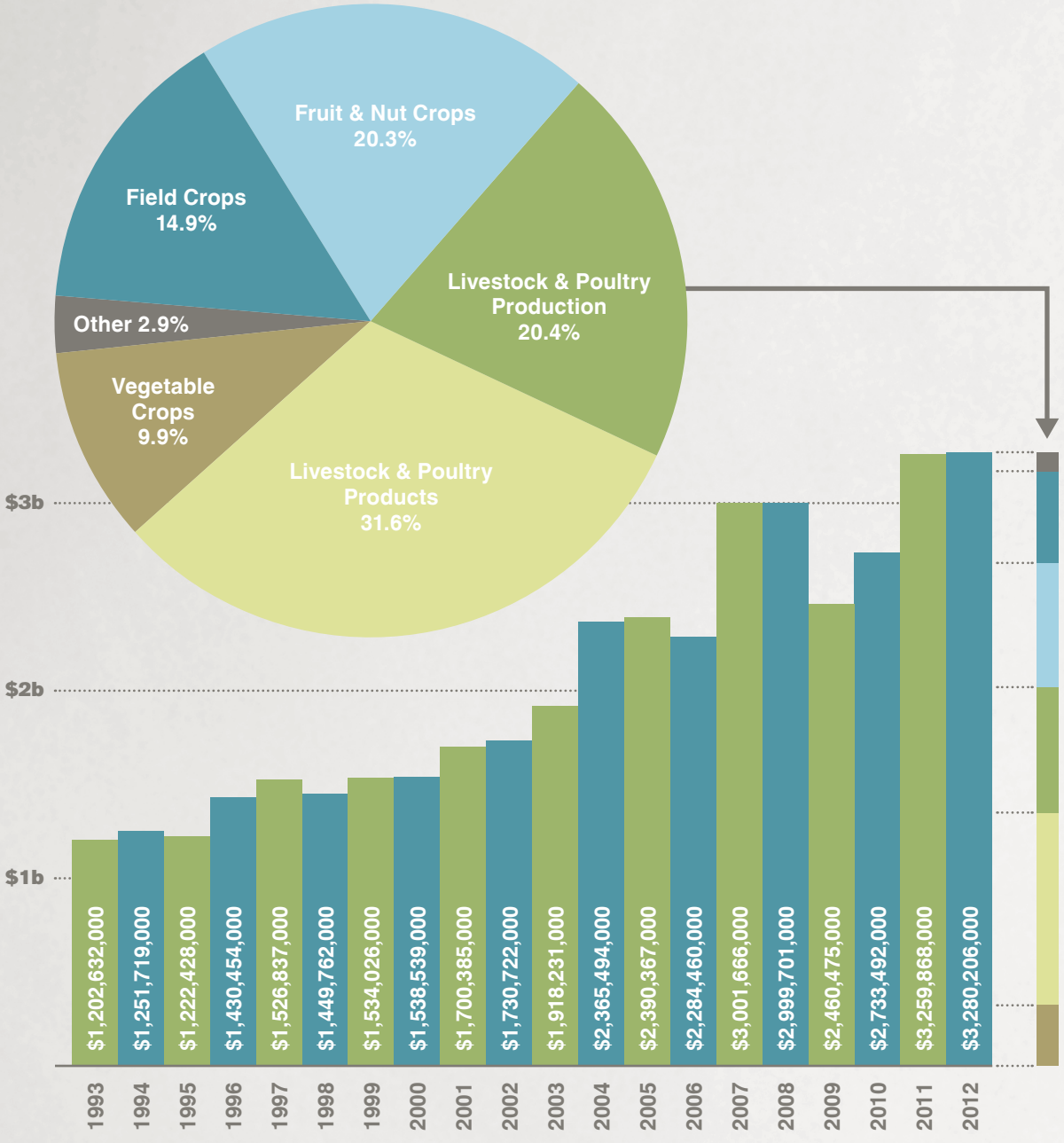
There are still areas in California that remain under quarantine. However, significant progress has been made toward eradicating the pest. The Merced County eradication effort is a perfect example of how industry and government officials can coordinate detection, treatment, and regulatory action to deal with a serious agriculture pest.

It is important to detect and eradicate EGVM infestations while the population is still small. Grapes are ranked second among agricultural commodities in California. Establishment of this pest can be catastrophic to our vineyards. Places in Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, the Middle East, Japan, and Chile are already dealing with the negative impacts of this pest.

Your backyard fruit is at risk if this pest gets established. You can help by not transporting fresh fruits, vegetables, and plants out of the area, especially if you are within a quarantined area.

Commodity Value Crop Comparison

COMMODITIES	1982	1992	2002	2012
Aquaculture	—	$2,193,000	$3,060,000	$1,906,000
Bee Industry	$3,616,000	$4,631,000	$12,696,000	$25,473,000
Field Crops	$171,140,000	$200,689,000	$257,394,000	$490,294,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	$109,865,000	$209,267,000	$296,063,000	$664,510,000
Livestock & Poultry Production	$170,649,000	$201,835,000	$384,998,000	$669,453,000
Livestock & Poultry Products	$208,651,000	$318,356,000	$559,953,000	$1,038,014,000
Nursery Products	$9,214,000	$11,212,000	$21,991,000	$47,736,000
Other Agriculture	—	$8,901,000	$7,699,000	$13,505,000
Seed Crops	$2,015,000	$1,726,000	$937,000	$5,929,000
Vegetable Crops	$67,880,000	$111,371,000	$185,932,000	$323,386,000
Total	$743,030,000	$1,070,181,000	$1,730,722,000	$3,280,206,000



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