



DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE



2013 REPORT ON Agriculture



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Disclaimer: Numbers in this report reflect computer rounding of production and value rates.



David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
2139 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, CA 95341-6445
Phone: (209) 385-7431
Fax: (209) 725-3536
www.co.merced.ca.us
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Karen Ross, *Secretary*
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Merced

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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 2013 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 \$3,799,070,000 in 2013 for a record high. This is the fourth time that Merced County agriculture has surpassed the 3 billion dollar mark in gross production value. Although challenged with irrigation water allotments, the 2013 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 2013 CROP YEAR:

- With a 22.27% increase in value of \$209,350,000, Milk remains the county's number one commodity with an overall value of \$1,149,586,000. Much of the increase is due to the increase in price for both market milk and milk used in manufacturing and a significant increase in production of milk used in manufacturing. The price for market milk increased 20.88% and the price for milk used in manufacturing increased by 7.4%.
- Almonds held steady as the second leading commodity with a gross production value of \$672,768,000. This is an increase of \$201,405,000. A significant increase in price and modest increase in acreage and production contributed for a 42.7% increase in overall value.
- Chickens surpassed Cattle & Calves to be the number three commodity in 2013 with a total production value of \$330,251,000. A modest increase in the number of chickens harvested, production weight and price per pound resulted in an overall gain of \$40,071,000.
- Cattle & Calves fell to the number four commodity with a gross production value of \$283,729,000 down \$13,162,000 from the previous year. 2012 experienced high sales of dairy cattle due to the drop in milk prices.
- Sweet Potatoes remained the number five commodity up \$46,762,000 for a total production value of \$207,305,000. Increases were seen in acres harvested, production and price for an overall increase of 29%.
- Alfalfa Hay remained the number six leading crop. Prices, acreage and production remained steady posting a gross production value of \$133,538,000.

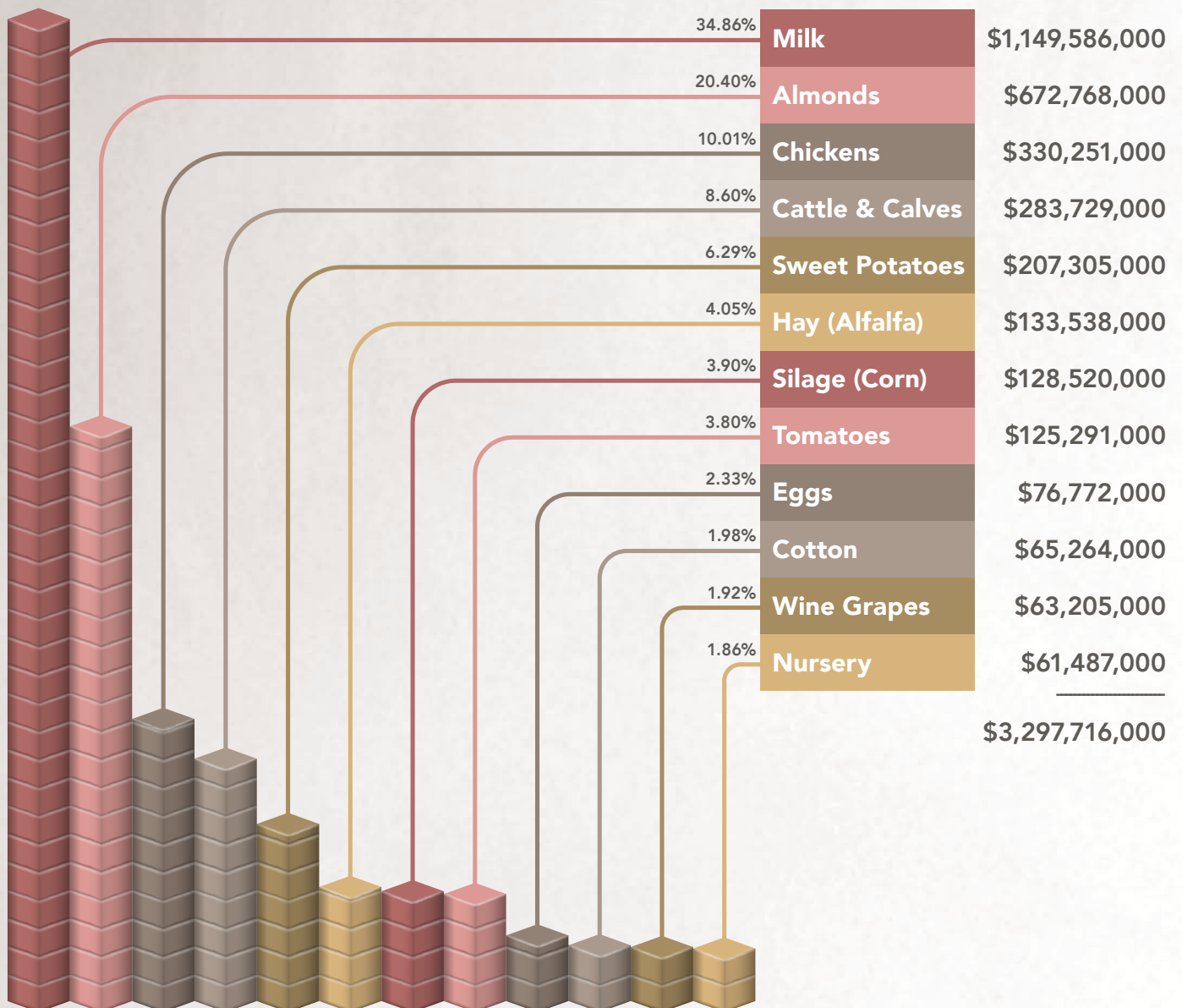
I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers and ranchers, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data for this report.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson, *Agricultural Commissioner*

