

1996 AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



Kings County, California

PEACHES

One of the most popular fruits grown throughout the world was at one time called the "Persian Apple", hence it's scientific name, *Prunus persica*. Today we call it the Peach. The Chinese have recorded the cultivation of peaches back to 1000 B.C. Contrary to the popular belief that peaches originated in Persia (Iran), they may have been carried to Persia by caravan from China. However, once established in Persia the cultivation of peaches quickly spread to Europe. In the 16th century peaches were brought to the New World to the area which is now Mexico. Soon thereafter they were introduced on the east coast of the United States by the founding colonies.

Here in California, cultivation of the peach was introduced by Spanish missionaries in the 18th century. The Russians reportedly brought peach seeds and trees to San Francisco and planted them near Fort Ross in the early 1800s. As the industry developed following the Gold Rush, improvements were made to cultural practices including a new practice of planting orchards to selected varieties.

Farmland in Kings County was filled with prospering orchards between the towns of Hanford and Lemoore during the years of 1895 through 1925. During that era, the community of Armona, just west of Hanford, became the "Peach Growing Capital" of California. Annually, thousands of dollars worth of fresh, canned, and dried peaches were shipped from here to all parts of the country. In fact, the peaches shipped from Kings County were of such good quality, especially those from the Armona area, they became famous in the markets of Chicago and New York. Most of the larger fruit packing, canning, and shipping companies in California had facilities in Armona. During the peak of the harvest season the packing houses in the county provided employment to hundreds of people. Some of the old packing houses are still standing today and are being utilized by various other businesses.

The two basic types of peaches grown in Kings County are the Freestone and the Clingstone. These names are descriptive of how the flesh adheres to the pit or seed within the fruit. With the Freestone varieties the flesh will come free of the pit when you split open the peach. Practically all of the Freestone varieties are packed for fresh market consumption or are processed for freezing. By contrast, the Clingstone or Cling, as commonly referred, varieties adhere to the pit and require some sort of mechanical separation. The Cling varieties tend to be slightly smaller and more yellow in color at maturity. Cling varieties are used primarily for canning and pickling. The harvest season for peaches grown in Kings County begins about the first week in May and ends around the middle of October.

With today's technology, more than the fruit is consumed. For years peach tree limbs and tree trunks have been used for firewood to heat homes. Also, cull peaches are fed to cows as a feed source supplement (talk about peaches and cream). Peach growers for years have used their cull fruit or pits for dust control on roadways on the farm. Peach pits from canneries are dried and ground-up for use in livestock feed. Also, pits are being used in the manufacture of barbecue briquettes as a source of charcoal.

International markets are expanding and new varieties are being propagated to bolster the marketing of the *Prunus persica*. Kings County shall remain one of the main suppliers of peaches in the San Joaquin Valley as the industry learns from the past and plans for the future.



KINGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Dennis F. Bray
Agricultural Commissioner
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Ann M. Veneman, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kings

April 1997

It is my pleasure to submit the 1996 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 Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

The 1996 total gross value of Kings County's major industry was \$883,887,000, an all-time county high. This represents a 5.49 percent increase from the 1995 gross production values.

Adverse weather conditions throughout the year caused a decline in the yield and quality of some of the major crop categories, especially cotton. However, favorable market prices allowed an increase in values of most other 1996 crops. Livestock and Poultry Products increased \$51,848,000 (+22.4%) and Livestock and Poultry increased \$13,614,000 (+13.7%).

Also showing substantial increases were Seed Crops at \$3,768,000 (+22.4%), Vegetable Crops at \$2,920,000 (+8.9%) and Apiary Products at \$975,000 (+34.8%).

Decreased acreage, unfavorable weather and reduced market values contributed to the decrease of Field Crops at -\$19,972,000 (-5.7%) and Fruit & Nut Crops at -\$7,165,000 (-6.8%).

Milk surpassed cotton as the county's top commodity for the 1996 season. Contributing to this was an increase in total milk production of nearly 4.6% and increases in value coupled with a reduction in cotton market values and acreage planted.

