



# **AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT**

**KINGS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - 1987**

KINGS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

\*\* PERSONNEL \*\*

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

M. HUGH HANDLEY

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\*\*\*\*\*  
CROP REPORT COVER: Turkeys- An expanding industry in Kings County.  
(See enclosed story)

Photo courtesy of  
California Turkey Industry Board



# 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, 1988

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

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to submit this 1987 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 in Kings County for the calendar year 1987 was \$640,178,000., an all time record and an increase of \$94,533,000. (17.3%) over 1986 values.

Most crop categories increased in value, except fruit and nut crops and seed crops, whose values declined, due to reduced prices and or acreages.

Cotton surpassed all other crops with a value of \$275,517,000., including seed.

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 and Stace Damerval of my staff, who compiled the report.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Hugh Handley  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures

MHH:ame

## TURKEYS

The wild progenitors of our modern turkey came from the Guatemalan and Honduran Region. They spread into North America and at one time could be found throughout the United States. There were five subspecies of wild turkey at the time the pilgrims landed on this continent.

In 1520, the Conquistadors took the wild turkey from Mexico to Spain where it was domesticated and spread throughout Europe. It was returned to the United States during the 1600's. Turkeys were first mentioned in the United States. They were shipped from Narragansett Bay to the west coast in 1840. A wagon load was shipped to Oakland, presumably Oakland, California, although this has not been confirmed.

In 1929, the Sheffield Strain was introduced from England to the Northwest. This introduction from England was made by Jessie Throessle. Jessie was the nephew of a gardener in England who reportedly had access to turkey hatching eggs.

In the 1930's on the West Coast there were four breeders who developed the turkey. Most strains came from these four breeders. The bird was turned white probably using a white strain called the Holland White. Today, there are three large international turkey breeding companies in the world. Over ninety percent of the turkey breeding in the world has come from the Pacific Northwest. In the San Joaquin Valley, we have turkey breeders whose strains came from the original four breeders.

The turkey industry in Kings County is well into its second generation, apparently getting its start when Spencer and Glen Kleinhammer began an F.F.A. Project with turkeys while attending Lemoore High School. Before long, more of the Kleinhammer family had turkey enterprises. Today a total of ten growers are scattered throughout Kings County producing 1,832,000 head valued at over \$17,376,000.00, for 1987.

The turkey industry in the United States has grown from many small flocks all over the nation to a mega-industry with enormous numbers of turkeys in relatively few hands. The estimates for production in the United States for 1987 show that North Carolina is the leader in the nation in production with about 39 million head produced annually with Minnesota following second with about 33 million and California as third with about 26 million. This is out of a national total of an estimated 240.4 million.

The turkey industry began to expand about 20 years ago into processed meats. This innovation turned the industry into a year around enterprise with only about 24% of the total production being sold as whole body, 14% that is sold as parts, and at least 62% as processed.

Turkey meat is known to be low in calories, cholesterol and extremely versatile in its uses. Turkey is often recommended by physicians for heart patients. The future of the turkey industry looks very bright and promising in every aspect.

ANNUAL CROP REPORT  
FOR YEAR 1987

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KINGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

M. HUGH HANDLEY  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

\*\*\*\*\*

KINGS COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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DOM FARUZZI.....DISTRICT III  
NICK KINNEY.....DISTRICT IV  
ABEL MEIRELLES.....DISTRICT V

