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# AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

KINGS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA





# KINGS COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS  
AND MEASURES

P. O. BOX C - 280 CAMPUS DRIVE

HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

(209) 582-3211

April 1, 1985

Mr. Clare Berryhill, Director  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
and  
The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Kings

Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to submit this 1984 Agricultural Crop Report, which was compiled in accordance with Section 2279 of The California Food and Agricultural Code.

The gross value of agricultural crops and products grown in Kings County during the calendar year 1984, was \$569,716,000., an increase of over 15.8% from 1983.

The majority of crops and commodities reflected increased values totaling nearly 78 million dollars over 1983.

Cotton, Kings County's leading field crop, led all other crops with a value of over 213 million dollars (including seed), due to increased acreage.

Substantial increases were reflected in livestock and poultry products, seed crops and nut crops. However, vegetable crops reflected declining values from reduced acreages, and most fruit crops declined in value due to depressed prices.

I must emphasize that all figures in this report are gross returns and do not indicate net profit received by growers.

This report could not have been possible without the many individuals and organizations who contributed their time and information. A special thanks is expressed to Buzz Felleke of my staff, who compiled the report.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Hugh Handley  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures

MHH:dod

In Memory Of Cow - 289  
Born 9-6-64 Died 5-1-84  
World Record Lifetime Milk Producer

Owner  
M.G. Maciel And Son Dairy

She did not have any fancy name and she was called Number 289. Owned by the M.G. Maciel and Son Dairy Number 289, who died, (last year) was the world's most productive cow.

The 19 year old "grade" Holstein cow gave more milk than any other cow in the world. During her lifetime she produced more than 54,070 gallons of milk, enough to fill more than eight 60 foot tanker trucks. That is about seven gallons of milk a day. The cow lived nearly four times longer than the average Holstein cow, and produced more than nine times the amount of milk the average cow would give in her lifetime.

There was only one registered Holstein cow from Ohio, known as Breezewood Patsy Bar Pontiac, who was very competitive to Number 289 by producing 425,769 pounds of milk in her lifetime. But three years ago Number 289 took over the undisputed title of being the highest milk producer by producing 465,224 pounds of milk.

Number 289 had 13 calves, 11 were bulls. The memory of Number 289 will be with many people around the world in the milk industry for years to come.

The cow was buried right next to the milking barn where she gave so much milk. The dairyman has placed a plaque over her grave in the memory of her and the tag bearing her Number 289 will also be retired and not be used again.

ANNUAL CROP REPORT  
FOR YEAR 1984

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KINGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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KINGS COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LESLIE K. BROWN . . . . . DISTRICT I  
JOE HAMMOND . . . . . DISTRICT II  
DOM FARUZZI . . . . . DISTRICT III  
DOYLE DAVIS . . . . . DISTRICT IV  
ABEL MEIRELLES. . . . . DISTRICT V

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MILTON D. McCOY

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KINGS COUNTY  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 280 CAMPUS DRIVE  
 HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

FIELD CROPS

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL				TOTAL
Barley	1984	18,621	1.75	32,587	Ton	\$ 128.00	\$	4,171,000
	1983	30,378	1.46	44,352	Ton	119.00		5,278,000
Corn	1984	13,090	4.43	57,989	Ton	122.00		7,075,000
	1983	9,396	3.11	29,589	Ton	142.00		4,150,000
Cotton Lint	1984	267,292	2.00	534,584	495-lb. Bale	351.00		187,639,000
	1983	189,815	2.05	389,121		380.00		147,866,000
Cotton Seed	1984			220,515	Ton	117.00		25,800,000
	1983			160,512	Ton	165.00		26,484,000
Cotton Planting Seed	1984			2,901	Ton	145.00		421,000
	1983			2,724	Ton	181.00		493,000
Hay Alfalfa	1984	26,006	7.96	207,007	Ton	80.00		16,561,000
	1983	22,150	6.05	134,007	Ton	98.47		13,196,000
Grain	1984	565	4.00	2,260	Ton	65.00		147,000
	1983	543	3.50	1,900	Ton	65.00		125,000
Pasture Irrigated	1984	13,000			Acre	108.00		1,404,000
	1983	12,000				105.00		1,260,000
Range	1984	223,000			Acre	2.00		446,000
	1983	220,000				2.00		440,000
Other	1984	48,000			Acre	18.00		864,000
	1983	45,000				18.00		810,000
Safflower	1984	21,865	0.93	20,334	Ton	275.00		5,592,000
	1983	6,680	1.24	8,283	Ton	250.00		2,071,000

