

Agricultural Crop Report



Kings County,
California
2005

Asparagus - the "Food of Kings"

For nearly a quarter of a century asparagus has been a constant part of the agricultural landscape in Kings County. Past crop reports compiled by the Agricultural Commissioner's office indicate asparagus was first commercially grown in 1952. Through the 1960's and 70's its appearance in the crop report was sporadic. Since 1981 the cultivation of asparagus has been sustained annually in Kings County. Like most crops cultivated in the Central San Joaquin Valley, asparagus is believed to have originated in the eastern portion of the Mediterranean. Archeologists have found traces of the wild type of asparagus in Africa and believe it was cultivated in Egypt as well.

Many plants grown in these regions of the world, home to ancient civilizations, have original uses in Greek medicine. Asparagus is no exception. The Greek physician Hippocrates typically used the plant to treat gastrointestinal maladies, though not everyone consumed it to cure an ailment. The Romans consumed the plant for the taste and enjoyment. They enjoyed it so much they were the first civilization to preserve it by freezing it in the snowline regions of the Alps. Roman chariot runners would take the asparagus from the Tiber River, all the way to the Alps, and kept it there until the Feast of Epicurus. The Roman emperors had special fleets on hand to gather and deliver the best spears in the empire. Rome's conquests throughout Europe lead to the propagation of asparagus in this region. During the 16th century it was primarily consumed by members of royalty. In the 17th century, during the reign of Louis XIV, it was grown in France to appease his appetite. It was said that he was fanatical about the vegetable, so much so that he had greenhouses specifically built to grow asparagus year-round just for him. Asparagus was called the "Food of Kings" because of the exclusivity of just royalty eating it. Beginning in the 18th century asparagus became available to the masses and recipes for the delicacy began showing up in cookbooks.

The Dutch and English colonists were the first to bring asparagus to the new world and struggled to grow the crop in the cooler climates of the northeast. In 1850 asparagus was brought to California and cultivated in the rich peat of the delta soils at the junction of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River. Here asparagus found a foothold in the agricultural landscape of California. Asparagus would later make its way into commercial production in the central region of the San Joaquin Valley and into Kings County by 1952.

The asparagus plant is a member of the lily family. It is a perennial plant that takes approximately 3 years for the crowns to develop and begin to producing shoots. Once a plant is in production, it can produce shoots for up to 20 years. In California, asparagus is generally harvested in the early spring through April and even into May, as the weather allows. This is typical for Kings County as well. There are different types of asparagus. Most common is the green spears that are usually available fresh, when in season, or canned and available year round. Consumers can also find white asparagus which is cultivated and harvested under special circumstances that keep the tender shoots from exposure to sunlight. The sunlight produces chlorophyll which gives plants their green color. Depriving asparagus of sunlight yields the white shoots.

Regardless of your preference ... know that this "Food of Kings" literally lives up to its name, by having a rich history of being grown in the County of Kings!



Department of Agriculture / Measurement Standards

TIM NISWANDER

Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

April 11, 2006

Secretary A. G. Kawamura
California Department of Food and Agriculture
And
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kings, California

It is my privilege to submit to you, the 2005 Annual Agricultural Crop Report for the County of Kings. This report contains statistical information on the acreage, yield, and gross values in accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. The numbers in this report are only gross values and do not represent net income or loss to producers.

The gross value of all agricultural crops and products produced during 2005 in Kings County is \$1,407,091,000. This represents an increase of \$115,001,000 (8.9%) from the 2004 value.

Fruit and Nut Crops received the highest gain of \$72,573,000 (42%) from increased production coupled with increased acreage. Per unit increases lead to a \$476,000 (18.9%) increase to Apiary Products; Seed Crops experienced an increase of \$1,228,000 (17.3%) from increased acreage; Livestock and Poultry increased by \$28,702,000 (16.5%) attributed to increased inventory and higher market prices.

The county's leading commodity remains Milk, with a value of \$455,897,000 in 2005. This represents an increase of \$2,012,000 (0.44%), due to volume increases.

My thanks and appreciation are extended to the many producers and organizations who contributed information for this report. This report is produced from the hard work of Joan Vernon, Ag & Standards Inspector III, Robbie Coelho, Ag & Standards Inspector I, Brandi Martin, Ag & Standards Inspector I, Janet Eckles, Agricultural and Standards Aide, Roberta Spomer, Agricultural and Standards Aide and Ruben Arroyo, Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer.