Top Twelve Leading Farm Commodities

RANK	CROP	VALUE	2012 RANK	SHARE
1	Milk Includes Market and Manufacturing	\$1,149,586,000	1	34.86%
2	Almonds Kernel Basis	\$672,768,000	2	20.40%
3	Chickens Includes Fryers and Other Chickens	\$330,251,000	4 ↑	10.01%
4	Cattle & Calves	\$283,729,000	3 ↓	8.60%
5	Sweet Potatoes	\$207,305,000	5	6.29%
6	Hay (Alfalfa)	\$133,538,000	6	4.05%
7	Silage (Corn)	\$128,520,000	8 ↑	3.90%
8	Tomatoes Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes	\$125,291,000	7 ↓	3.80%
9	Eggs Chicken (Market)	\$76,772,000	10 ↑	2.33%
10	Cotton Includes Acala and Pima Cotton	\$65,264,000	9 ↓	1.98%
11	Grapes (Wine)	\$63,205,000	12 ↑	1.92%
12	Nursery All products	\$61,487,000	13 ↑	1.86%
		\$3,297,716,000		



Field Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Barley	2013	2,115	2.71	5,732	Ton	\$242.22	\$1,388,000
	2012	1,349	1.98	2,671		\$175.59	\$469,000
Beans (Dry Lima)	2013	1,058	1.41	1,487	Ton	\$1,023.54	\$1,522,000
	2012	872	1.38	1,203		\$900.01	\$1,083,000
Corn (Grain) ⁽¹⁾	2013	21,563	6.12	131,879	Ton	\$247.32	\$32,617,000
	2012	14,144	6.04	85,425		\$245.21	\$20,947,000
Cotton (Acala)	2013	26,545	3.60	95,581	500 Lb Bale	\$479.95	\$45,874,000
	2012	43,860	3.50	153,299		\$469.36	\$71,952,000
Cotton (Pima)	2013	9,025	3.18	28,699	500 Lb Bale	\$675.64	\$19,390,000
	2012	8,265	3.03	25,041		\$655.73	\$16,420,000
Cotton (Seed)	2013	—	1.17	41,646	Ton	\$389.25	\$16,211,000
	2012	—	1.28	66,582		\$378.77	\$25,220,000
Hay (Alfalfa)	2013	84,075	7.10	597,021	Ton	\$223.67	\$133,538,000
	2012	83,930	7.09	595,351		\$221.52	\$131,885,000
Hay (Grain) ⁽²⁾	2013	39,990	3.50	140,001	Ton	\$153.56	\$21,498,000
	2012	35,365	4.31	152,492		\$149.18	\$22,748,000
Hay (Sudan)	2013	11,832	4.69	55,540	Ton	\$141.29	\$7,847,000
	2012	10,170	4.03	41,022		\$162.83	\$6,679,000
Misc. Field Crops ⁽³⁾	2013	1,835	—	—	—	—	\$676,000
	2012	2,540	—	—		—	\$2,882,000
Pasture (Irrigated)	2013	26,578	—	26,578	Acre	\$250.00	\$6,645,000
	2012	26,597	—	26,597		\$161.91	\$4,306,000
Pasture (Other)	2013	560,104	—	560,104	Acre	\$22.26	\$12,468,000
	2012	562,461	—	562,461		\$20.33	\$11,435,000
Rice	2013	3,377	3.75	12,663	Ton	\$400.00	\$5,065,000