It must be emphasized that the values in this report are gross values only and in no manner 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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"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from a cornfield." Dwight David Eisenhower

ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR YEAR 1996

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

DENNIS F. BRAY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED PRODUCTION			UNIT	VALUE	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Barley	1996	18,794	0.80	15,035	Ton	159.00	2,391,000
	1995	30,157	1.63	49,156	Ton	112.00	5,505,000
Beans Dry a/	1996	2,456	1.00	2,456	Ton	569.00	1,397,000
	1995	3,454	1.15	3,972	Ton	802.00	3,186,000
Corn Silage	1996	27,919	19.24	537,162	Ton	21.80	11,710,000
	1995	16,401	23.60	387,064	Ton	18.02	6,975,000
Cotton							
Acala-Lint b/	1996	209,345	1.97	412,410	495 lb.	399.00	164,551,000
	1995	257,431	1.88	483,970	495 lb.	412.00	199,396,000
Acala-Seed	1996			170,542	Ton	190.00	32,403,000
	1995			262,015	Ton	180.00	47,163,000
Cotton							
Pima-Lint b/	1996	42,335	1.94	82,130	495 lb.	565.00	46,403,000
	1995	29,199	1.78	51,974	495 lb.	581.00	30,197,000
Pima-Seed	1996			33,818	Ton	175.00	5,918,000
	1995			21,381	Ton	170.00	3,635,000
Hay							
Alfalfa	1996	31,394	7.27	228,234	Ton	112.00	25,562,000
	1995	25,880	6.99	180,901	Ton	98.00	17,728,000
Other c/	1996	2,033	3.54	7,197	Ton	80.00	576,000
	1995	2,083	2.48	5,166	Ton	59.00	305,000
Pasture							
Irrigated	1996	10,000			Acre	109.00	1,090,000
	1995	12,000			Acre	107.00	1,284,000
Range	1996	101,000			Acre	2.35	237,000
	1995	100,000			Acre	2.25	225,000
Alfalfa	1996	22,499			Acre	17.00	382,000
Stubble	1995	27,080			Acre	23.00	623,000
Safflower	1996	33,233	1.19	39,547	Ton	301.00	11,904,000
	1995	36,185	1.21	43,784	Ton	300.00	13,135,000
Sugar Beets	1996	1,394	35.00	48,790	Ton	30.00	1,464,000
	1995	2,115	30.75	65,036	Ton	34.00	2,211,000

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE		
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE		TOTAL	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Wheat	1996	48,705	2.42	117,866	Ton	161.00	18,976,000
	1995	42,937	2.58	110,777	Ton	145.33	16,099,000
Other d/	1996	26,764					5,182,000
	1995	17,676					2,451,000
TOTAL	1996	577,871					330,146,000
	1995	602,598					350,118,000

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		TOTAL	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa							
Certified	1996	14,896	714	10,635,744	lb.	1.43	15,209,000
	1995	11,091	624	6,920,784	lb.	1.41	9,758,000
Non-certified	1996	1,400	549	768,600	lb.	1.40	1,076,000
	1995	1,600	624	998,400	lb.	1.35	1,348,000
Total	1996	16,296		11,404,344	lb.		16,285,000
	1995	12,691		7,919,184	lb.		11,106,000
Barley, Certified	1996			0	lb.		
	1995	1,000	4400	4,400,000	lb.	0.07	308,000
Cotton, Certified	1996	4,150		3,444	Ton	235.00	809,000
	1995	4,783		4,641	Ton	235.00	1,091,000
Wheat, Certified	1996	3,757	5,520	20,738,640	lb.	0.08	1,659,000
	1995	4,788	4,458	21,344,904	lb.	0.08	1,708,000
Vegetable a/	1996	839					1,808,000
	1995	673					2,580,000
TOTAL	1996	25,042					20,561,000
	1995	23,935					16,793,000