Respectfully yours,

Tim Niswander

Table of Contents

Summary Letter.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
County Administration/Ag Commissioner -Sealer Personnel.....	3
Field Crops.....	4
Fruit and Nut Crops	6
Vegetable & Seed Crops.....	8
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 Agriculture Report	14
Export Commodities	16
Kings County’s Export Partners	17
Certified Farmer’s Market	18
Land Use	19
Cherry Recipes	20
Kings County General Information	22
Kings County Rainfall	23

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County Administration Ag Commissioner - Sealer Personnel

Kings County Board of Supervisors

Joe A. Neves District I

Jon N. Rachford District II

Tony T. Oliveira District III

Tony Barba District IV

Alene L. Taylor District V

County Administrative Officer

Larry Spikes

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

Tim Niswander

Deputy Agricultural Commissioners/Sealers

Ruben J. Arroyo

Steve Schweizer

Les Wright

Agricultural and Standards Inspectors

Tom Chambers

Mario Gutierrez

Brandi Martin

Robbie Coelho

Monty Hopper

Stevie McNeill

Bill DeRaad

Daryl Jue

Alfredo Prieto

Ron Evans

Michael Leoni

Robert Torrez

Vince Evans

Joan Vernon

Agricultural Computer Systems Coordinator

Lynda Schrupf

Agricultural and Standards Aides

Janet Eckles

Roberta Spomer

Clerical

Diane O'Daniel

Lynda Gabbard

Linda Lavars

Amber Rambonga

Carey Smith

Field Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Beans, Dry	2005	2,267	1.58	3,582	TON	\$ 616.00	\$ 2,207,000
	2004	1,783	1.10	1,961	TON	\$634.00	\$ 1,243,000
Corn Silage	2005	65,502	25.30	1,657,201	TON	\$27.30	\$ 45,242,000
	2004	55,233	23.22	1,282,510	TON	\$25.00	\$ 32,063,000
Cotton Acala-Lint a/	2005	107,229	2.64	283,085	495 lbs.	\$367.00	\$ 103,892,000
	2004	88,890	3.06	272,003	495 lbs.	\$359.00	\$ 97,649,000
Acala- Seed	2005			122,553	TON	\$175.00	\$ 21,447,000
	2004			112,354	TON	\$170.00	\$ 19,100,000
Cotton Upland	2005	16,730	2.72	45,506	495 lbs.	\$361.00	\$ 16,428,000
Non- Approved -Lint	2004	15,696	2.99	46,931	495 lbs.	\$369.00	\$ 17,318,000
Cotton Upland	2005			46,904	TON	\$175.00	\$ 8,208,000
Non- Approved Seed	2004			19,382	TON	\$170.00	\$ 3,295,000
Cotton Pima- Lint	2005	92,250	1.46	134,685	495 lbs.	\$591.00	\$ 79,599,000
	2004	8,932	2.89	25,813	495 lbs.	\$465.00	\$ 12,003,000
Pima- Seed	2005			58,454	TON	\$140.00	\$ 8,184,000
	2004			10,665	TON	\$120.00	\$ 1,280,000
Cotton Pima	2005	7,645	2.01	15,366	495 lbs.	\$615.00	\$ 9,450,000
Non- Approved - Lint	2004	70,188	2.63	184,594	495 lbs.	\$508.00	\$ 93,774,000
Cotton Pima	2005			15,833	TON	\$140.00	\$ 2,217,000
Non-Approved - Seed	2004			76,116	TON	\$120.00	\$ 9,134,000
Hay Alfalfa	2005	54,887	7.20	395,186	TON	\$137.00	\$ 54,140,000
	2004	59,575	7.52	448,004	TON	\$113.00	\$ 50,624,000

a/ 495 lbs. = 1 bale

Field Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested		Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Value	
		Acreage					Per Unit	Total
Hay, Oat	2005	6,695		2.58	17,273	TON	\$88.40	\$ 1,527,000
	2004	6,132		3.51	21,523	TON	\$87.00	\$ 1,873,000
Pasture Irrigated	2005	11,000					\$135.00	\$ 1,485,000
	2004	11,000					\$135.00	\$ 1,485,000
Pasture Range	2005	189,237					\$10.00	\$ 1,892,000
	2004	189,237					\$10.00	\$ 1,892,000
Alfalfa Stubble	2005	35,420					\$20.00	\$ 708,000
	2004	38,500					\$20.00	\$ 770,000
Sorghum Silage	2005	783		15.33	12,003	TON	\$21.10	\$ 253,000
	2004	694		7.25	5,032	TON	\$20.00	\$ 101,000
Sugar Beets	2005	1,538		30.92	47,555	TON	\$35.00	\$ 1,664,000
	2004	2,783		39.95	111,181	TON	\$31.00	\$ 3,447,000
Wheat Grain	2005	42,909		1.63	69,942	TON	\$128.00	\$ 8,953,000
	2004	60,741		2.65	160,964	TON	\$134.00	\$ 21,569,000
Wheat Silage	2005	40,675		13.92	566,196	TON	\$22.30	\$ 12,626,000
	2004	25,756		13.80	355,433	TON	\$21.00	\$ 7,464,000
Others c/	2005	35,564						\$ 1,667,000
	2004	63,989						\$ 3,467,000
TOTAL	2005	710,331						\$ 381,789,000
	2004	699,129						\$ 379,551,000

c/ Barley Grain, Barley Silage, Corn Grain, Forage, Ryegrass Hay, Safflower, Screenings, Sudan Hay, Sudan Silage, & Wheat Straw.