	2012	2,408	3.78	9,111		\$377.59	\$3,440,000
Silage (Alfalfa)	2013	—	1.15	96,426	Ton	\$64.70	\$6,239,000
	2012	—	2.37	198,774		\$62.98	\$12,519,000
Silage (Corn)	2013	104,024	27.13	2,821,894	Ton	\$45.54	\$128,520,000
	2012	89,555	26.96	2,414,844		\$45.23	\$109,221,000
Silage (Other) ⁽⁴⁾	2013	83,930	14.96	1,255,795	Ton	\$34.63	\$43,485,000
	2012	73,143	14.62	1,069,052		\$33.11	\$35,397,000
Straw ⁽⁵⁾	2013	—	—	2,378	Ton	\$73.33	\$174,000
	2012	—	—	3,473		\$59.02	\$205,000
Stubble (Pasture)	2013	—	—	15,134	Acre	\$50.00	\$757,000
	2012	—	—	15,107		\$50.00	\$755,000
Wheat	2013	20,916	2.97	62,072	Ton	\$270.14	\$16,768,000
	2012	14,943	3.51	52,499		\$242.49	\$12,730,000
Total	2013	996,967					\$500,681,000
	2012	969,601					\$490,294,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn), and grain for feed.

⁽²⁾ For 2013: Includes Forage Mix, Oat, Triticale, and Wheat.
For 2012: Includes Barley, Oat, Rye Grass, and Wheat.

⁽³⁾ For 2013: Includes Beans (Dry Other), Corn Stalks, Oat Grain and Safflower.

For 2012: Includes Beans (Dry Other), Corn Stalks and Earledge, Milo, Oat Grain, Rye (Organic), and Safflower.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2013: Includes Oat, Sorghum, Sudan, and Wheat and Winter Forage.

For 2012: Includes Oat, Sorghum, Sudan, Triticale, Wheat, and Winter Forage.

⁽⁵⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Straw from Barley, Bean (Dry), Oat, Rice, and Wheat.

Livestock & Poultry Products

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Eggs (Other) ⁽¹⁾	2013	2,542,500	Each	\$0.37	\$941,000
	2012	29,673,330		\$0.38	\$11,402,000
Eggs, Chicken (Market)	2013	89,166,240	Dozn	\$0.86	\$76,772,000
	2012	97,875,270		\$0.84	\$81,726,000
Milk (Goat)	2013	150,000	Cwt	\$36.73	\$5,509,000
	2012	120,002		\$36.57	\$4,388,000
Milk (Manufacturing)	2013	4,359,060	Cwt	\$19.16	\$83,520,000
	2012	2,101,725		\$17.84	\$37,501,000
Milk (Market)	2013	57,377,085	Cwt	\$18.58	\$1,066,066,000
	2012	58,722,098		\$15.37	\$902,735,000
Wool	2013	92,547	Lb	\$1.45	\$134,000
	2012	158,652		\$1.65	\$262,000
Total	2013				\$1,232,942,000
	2012				\$1,038,014,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs and Organic Chicken Eggs.