a/ Broccoli, cauliflower, chinese cabbage, flowers, lettuce, onion, radish, and turnip.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	BEARING		PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds	1996	2,139	0.80	1,711	Ton	4,067.00	6,959,000
	1995	2,070	0.63	1,304	Ton	4,376.70	5,707,000
Almond Hulls	1996			907	Ton	90.00	82,000
	1995			689	Ton	90.00	62,000
Apples							
Fresh	1996			2,717	Ton	375.00	1,019,000
	1995			4,064	Ton	563.00	2,288,000
Processed	1996			1,800	Ton	108.00	194,000
	1995			2,285	Ton	160.00	366,000
Apples Total	1996	574	7.91	4,517	Ton		1,213,000
	1995	541	11.74	6,349	Ton		2,655,000
Apricots							
Fresh	1996			885	Ton	1,319.00	1,167,000
	1995			1,294	Ton	1,505.00	1,947,000
Processed	1996			120	Ton	310.00	37,000
	1995			228	Ton	278.00	63,000
Apricots Total	1996	375	2.36	1,005	Ton		1,204,000
	1995	375	4.06	1,522	Ton		2,010,000
Firewood a/	1996			497	Cord	100.00	50,000
	1995			520	Cord	110.00	57,000
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
Grapes							
Raisin Varieties							
Fresh	1995			1,800	Ton	837.00	1,507,000
				5,600	Ton	930.00	5,208,000
Crushed				8,600	Ton	160.00	1,376,000
Canned				2,238	Ton	238.00	533,000
Total		2,079		18,238			8,624,000
Table Varieties							
	1996	632	11.05	6,984	Ton	961.00	6,711,000
	1995	617	11.89	7,336	Ton	867.77	6,366,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	BEARING		PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Grapes							
Wine Varieties							
	1996	1,503	8.08	12,144	Ton	304.00	3,692,000
	1995	1,503	10.25	15,406	Ton	239.00	3,682,000
Grapes Total	1996	4,214					20,244,000
	1995	4,199					18,672,000
Kiwifruit	1996	297	4.34	1,289	Ton	1,158.00	1,493,000
	1995	320	4.83	1,546	Ton	1,450.00	2,242,000
Nectarines	1996	1,929	5.86	11,304	Ton	612.00	6,918,000
	1995	2,011	6.17	12,408	Ton	693.00	8,599,000
Olives	1996	433	2.69	1,165	Ton	543.00	632,000
	1995	1,067	4.03	4,300	Ton	601.00	2,584,000
Peaches							
Clingstone							
	1996	1,270	26.41	33,541	Ton	203.00	6,809,000
	1995	1,270	18.85	23,940	Ton	209.00	5,003,000
Freestone							
	1996	2,749	7.10	19,518	Ton	611.00	11,925,000
	1995	2,774	7.18	19,917	Ton	660.00	13,145,000
Peaches Total	1996	4,019					18,734,000
	1995	4,044					18,148,000
Pistachios	1996	5,670	1.01	5,727	Ton	2,434.00	13,939,000
	1995	5,670	1.41	7,995	Ton	2,257.00	18,045,000
Plums	1996	2,055	5.34	10,974	Ton	567.00	6,222,000
	1995	2,154	3.96	8,530	Ton	1,011.00	8,624,000
Pomegranates	1996	339	5.38	1,824	Ton	1,067.00	1,946,000
	1995	339	5.70	1,932	Ton	921.00	1,780,000
Walnuts	1996	6,407	1.67	10,700	Ton	1,574.00	16,841,000
	1995	6,407	1.65	10,572	Ton	1,336.00	14,124,000
Other b/	1996	315					1,491,000
	1995	434					1,824,000
TOTAL	1996	28,766					97,968,000
	1995	29,631					105,133,000

a/ Includes all varieties.