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MILTON D. McCOY

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FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE	
		HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Barley	1987	24,195	1.75	42,341	Ton	\$ 94.00	\$ 3,980,000
	1986	49,361	1.96	96,748	Ton	\$ 89.00	\$ 8,611,000
Corn	1987	13,400	5.74	77,260	Ton	80.00	6,181,000
	1986	11,000	5.04	55,440	Ton	94.11	5,217,000
Cotton Lint	1987	259,347	2.48	643,181	495 lb.	382.00	245,695,000
	1986	218,000	2.26	492,680	495 lb.	349.00	171,945,000
Cottonseed	1987			264,487	Ton	110.00	29,094,000
	1986			203,230	Ton	119.00	24,184,000
Cotton Planting Seed	1987			3,451	Ton	211.00	728,000
	1986			2,974	Ton	180.00	535,000
Hay Alfalfa	1987	30,161	6.20	186,998	Ton	74.00	14,773,000
	1986	29,033	6.31	183,198	Ton	75.00	13,740,000*
Grain	1987	2,973	3.40	10,108	Ton	55.00	556,000
	1986	8,710	3.50	30,485	Ton	46.00	1,402,000
Pasture Irrigated	1987	12,500			Acre	108.00	1,350,000
	1986	13,000			Acre	104.00	1,352,000
Range	1987	150,000			Acre	2.00	300,000
	1986	160,000			Acre	2.00	320,000
Other	1987	49,000			Acre	18.00	882,000
	1986	48,000			Acre	18.00	864,000
Safflower	1987	29,451	1.49	43,882	Ton	194.00	8,513,000
	1986	41,535	1.24	51,503	Ton	231.00	11,897,000
Screenings	1987			4,468	Ton	35.00	156,000
	1986			2,842	Ton	35.00	99,000
Silage Corn	1987	8,000	25.00	200,000	Ton	16.00	3,200,000
	1986	8,897	23.00	204,631	Ton	14.00	2,865,000
Other	1987	6,000	21.00	126,000	Ton	15.50	1,953,000
	1986	4,697	17.00	79,849	Ton	25.00	1,996,000

FIELD CROPS - cont'd

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE	
		HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Sorghum Grain	1987	1,200	2.17	2,604	Ton	71.00	185,000
	1986	1,500	2.13	3,195	Ton	80.00	256,000
Dry Beans <u>a/</u>	1987	1,951	1.50	2,927	Ton	460.00	1,346,000
	1986	4,272	1.15	4,913	Ton	415.00	2,039,000
Sugar Beets	1987	2,016	26.50	53,424	Ton	30.00	1,603,000
	1986	1,656	27.20	45,043	Ton	31.30	1,410,000
Wheat	1987	55,120	2.93	161,502	Ton	107.00	17,281,000
	1986	22,718	2.80	63,610	Ton	99.00	6,297,000
TOTAL	1987	645,314					337,776,000
	1986	622,379					255,029,000*

a/ Soybeans and Blackeye Beans  
\* Revised

SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE	
		HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE			PER UNIT	TOTAL
CERTIFIED SEED							
Alfalfa	1987	16,850	730	12,300,500	lb.	\$ 1.10	\$ 13,531,000
	1986	20,388	709	14,455,092	lb.	\$ 1.00	\$ 14,455,000
Barley	1987	3,077	3,380	10,400,260	lb.	0.05	520,000
	1986	2,534	3,560	9,021,040	lb.	0.08	722,000
Wheat	1987	12,947	5,700	73,797,900	lb.	0.05	3,690,000
	1986	20,401	5,140	104,861,140	lb.	0.08	8,388,000
OTHER SEED							
Lettuce	1987	165	406	66,990	lb.	3.17	212,000
	1986	236	506	119,416	lb.	4.99	596,000
Alfalfa	1987	1,200	730	876,000	lb.	1.00	876,000
	1986	1,010	709	716,090	lb.	.92	659,000
Misc. <u>a/</u>	1987	384					981,000
	1986	483					570,000
TOTAL	1987	34,623					19,810,000
	1986	45,052					25,390,000

a/ Cabbage, Flowers, Onion, Turf, and Watermelons.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		BEARING	NON BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL TONS	PER TON	TOTAL
<b>Almonds</b>							
Dried	1987	3,208	71	.74	2,374	1,980.00	4,701,000
Dried	1986	3,203	76	.46	1,473	4,109.00	6,053,000
Hulls	1987				1,258	38.00	48,000
Hulls	1986				781	56.00	44,000
<b>Apricots</b>							
Fresh	1987				1,177	801.00	943,000
Processed	1987				<u>924</u>	115.75	<u>107,000</u>
Total	1987	235	15	8.94	2,101		1,050,000
Fresh	1986				696	1,233.00	858,000
Processed	1986				<u>547</u>	254.00	<u>139,000</u>
Total	1986	240	20	5.18	1,243		997,000
<b>Grapes</b>							
Raisin Var.	1987						
Fresh					700	725.00	508,000
Dried					3500	805.00	2,818,000
Crushed					9400	125.00	1,175,000
Cannery					<u>450</u>	185.00	<u>83,000</u>
Total		2,674			14,050		4,584,000
Raisin Var.	1986						
Fresh					720	775.00	558,000
Dried					3,200	758.00**	2,426,000**
Crushed					9,516	114.00	1,085,000
Cannery					<u>600</u>	180.00	<u>108,000</u>
Total		2,399	73		14,036		4,177,000
<b>Wine Varieties</b>							
Crushed	1987	1,214	76	10.00	12,140	140.00	1,700,000
Crushed	1986	1,214	76	12.00	14,568	125.00	1,821,000
Table Var.	1987	273	34	3.92	467	870.00	931,000
	1986	119	38	4.00	476	818.00	389,000
Grapes Total	1987	4,161	110				7,215,000
	1986	3,732	187				6,387,000
Kiwifruit	1987	260	73	5.50	1,430	2,000.00	2,860,000
	1986	200	131	7.81	1,562	2,000.00	3,124,000