" Advances in medicine and agriculture have saved vastly more lives than have been lost in all the wars in history." ~Dr. Carl Sagan

Fruit & Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Almonds	2005	9,275	0.57	5,287	TON	\$5,400.00	\$28,550,000
	2004	9,434	0.66	6,226	TON	\$3,485.00	\$21,698,000
Almond Hulls	2005			5,379	TON	\$94.50	\$508,000
	2004			6,811	TON	\$95.00	\$647,000
Apricots Fresh	2005	752	4.27	3,211	TON	\$1,070.00	\$3,436,000
	2004	811	8.64	7,007	TON	\$861.00	\$6,033,000
Firewood	2005			1,400	CORD	\$120.00	\$168,000
	2004			1,465	CORD	\$125.00	\$183,000
Grapes Raisin Varieties 2005							
Fresh, Table							
Dried				5,218	TON	\$1,150.00	\$6,001,000
Crushed				695	TON	\$103.00	\$71,600
Canned				548	TON	\$250.00	\$137,000
Total		2,097		6,461	TON		\$6,210,000
Grapes Raisin Varieties 2004							
Fresh, Table							
				1,918	TON	\$873.00	\$1,674,000
				4,792	TON	\$1,092.00	\$5,233,000
				1,206	TON	\$201.00	\$242,000
				672	TON	\$247.00	\$166,000
Total		1,894		8,588	TON		\$7,315,000
Grapes Table Varieties							
Crushed	2005						
	2004	140	8.76	1,226	TON	\$205.00	\$251,000
Fresh	2005	803	9.50	7,629	TON	\$815.00	\$6,218,000
	2004	751	8.62	6,474	TON	\$873.00	\$5,652,000

Fruit & Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Production		Total	Unit	Value	
		Acres	Per Acre			Per Unit	Total
Wine Varieties Total	2005	3,314	13.81	45,766	TON	\$241.00	\$11,030,000
	2004	2,469	11.59	28,616	TON	\$240.00	\$6,868,000
Grapes Total	2005	6,214			TON		\$23,458,000
	2004	525			TON		\$20,086,000
Nectarines	2005	2,518	8.34	21,000	TON	\$944.00	\$19,824,000
	2004	2,408	6.82	16,423	TON	\$815.00	\$13,385,000
Peaches Clings	2005	1,600	15.44	24,704	TON	\$247.00	\$6,102,000
	2004	645	16.89	10,894	TON	\$245.00	\$2,669,000
Peaches Freestone	2005	4,014	7.49	30,065	TON	\$918.00	\$27,600,000
	2004	3,118	6.85	21,358	TON	\$819.00	\$17,492,000
Peaches Freezer	2005	536	18.86	10,109	TON	\$232.00	\$2,345,000
	2004	492	17.29	8,507	TON	\$215.00	\$1,829,000
Peaches Total	2005	6,150					\$36,047,000
	2004	4,255					\$21,990,000
Pistachios	2005	9,690	1.86	18,023	TON	\$4,680.00	\$84,348,000
	2004	9,898	1.09	10,789	TON	\$2,838.00	\$30,619,000
Plums	2005	1,918	5.79	11,105	TON	\$917.00	\$10,183,000
	2004	2,396	7.83	18,761	TON	\$1,046.00	\$19,624,000
Walnuts	2005	8,776	1.92	16,850	TON	\$1,600.00	\$26,960,000
	2004	9,695	1.71	16,578	TON	\$1,349.00	\$22,364,000
Others a/	2005	3,908					\$11,883,000
	2004	4,424					\$16,163,000
TOTAL	2005	49,201					\$245,365,000
	2004	48,575					\$172,792,000

a/ Includes Almond Shells, Apples, Apples Proc., Asian Pears, Cherries, Jojobas, Kiwifruit, Oranges, Pecans, Persimmons, Pluots, Pomegranates, Quince, and Strawberries.

Vegetable Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Garlic Processed	2005	3,418	8.45	28882	TON	135.00	\$ 3,899,000
	2004	3,158	6.65	21001	TON	132.00	\$ 2,772,000
Melons, All a/	2005	935	13.41	12538	TON	337.00	\$ 4,225,000
	2004	877	17.17	15,058	TON	260.00	\$ 3,915,000
Tomatoes Processed	2005	21,889	45.20	989,383	TON	50.00	\$ 49,469,000
	2004	20,309	43.13	875,927	TON	51.00	\$ 44,672,000
Other b/	2005	5,355					\$ 45,787,000
	2004	7,880					\$ 45,840,000
TOTAL	2005	31,597					\$ 103,380,000
	2004	32,224					\$ 97,199,000

a/ Includes Cantaloupes, Specialty Melons, & Watermelon.

b/ Asparagus, Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Eggplant, Fresh Tomatoes, Peppers, & Onions Processed.

Seed Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Total
Others a/	2005	9,164	\$8,340,000
	2004	6,694	\$7,112,000
TOTAL	2005	9,164	\$8,340,000
	2004	6,694	\$7,112,000

a/ Alfalfa Certified, Alfalfa Non-Certified, Asparagus, Barley Certified, Barley Non-Certified, Cotton Certified, Endive, Lettuce, Onion, & Wheat Certified.