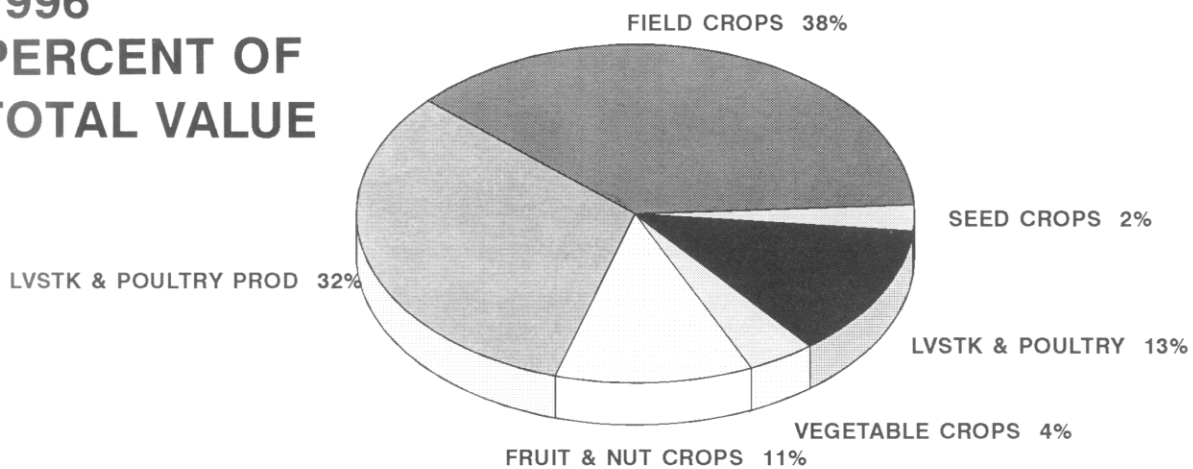
b/ Includes asian pears, cherries, jojoba, pecans, persimmons, prunes, quince and strawberries.

VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE		
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE		PER UNIT	TOTAL	
Broccoli							
Fresh	1996			229	Ton	454.00	104,000
	1995			293	Ton	612.00	179,000
Processed	1996			4,595	Ton	380.00	1,746,000
	1995			5,582	Ton	370.00	2,065,000
Broccoli Total							
	1996	1,332	3.45				1,850,000
	1995	1,175	5.00				2,244,000
Cantaloupes							
	1996	1,871	14.60	27,317	Ton	200.00	5,463,000
	1995	1,367	12.06	16,486	Ton	203.00	3,347,000
Sweet Corn							
	1996	725	8.10	5,873	Ton	223.00	1,310,000
	1995	654	7.50	4,905	Ton	374.00	1,834,000
Tomatoes							
Fresh	1996	1,220	14.65	17,873	Ton	319.00	5,701,000
	1995	1,415	13.66	19,329	Ton	337.00	6,514,000
Processed	1996	6,700	34.54	231,418	Ton	51.00	11,802,000
	1995	6,100	31.85	194,285	Ton	54.00	10,491,000
Tomatoes Total							
	1996	7,920		249,291			17,503,000
	1995	7,515		213,614			17,005,000
Other a/							
	1996	4,737					9,438,000
	1995	2,781					8,214,000
TOTAL							
	1996	16,585					35,564,000
	1995	13,492					32,644,000

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

1996 PERCENT OF TOTAL VALUE



INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	January 1, 1997 NUMBER OF HEAD	January 1, 1996 NUMBER OF HEAD
Cattle and Calves		
All	189,000	187,000
Dairy Cows 2 Years and Over	106,590	93,000
Cattle and Calves on Feed	3,700	3,500
Other	132,000	130,000
Sheep and Lambs	1,300	10,720
Goats	2,900	2,400
Hogs and Pigs	10,000	8,500
Turkeys	750,000	650,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		NUMBER OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Breeding	1996					1,638,000
Stock a/	1995					1,454,000
Cattle and Calves	1996	152,696	929,918	Cwt.	52.50	48,821,000
	1995	162,820	976,923	Cwt.	52.00	50,800,000
Hogs and Pigs	1996	15,588	34,260	Cwt.	56.00	1,919,000
	1995	17,015	37,943	Cwt.	41.00	1,556,000
Sheep and Lambs	1996	13,007	14,308	Cwt.	88.00	1,259,000
	1995	12,720	14,425	Cwt.	80.00	1,154,000
Turkeys	1996	2,563,077	58,207,479	lb.	0.67	38,999,000
	1995	1,919,054	41,470,757	lb.	0.62	25,712,000
Other b/	1996					20,177,000
	1995					18,523,000
TOTAL	1996					112,813,000
	1995					99,199,000