Livestock & Poultry Production

CROP	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION PER HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Cattle and Calves ⁽¹⁾	2013	317,977	8.61	2,736,312	Cwt	\$103.69	\$283,729,000
	2012	342,366	8.72	2,986,046		\$99.43	\$296,891,000
Chickens (Fryers and Broilers)	2013	79,306,738	5.90	467,909,754	Lb	\$0.71	\$330,251,000
	2012	74,730,693	5.78	431,943,406		\$0.67	\$290,180,000
Livestock (Miscellaneous) ⁽²⁾	2013	54,672	—	—	—	—	\$6,769,000
	2012	46,978	—	—	—	—	\$5,198,000
Poultry and Fish (Miscellaneous) ⁽³⁾	2013	393,081	—	—	—	—	\$2,159,000
	2012	66,000	—	—	—	—	\$639,000
Sheep and Lambs	2013	28,910	1.39	40,081	Cwt	\$136.68	\$5,478,000
	2012	36,566	1.35	49,517		\$135.37	\$6,703,000
Turkeys	2013	2,200,415	29.36	64,604,184	Lb	\$0.93	\$59,798,000
	2012	2,630,479	30.09	79,151,113		\$0.88	\$69,843,000
Total	2013	82,301,793					\$688,184,000
	2012	77,853,082					\$669,453,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2013: Includes Calves, Cull Bulls (Dairy and Beef), Replacement Heifers (Dairy and Beef) and Stocker Cattle.

For 2012: Includes Calves, Cull Bulls (Dairy and Beef), Cull Cows (Dairy and Beef), Replacement Heifers (Dairy and Beef) and Stocker Cattle.

⁽²⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Dairy and Meat Goats sold for meat.

⁽³⁾ For 2013: Includes Chukar, Pheasant, Squab, and Fish.

For 2012: Includes Chukar, Pheasant, and Squab.

Seed Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	VALUE TOTAL
Seed Crops ⁽¹⁾	2013	7,148	\$7,814,000
	2012	4,756	\$5,929,000
Total	2013	7,148	\$7,814,000
	2012	4,756	\$5,929,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2013: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa and Wheat.

For 2012: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Barley, Oat, Triticale, and Wheat.

Fruit & Nut Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Almonds (Hulls)	2013	—	—	211,170	Ton	\$136.60	\$28,846,000
	2012	—	—	198,282		\$132.72	\$26,316,000
Almonds (Kernel Basis)	2013	98,941	1.08	106,451	Ton	\$6,320.00	\$672,768,000
	2012	97,647	0.98	96,133		\$4,903.22	\$471,363,000
Apricots	2013	378	5.86	2,216	Ton	\$426.81	\$946,000
	2012	389	16.55	6,441		\$400.00	\$2,576,000
Figs (Dry)	2013	629	0.97	613	Ton	\$1,571.14	\$962,000
	2012	946	1.00	946		\$1,500.00	\$1,419,000
Grapes (Raisin)	2013	453	2.79	1,263	Ton	\$1,650.00	\$2,084,000
	2012	420	2.44	1,025		\$1,708.82	\$1,752,000
Grapes (Wine)	2013	12,372	12.06	149,230	Ton	\$423.54	\$63,205,000
	2012	12,243	11.18	136,873		\$422.20	\$57,787,000
Miscellaneous ⁽¹⁾	2013	2,144	—	—	—	—	\$14,069,000
	2012	3,403	—	—		—	\$19,054,000
Peaches (Clingstone)	2013	2,213	13.90	30,771	Ton	\$352.15	\$10,836,000
	2012	2,222	15.67	34,820		\$311.30	\$10,840,000
Peaches (Freestone)	2013	1,692	21.29	36,026	Ton	\$308.60	\$11,118,000
	2012	1,728	18.36	31,713		\$271.69	\$8,616,000
Pistachios	2013	5,017	1.21	6,076	Ton	\$5,822.03	\$35,376,000
	2012	5,016	1.33	6,648		\$5,290.79	\$35,171,000
Plums, Dried	2013	1,395	2.06	2,876	Ton	\$1,124.19	\$3,234,000
	2012	1,681	3.74	6,282		\$1,334.64	\$8,385,000
Strawberries	2013	102	5.04	514	Ton	\$886.83	\$456,000
	2012	91	3.03	276		\$988.45	\$272,000
Walnuts (English)	2013	5,455	1.65	8,990	Ton	\$4,108.63	\$36,937,000
	2012	5,049	1.47	7,427		\$2,821.57	\$20,957,000
Total	2013	130,792					\$880,836,000
	2012	130,835					\$664,510,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2013: Includes Apple, Blackberry, Blueberry, Cherry, Fig (Fresh), Grape (Fresh, Raisin to Wine), Kiwi, Nectarine, Olives, Orange, Organic Fruit and Nut, Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum, Pluot and Pomegranate.