Screenings	1984			2,537	Ton	\$ 43.00	\$ 109,000
	1983			2,670	Ton	44.00	117,000
Silage Corn	1984	9,981	21.00	209,601	Ton	15.00	3,144,000
	1983	11,316	15.78	178,566	Ton	16.00	2,857,000
Other	1984	860	16.00	13,760	Ton	14.00	193,000
	1983	3,303	22.75	75,143	Ton	15.53	1,167,000
Sorghum Grain	1984	1,846	2.48	4,578	Ton	113.00	517,000
	1983	2,726	1.86	5,070	Ton	114.00	578,000
Dry Beans	1984	1,946	1.02	1,985	Ton	576.00	1,143,000
	1983	1,894	1.07	2,026	Ton	718.00	1,445,000
Sugar Beets	1984	1,622	23.76	38,539	Ton	33.00	1,272,000
	1983	2,436	21.38	52,082	Ton	34.00	1,771,000
Wheat	1984	51,962	3.14	163,161	Ton	123.00	20,069,000
	1983	43,876	3.08	135,138	Ton	131.00	17,703,000
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1984	1,271					596,000
	1983	2,077					708,000
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TOTAL	1984	700,927					\$277,163,000
	1983	603,590					\$228,929,000
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a/ Oats, Rice

KINGS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
280 CAMPUS DRIVE  
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FIELD CROPS - Cont'd

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

CROP	YEAR	UTILIZATION	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		PER TON	VALUE	
			BEARING	NON BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL TONS		TOTAL	TOTAL
Almonds	1984	Dried	3,872	116	.94	3,640	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 6,188,000	
	1983	Dried	3,756	180	.46	1,728	2,300.00	3,974,000	
Almonds - Hulls	1984					1,930	65.00	125,000	
	1983					2,868	75.00	215,000	
Apricots	1984	Fresh				1,250	773.00	966,000	
		Processed				600	258.00	155,000	
		Total	236	47	7.84	1,850		1,121,000	
	1983	Fresh				495	540.00	267,000	
		Processed				992	108.00	107,000	
		Total	210	6	7.08	1,487		374,000	
Grapes Raisin Varieties	1984	Fresh				836	522.00	436,000	
		Dried				3,064	845.00	2,589,000	
		Crushed				13,110	115.00	1,508,000	
		Total	2,379	82		17,010		4,533,000	
1983	Fresh				834	725.00	605,000		
	Dried				3,057	1,000.00	3,057,000		
	Crushed				13,085	110.00	1,439,000		
	Total	2,316	188		16,976		5,101,000		
Wine Varieties	1984	Crushed	1,117	301	8.75	9,774	100.00	977,000	
	1983	Crushed	1,290	159	7.30	9,417	141.00	1,328,000	
Table Varieties	1984	Fresh	122	83	10.80	1,318	866.00	1,141,000	
	1983	Fresh	122	83	9.60	1,171	820.00	960,000	
Total - All Grapes	1984		3,618	466				6,651,000	
	1983		3,728	430				7,389,000	
Kiwi	1984	Fresh	178	101	5.47	974	2,264.00	2,205,000	
	1983	Fresh	166	81	4.58	760	1,900.00	1,444,000	
Nectarines	1984	Fresh	1,187	271	7.87	9,342	378.00	3,531,000	
	1983	Fresh	887	300	7.87	6,981	460.00	3,211,000	



Olives	1984		1,146	0	4.06	4,653	\$ 533.00	\$ 2,480,000
	1983		1,146	0	4.94	5,661	557.00	3,153,000
Peaches								
Clingstone	1984	Processed	1,293	160	20.00	25,860	182.00	4,707,000
	1983	Processed	1,293	160	15.50	20,041	149.00	2,986,000
Freestone	1984	Fresh Processed Total	1,378	404	9.40	12,953	357.00	4,624,000
	1983	Fresh Processed Total	1,378	404	10.30	14,193	477.00	6,770,000
Total - All Peaches	1984		2,671	564		38,813		9,331,000
	1983		2,671	564		30,087		9,756,000
Pistachios	1984	Dried	2,674	1,326	1.15	3,075	2,300.00	7,073,000
	1983	Dried	2,671**	852	.57	1,522	3,220.00	4,902,000
Plums	1984	Fresh	1,486	504	5.70	8,470	336.00	2,846,000
	1983	Fresh	1,205	281	4.90	5,904	619.00	3,655,000
Pomegranates	1984	Fresh	189	10	4.85	917	404.00	370,000
	1983	Fresh	188	11	4.01	754	550.00	415,000
Walnuts	1984	Dried	5,016	882	1.66	8,326	747.00	6,220,000
	1983	Dried	4,516	514	0.98	4,425	665.00	2,943,000
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1984		226	165				225,000
	1983		229	59				288,000
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TOTAL	1984		22,499	4,452				48,366,000
	1983		28,487	4,209				42,484,000
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a/ Asian Pear, Pecans, Persimmons, Prunes, Quince  
 \*\*Revised