Inventories of Livestock & Poultry

Item	January 1, 2005 Number of Head	January 1, 2004 Number of Head
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Cattle and Calves

All	285,000	274,000
Dairy Cows 2 Years and Over	156,000	150,000
Cattle and Calves on Feed	8,000	5,000
Other	147,000	145,000

Sheep and Lambs	10,196	10,872
Goats	5,750	2,600
Hogs and Pigs	1,845	1,400
Turkeys	515,487	476,326
Ducks	1,700	1,700

Livestock & Poultry

Item	Year	Number Of Head	Total Liveweight	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves*	2005	207,056	1,552,961	Cwt.	\$114.81	\$178,295,000
	2004	211,791	1,289,466	Cwt.	\$99.00	\$129,165,000
Sheep and Lambs	2005	10,196	11,994	Cwt.	\$110.42	\$1,324,000
	2004	10,872	12,027	Cwt.	\$104.00	\$1,251,000
Turkeys	2005	2,570,806	62,889,373	lb.	\$0.35	\$21,752,000
	2004	1,905,305	42,564,514	lb.	\$0.42	\$17,877,000
Others a/	2005					\$863,000
	2004					\$25,239,000
TOTAL	2005					\$202,234,000
	2004					\$173,532,000

* Includes Breeding Stock Value in Total, 2004 and 2005.

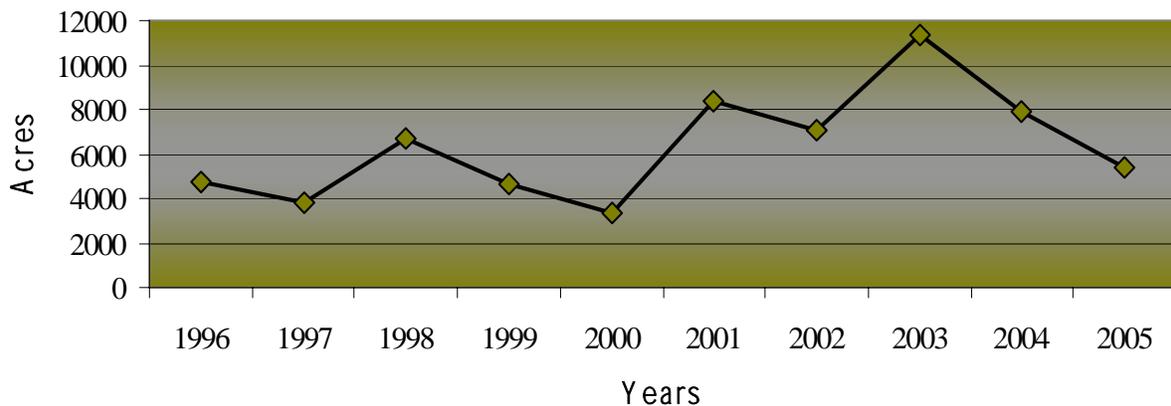
a/ Includes Chickens, Goats, Ducks, Hogs & Pigs.

Livestock & Poultry Products

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Eggs- Chicken Market	2005	2,454,264	Doz.	\$0.88	\$2,160,000
	2004	2,522,010	Doz.	\$0.88	\$2,219,000
Manure	2005	957,705	TON	\$5.10	\$4,884,000
	2004	537,455	TON	\$6.00	\$3,225,000
Milk Market	2005	32,250,532	Cwt.	\$13.80	\$445,057,000
	2004	30,853,465	Cwt.	\$14.58	\$449,844,000
Milk Mfg.	2005	684,354	Cwt.	\$14.80	\$10,128,000
	2004	215,287	Cwt.	\$15.20	\$3,272,000
Milk- Goats	2005	21,128	Cwt.	\$33.70	\$712,000
	2004	24,631	Cwt.	\$31.24	\$769,000
Milk Total	2005	32,956,014	Cwt.		\$455,897,000
	2004	31,093,383	Cwt.		\$453,885,000
Wool*	2005	69,027	lb.	\$0.70	\$48,300
	2004	73,603	lb.	\$0.78	\$57,000
TOTAL	2005				\$462,989,000
	2004				\$459,386,000

*Price does not include wool incentive.

10 Years
Other Vegetable Crop Acres in Production



Apiary Products

Item	Year	Total Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Honey	2005	502,690	lb.	\$0.71	\$357,000
	2004	778,066	lb.	\$0.96	\$747,000
Beeswax	2005	36,830	lb.	\$1.12	\$41,200
	2004	21,261	lb.	\$1.32	\$28,000
Seed Alfalfa	2005	17,952	Colonies	\$35.30	\$634,000
	2004	10,869	Colonies	\$32.00	\$348,000
Tree Fruit a/	2005	26,353	Colonies	\$73.40	\$1,934,000
	2004	29,828	Colonies	\$46.00	\$1,372,000
Melons	2005	935	Colonies	\$26.50	\$24,800
	2004	1,271	Colonies	\$16.00	\$20,000
Vegetable Seed	2005	58	Colonies	\$45.00	\$2,610
	2004	108	Colonies	\$26.00	\$3,000
TOTAL	2005				\$2,994,000
	2004				\$2,518,000

a/ Almonds, Apricot, Cherries, Kiwi, and Plums.