a/ For All animals except horses.

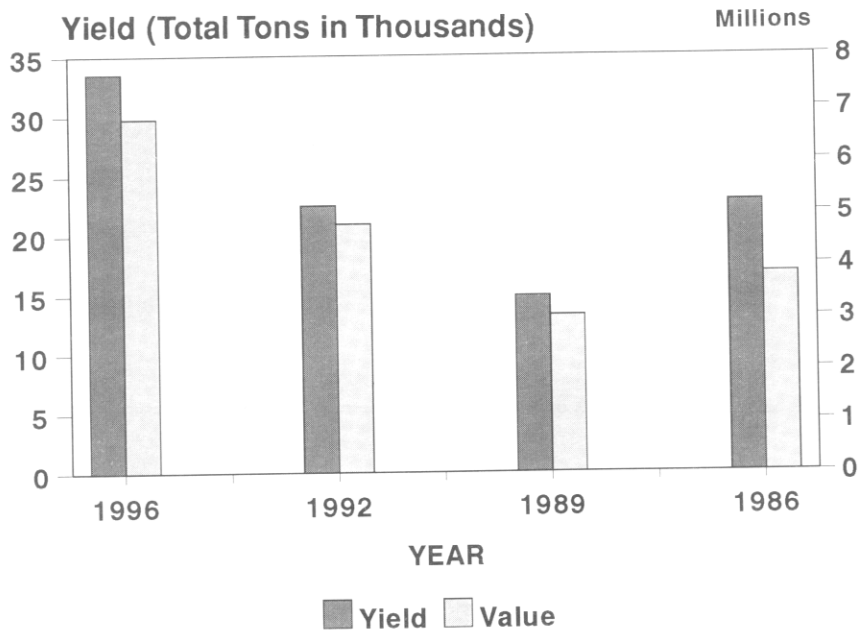
b/ Includes Catfish, chickens, and goats.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Eggs-Chicken Market	1996	2,277,600	Doz.	0.90	2,050,000
	1995	2,302,700	Doz.	0.86	1,980,000
Manure	1996	396,063	Ton	6.10	2,416,000
	1995	347,113	Ton	4.55	1,579,000
Milk					
Milk, Goats	1996	14,751	Cwt.	37.53	554,000
	1995	16,649	Cwt.	26.64	444,000
Market	1996	20,602,749	Cwt.	13.42	276,489,000
	1995	19,710,894	Cwt.	11.47	226,084,000
Manufacturing	1996	109,813	Cwt.	12.27	1,347,000
	1995	91,010	Cwt.	10.41	947,000
Milk Total	1996	20,727,313			278,390,000
	1995	19,818,553			227,475,000
Wool	1996	135,273	lb.	1.50	203,000 *
	1995	132,288	lb.	1.34	177,000 *
TOTAL	1996				283,059,000
	1995				231,211,000

* Not including wool incentive payment.