KINGS COUNTY  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 280 CAMPUS DRIVE  
 HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS - Cont'd.

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

VEGETABLE CROPS

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

CROP	YEAR	UTILIZATION	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
				PER ACRE	TOTAL			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cantaloupes	1984	Fresh	1,158	442.00	511,836	40 lb. Crate	\$ 4.13	\$ 2,114,000	
	1983	Fresh	2,510	552.00	1,385,000	40 lb. Crate	4.37	6,055,000	
Lettuce	1984	Fresh	729	752.00	548,208	43 lb. Carton	5.60	3,070,000	
	1983	Fresh	1,693	889.00	1,505,077	43 lb. Carton	6.00	9,031,000	
Onions	1984	Processed	960	17.55	16,848	Ton	72.00	1,213,000	
	1983	Processed	728	14.20	10,338	Ton	72.00	744,000	
Tomatoes	1984	Processed	2,200	28.70	63,140	Ton	52.00	3,283,000	
	1983	Processed	2,278	25.80	58,772	Ton	53.00	3,156,000	
Tomatoes	1984	Fresh	344	16.00	5,504	Ton	320.00	1,761,000	
	1983	Fresh	370	16.00	5,920	Ton	312.00	1,847,000	
Watermelons	1984	Fresh	184	21.00	3,864	Ton	77.00	298,000	
	1983	Fresh	345	16.00	5,520	Ton	61.00	337,000	
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1984		2,523					3,588,000	
	1983		2,137					2,904,000	
TOTAL	1984		8,098					\$ 15,327,000	
	1983		10,061					24,074,000	

a/ Asparagus, Chinese Cabbage (Napa), Cabbage, Carrot, Egg Plant, Garlic, Green Onion, Onion, Misc. Melon, Potatoes, Snap Beans, String Beans Squash and Strawberries.

SEED CROPS

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL			TOTAL	TOTAL
Certified Seed								
Alfalfa	1984	22,404	784	17,564,736	lb.	\$ 1.11		\$ 19,497,000
	1983	15,265	630	9,616,950	lb.	1.12		10,771,000
Barley	1984	911	6,578	5,992,558	lb.	0.07		419,000
	1983	576	2,920	1,681,920	lb.	0.14		235,000
Wheat	1984	7,762	5,954	46,214,948	lb.	0.08		3,697,000
	1983	2,045	6,160	12,597,200	lb.	0.11		1,386,000
Other Seed								
Lettuce	1984	305	365	111,325	lb.	3.62		403,000
	1983	169	556	93,964	lb.	2.35		221,000
Uncertified Alfalfa	1984	1,972	784	1,546,048	lb.	1.08		1,670,000
	1983	7,647	630	4,817,610	lb.	1.09		5,251,000
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1984	478						417,000
	1983	292						231,000
TOTAL	1984	33,832						\$ 26,103,000
	1983	25,994						\$ 18,095,000

a/ Bell Peppers, Black Eye Peas, Chili Peppers, Egg Plant, Flower, Nursery, Radish and Watermelon

INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK & POULTRY (In Number of Head)

ITEM	January 1, 1984		January 1, 1985
Milk Cows 2 Years and Over		59,085	65,500
Cattle and Calves On Feed		8,354	5,000
Other Cattle and Calves		136,384	53,000
Total		<u>203,823</u>	<u>123,500</u>
Sheep and Lambs		14,978	17,164
Hogs and Pigs		353	400
Hens and Pullets		197,500	164,596