Agricultural Quick Facts

The five leading counties in total milk production for 2005, in rankinkg order, were: Tulare 26%; Merced 14%; Stanislaus 10%; Kings 9%; and Kern 8%. These five counties accounted for 67% of California's total market milk.

If California were a country, it would be the 6th leading agricultural exporter in the world, outpacing China, Canada, Brazil and Australia.

The average size of farms increased from 327 acres in 1997 to 347 acres in 2002.

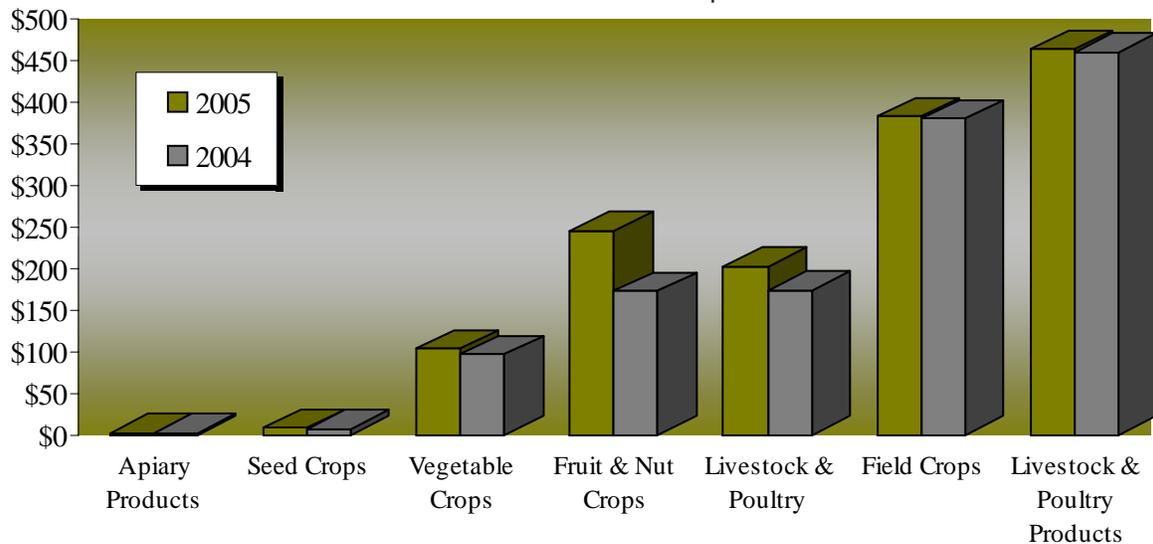
The most prolific milk producing cow the world has ever known, No. 289, lived in this county for 19 years and gave 54,070 gallons of milk - enough to fill more than eight 60-foot tanker trucks.

5 Year Comparison Of Acreage & Crop Values

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Apiary Products	\$2,994,000	\$2,518,000	\$3,026,000	\$2,531,000	\$2,004,000
Field Crops	\$381,789,000	\$379,551,000	\$313,559,000	\$326,4741,000	\$308,302,000
Acreage	710,331	699,129	722,423	687,894	5 94,379
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$245,365,000	\$172,792,000	\$152,269,000	\$145,624, 000	\$89,563,000
Acreage	49,201	48,575	*44,094	2,970	34,976
Livestock and Poultry	\$202,234,000	\$173,532,000	\$163,217,000	\$104,201,000	\$115,369,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	\$462,989,000	\$459,386,000	\$331,393,000	\$309,252,000	\$367,657,000
Seed Crops	\$8,340,000	\$7,112,000	\$2,581,000	\$5,617,000	\$5,389,000
Acreage	9,164	6,694	5,213	6,572	5,842
Vegetable Crops	\$103,380,000	\$97,199,000	\$170,921,000	\$129,841,000	\$63,666,000
Acreage	31,597	32,224	31,187	*24,296	19,935
TOTAL	\$1,407,091,000	\$1,292,090,000	\$1,136,966,000	\$714,555,000	\$ 951,950,000