\*\* A combined value reflecting Free, Reserve, and Diversion Program tonnage.

\* Revised



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS - cont'd

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		BEARING	NON BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL TONS	PER TON	TOTAL
<b>Nectarines</b>							
Fresh	1987	1,345	377	7.14	9,603	742.00	7,125,000
Fresh	1986	1,305	337	5.73	7,478	590.00	4,412,000
Olives	1987	1,142		2.67	3,049	595.00	1,814,000
	1986	1,142		5.00	5,710	584.00	3,335,000
<b>Peaches</b>							
<b>Clingstone</b>							
Processed	1987	1,341	233	14.00	18,774	191.00	3,586,000
Processed	1986	1,241	165	18.37	22,797	168.00	3,830,000
<b>Freestone</b>							
Fresh	1987						
Processed	1987						
Total	1987	1,548	488	10.20	15,790	474.00	7,484,000
Fresh	1986						
Processed	1986						
Total	1986	1,448	420	9.00	13,032	515.00	6,711,000
Total Peaches	1987	2,889	721		34,564		11,070,000
	1986	2,689	585		35,829		10,541,000
<b>Pistachios</b>							
Dried	1987	3,521	1,839	0.43	1,514	2,980.00	4,512,000
Dried	1986	3,089	2,144	1.30	4,016	2,549.00	10,237,000
<b>Plums</b>							
Fresh	1987	1,886	328	5.00	9,430	477.00	4,498,000
Fresh	1986	1,786	346	4.53	8,091	649.00	5,251,000
<b>Pomegranates</b>							
Fresh	1987	161		9.45	1,521	400.00	608,000
Fresh	1986	146		7.44	1,086	640.00	695,000
Walnuts	1987	5,347	980	1.44	7,700	960.00	7,392,000
	1986	5,287	1040	1.51	7,983	920.00	7,344,000
Misc. a/	1987	367	115				644,000
	1986	380	15				650,000
TOTAL	1987	24,522	4,629				53,537,000
	1986	29,620	5,653				58,827,000

a/ Includes Apples, Asian Pears, Pecans, Persimmons, Prunes, Quince.

\* Revised

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE	
		HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Broccoli							
Fresh	1987	960	4.55	4,368	Ton	318.52	1,391,000
Cantaloupes							
Fresh	1987	1,986	424.00	842,064	40lb. Crate	3.00	2,256,000
Fresh	1986	1,514	554.00	838,756	40lb. Crate	4.07	3,414,000
Carrots							
Processed	1987	459	28.90	13,265	Ton	31.50	418,000
Processed	1986	140	37.40	5,236	Ton	31.50	165,000
Fresh	1987	602	750.00	451,500	Cartons	5.00	2,258,000
Fresh	1986	915	400.00	366,000	Cartons	4.42	1,618,000
Onions							
Processed	1987	525	15.50	6,588	Ton	70.47	464,000
Processed	1986	406	24.99	10,146	Ton	61.00	619,000
Tomatoes							
Processed	1987	1,637	32.30	52,875	Ton	46.40	2,453,000
Processed	1986	1,499	26.70	40,023	Ton	51.00	2,041,000
Fresh	1987	1,965	13.82	27,156	Ton	345.29	9,377,000
Fresh	1986	1,182	14.71	17,387	Ton	214.00	3,721,000
Misc. <u>a/</u>	1987	4,096					5,140,000
	1986	3,201					5,907,000
TOTAL	1987	12,230					23,757,000
	1986	9,385					19,370,000

a/ Includes Asparagus, Bell Peppers, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Egg-plant, Garbanzo Beans, Garlic, Lettuce, Misc. Melons, Onions, Potatoes, Snap Beans, Squash, Sweet Corn, and Watermelons.

INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK & POULTRY (In Number of Head)

ITEM	January 1, 1987	January 1, 1988
Milk Cows 2 Years and Over	70,000	70,000
Cattle and Calves on Feed	3,000	3,500
Other Cattle and Calves	130,000	127,000
Total	203,000	200,000
Sheep and Lambs	9,310	10,000
Goats	450	1,150
Hogs and Pigs	300	500
Hens and Pullets	194,000	156,000
Turkeys		458,000

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

ITEM	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
	NO. OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT				TOTAL
<b>Cattle &amp; Calves</b>						
1987	144,939	884,128	Cwt.	56.00		49,511,000
1986	140,107	877,070	Cwt.	47.00		41,222,000
<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b>						
1987	11,600	13,224	Cwt.	74.00		979,000
1986	9,000	10,828	Cwt.	66.00		715,000
<b>Hogs &amp; Pigs</b>						
1987	1,900	429,400	lb.	.53		228,000
1986	1,020	225,420	lb.	.54		122,000
<b>Turkeys</b>						
1987	1,831,942	37,774,644	lb.	.46		17,376,000
1986	1,492,931	31,351,551	lb.	.46		14,422,000
<b>Breeding Stock a/</b>						638,000
<b>Miscellaneous b/</b>						
1987						533,000
1986						516,000
<b>TOTAL</b>						
1987						69,265,000
1986						56,997,000

a/ For all Animals.

b/ Includes Geese, Goats, and Chickens.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
<b>Eggs-Chicken</b>					
Market	1987	435,093	Doz.	.60	261,000
Market	1986	454,173	Doz.	.59	270,000
Goats Milk	1987	8,911	Cwt.	23.80	212,000
<b>Milk</b>					
Market	1987	11,659,538	Cwt.	11.24	131,053,000
Market	1986	10,854,000	Cwt.	11.57	125,581,000
Manufacturing	1987	31,067	Cwt.	10.47	325,000
Manufacturing	1986	18,500	Cwt.	10.80	200,000
<b>Wool</b>					
	1987	120,640	lb.	.90	109,000
	1986	93,600	lb.	.70	66,000
Manure	1987	77,533	Ton	5.12	397,000
<b>TOTAL</b>					
	1987				132,357,000
	1986				126,117,000

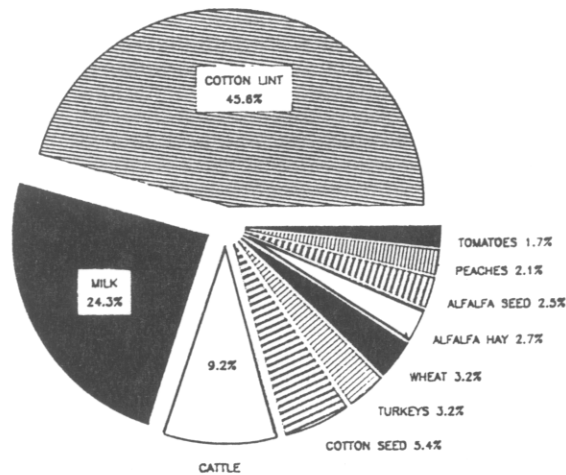
APIARY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	1987	3,657,094	lb.	.64	2,341,000
	1986	3,505,890	lb.	.61	2,139,000
Beeswax	1987	60,951	lb.	.95	58,000
	1986	58,431	lb.	.80	47,000
Pollination	1987	67,226	Colonies	19.00	1,277,000
	1986	76,215	Colonies	19.50	1,486,000
TOTAL	1987				3,676,000
	1986				3,672,000

1987 CROP SUMMARY

Field Crops	\$ 337,776,000	Seed Crops	\$ 19,810,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	53,537,000	Vegetable Crops	23,757,000
Livestock and Poultry	69,265,000	Apiary Products	3,676,000
Livestock and Poultry Products		\$ 132,357,000	
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 640,178,000	