KINGS COUNTY  
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280 CAMPUS DRIVE  
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M. HUGH HANDLEY  
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ITEM	YEAR	LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		NO. OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle & Calves	1984	153,220	906,621	Cwt.	\$ 64.40	\$ 58,386,000
	1983	129,354	787,802	Cwt.	60.91	47,985,000
Sheep & Lambs	1984	21,088	22,142	Cwt.	65.00	1,439,000
	1983	24,520	25,746	Cwt.	62.00	1,596,000
Hogs & Pigs	1984	1,160	247,892	lb.	.56	139,000
	1983	1,148	214,446	lb.	.54	116,000
Turkeys	1984	1,394,342	32,069,866	lb.	.44	14,111,000
	1983	1,183,547	27,221,581	lb.	.40	10,889,000
Fish - Catfish	1984		16,000	lb.	1.40	22,000
	1983		20,938	lb.	1.70	36,000
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1984					1,576,000
	1983					1,531,000
TOTAL	1984					\$ 75,673,000
	1983					62,153,000

a/ Geese, Fryers, Other Chickens, Chicken Eggs

\*\*Revised

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
Milk Market	1984	9,493,000	Cwt.	\$ 12.73	\$120,846,000
	1983	8,665,000	Cwt.	12.89	111,692,000
Manufacturing	1984	27,000	Cwt.	12.04	325,000
	1983	40,000	Cwt.	12.13	485,000
Wool	1984	219,315	lb.	.90	197,000
	1983	129,645	lb.	.70	91,000
TOTAL	1984				\$121,368,000
	1983				112,268,000

APIARY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	1984	6,001,080	lb.	.60	\$ 3,601,000
	1983	5,004,720	lb.	.56	2,803,000
Beeswax	1984	100,018	lb.	1.15	115,000
	1983	83,412	lb.	1.20	101,000
Pollination	1984	100,018	Colonies	20.00	2,000,000
	1983	83,412	Colonies	20.00	1,668,000
TOTAL	1984				\$ 5,716,000
	1983				4,572,000
** Revised					

1984 CROP SUMMARY

Field Crops	\$ 277,163,000	Seed Crops	\$ 26,103,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$ 48,366,000	Vegetable Crops	\$ 15,327,000
Livestock and Poultry	\$ 75,673,000	Apiary Products	\$ 5,716,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	\$ 121,368,000		
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 569,716,000	

KINGS COUNTY  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 280 CAMPUS DRIVE  
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M. HUGH HANDLEY  
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