* Revised

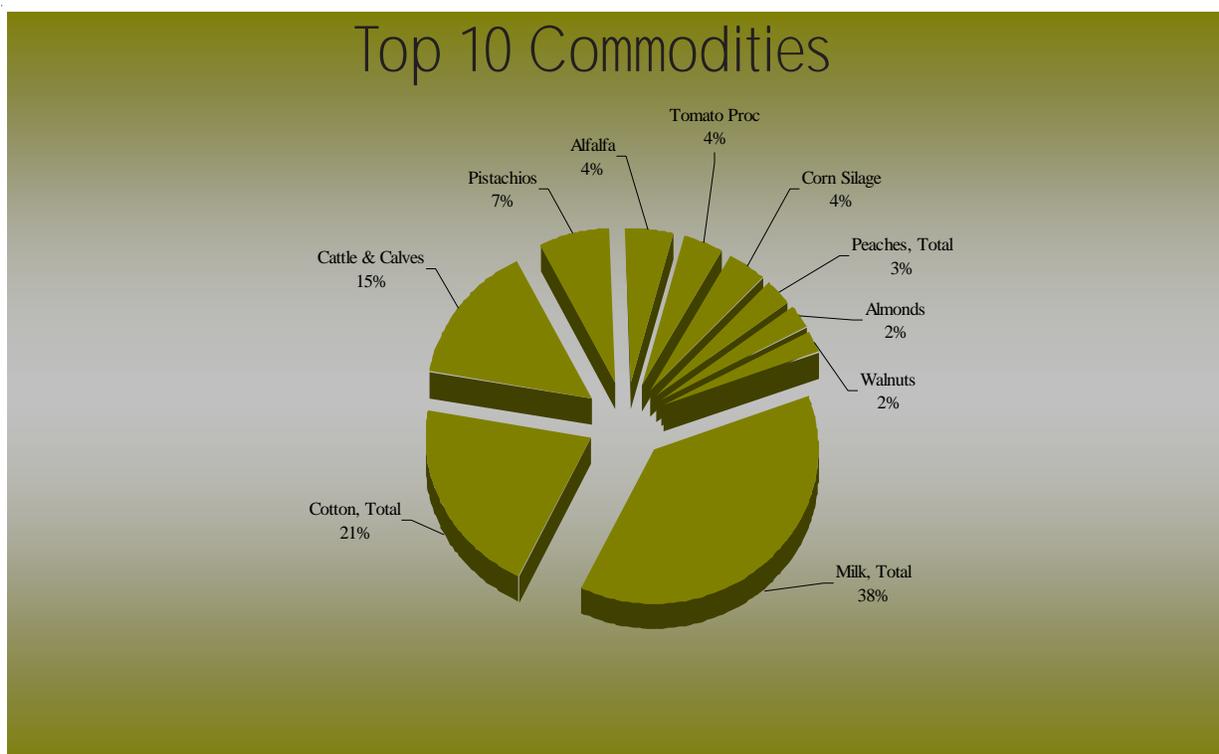
2005 and 2004 Production Value Comparisons



"Little ol' boy in the Panhandle told me the other day you can still make a small fortune in agriculture Problem is, you got to start with a large one." ~Jim Hightower~

Kings County's 10 Leading Commodities

Crop	2005 Rank	Dollar Value	2004 Rank	2003 Rank
Milk, Total	1	\$455,897,000	1	1
Cotton, Total	2	\$249,741,000	2	2
Cattle and Calves	3	\$178,295,000	3	3
Pistachios	4	\$84,348,000	7	5
Alfalfa	5	\$54,140,000	4	4
Tomatoes, Proc.	6	\$49,469,000	5	7
Corn Silage	7	\$45,242,000	6	8
Peaches, Total	8	\$36,047,000	9	10
Almonds	9	\$28,550,000	10	12
Walnuts	10	\$26,960,000	8*	11
*Revised	Total	\$1,208,689,000		



"I know of no other pursuit in life in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture, its breed of useful animals, and other branches of a husbandman's." ~George Washington~

Kings County Sustainable Agricultural Report

County Biological Control

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Puncture Vine <u>Tribulus terrestris</u>	Stem Mining Weevil <u>Microlarinus lypriformi</u>	Generally Distributed
	Seed Head Weevil <u>Microlarinus lareynil</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 Sites
	Hairy Weevil <u>Eustenopus villosus</u>	3 Sites
Ash Whitefly <u>Siphoninus phillyreae</u>	Parasitic Wasp <u>Encarsia parenorea</u>	Generally Distributed
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid <u>Glycaspis brimblecombei</u>	Parasitic Wasp <u>Psyllaepagus bliteus</u>	1 Site
Silverleaf Whitefly <u>Bemisia argentifolii</u>	Parasitic Wasp <u>Eretmocerus sp.(M95104)</u>	6 Sites
	<u>Eretmocerus sp.(M95012)</u>	6 Sites
	<u>Eretmocerus mundus</u>	6 Sites

County Pest Exclusion

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
European Corn Borer <u>Ostrinia nubilalis</u>	Railroad Corn Shipments	80 Inspections
Gypsy Moth <u>Lymantria dispar</u>	Household Goods Shipments	555 Inspections
Various Pests	Truck Shipments	30,132 Inspections
Crops	Activity	Scope of Program
Export Commodities	Origin Certification	1,288 issued
Export Seed	Field Inspections	154 sites / 10,084 acres

Kings County Sustainable Agricultural Report

County Pest Eradication

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Pink Bollworm <u>Pectinophora gossypiella</u>	Mechanical/Host Free Period	171,200 Acres
Alligatorweed <u>Alternanthera philoxeroides</u>	Visual Inspection Mechanical/Chemical	4 Sites Treated

County Pest Detection

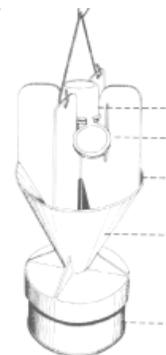
Pest	Number of Traps	Type of Traps
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	223	Jackson Traps
Mexican Fruit Fly	101	McPhail Traps
All Pupose Fruit Fly	116	Champ Traps
Oriental Fruit Fly	80	Jackson Traps
Melon Fly	80	Jackson Traps
Gypsy Moth	83	Delta Traps
Japanese Beetle	80	Japanese Beetle Traps
European Corn Borer	15	Pherocon 1 c Traps
European Pine Shoot Moth	6	Pherocon II Traps
Khapra Beetle	250	Trogo Traps
Apple Maggot	20	Adult Monitoring Traps
Total Traps	1,054	



