



1997
AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT
Kings County, California

WALNUTS

Walnuts are recognized as one of the oldest tree foods known to man. Archeological finds have recorded walnuts growing wild over a great portion of Europe and Asia, predating recorded history by many thousands of years. Most authorities believe the walnut first came from ancient Persia. Passing along by trade from Persia, walnuts became a much-valued delicacy to the people in China, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, and Spain. In the early days of Rome, walnuts were considered a food for the gods. The Romans gave the name “*Juglans regia*” to walnuts in honor of Jupiter.

Greek mythology records the origin of walnuts as resulting when Bacchus, the god of wine and ecstasy, fell in love with Carya. According to legend, Carya’s two older sisters tried to prevent her and Bacchus from meeting. When Bacchus discovered this, he transformed the two older sisters into stones and Carya into a Walnut tree. This is worth noting since many of the genus names of the walnut family contain Carya in a derivative form, such as, *Juglandaceae Carya* for pecans and hickories, and *Juglandaceae Pterocarya* for wingnuts, just to name a couple.

The Persian walnut, (*Juglandaceae Regia*), is the type of walnut grown commercially in California and here in Kings County. It is believed to have originated in the central mountain regions of Asia, approximately 6-7,000 years ago. Today, the more commonly used name for the Persian walnut is the “English walnut”. This reference started centuries ago when people referred to Persian walnuts as “English walnuts” because it was English merchant marine ships that transported the walnuts to trading ports around the world.

Around 1770, Franciscan mission fathers brought walnuts into California from South America and Spain. Commercial production of walnuts in California didn’t begin until about 1867, in southern California. Approximately 65% of the state’s production came from the southern California area until the 1930s when the majority of production moved north into the San Joaquin Valley. With its mild climate and deep fertile soils, California provides 99% of the total U.S. walnut production, which accounts for two-thirds of the world’s walnut trade. Kings County walnut acreage is growing. In 1996, Kings County ranked tenth in acreage among walnut producing counties in the state and seventh in production and value. Kings County produced 5% of the state total in 1996.

The walnut orchard scene on the cover of this crop report was taken on the farm of the late Otis A. “Nick” Nicholson, a former Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer for Kings County. The picture speaks to the simple beauty and serenity found in farming. The way Nick Nicholson farmed transformed farming into art.

Adding walnuts to recipes can really enhance the flavor and nutrition of your favorite foods. The ratio of poly unsaturated to saturated fats is one of the highest contained in natural foods. This fact makes walnuts a good source for the type of fatty acids, beneficial to low fat diets. Next time you have oatmeal, bake a chocolate cake, brownies, persimmon cookies, or even make a salad be sure you include some California walnuts.

Cover photos courtesy of Robert H. Beede, U.C. Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Kings County; and Diamond Walnut Growers, Inc.



Dennis F. Bray
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer Of Weights And Measures

KINGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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April 7, 1998

Ann M. Veneman, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kings

It is my pleasure to submit the 1997 Kings County Crop Report. This annual publication presents statistical information on the acreage, yield and gross value of Kings County agricultural products in accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

The 1997 total gross value of Kings County's major industry was \$886,963,000, an all-time county high. This represents a 0.35 percent increase from the 1996 gross production values.

Adverse weather conditions at the start of the year caused a decline in the yield and quality of some of the major crop categories, especially cotton. However, favorable market prices created an increase in values of most other 1997 crops. Fruit and Nut Crops increased \$16,277,000 (+16.6%), Vegetable Crops increased \$5,433,000 (+16.6%), and Livestock and Poultry increased \$3,298,000 (+2.9%).

Also showing increases were Apiary Products at \$494,000 (+13.1%) and Livestock and Poultry Products at \$826,000 (+0.3%).

Unfavorable weather, market values, and acreage lost to flooding contributed to the decrease of Field Crops at -\$11,989,000 (-3.6%) and Seed Crops at -\$8,343,000 (-40.6%).

Even with a slight drop in Milk production of -0.44%, Milk surpassed cotton, for the second consecutive year, as the county's top commodity for 1997. Contributing to this were reductions in cotton acreage and market pricing.

It must be emphasized that the values in this report are gross values only and in no way reflect the net income or loss to producers.

My thanks to Buzz Felleke, Agricultural and Standards Inspector III, and Tim Niswander, Deputy Commissioner-Sealer, as well as, all the department staff for the compilation and preparation of this report. Most of all, I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation of all agricultural producers, contributing organizations and those individuals who provided necessary information for this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis F. Bray
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

KINGS COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

****PERSONNEL****

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1997 ANNUAL CROP REPORT

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LARRY SPIKES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY LETTER	1
DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL	2
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL	3
FIELD CROPS	4
SEED CROPS	5
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	6
VEGETABLE CROPS	8
1997 PERCENT OF TOTAL VALUE	8
INVENTORY OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	9
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	10
APIARY PRODUCTS	11
5 YEAR COMPARISON OF ACREAGE AND CROP VALUE	12
KINGS COUNTY'S TEN LEADING COMMODITIES	13
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING	14
EXPORTED COMMODITIES	16
KINGS COUNTY TRADE PARTNERS	17
KINGS COUNTY QUICK FACTS	18
LAND USE	19
KINGS COUNTY GENERAL INFORMATION	20