TOP TEN CROPS OF KINGS COUNTY FOR 1987



5 YEAR COMPARISON OF ACREAGE AND CROP VALUES

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Field Crops Acreage	\$228,929,000 603,000	\$277,163,000 700,927	\$262,055,000 647,189	\$255,029,000* 622,379	337,776,000 645,314
Fruit and Nut Acreage	41,719,000* 31,981*	48,366,000 22,499	46,070,000 24,277	59,070,000* 29,620	53,537,000 24,522
Livestock / Poultry	62,153,000	75,673,000	59,250,000	56,997,000	69,265,000
Livestock / Poultry Prod.	112,268,000	121,368,000	127,456,000	126,117,000	132,357,000
Seed Crops Acreage	18,095,000 25,994	26,103,000 33,832	28,201,000 41,831	25,390,000 45,052	19,810,000 34,623
Vegetable Crops Acreage	24,074,000 10,061	15,327,000 8,098	26,070,000 10,373	19,370,000 9,385	23,757,000 12,230
Apiary Products	4,572,000	5,716,000	3,364,000	3,672,000	3,676,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$491,860,000*</b>	<b>\$569,716,000</b>	<b>\$552,466,000</b>	<b>\$545,645,000*</b>	<b>640,178,000</b>

\*Revised

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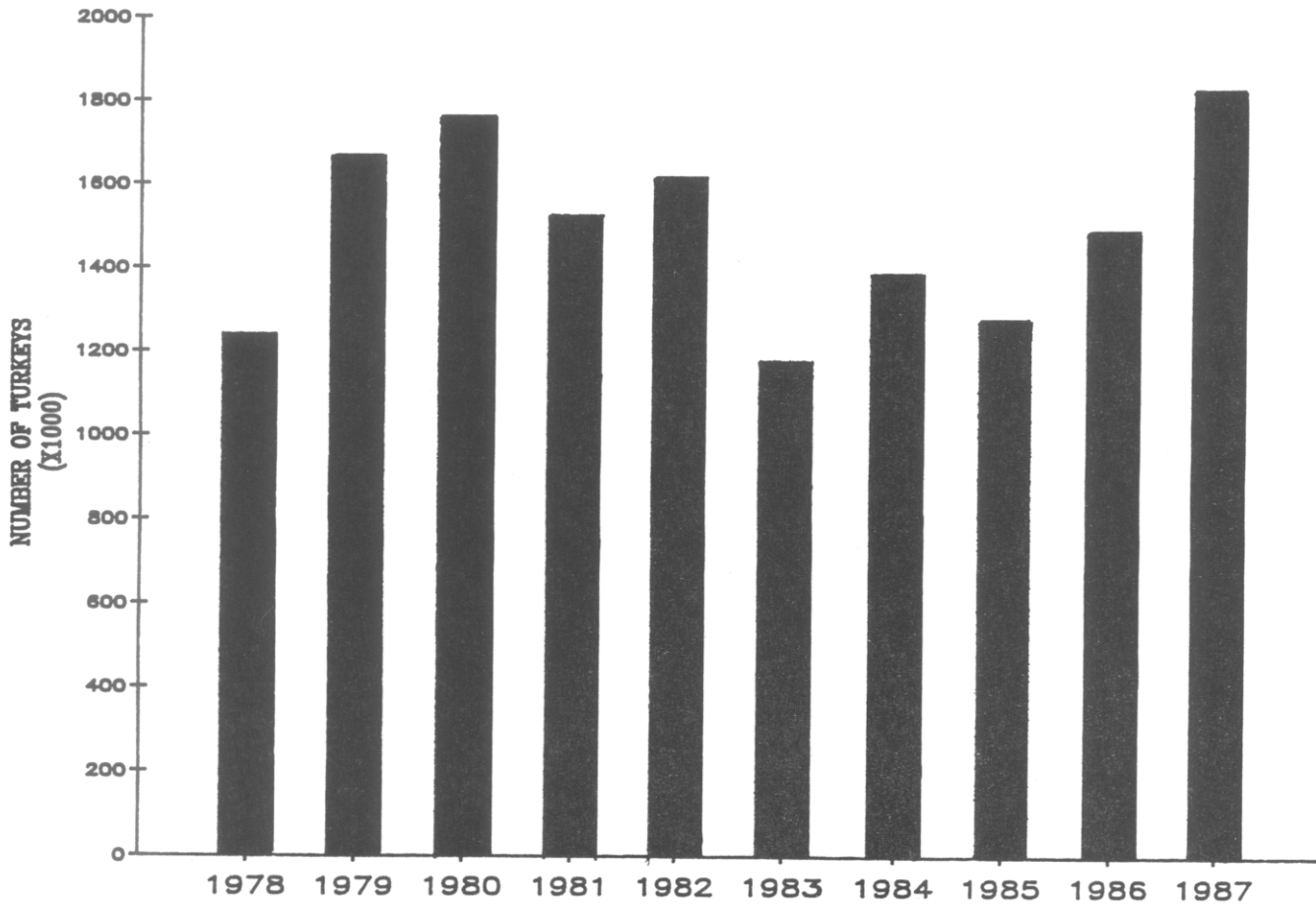
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City State Zip

