



Census of Ag 2007



Small Farm Trends



Shermain Hardesty
Small Farm Workgroup
June 11, 2009



Serving
California's
68,536
small farms



for 30 years



University of California
Small Farm Program
1979-2009



3 Measures of “Small” Farms



- Number of small farms
- % of all farms that are small
- Number of ethnic minority farmers

Where are the “small” farms?

Top 25 Counties

Source: 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture, Table 2

Ranked by number of small and medium farms

County	# Farms w/2007 sales \$10K-\$500K
Fresno	3,383
Tulare	2,893
San Diego	2,544
Stanislaus	1,968
San Joaquin	1,842
Sonoma	1,717
Riverside	1,414
Merced	1,310
Ventura	1,260
San Luis Obispo	1,157
Napa	1,037
Butte	925
Madera	818
Kern	732
Tehama	712
Sutter	709
Santa Barbara	699
Glenn	657
Mendocino	494
San Bernardino	440
Colusa	435
Yolo	423
Monterey	419
Kings	404
Sacramento	393

Where are the “small” farms?

Top 25 Counties

Source: 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture, Table 2

Ranked by percentage of small and medium farms

County*	% Farms w/2007 sales \$10K-\$500K	Direct mktg sales as % of total sales-2007
Trinity	100%	2.8%
El Dorado	99%	13.8%
Nevada	99%	4.2%
Calaveras	98%	1.9%
Tuolumne	97%	1.0%
Plumas	96%	-
Amador	96%	0.7%
Shasta	95%	1.4%
Placer	95%	3.8%
Mariposa	95%	0.3%
Alameda	93%	0.6%
Lassen	93%	0.3%
Tehama	92%	0.6%
Mendocino	91%	1.0%
Lake	91%	0.9%
San Diego	91%	1.1%
San Luis Obispo	90%	0.8%
Siskiyou	89%	0.2%
Humboldt	89%	0.8%
Contra Costa	88%	2.5%
Sonoma	88%	0.7%
Napa	87%	0.3%
Santa Clara	87%	0.8%
Yuba	87%	0.6%
Modoc	86%	0.1%
<i>All of California</i>	80%	0.5%

*Only counties with 100+ farms

Where are the minority operators?

Top 25 Counties

Source: 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture

Ranked by number of minority principal operators (POs)

County	Total Minority POs-2007	% Minority in county-2007	% Minority incl. Hispanics-2007
California	6012	7%	19%
Fresno	1044	17%	35%
San Diego	421	6%	19%
Tulare	372	7%	27%
Riverside	271	8%	22%
Sutter	263	21%	29%
San Joaquin	242	7%	14%
Madera	217	13%	23%
Merced	213	8%	21%
Stanislaus	203	5%	16%
Los Angeles	185	11%	24%
Ventura	184	8%	21%
Kern	163	8%	19%
San Bernardino	139	10%	23%
Butte	135	7%	15%
Santa Clara	133	12%	24%
San Luis Obispo	120	4%	12%
Sacramento	118	8%	17%
Monterey	109	9%	29%
Placer	94	6%	11%
Santa Barbara	90	6%	19%
Yuba	90	11%	17%
Sonoma	90	3%	9%
Yolo	89	9%	17%
Tehama	79	5%	14%



“Small” farms dominate many parts of California



- “Small” farms are located throughout the state— Central Valley, coastal regions, foothills
- Farms in the foothills and intermountain region are likely to be “small”
- Farms in counties bordering urban centers tend to be “small”
- Counties in the Central Valley and Southern California are more like to have large numbers of minority farmers