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FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED PRODUCTION			UNIT	VALUE	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Barley	1997	18,707	1.01	18,894	Ton	130.00	2,456,000
	1996	18,794	0.8	15,035	Ton	159.00	2,391,000
Beans Dry a/	1997	5,043	0.96	4,841	Ton	523.00	2,532,000
	1996	2,456	1.00	2,456	Ton	569.00	1,397,000
Corn Silage	1997	30,266	17.81	539,037	Ton	22.16	11,945,000
	1996	27,919	19.24	537,162	Ton	21.80	11,710,000
Cotton							
Acala-Lint b/	1997	162,555	2.00	325,110	495 lb.	377.00	122,566,000
	1996	209,345	1.97	412,410	495 lb.	399.00	164,551,000
Acala-Seed	1997			134,041	Ton	187.00	25,066,000
	1996			170,542	Ton	190.00	32,403,000
Cotton Pima-Lint b/	1997	56,245	2.26	127,114	495 lb.	514.00	65,336,000
	1996	42,335	1.94	82,130	495 lb.	565.00	46,403,000
Pima-Seed	1997			52,434	Ton	180.00	9,438,000
	1996			33,818	Ton	175.00	5,918,000
Hay							
Alfalfa	1997	39,312	7.88	309,779	Ton	119.00	36,864,000
	1996	31,394	7.27	228,234	Ton	112.00	25,562,000
Other c/	1997	2,033	3.55	7,217	Ton	93.00	671,000
	1996	2,033	3.54	7,197	Ton	80.00	576,000
Pasture							
Irrigated	1997	11,000			Acre	110.00	1,210,000
	1996	10,000			Acre	109.00	1,090,000
Range	1997	102,000			Acre	2.40	245,000
	1996	101,000			Acre	2.35	237,000
Alfalfa Stubble	1997	28,305			Acre	13.00	368,000
	1996	22,499			Acre	17.00	382,000
Safflower	1997	31,131	1.25	38,914	Ton	323.00	12,569,000
	1996	33,233	1.19	39,547	Ton	301.00	11,904,000
Sugar Beets	1997	2,409	28.17	67,862	Ton	33.20	2,253,000
	1996	1,394	35.00	48,790	Ton	30.00	1,464,000

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE		
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE		PER UNIT	TOTAL	
Wheat	1997	53,235	2.68	142,670	Ton	140.00	19,974,000
	1996	48,705	2.42	117,866	Ton	161.00	18,976,000
Other d/	1997	26,586					4,664,000
	1996	26,764					5,182,000
TOTAL	1997	568,827					318,157,000
	1996	577,871					330,146,000

a/ Blackeye beans and other dry beans.

b/ 495 lb. = 1 bale.

c/ Includes hay and green chop from barley, oats and wheat.

d/ Includes corn grain, oat silage, screening, straw, sudangrass, sorghum, wheat silage, and winter forage.

SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE		
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE		PER UNIT	TOTAL	
Alfalfa							
Certified	1997	12,810	475	6,084,750	lb.	1.45	8,823,000
	1996	14,896	714	10,635,744	lb.	1.43	15,209,000
Non-certified	1997	600	475	285,000	lb.	1.43	408,000
	1996	1,400	549	768,600	lb.	1.40	1,076,000
Total	1997	13,410		6,369,750	lb.		9,231,000
	1996	16,296		11,404,344	lb.		16,285,000
Cotton, Certified	1997	2,620		2,167	Ton	310.00	672,000
	1996	4,150		3,444	Ton	235.00	809,000
Wheat	1997	2,740	4,444	12,176,560	lb.	0.07	852,000
	1996	3,757	5,520	20,738,640	lb.	0.08	1,659,000
Vegetable a/	1997	814					1,463,000
	1996	839					1,808,000
TOTAL	1997	19,584					12,218,000
	1996	25,042					20,561,000