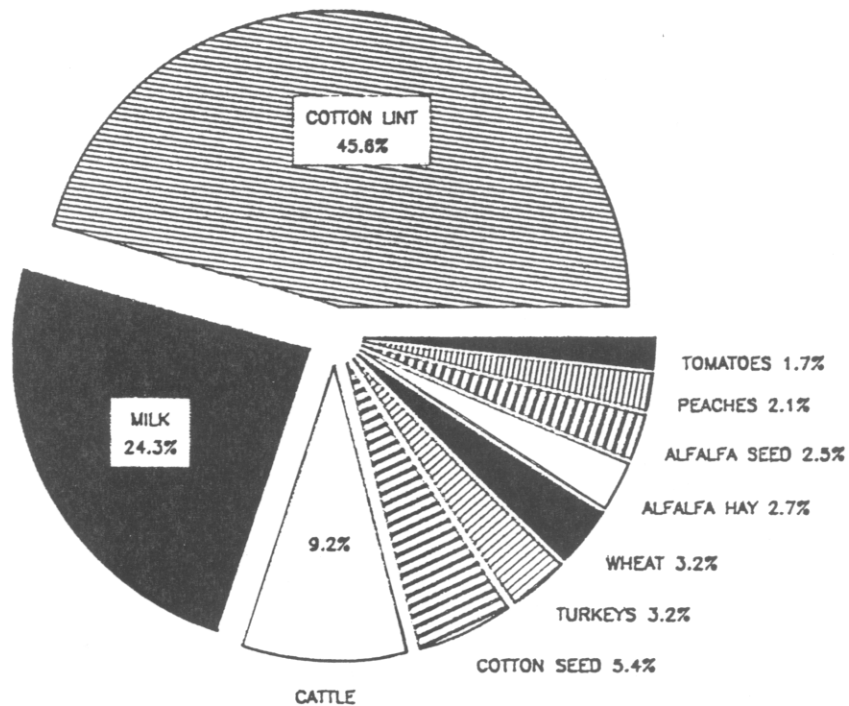
TURKEY PRODUCTION FOR KINGS COUNTY  
FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS



MILLION DOLLAR CROPS - 1987

Cotton Lint	\$ 245,695,000	Pistachios	\$ 4,512,000
Market Milk	131,053,000	Plums	4,498,000
Cattle and Calves	49,511,000	Barley	3,980,000
Cottonseed	29,094,000	Certified Wheat Seed	3,690,000
Turkeys	17,376,000	Corn Silage	3,200,000
Wheat	17,281,000	Kiwifruit	2,860,000
Alfalfa Hay	14,773,000	Processed Tomatoes	2,453,000
Certified Alfalfa Seed	13,531,000	Honey	2,341,000
Peaches	11,070,000	Fresh Carrots	2,258,000
Fresh Tomatoes	9,377,000	Cantaloupes	2,256,000
Safflower	8,513,000	Olives	1,814,000
Walnuts	7,392,000	Sugar Beets	1,603,000
Grapes	7,215,000	Broccoli	1,391,000
Nectarines	7,125,000	Irrigated Pasture	1,350,000
Corn	6,181,000	Dry Beans	1,346,000
Almonds	4,701,000	Pollination	1,277,000
		Apricots	1,050,000

KINGS COUNTY  
MILLION DOLLAR CROPS - 1987



GENERAL KINGS COUNTY INFORMATION

County Seat	Hanford
County Population (1986)	85,300
Population per Square Mile	61
Total Assessed Value	\$ 1,748,615,339
Land Area (Square Miles)	1392
Total Acres	918,790
Number of Farms (1982)	1,187
Land in Farms (Acres - 1986)	816,228
Foreign Ownership (Acres) (13 parcels - 1987)	8,255 (acres) (value - \$ 4,356,000)
Total Cropland (Acres -1982)	613,693
Irrigated Cropland (Acres - 1982)	554,114
Total Agricultural Work Force	7,190
Public Ownership of Land (Acres): (1977)	
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 1987 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, Calif. 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