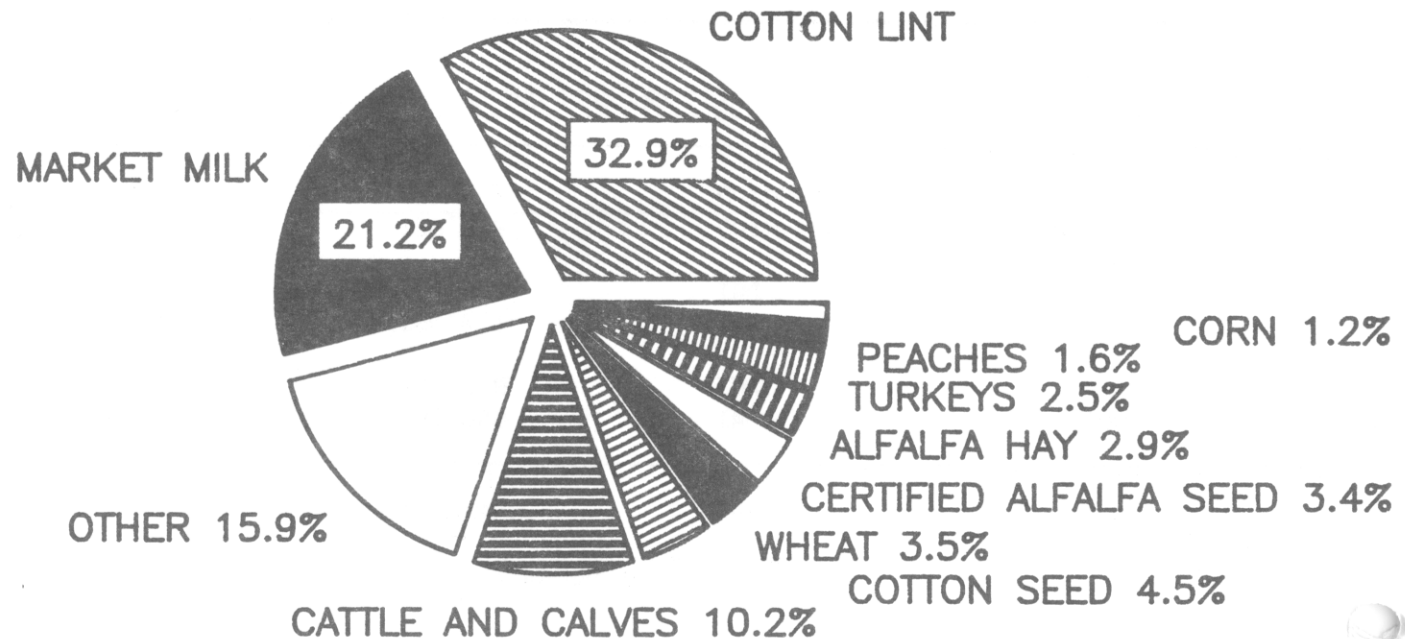
5 YEAR COMPARISON OF ACREAGE AND CROP VALUES

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Field Crops	\$ 378,527,295	\$341,677,342	\$ 314,372,000	\$ 228,929,000	\$ 277,163,000
Acreage	808,836	888.075	793,025	603,000	700,927
Fruit and Nut Crops	42,738,819 **	34,396,194	43,045,000	41,719,000**	48,366,000
Acreage	20,664	19,562	19,641	31,981**	22,499
Livestock and Poultry	70,917,370	63,191,475**	64,295,000	62,153,000	75,673,000
Products	98,802,450	103,482,220**	110,033,000**	112,268,000	121,368,000
Seed Crops	21,865,195 **	32,423,350	35,388,000	18,095,000	26,103,000
Acreage	31,990 **	42,901	52,228	25,994	33,832
Vegetable Crops	18,703,410	18,769,000	17,022,000	24,074,000	15,327,000
Acreage	8,186	7,268	9,005	10,061	8,098
Apiary Products	2,877,855	4,257,112	6,167,000	4,572,000	5,716,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 635,233,678</b>	<b>\$598,200,789</b>	<b>\$ 590,420,000**</b>	<b>\$ 491,860,000**</b>	<b>\$ 569,716,000</b>

\*\*Revised

TOP TEN CROPS OF KINGS COUNTY FOR 1984



MILLION DOLLAR CROPS - 1984

Cotton Lint	\$ 187,639,000	Honey	\$ 3,601,000
Market Milk	120,846,000	Nectarines	3,531,000
Cattle and Calves	58,386,000	Processed Tomatoes	3,283,000
Cotton Seed	25,800,000	Corn Silage	3,144,000
Wheat	20,069,000	Lettuce	3,070,000
Certified Alfalfa Seed	19,479,000	Plums	2,846,000
Alfalfa Hay	16,561,000	Olives	2,480,000
Turkeys	14,111,000	Kiwi	2,205,000
Peaches	9,331,000	Cantaloupe	2,114,000
Corn	7,075,000	Pollination	2,000,000
Pistachios	7,073,000	Fresh Tomatoes	1,761,000
Grapes	6,651,000	Uncertified Alfalfa Seed	1,670,000
Walnuts	6,220,000	Sheep and Lambs	1,439,000
Almonds	6,188,000	Irrigated Pasture	1,404,000
Safflower	5,592,000	Sugar Beets	1,272,000
Barley	4,171,000	Processed Onion	1,213,000
Certified Wheat Seed	3,697,000	Dried Beans	1,143,000





## General Kings County Information

County Seat	Hanford
County Population (1981)	74,200
Population per Square Mile	52.9
Total Assessed Value	\$1,748,615,339
Land Area (Square Miles)	1,396
Total Acres	893,280
Number of Farms (1982)	1187
Land in Farms (Acres - 1982)	808,084
Total Cropland (Acres - 1982)	613,693
Irrigated Cropland (Acres - 1982)	554,114
Total Agricultural Work Force	7,190
Public Ownership of Land (Acres):	
Federal	30,974 (3.5%)
State	3,452 (.4%)
County & City	9,951 (1.1%)
School & Special Districts	4,426 (.4%)

Agricultural production ranked 11th among California counties and 16th among U.S. counties (Based on 1983 total value).

Railroads - Santa Fe, Southern Pacific

Major Roads - Interstate 5, Highway 41, Highway 43 & Highway 198

Water Sources - Kings River, Tule River, Kaweah River, Kern River & California Aquaduct

Elevation - 225 to 250 feet above sea level (800 feet in the Kettleman Hills)

Average length of growing season: 257 days

Average date of last spring frost: March 3

Average climate: 196 sunny clear days, 74 partly cloudy days, 95 cloudy days

Average date of first fall frost: November 18