a/ Broccoli, cauliflower, flowers, onion, radish and tomatoes.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds	1997	2,294	1.00	2,294	Ton	3,120.00	7,157,000
	1996	2,139	0.80	1,711	Ton	4,067.00	6,959,000
Almond Hulls	1997			802	Ton	91.00	73,000
	1996			907	Ton	90.00	82,000
Apples							
Fresh	1997			2,169	Ton	500.00	1,085,000
	1996			2,717	Ton	375.00	1,019,000
Processed	1997			1,272	Ton	70.00	89,000
	1996			1,800	Ton	108.00	194,000
Apples Total	1997	374	5.80	3,441	Ton		1,174,000
	1996	574	7.91	4,517	Ton		1,213,000
Apricots							
Fresh	1997			1,825	Ton	1,140.00	2,081,000
	1996			885	Ton	1,319.00	1,167,000
Processed	1997			150	Ton	250.00	38,000
	1996			120	Ton	310.00	37,000
Apricots Total	1997	375	4.87	1,975	Ton		2,119,000
	1996	375	2.36	1,005	Ton		1,204,000
Firewood a/	1997			450	Cord	105.00	47,000
	1996			497	Cord	100.00	50,000
Grapes							
Raisin Varieties							
Fresh	1997			1,800	Ton	966.00	1,739,000
				5,500	Ton	1,052.00	5,786,000
Crushed				8,900	Ton	185.00	1,647,000
Canned				1,500	Ton	248.00	372,000
Total		2,079		17,700			9,544,000
Grapes							
Raisin Varieties							
Fresh	1996			1,200	Ton	915.00	1,098,000
				6,500	Ton	1,006.00	6,539,000
Crushed				8,800	Ton	185.00	1,628,000
Canned				2,324	Ton	248.00	576,000
Total		2,079		18,824			9,841,000
Table Varieties							
	1997	632	8.67	5,479	Ton	753.00	4,126,000
	1996	632	11.05	6,984	Ton	961.00	6,711,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	BEARING		PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Grapes							
Wine Varieties							
	1997	1,503	12.18	18,307	Ton	312.00	5,712,000
	1996	1,503	8.08	12,144	Ton	304.00	3,692,000
Grapes Total	1997	4,214					19,382,000
	1996	4,214					20,244,000
Kiwifruit							
	1997	297	6.30	1,871	Ton	1,075.00	2,011,000
	1996	297	4.34	1,289	Ton	1,158.00	1,493,000
Nectarines							
	1997	1,948	8.54	16,636	Ton	587.00	9,765,000
	1996	1,929	5.86	11,304	Ton	612.00	6,918,000
Peaches							
Clingstone							
	1997	1,289	18.00	23,202	Ton	212.00	4,919,000
	1996	1,270	26.41	33,541	Ton	203.00	6,809,000
Freestone							
	1997	2,767	8.61	23,824	Ton	586.00	13,961,000
	1996	2,749	7.10	19,518	Ton	611.00	11,925,000
Peaches Total	1997	4,056					18,880,000
	1996	4,019					18,734,000
Pistachios							
	1997	5,670	1.36	7,711	Ton	2,723.00	20,998,000
	1996	5,670	1.01	5,727	Ton	2,434.00	13,939,000
Plums							
	1997	1,981	6.50	12,877	Ton	620.00	7,983,000
	1996	2,055	5.34	10,974	Ton	567.00	6,222,000
Pomegranates							
	1997	340	8.20	2,788	Ton	1,354.00	3,775,000
	1996	339	5.38	1,824	Ton	1,067.00	1,946,000
Walnuts							
	1997	6,548	1.83	11,983	Ton	1,550.00	18,573,000
	1996	6,407	1.67	10,700	Ton	1,574.00	18,841,000
Other b/							
	1997	676					2,308,000
	1996	748					2,123,000
TOTAL	1997	28,773					114,245,000
	1996	28,766					97,968,000

a/ Includes all varieties.

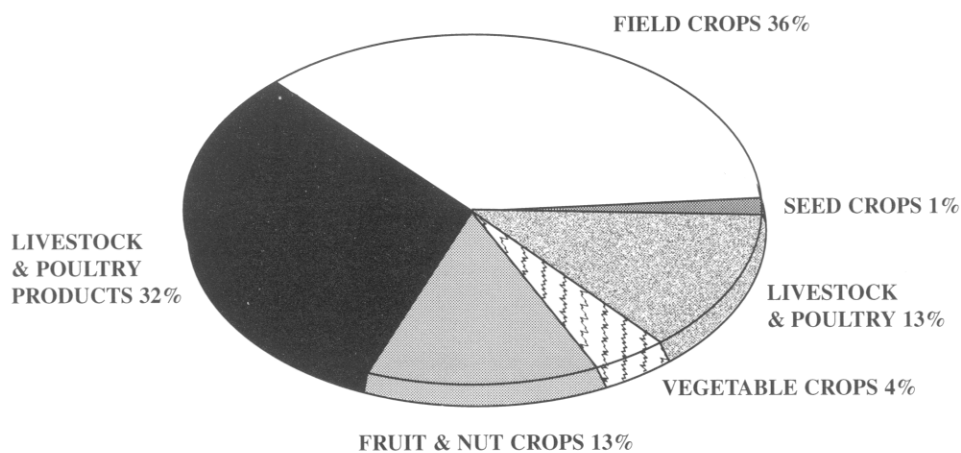
b/ Includes asian pears, cherries, jojoba, olive, pecans, persimmons, prunes, quince and strawberries.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED PRODUCTION		TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Broccoli							
Processed	1997	1,060	5.21	5,523	Ton	390.00	2,154,000
	1996	1,332	3.45	4,595	Ton	380.00	1,746,000
Cantaloupes							
	1997	2,036	12.28	25,002	Ton	215.00	5,375,000
	1996	1,871	14.60	27,317	Ton	200.00	5,463,000
Sweet Corn							
	1997	767	7.46	5,722	Ton	293.00	1,676,000
	1996	725	8.10	5,873	Ton	223.00	1,310,000
Tomatoes							
Fresh	1997	1,393	27.80	38,725	Ton	376.00	14,561,000
	1996	1,220	14.65	17,873	Ton	319.00	5,701,000
Processed	1997	2,100	34.54	72,534	Ton	51.14	3,709,000
	1996	6,700	34.54	231,418	Ton	51.00	11,802,000
Tomatoes Total							
	1997	3,493		111,259			18,270,000
	1996	7,920		249,291			17,503,000
Other a/							
	1997	3,769					10,602,000
	1996	4,737					9,542,000
TOTAL							
	1997	11,125					38,077,000
	1996	16,585					35,564,000

a/ Includes asparagus, cauliflower, garlic, eggplant, lettuce, misc. melons, peanuts, processed carrots, processed garlic, squash and watermelons.