For 2012: Includes Apple, Blackberry, Blueberry, Cherry, Chestnut, Fig (Fresh), Grape (Raisin to Wine and Fresh), Kiwi, Nectarine, Olives, Orange, Organic Fruit and Nut, Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum, Pluot, Pomegranate, and Raspberry.

Nursery Products

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	VALUE TOTAL
All Nursery Products ⁽¹⁾	2013	1,576	\$61,487,000
	2012	1,554	\$47,736,000
Total	2013	1,576	\$61,487,000
	2012	1,554	\$47,736,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2013: Includes Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Crown and Cuttings, Decorative Plants, Transplants (Vegetable) and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

For 2012: Includes Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Crown and Cuttings, Decorative Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Transplant (Strawberry and Vegetable), and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

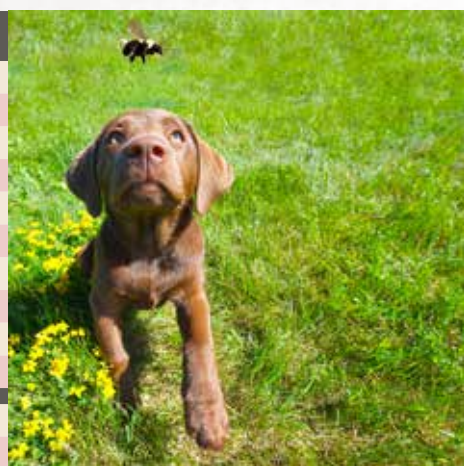
Fruit & Nut Acreage Planting

CROP	BEARING 2013	NON-BEARING 2013	BEARING 2008	NON-BEARING 2008
Almonds	98,941	2,639	92,612	5,998
Apples	3	0	14	0
Apricots	378	0	1,019	0
Berries	122	0	135	0
Cherries	407	0	457	1
Figs	946	344	1,802	0
Grapes (Raisin)	504	0	675	1
Grapes (Table)	5	0	99	0
Grapes (Wine)	12,372	715	11,075	385
Jujube	0	0	20	0
Kiwi	26	0	29	0
Mandarins	14	0	9	0
Nectarines	41	0	121	3
Olives	55	22	2	0
Oranges	9	0	6	2
Peaches (Clingstone)	2,213	6	3,036	15
Peaches (Freestone)	1,692	9	1,864	158
Pears	7	0	6	0
Pecans	26	0	37	0
Persimmon	20	0	17	0
Pistachios	5,577	142	4,816	2,192
Plums	70	0	86	0
Plums (Dried)	1,395	183	1,753	88
Pluot	15	0	95	0
Pomegranate	306	0	12	202
Walnuts (English)	5,455	335	5,699	357
Total	130,556	4,447	125,496	9,402



Bee Industry

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Beeswax	2013	30,989	Lb	\$4.00	\$124,000
	2012	17,925		\$2.25	\$40,000
Bulk Bees ⁽¹⁾	2013	68,785	Lb	\$14.97	\$1,030,000
	2012	57,710		\$13.40	\$773,000
Honey ⁽²⁾	2013	2,014,257	Lb	\$1.98	\$3,988,000
	2012	1,165,109		\$1.88	\$2,190,000
Pollination ⁽³⁾	2013	154,554	Colony	\$150.32	\$23,233,000
	2012	152,222		\$145.97	\$22,220,000
Queens ⁽⁴⁾	2013	19,957	Each	\$15.99	\$319,000
	2012	17,742		\$14.05	\$249,000
Total	2013				\$28,694,000
	2012				\$25,473,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Bees sold as Bulk Bees, Nuclei, and Packaged Bees.

⁽²⁾ For 2013: Honey produced by 46,500 resident colonies.

For 2012: Honey produced by 46,168 resident colonies.

⁽³⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.