Jackson Trap



McPhail Trap



Japanese Beetle Trap

Commodities Exported From Kings County

Alfalfa Seed
Almonds
Asparagus Seed
Blueberries
Calcium Salts
Cherries
Cotton Lint

Cotton Seed
Garlic
Kiwifruit
Lettuce
Nectarines
Onions

Onion Seed
Peaches
Pistachios
Plums
Tomatoes
Tomato Powder
Watermelon

Export Trade Partners of Kings County in 2005

Argentina
Australia
Bahamas
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
England
Figi

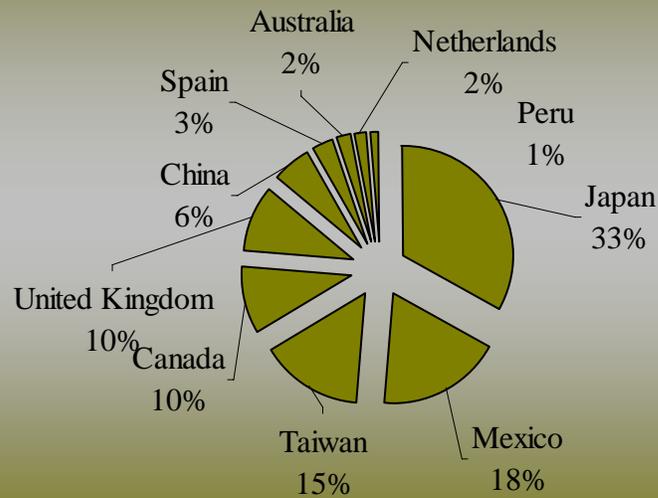
France
Germany
Greece
Guatamala
Honduras
Hong Kong
Indonesia
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kuwait
Korea
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Maylaysia

Mexico
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Singapore
Spain
Sweden
Taiwan
**United Arab
Emirates**
United Kingdom

**To Learn More About Kings County Exports, Visit Our Web Site
@ <http://www.countyofkings.com>**

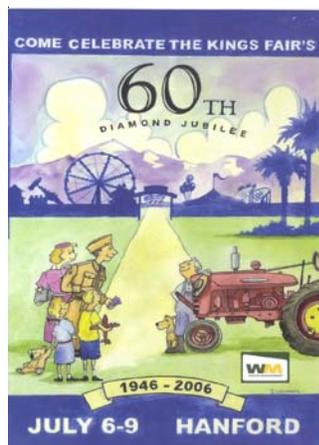
Export Partners

Top Ten Export Partners 2005



Fairs & Expositions

"Come Celebrate the Kings Fair's
60th Diamond Jubilee"



801 S. 10th Ave.
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone (559) 584-3318
Fax (559) 584-0192

Certified Farmer's Market

Hanford Certified Farmer's Market

116 W. Seventh Street

Hanford, CA 93230

Thursdays 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

May thru October - Irwin Street

Almonds	Herbs	Plums
Apples	Honey	Pluots
Apricots	Kiwifruit	Prunes
Aprium	Lemons	Pomegranates
Asian Pears	Mandarin	Pommelos
Asparagus	Mistletoe	Potatoes
Basil	Mixed Melons	Quince
Bell Peppers	Mushrooms	Radishes
Cantaloupes	Nectarines	Raisins
Cherries	Okra	Satsumas
Cherry Tomatoes	Olives	Soybeans
Chili Peppers	Oranges	Squash
Corn	Oregano	Strawberries
Cucumbers	Limes	Sweet Corn
Eggplant	Peaches	Sweet Onions
Figs	Peanuts	Tangerines
Fresh cut Flowers	Peas	Tomatoes
Fruit Trees	Pears	Walnuts
Garlic	Pecans	Watermelon
Grapefruit	Peppers	Yams
Grapes	Persimmons	Zucchini
	Pistachios	

" To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves. "

~ Gandhi ~

Land Use

Surrounding Counties	2004 Rank	2004 Gross Value*	Total County Area Acres	Top Commodity	2004 Value	Acres or No. of Head
Fresno	1	\$4,684,931,200	3,840,000	Grapes	\$592,099,000	206,964
Tulare	2	\$4,036,353,000	3,112,320	Milk	\$1,367,136,000	572,000
Monterey	3	\$3,392,309,318	2,127,359	Lettuce	\$950,534,000	137,594
Kern	4	\$3,142,481,400	5,166,720	Grapes	\$521,870,000	78,221
Kings	10	\$1,292,090,000	890,545	Milk	\$453,885,000	211,791

* Gross Value Does not include timber.