1997 PERCENT OF TOTAL VALUE



INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	January 1, 1998 NUMBER OF HEAD	January 1, 1997 NUMBER OF HEAD
Cattle and Calves		
All	189,100	189,000
Dairy Cows 2 Years and Over	100,600	106,590
Cattle and Calves on Feed	3,800	3,700
Other	133,000	132,000
Sheep and Lambs		
Sheep and Lambs	12,768	10,720 *
Goats	3,200	2,900
Hogs and Pigs	16,450	10,000
Turkeys	662,753	750,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		NUMBER OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Breeding	1997					1,755,000
Stock a/	1996					1,638,000
Cattle and Calves	1997	158,689	966,416	Cwt.	53.00	51,220,000
	1996	152,696	929,918	Cwt.	52.50	48,821,000
Hogs and Pigs	1997	16,458	34,891	Cwt.	54.00	1,884,000
	1996	15,588	34,260	Cwt.	56.00	1,919,000
Sheep and Lambs	1997	12,768	13,534	Cwt.	100.00	1,353,000
	1996	13,007	14,308	Cwt.	88.00	1,259,000
Turkeys	1997	2,651,015	62,192,812	lb.	0.70	43,535,000
	1996	2,563,077	58,207,479	lb.	0.67	38,999,000
Other b/	1997					16,364,000
	1996					20,177,000
TOTAL	1997					116,111,000
	1996					112,813,000 *

a/ For All animals except horses.

b/ Includes Catfish, chickens, and goats.

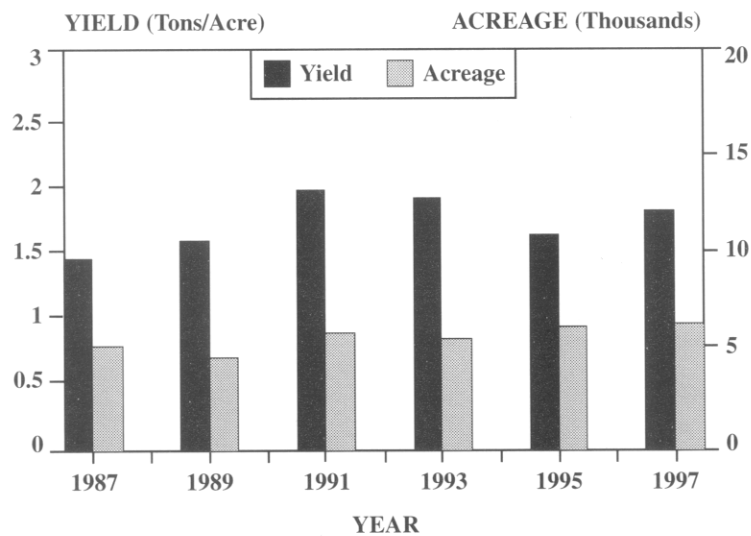
* Revised

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Eggs-Chicken Market	1997	3,011,666	Doz.	0.89	2,680,000
	1996	2,277,600	Doz.	0.90	2,050,000
Manure	1997	391,628	Ton	10.00	3,916,000
	1996	396,063	Ton	6.10	2,416,000
Milk					
Milk, Goats	1997	22,390	Cwt.	28.00	627,000
	1996	14,751	Cwt.	37.53	554,000
Market	1997	22,265,197	Cwt.	12.38	275,643,000
	1996	20,602,749	Cwt.	13.42	276,489,000
Manufacturing	1997	79,266	Cwt.	11.27	893,000
	1996	109,813	Cwt.	12.27	1,347,000
Milk Total	1997	22,366,853			277,163,000
	1996	20,727,313			278,390,000
Wool	1997	132,787	lb.	0.95	126,000 *
	1996	135,273	lb.	1.50	203,000 *
TOTAL	1997				283,885,000
	1996				283,059,000

* Not including wool incentive payment.