CLINGSTONE PEACHES

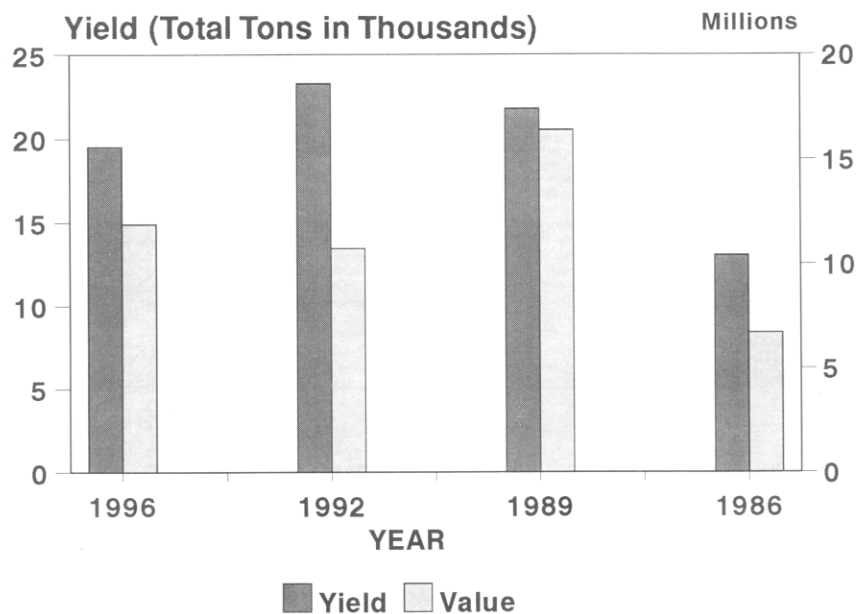


APIARY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Apiary Products					
Honey	1996	2,571,666	lb.	0.88	2,263,000
	1995	2,478,845	lb.	0.60	1,487,000
Beeswax	1996	42,861	lb.	1.93	83,000
	1995	41,314	lb.	2.00	83,000
Pollination					
Seed Alfalfa	1996	44,688	Colonies	24.00	1,073,000
	1995	38,073	Colonies	23.00	876,000
Tree Fruit a/	1996	9,536	Colonies	33.00	315,000
	1995	9,530	Colonies	34.00	324,000
Cantaloupe	1996	2,806	Colonies	15.00	42,000
	1995	2,185	Colonies	14.00	31,000
TOTAL	1996				3,776,000
	1995				2,801,000

a/ Almonds, apples and plums.