Vegetable Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Beans, Lima (Freezer)	2013	—	—	—	Ton	—	—
	2012	356	1.25	445		\$900.00	\$400,000
Melons (Cantaloupe) ⁽¹⁾	2013	3,586	668.45	2,397,141	40lb Ctn	\$6.67	\$15,983,000
	2012	2,699	745.64	2,012,173		\$6.61	\$13,291,000
Melons (Other) ⁽²⁾	2013	1,498	32.99	49,411	Ton	\$234.95	\$11,609,000
	2012	974	51.79	50,422		\$244.78	\$12,342,000
Misc. Vegetables ⁽³⁾	2013	4,729	—	—	—	—	\$24,361,000
	2012	3,240	—	—		—	\$21,098,000
Sweet Potatoes ⁽⁴⁾	2013	17,261	15.44	266,510	Ton	\$777.85	\$207,305,000
	2012	15,059	15.04	226,487		\$708.84	\$160,543,000
Tomatoes (Market) ⁽⁵⁾	2013	6,954	1,268.00	8,818,210	25lb Ctn	\$7.18	\$63,313,000
	2012	7,954	1,418.98	11,287,049		\$5.58	\$63,009,000
Tomatoes (Processing)	2013	19,046	44.87	854,621	Ton	\$72.52	\$61,978,000
	2012	15,046	51.39	773,177		\$68.16	\$52,701,000
Total	2013	53,074					\$384,549,000
	2012	45,327					\$323,386,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Price reflects wholesale after packing and shipping.

⁽²⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Honeydew, Mixed Melons and Watermelon.

⁽³⁾ For 2013: Includes Asparagus, Basil, Beans (Freezer Lima), Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower, Cilantro, Cucumber, Eggplant, Fennel, Garlic, Kale, Leek, Marjoram, Onion, Pepper (Bell) Pumpkin, Radicchio, Spice/Herb, Squash, and Tomatillo.

For 2012: Includes Asparagus, Artichokes, Argula, Basil, Beans (Fresh), Beets, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrot, Celery, Chard, Chives, Cilantro, Collard, Corn (Sweet), Cucumber, Eggplant, Fennel, Garlic, Kale, Leek, Melons (Organic), Mustard, Onion, Parsley, Parsnip, Peas, Pepper (Bell, Spice), Potato, Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radish, Shallots, Spice/Herb, Spinach, Squash, Tomatillo, Turnip, and Watercress.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2012: Price reflects wholesale after packing and shipping.

⁽⁵⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Price reflects wholesale after packing and shipping.

Other Agriculture

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Almond (Shells) ⁽¹⁾	2013	68,452	Ton	\$22.91	\$1,568,000
	2012	64,417		\$21.49	\$1,384,000
Firewood ⁽²⁾	2013	16,756	Cord	\$176.98	\$2,965,000
	2012	15,993		\$179.21	\$2,866,000
Fuel (Cogeneration) ⁽³⁾	2013	79,977	Ton	\$40.00	\$3,199,000
	2012	69,434		\$40.00	\$2,777,000
Manure ⁽⁴⁾	2013	1,499,689	Ton	\$4.10	\$6,149,000
	2012	1,436,261		\$4.51	\$6,478,000
Total	2013				\$13,882,000
	2012				\$13,505,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2012 & 2013: For Animal Bedding.

⁽²⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Orchard Prunings and Removals for Firewood (Recorded in Cords).

⁽³⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removals for Fuel (Recorded in Dry Tons).

⁽⁴⁾ For 2012 & 2013: Includes Livestock and Poultry Manure.

Countries Of Export

Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Belgium
Bosnia and
Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China

Colombia
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
France
Georgia
Germany

Greece
Guatemala
Hong Kong
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea,
Democratic People's
Republic of
Korea, Republic of

Kuwait
Latvia
Lebanon
Libya
Lithuania
Macedonia
Malaysia
Mexico
Montenegro
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua

Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russian
Federation
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Singapore
Slovenia