WALNUT YIELD & HARVESTED ACRES

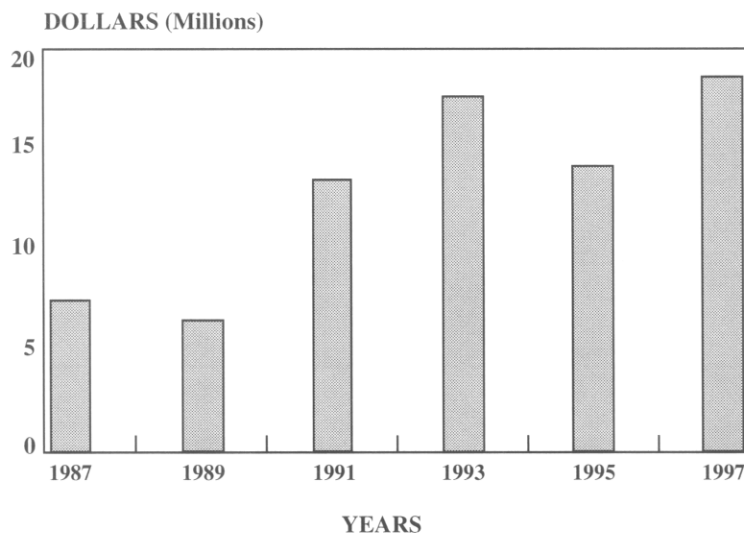


APIARY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Apiary Products					
Honey	1997	3,922,016	lb.	0.70	2,745,000
	1996	2,571,666	lb.	0.88	2,263,000
Beeswax	1997	65,367	lb.	1.72	112,000
	1996	42,861	lb.	1.93	83,000
Pollination					
Seed Alfalfa	1997	38,610	Colonies	27.00	1,042,000
	1996	44,688	Colonies	24.00	1,073,000
Tree Fruit a/	1997	10,144	Colonies	33.76	342,000
	1996	9,536	Colonies	33.00	315,000
Cantaloupe	1997	2,036	Colonies	14.00	29,000
	1996	2,806	Colonies	15.00	42,000
TOTAL	1997				4,270,000
	1996				3,776,000

a/ Almonds apples and plums.

WALNUT TOTAL PRODUCTION VALUE

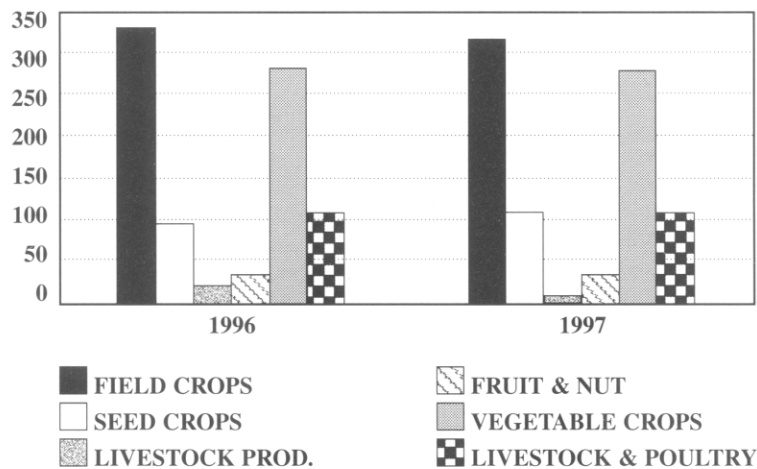


FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF ACREAGE & CROP VALUES

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Apiary Products	1,992,000	2,281,000	2,801,000	3,776,000	4,270,000
Field Crops	362,811,000	339,361,000	350,118,000	330,146,000	318,157,000
Acreage	578,201	558,061	602,598	577,871	568,827
Fruit and Nut Crops	112,541,000	84,343,000	105,133,000	97,968,000	114,245,000
Acreage	27,995	27,586	29,631	28,766	28,773
Livestock and Poultry	106,206,000	105,980,000	99,199,000	112,813,000	116,111,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	198,540,000	222,794,000	231,211,000	283,059,000	283,885,000
Seed Crops	12,892,000	13,813,000	16,793,000	20,561,000	12,218,000
Acreage	19,787	19,651	23,935	25,042	19,584
Vegetable Crops	29,439,000	44,231,000	44,086,000	32,644,000	38,077,000
Acreage	9,956	18,743	21,004	16,585	11,125
TOTAL	\$ 839,213,000	\$ 812,658,000	\$ 837,899,000	\$ 883,887,000	\$ 886,963,000