FREESTONE PEACHES

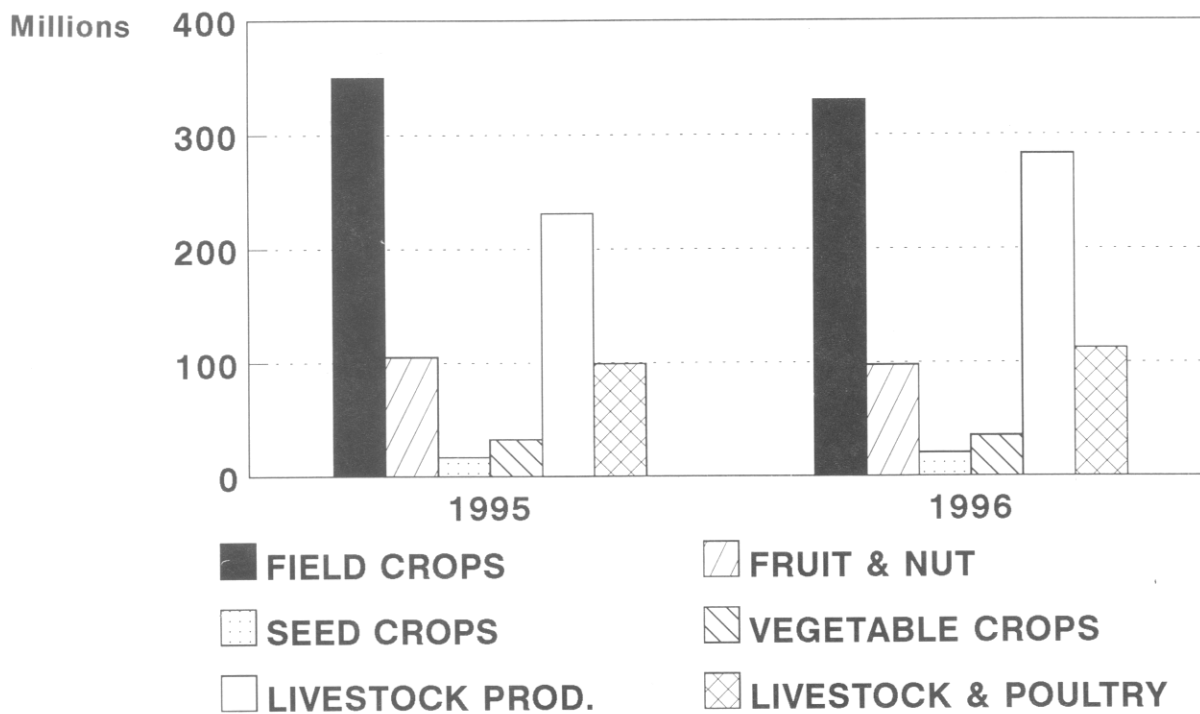


FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF ACREAGE & CROP VALUES

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Apiary Products	4,230,000	1,992,000	2,281,000	2,801,000	3,776,000
Field Crops	356,410,000	362,811,000	339,361,000	350,118,000	330,146,000
Acreage	554,610	578,201	558,061	602,598	577,871
Fruit and Nut Crops	78,734,000	112,541,000	84,343,000	105,133,000	97,968,000
Acreage	27,277	27,995	27,586	29,631	28,766
Livestock and Poultry	97,399,000	106,206,000	105,980,000	99,199,000	112,813,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	185,802,000	198,540,000	222,794,000	231,211,000	283,059,000
Seed Crops	23,843,000	12,892,000	13,813,000	16,793,000	20,561,000
Acreage	32,270	19,787	19,651	23,935	25,042
Vegetable Crops	29,439,000	44,231,000	44,086,000	32,644,000	35,564,000
Acreage	9,956	18,743	21,004	13,492	16,585
TOTAL	\$ 775,857,000	* \$ 839,213,000	\$ 812,658,000	* \$ 837,899,000	\$ 883,887,000

* Revised

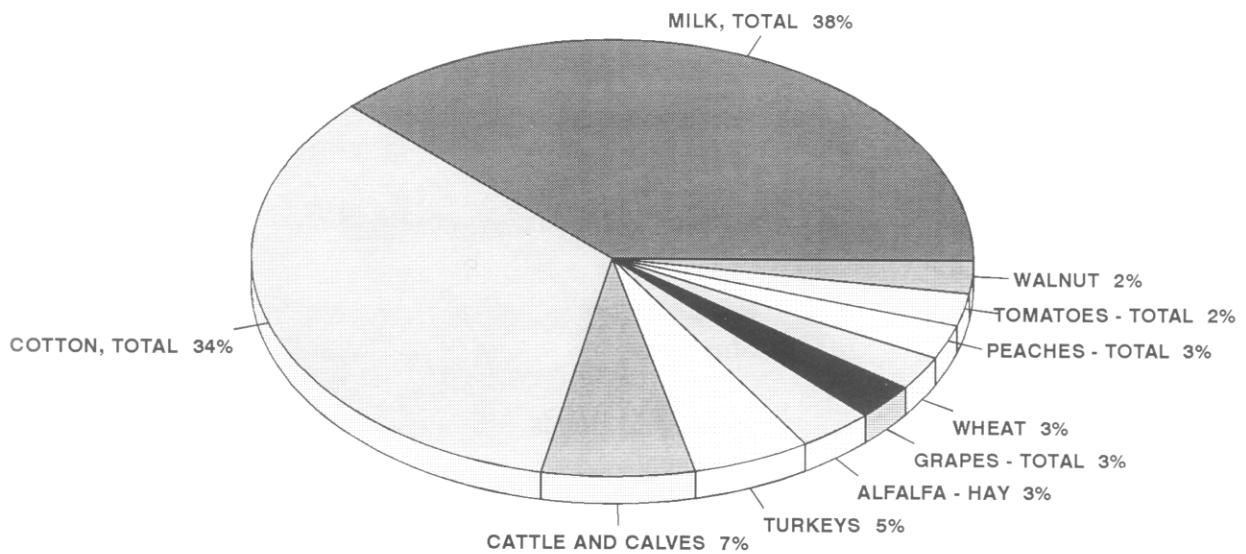
1995 AND 1996 PRODUCTION VALUE COMPARISONS