South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Viet Nam
Yemen

Products Of Export

Alfalfa Hay
Almond
Blackberry
Blueberry
Broccoli
Cantaloupe
Chick Pea
Chicory

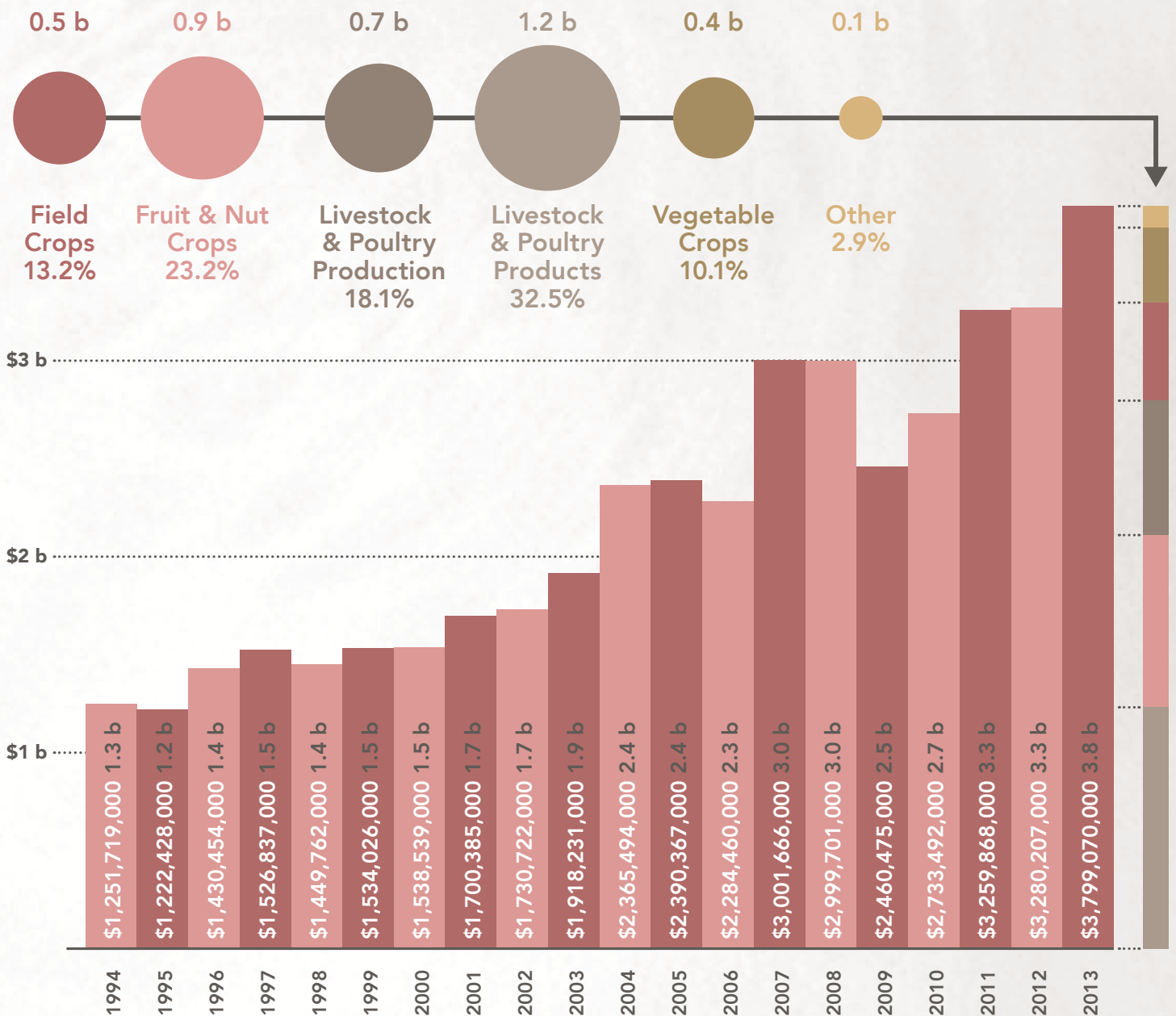
Edible Fig
Endive
Fennel
Japanese
Plum
Melon
Nectarine
Onion

Peach
Pecan
Pistachio
Prune
Radicchio
Raisin
Raspberry
Rice

Strawberry
Sudan Hay
Sweet Potato
Tomato
Treviso
Walnut

Commodity Value Crop Comparison

COMMODITIES	1983	1993	2003	2013
Aquaculture	—	\$1,311,000	\$2,405,000	—
Bee Industry	\$3,031,000	\$5,215,000	\$14,187,000	\$28,694,000
Field Crops	\$156,920,000	\$224,826,000	\$252,345,000	\$500,681,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$93,382,000	\$290,211,000	\$312,191,000	\$880,836,000
Livestock and Poultry Production	\$174,255,000	\$188,970,000	\$454,542,000	\$688,184,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	\$215,455,000	\$337,036,000	\$609,610,000	\$1,232,942,000
Nursery Products	\$8,017,000	\$14,603,000	\$30,404,000	\$61,487,000
Other Agriculture	—	\$9,202,000	\$7,107,000	\$13,882,000
Seed Crops	\$1,381,000	\$1,209,000	\$1,283,000	\$7,814,000
Vegetable Crops	\$69,309,000	\$130,049,000	\$234,157,000	\$384,549,000
Total	\$721,750,000	\$1,202,632,000	\$1,918,231,000	\$3,799,070,000