Kings County Land Use Summary

Land Use Category	2002		2004		Acre Change
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	
Prime Farmland	140,875	16	140,582	16	-293
Farmland of Statewide Importance	431,336	48	429,768	48	-1,568
Unique Farmland	28,314	3	28,524	3	210
Farmland of Local Importance	7,556	1	8,283	1	717
Grazing Land	236,582	27	233,493	26	-3,089
Urban and Built-Up Land	29,796	3	30,768	3	972
Other Land	16,247	2	19,298	2	3,051
Water Area	66	0	66	0	0
Total Acres	890,782		890,782		

From the California Department of Conservation

Asparagus Recipes

CALIFORNIA ASPARAGUS RISOTTO WITH SHRIMP AND LEMON



Fresh California Asparagus adds the perfect herbaceous, spring note to this creamy rice dish, punctuated by shrimp and lemon. If you haven't made risotto before, not to worry. It's quite easy if you follow the directions and not as daunting as it first appears to a newcomer.

1-1/2 pounds large California Asparagus, trimmed	1 teaspoon finely chopped lemon zest
4 cups chicken broth, preferably reduced salt	1/2 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup chopped shallot	1 pound rock shrimp
2 tablespoons olive oil	Salt to taste
1 cup Arborio (short grain) rice	Freshly ground pepper to taste

Put asparagus into a large skillet of salted, boiling water. Return to a boil; boil until tender-crisp, about 3 minutes. Drain well; spread on paper towel to cool. Cut into 1-inch lengths; reserve. In a small saucepan, bring broth to a simmer; reduce to lowest heat possible to keep warm. In a larger saucepan, saute shallot over medium heat in olive oil until soft, about 3 minutes. Stir in rice until well-coated with oil. Cook rice, stirring constantly, another minute or 2 until rice is opaque. Stir in lemon zest. Deglaze with white wine, stirring constantly. Stir in 1/2 cup hot broth, cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until broth has been absorbed and mixture thickens. Risotto should cook at lively simmer; adjust heat as necessary. Continue process, using half cup hot broth at a time, making sure rice absorbs liquid before adding more. Continue adding broth. When rice is just tender, stir in reserved asparagus and shrimp. Cook, stirring constantly, until shrimp is pink. The risotto should be very creamy not soupy nor gummy. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

6 servings

Asparagus Recipes

CALIFORNIA ASPARAGUS PIZZA WITH RED BELL PEPPER, OLIVE, AND FETA CHEESE



California Asparagus adds pizzaz to pizza with its herbaceous flavor and succulent texture, and spears from the Golden State are the freshest in the markets. For added convenience, you can use a purchased, pre-baked pizza bread shell instead of dough.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 unbaked pizza dough shell, 12 inches | 12 ounces fresh California Asparagus, trimmed, then blanched |
| 2/3 cup diced (1/2 inch) bell pepper | 3 ounces Mozzarella cheese, shredded (about 3/4 cup) |
| 1/2 cup chopped onion | 3 ounces Feta cheese, crumbled (about 3/4 cup) |
| 1/2 cup chopped Calamata olive | |

On the dough shell, layer in order, red bell pepper, onion, and olive. Arrange asparagus spears, tips toward edge, in a pinwheel fashion over vegetables. Evenly sprinkle with cheeses. Bake at 500°F until crust and cheese are lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Cut into 8 wedges.

4 servings

Thank You



Special thanks to the California Asparagus Commission for their cooperation and information.

Kings County General Information

County Seat	Hanford
County Population (2004)	141,434
Population per Square Mile	104.05
Total Assessed Value (2004)	\$6,250,689,040
Land Area (Square Miles)	1,391
Total Acres	890,545
Total Harvested Crop Acreage (2005)	800,293
Foreign Ownership (2001)	4,009 (acres)
Total Farmland	749,100
Public Ownership of Land (Acres - 2000)	
Federal	27,313.76
State	4,015.99
County	1,421.61
Local Agencies	3,587.01

Agricultural production ranked 10th among California counties and 18th among U.S. counties (based on 2004 total value).

Railroads - Burlington Northern & Santa Fe and Union 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 - 175 feet above sea level at Tulare Lake to 3500 feet above sea level at the Kings/Monterey County line boundary.

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.

Rainfall - Hanford, CA

YEAR	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	TOTAL
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	0.00	0.06	0.09	1.96	1.80	2.00	4.05	2.60	1.68	1.31	15.55
1998-99	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.63	0.64	3.01	0.56	0.43	1.37	0.00	7.76
1999-00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	1.08	3.28	1.59	0.97	0.48	7.55
2000-01	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.31	0.00	0.03	1.98	1.48	1.24	1.12	0.00	7.54
2001-02	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.18	1.84	1.99	0.87	0.31	1.04	0.03	0.01	6.36
2002-03	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.42	1.14	0.25	1.13	1.05	1.67	0.67	8.15
2003-04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.47	2.05	0.97	2.32	0.25	0.01	0.02	6.16
2004-05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.09	0.44	2.13	2.55	1.69	2.02	0.70	0.84	12.46
2005-06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.21	1.15						

AVERAGE 0.06 0.01 0.03 0.19 0.35 0.85 0.95 1.50 1.46 1.39 0.70 0.19 8.20

50 YEAR AVERAGE RAINFALL