1996 and 1997 PRODUCTION VALUE COMPARISONS

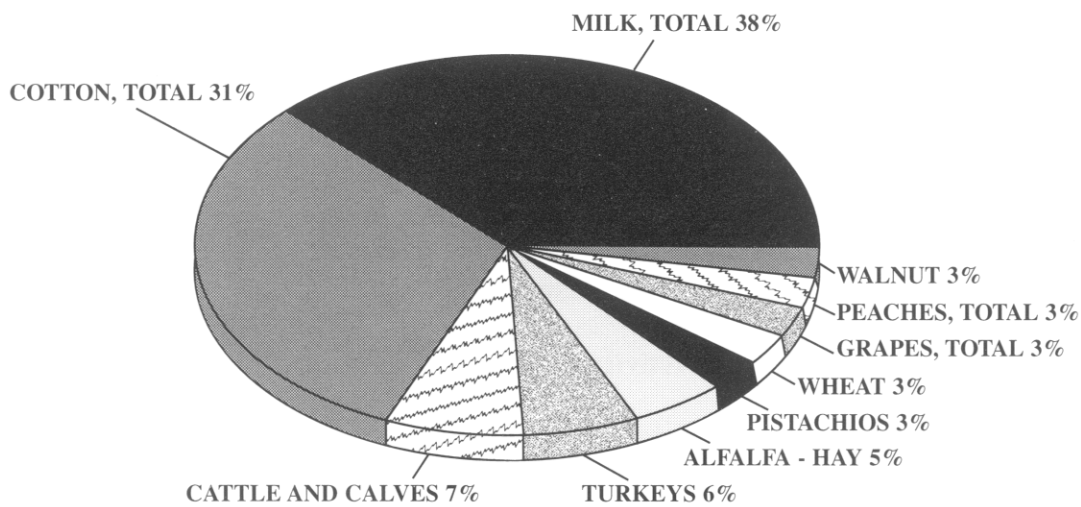
Millions



KINGS COUNTY'S TEN LEADING COMMODITIES

CROP	1997 RANK	1997 DOLLAR VALUE	1996 RANK	1995 RANK	1994 RANK
Milk, Total	1	277,163,000	1	2	2
Cotton, Total	2	223,078,000	2	1	1
Cattle and Calves	3	51,220,000	3	3	3
Turkeys	4	43,535,000	4	4	5
Alfalfa, Hay	5	36,864,000	5	8	7
Pistachios	6	20,998,000	12	7	9
Wheat	7	19,947,000	7	10	11
Grapes, Total	8	19,382,000	6	5	6
Peaches, Total	9	18,880,000	8	6	9
Walnut	10	18,573,000	10	11	14
TOTAL		729,640,000			

TOP TEN COMMODITIES OF KINGS COUNTY FOR 1997



KINGS COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Puncture Vine <u>Tribulus terrestris</u>	Stem Mining Weevil <u>Microlarinus lypriformis</u>	Generally distributed
	Seed Head Weevil <u>Microlarinus lareynii</u>	Generally distributed
Yellow Starthistle <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	Seed Head Weevil <u>Bangasternus orientalis</u>	2 sites
	Gall Fly <u>Urophora sirunaseva</u>	1 site
Ash Whitefly <u>Siphoninus phillyreae</u>	Parasitic Wasp <u>Encarsia partenorea</u>	Generally distributed
Silverleaf Whitefly <u>Bemisia argentifolii</u>	Parasitic Wasp <u>Eretmocerus sp.(M95104)</u>	6 site
	<u>Eretmocerus sp.(M95012)</u>	6 site
	<u>Eretmocerus mundus</u>	6 site

COUNTY PEST EXCLUSION

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
European Corn Borer <u>Ostrinia nubilalis</u>	Railroad Corn Shipments	1,082 inspections
Gypsy Moth <u>Lymantria dispar</u>	Household Goods Shipments	17 inspections
Various	Truck Shipments	2,421 inspections
Crops	Activity	Scope of Program
Export Commodities	Origin Certification	1,313 issued
Export Seed	Field Inspections	118 sites/26,427 acres

KINGS COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING

COUNTY PEST ERADICATION

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Pink Bollworm <u>Pectinophora gossypiella</u>	Mechanical/Host Free Period	218,800 acres
Alligatorweed <u>Alternanthera philoxeroides</u>	Visual Inspection	No plants found

COUNTY PEST DETECTION

Pest	Number of Traps	Type of Traps
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	279	Jackson Traps
Mexican Fruit Fly	60	McPhail Traps
Oriental Fruit Fly	30	Jackson Traps
Melon Fly	30	Jackson Traps
Gypsy Moth	74	Delia Traps
Japanese Beetle	70	Japanese Beetle Traps
European Corn Borer	15	Pherocon 1 c Tapes
European Pine Shoot Moth	6	Pherocon II Traps
Khapra Beetle	205	Trogo Traps
Western Cherry Fruit Fly	18	Adult Monitoring
Apple Maggot	96	Adult Monitoring
Total Traps	928	



EXPORTED COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES EXPORTED FROM KINGS COUNTY

Alfalfa Seed
Almonds
Asparagus Seed
Apples
Barley Seed
Carrot Seed
Cherries



Cotton Lint
Cotton Seed
Fresh Garlic
Grapes
Kiwifruit
Nectarines
Onion Seed

Peaches
Pepper Seed
Plums
Pistachios
Pomegranates
Safflower Seed
Wheat Seed

EXPORT TRADE PARTNERS OF KINGS COUNTY IN 1997

Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Bahrain
Canada
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cypress
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
France
Germany



Greece
Guatemala
Honduras
Hong Kong
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Korea
Luxemburg
Mexico
Morocco
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Oman

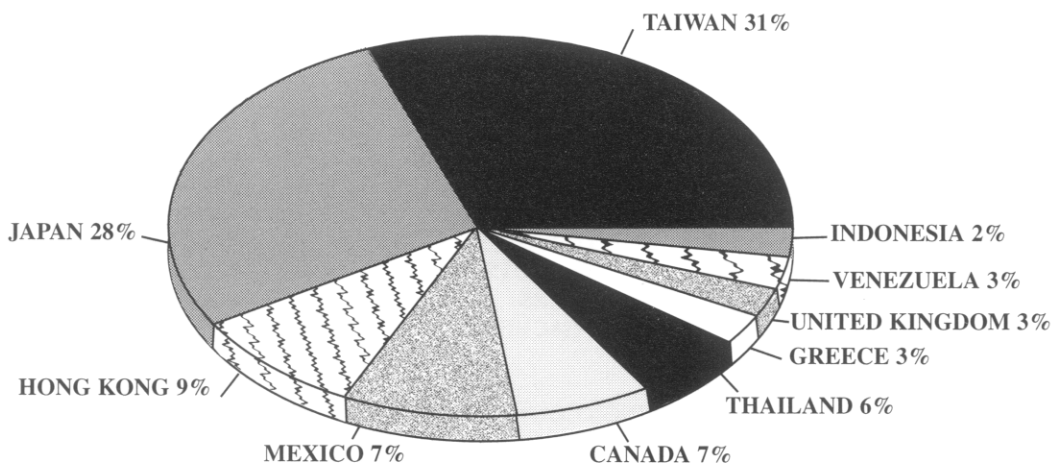
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Spain
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkey
United Emirates
United Kingdom
Venezuela
Vietnam