Organic Farming

Merced County had 43 growers of organic commodities, 1 organic processor, and 7 organic handlers in 2013. These growers farmed a total of 12,175 acres to produce assorted organic field crops, berries, fruits, nuts, vegetables, vegetable transplants, as well as, organic pastureland, 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 4,740 shipments of incoming plant material were inspected in 2013. Shipments are inspected at United Parcel Service, United States Post Offices, Federal Express and trucking terminals. Three shipments were rejected. The three rejections were for live pests, material not properly certified, or improper container markings.

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 coagulata*)
- 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 nubilalis*)
- European Grapevine Moth (*Lobesia botrana*)
- 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 2,699 pest detection traps were placed in Merced County and were inspected a total of 24,373 times during the 2013 trapping season.

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 nineteen shipments of nursery stock from infested counties were inspected in 2013.

In addition, all nurseries receiving nursery stock from GWSS infested areas and residential yards were inspected for GWSS presence, a total of 3,490 inspections during 2013. 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 2013, the Merced County staff inspected and issued Phytosanitary Certificates for 6,400 export shipments.

Pest Eradication Program

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 Perennial Peppergrass ("B" Rated) were conducted during 2013, due to budget constraints. Little or no work is anticipated to be done in 2014.

Detection and eradication efforts for the insect pest Pink Bollworm continues.

There were no Pink Bollworm moths trapped in Merced County during 2013.

The Pink Bollworm is a major cotton pest. Eradication efforts included a State operated trapping program of 32,570 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	CONTROL ORGANISMS
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 (WGLS Granulosis)
	Parasitic Wasp (<i>Apanteles harrisinae</i>)
Italian Thistle (<i>Carduus sp.</i>)	Seed Head Weevil (<i>Rhinoclytus 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>)	Casebearer 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>)



Merced County Department Of Agriculture Staff

Agricultural Commissioner / Director of Weights and Measures

David A. Robinson

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights and Measures

Karen Overstreet

Deputy Agricultural Commissioners

Sean Runyon

Mark Smith

Agricultural Biologists

Robert Aguilar
Sandra Brasil
Linda Buchholz
Valen Castellano
Jon Chapman

Jennifer Dimapasoc
Milford Esau
Cari Gansberger
Gregory Gonzales

Loren Lamb
Larry Lima
Fred Michaelis
Colleen Murray
James Simms

Supervising Weights and Measures Inspector

Mark Conover

Weights and Measures Inspectors

Agustin Diaz

Derrell Smith

Administrative Support Staff

Terri Lampe, Office Supervisor

Iris Asai, Office Assistant II

Margaret Kohn, Office Assistant III

Trinity Buie, Office Assistant III

Vanessa Enciso, Office Assistant II

Mary Dawson, Office Assistant II

Bee Xiong, Office Assistant II

Integrated Pest Management Specialist

Juventino Magana

Agricultural and IPM Technicians—Seasonal

Leo Arambula
Clifford Freitas

Jose Luis Laguna
Jesus Molina

Ramiro Perez
Carol Rakes

Sheila Worthley
Carl Youngborg



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2139 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, California 95341-6445

James Alan Simms

MARCH 1, 1954 – AUGUST 10, 2014

This year, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office lost Jim Simms, a co-worker and friend to all. Jim was a Merced native and was involved in the agricultural community his entire life.

Jim's passion in life was his animals and reaching out to the youth of Merced County. His goal was to get them involved in 4-H and FFA projects. He enjoyed serving kids as a leader of St. Anthony's 4-H club for over 10 years before stepping aside to be a breeder of lambs and goats, and a coach and counselor to the people he provided animals to.

Jim had a degree in Agricultural Science from California State University Fresno, and was hired as an Agricultural Biologist in 1999. He faithfully served the County and the agricultural community for 15 years.

Jim made lifelong friends with the department's staff and customers. He brought life to our office, with his lighthearted demeanor and constant humor. He loved to bring food to share with the office. His breakfast burritos were always in demand.

Jim was taken from us way too soon and he is truly missed.





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