KINGS COUNTY TEN LEADING CROPS

CROP	1996 RANK	1996 DOLLAR VALUE	1995 RANK	1994 RANK	1993 RANK
Milk, Total	1	278,390,000	2	2	2
Cotton, Total	2	250,084,000	1	1	1
Cattle and Calves	3	48,821,000	3	3	3
Turkeys	4	38,999,000	4	5	4
Alfalfa, Hay	5	25,562,000	8	7	6
Grapes, Total	6	20,244,000	5	6	10
Wheat	7	18,976,000	10	11	14
Peaches, Total	8	18,734,000	6	9	7
Tomatoes, Total	9	17,503,000	9	4	5
Walnut	10	16,841,000	11	14	10
TOTAL		734,154,000			

TOP TEN COMMODITIES OF KINGS COUNTY FOR 1996



KINGS COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
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>	1 site
	<u>Eretmocerus sp.(M95012)</u>	1 site
	<u>Eretmocerus mundus</u>	1 site
COUNTY PEST ERADICATION		
Pink Bollworm <u>Pectinophora gossypiella</u>	Mechanical/Host Free Period	251,680 acres
Alligatorweed <u>Alternanthera philoxeroides</u>	Visual Inspection	No plants found
COUNTY PEST DETECTION		
Various Insect Pests	Various Detection Insect Traps	885 traps
COUNTY PEST EXCLUSION		
European Corn Borer <u>Ostrinia nubilalis</u>	Railroad Corn Shipments	1,244 inspections
Gypsy Moth <u>Lymantria dispar</u>	Household Goods Shipments	24 inspections
Various	Truck Shipments	14,017 inspections

KINGS COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING

Crops

Export Commodities
Export Seed

Activity

Origin Certification
Field Inspections

Scope of Program

1,088 issued
98 sites/16,117 acres

LIST OF COMMODITIES EXPORTED BY KINGS COUNTY

Alfalfa - Seed
Almond
Apple
Cherries
Cotton - Lint
Cotton - Seed

Garlic
Grapes
Kiwifruit
Nectarine
Onions - Seed
Peppers - Seed

Peaches
Plum
Pistachios
Pomegranates
Safflower - Seed
Wheat - Seed

EXPORT TRADE PARTNERS OF KINGS COUNTY IN 1996

Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Ecuador
Egypt
Fiji
France
Germany

Hong Kong
Indonesia
India
Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea
Mexico
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Oman

Panama
Peru
Paraguay
Philippines
Portugal
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Taiwan
Thailand
United Kingdom
Venezuela

"Earth is here so kind, that just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with a harvest."
Douglas Jerrold (1667-1745)

GENERAL KINGS COUNTY INFORMATION

County Seat	Hanford
County Population (1996)	118,872
Population per Square Mile	85.15
Total Assessed Value (1996)	\$3,858,990,456
Land Area (Square Miles)	1,396
Total Acres	893,440
Total Harvested crop acreage (1996)	672,315
Foreign Ownership (1993)	7,243 (acres)
Total Farmland (Acres - 1995)	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 12th among California counties and 16th among U.S. counties.(Based on 1995 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.

RAINFALL – HANFORD, CA

YEAR	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	TOTAL
1947-48	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.29	0.51	0.00	0.43	1.49	1.56	0.55	5.31
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						
AVERAGE	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.19	0.31	0.86	1.10	1.50	1.36	1.40	0.76	0.25	7.84
50 YEAR AVERAGE RAINFALL													7.84