"It is vain to be always looking toward the future and never acting towards it." Boyes

EXPORT TRADE PARTNERS



**TOP TEN EXPORT PARTNERS
OF KINGS COUNTY FOR 1997**



KINGS COUNTY QUICK FACTS

- ☆ 85% of the land area in Kings County is farmland.
- ☆ 25.5 % of the total workforce in Kings County is in Agriculture (1996)
- ☆ 681 acres is the average farm size in Kings County.
- ☆ The average age of a person that operates a farm in Kings County is about 50.4.
- ☆ 1,187 is the number of farms in Kings County
- ☆ The most prolific milk producing cow the world has ever known, No. 289, lived in this county for 19 years and gave 54,070 gallons of milk - enough to fill more than eight 60-foot tanker trucks.

CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKETS

Hanford Certified Farmer's Market
116 W. Seventh Street.
Hanford, Ca. 93230
Date: Thursday
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Month: May - October

Hanford Mall Certified Farmer's Market
1675 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, Ca. 93230
Date: Saturday
Time: 8:00 a.m. - Noon.
Month: May - October

Lemoore Certified Farmer's Market
218 West D Street
Lemoore, Ca. 93245
Date: Tuesday
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Month: May - October

KINGS COUNTY PRODUCE NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN FARMER'S MARKET

ALMONDS
APPLES
APRICOTS
ARTICHOKES
ASPARAGUS
BELL PEPPERS
BROCCOLI
BEANS
CANTALOUPE
CARROTS
CUCUMBERS

EGGPLANT
FIGS
GARLIC
GRAPES
MIXED MELONS
NECTARINES
OKRA
ONIONS
PEANUTS
PEARS
PEACHES

PERSIMMONS
PISTACHIOS
POMEGRANATES
PLUMS
SQUASH
STRAWBERRIES
SWEET CORN
TOMATOES-CHERRIES
TOMATOES
WALNUTS
WATERMELON

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURE VISIT OUR WEB SITE
@ <http://www.cnetech.com/agcom>

LAND USE

COUNTY	1996 RANK	GROSS VALUE	TOTAL COUNTY AREA ACRES	FARMLAND ACRES	PERCENT FARMLAND	AG VALUE PER COUNTY ACRES
FRESNO	1	\$ 3,313,426,000	4,080,000	2,134,762	52%	\$ 812.11
TULARE	2	\$ 2,801,021,000	3,158,400	1,512,589	48%	\$ 886.85
KERN	3	\$ 2,067,028,000	5,223,000	3,037,068	58%	\$ 395.75
MONTEREY	4	\$ 1,934,907,558	2,127,360	1,426,212	67%	\$ 909.53
KINGS	11	\$ 883,887,000	893,440	761,266	85%	\$ 989.31

KINGS COUNTY LAND USE SUMMARY

LAND USE CATEGORY	1994		1996		ACREAGE CHANGE
	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES	PERCENT	
Prime Farmland	144,816	16%	143,003	16%	-1,813
Farmland of Statewide Importance	446,226	50%	435,166	49%	-11,060
Unique Farmland	25,302	3%	24,846	3%	-456
Farmland of Local Importance	5,220	1%	5,795	1%	575
Grazing Land	234,247	26%	244,500	27%	*10,253
Urban and Built-up Land	26,465	3%	27,308	3%	843
Other Land	11,089	1%	12,757	1%	1,668
Water Area	75	0%	65	0%	-10
TOTAL ACRES	893,440		893,440		

* Dry farming land converted back to grazing land.

The dynamics of this Valley continue to evolve with the population growth and the corresponding needs for water and land. Population growth provides greater marketing opportunities, and in turn increases the demand for production agriculture. Agriculture needs the increasing marketing opportunities and the increasing population needs agriculture. However, in California, the two are competing for the same land and the same water. It is vital for the future of agriculture that we work together to maintain and preserve the farmland that we still have.

KING COUNTY GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat	Hanford
County Population (1997)	118,204
Population per Square Mile	84.67
Total Assessed Value (1996)	\$3,953,722,580
Land Area (Square Miles)	1,396
Total Acres	893,440
Total Harvested crop acreage (1997)	628,309
Foreign Ownership (1995)	4,009 (acres)
Total Farmland (Acres – 1996)	761,266
Public Ownership of Land (Acres - 1990)	
Federal	20,912.69
State	1,684.99
County	5,556.25
Local Agencies	9,460.34

Agricultural production ranked 11th among California counties and 16th among U.S. counties.(Based on 1996 total value.)

Railroads - Santa Fe, Southern Pacific & San Joaquin Railroad.

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

Water Sources - Kings River, Tule River, Kaweah River, Kern River & California Aqueduct.

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.

"Some family trees produce more nuts than timber" Arnold H. Glasgow

RAINFALL – HANFORD, CA

YEAR	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	TOTAL
1948-49	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.99	0.51	0.85	1.94	0.07	4.93
1949-50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.68	1.48	1.13	1.10	0.40	5.39
1950-51	0.07	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.63	1.06	1.24	0.76	0.22	1.17	5.57
1951-52	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	1.11	2.39	3.03	0.27	2.18	0.79	0.01	9.88
1952-53	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.05	0.65	2.96	1.10	0.27	0.34	0.83	0.29	6.68
1953-54	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.01	0.09	1.89	0.78	2.21	0.52	0.34	6.94
1954-55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	1.61	3.25	1.31	0.43	0.69	0.90	8.85
1955-56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.92	4.67	1.10	0.38	0.10	0.73	0.77	8.69
1956-57	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.15	1.39	1.22	0.05	0.88	0.61	5.10
1957-58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	1.19	1.41	1.85	2.30	3.93	2.38	0.24	13.50
1958-59	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.23	0.16	1.35	1.90	0.11	0.52	0.00	4.49
1959-60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.80	1.71	0.61	0.57	0.00	3.97
1960-61	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.53	0.00	2.61	0.03	1.34	0.22	0.67	0.22	0.37	6.01
1961-62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	1.28	0.71	4.88	1.06	0.00	0.11	9.15
1962-63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.19	1.19	1.68	1.37	2.88	0.56	7.98
1963-64	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.75	1.23	0.31	0.61	0.02	0.94	0.64	0.20	5.20
1964-65	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.95	1.31	1.44	1.18	0.33	0.33	1.57	0.00	7.45
1965-66	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.05	2.15	1.97	0.63	0.71	0.10	0.00	0.07	5.80
1966-67	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.29	0.09	1.28	2.57	1.41	0.05	2.42	2.95	0.07	11.23
1967-68	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	1.99	0.50	0.62	0.64	1.00	0.50	0.08	5.87
1968-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.98	1.64	6.69	4.54	0.79	0.85	0.32	17.14
1969-70	0.21	0.07	0.00	0.15	0.05	0.51	0.70	1.60	1.33	1.42	0.14	0.00	6.18
1970-71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.40	1.23	0.35	0.19	0.23	0.40	1.44	6.24
1971-72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.41	1.87	0.04	0.35	0.00	0.23	0.00	3.00
1972-73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.21	2.90	0.65	2.44	2.29	2.20	0.12	0.00	11.05
1973-74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.46	0.94	2.97	0.13	1.75	0.03	0.00	7.04
1974-75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.24	1.40	0.09	2.26	1.24	0.49	0.00	6.37
1975-76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.76	0.05	0.22	0.00	2.94	0.19	1.47	0.03	6.64
1976-77	0.01	0.00	0.22	1.47	0.00	1.15	0.96	0.96	0.03	0.43	0.00	0.01	5.24
1977-78	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.06	2.85	2.22	5.05	4.12	1.71	0.00	16.13
1978-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.79	0.50	1.84	1.61	1.16	0.03	0.00	7.03
1979-80	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.41	0.62	0.41	2.90	2.71	1.28	0.05	0.04	8.54
1980-81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.21	1.80	0.86	2.10	0.68	0.17	5.91
1981-82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	1.08	0.29	0.84	0.33	3.52	1.75	0.00	8.57
1982-83	0.45	0.18	0.00	0.64	1.03	2.15	0.71	3.74	2.59	3.39	1.63	0.04	16.55
1983-84	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.82	0.43	1.66	1.22	0.01	0.42	0.27	0.18	0.00	5.06
1984-85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.52	1.41	1.66	0.59	0.61	0.68	0.12	0.01	5.61
1985-86	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.54	2.11	0.56	1.46	2.60	3.40	0.45	0.00	11.17
1986-87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.21	0.77	1.77	2.04	2.02	0.06	0.13	7.15
1987-88	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.72	1.74	1.37	0.40	0.93	2.65	0.07	8.79
1988-89	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.33	2.29	1.02	2.03	0.85	0.02	0.39	7.99
1989-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.32	0.20	0.53	1.79	1.02	0.30	0.97	0.87	6.67
1990-91	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.01	0.22	0.09	0.37	1.32	6.67	0.19	0.66	10.19
1991-92	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.38	0.14	1.32	1.40	3.32	0.85	0.10	0.00	7.98
1992-93	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	2.62	3.88	2.48	2.16	0.07	0.08	11.88
1993-94	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.24	0.68	0.66	1.45	1.02	0.70	0.69	0.00	5.94
1994-95	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.06	0.35	1.54	0.33	4.70	0.51	4.77	0.65	0.87	14.78
1995-96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.59	1.79	2.55	2.15	0.89	0.16	9.13
1996-97	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.65	0.87	3.03	3.02	0.12	0.21	0.00	0.00	8.94
1997-98	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.09	1.96	1.80							
AVERAGE	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.19	0.35	0.86	1.09	1.40	1.35	1.30	0.74	0.23	7.49
50 YEAR AVERAGE RAINFALL													7.49