Agricultural Crop Report

Kings County, California

2004

Cherries

Cherry blossoms are one of the first indications of spring. In Kings County, spring emerges with almost 1,000 acres of cherries, and their cultivation is increasing in popularity. Botanically, there are two types of cherries, the sweet cherry, ***prunus avium*** and the sour or tart cherry, ***prunus cerasus***. Tart cherries are preferably called "pie" cherries by its industry, believing that "tart" or "sour" gives the fruit a bad connotation. The pie cherry is mainly grown in the cooler regions of the United States primarily around Traverse City, Michigan, the self proclaimed "Cherry Capital of the World". Michigan and New York grow about 90% of the tart cherry crop. The sweet cherry, whose cultivation we are most familiar with here in the Central San Joaquin Valley is more widely grown in Washington, Oregon and California. The sweet cherry is used for fresh consumption or for producing Maraschino cherries.

The sweet cherry is believed to have originated in the Caucasus Mountains that lie between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. In addition to this region, the cherry is native to the southern portion of Azerbaijan as well as Northern Turkey and Iran. The modern cultivation of many fruits and vegetables is often credited with the Greeks, and cherries are no exception. As far back as 300 BC, Greek writer, Theophrastus described sweet cherries in his writings. Later in the Medieval era, the church eagerly supported cherry cultivation, and European monastery gardeners propagated the fruit. However, it may be the birds that best distributed the fruit from Asia to Europe, (*prunus avium*, avium meaning 'for the birds'.)

The Norman Invasion in 1066 introduced several fruits to the British including the cherry, though it wasn't until the 16th century that cherry growing took hold in England and in Germany. French settlers from Normandy brought cherry pits to the Great Lakes area of the New World and started the pie cherry industry that thrives today in that region. Through the late 1700s and into the 1800s explorers traveling by foot across North America carried foods with them that consisted of dried meat and fruits, including cherries. In addition to being lightweight and nutritious for long travel, Native Americans used cherries medicinally as a cough remedy. As the United States was settled to the West, the Spanish missionaries first brought cherries to California when the state was part of Mexico. California continued its cultivation of cherries, and to this day, California produces approximately 20-25% of the sweet cherries produced in the United States, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (2004).

The sweet cherry tree grows best in a deep, well drained soil and will grow to an average height of 50 feet, but for cultivation purposes, it is generally maintained at 12 feet. The cherry tree is the last of the fruiting trees to bloom, yet it is the first to produce mature fruit. Rainfall during harvest can be particularly damaging because the fruit absorbs moisture through the skin. Excessive moisture close to maturity will cause the skin and the flesh of the fruit to crack. It is due to this potential weather-related damage that most sweet cherries are grown in the western portion of the U.S., where there is little rain during the months of May and June, when cherries typically ripen.

The most popular sweet cherry variety is the Bing. The Bing cherry thrives in California and is the standard for fresh sweet cherries. They are mainly grown in the northern regions of the Central San Joaquin Valley. Kings County does not grow Bing cherries, with the spring heat, the cherries will tend to produce a "double"; two cherries on one stem. In the cherry industry this "double" is considered a defect. The varieties that thrive in the central to southern portions of the San Joaquin Valley are 'Brooks', 'Tulare' and 'Rainier'. New varieties are continuing to be produced in this region, as California sweet cherries are a favorite among domestic consumers as well as those throughout the world. In 2004 Kings County exported over 415 tons of cherries to foreign destinations.

Department of Agriculture / Measurement Standards

TIM NISWANDER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

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

April 12, 2005

It is my privilege to submit to you, the 2004 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 2004 in Kings County is $1,292,090,000. This represents an increase of $155,124,000 (12%) from the 2003 value.

Livestock and Poultry Products received the highest gain of $127,993,000 (27.9%) from increased production coupled with raised per unit prices; increased acreage, higher yields, and specific commodity prices lead to a $65,992,000 (17.4%) increase to Field Crops; Fruit and Nut Crops experienced an increase of $20,523,000 (11.9%) from favorable market conditions and increased acreage; Livestock and Poultry increased by $22,141,000 (6.7%) attributed to increased inventory and higher market prices.

Vegetable Products declined most significantly by $73,722,000 (-75.8%) caused primarily from reduced acreage; and Apiary Products decreased $508,000 (-20.2%) due to a drop in pollination acres and decreased prices.

The county's leading commodity remains Milk, with a value of $453,885,000 in 2004. This represents an increase of $128,473,000 (28%), due to volume and pricing increases.

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, and Ruben Arroyo, Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer. My thanks and appreciation are extended to the many producers and organizations who contributed information for this report.

Respectfully yours,

Timothy L. Niswander

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Amber Rambonga

Field Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Beans, Dry a/ b/	2004	1,783	1.10	1,961	TON	$634.00	$1,243,000
	2003						
Corn Silage	2004	55,233	23.22	1,282,510	TON	$25.00	$32,063,000
	2003	50,298	24.63	1,238,840	TON	$21.36	$26,462,000
Cotton Acala-Lint c/	2004	88,890	3.06	272,003	495 lbs.	$359.00	$97,649,000
	2003	89,314	2.58	230,430	495 lbs.	$378.28	$87,167,000
Acala- Seed	2004			112,354	TON	$170.00	$19,100,000
	2003			95,062	TON	$195.00	$18,537,000
Cotton Upland Non-Approved	2004	15,696	2.99	46,931	495 lbs.	$369.00	$17,318,000
	2003	11,906	2.42	28,813	495 lbs.	$377.85	$10,887,000
Cotton Upland Non-Approved Seed	2004			19,382	TON	$170.00	$3,295,000
	2003			11,909	TON	$195.00	$2,322,000
Cotton Pima- Lint	2004	8,932	2.89	25,813	495 lbs.	$465.00	$12,003,000
	2003	56,333	1.95	109,849	495 lbs.	$603.43	$66,286,000
Pima- Seed	2004			10,665	TON	$120.00	$1,280,000
	2003			45,409	TON	$190.00	$8,628,000
Cotton Pima Non-Approved	2004	70,188	2.63	184,594	495 lbs.	$508.00	$93,774,000
	2003	4,537	2.02	9,165	495 lbs.	$602.72	$5,524,000
Cotton Pima Non-Approved Seed	2004			76,116	TON	$120.00	$9,134,000
	2003			3,790	TON	$190.00	$720,000
Hay Alfalfa	2004	59,575	7.52	448,004	TON	$113.00	$50,624,000
	2003	76,760	6.36	488,194	TON	$93.83	$45,807,000
Hay, Oat b/	2004	6,132	3.51	21,523	TON	$87.00	$1,873,000
	2003				TON		

a/ all Dry Beans.
b/ included in Others in 2003.
c/ 495 lbs. = 1 bale

Field Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Hay Others d/	**2004**				**TON**		
	2003	3,962	3.63	14,382	TON	$83.05	$1,194,000
Pasture Irrigated	**2004**	**11,000**				**$135.00**	**$1,485,000**
	2003	11,000				$135.00	$1,485,000
Pasture Range	**2004**	**189,237**				**$10.00**	**$1,892,000**
	2003	189,237				$8.00	$1,514,000
Alfalfa Stubble	**2004**	**38,500**				**$20.00**	**$770,000**
	2003	38,380				$20.00	$768,000
Sorghum Silage b/	**2004**	**694**	**7.25**	**5,032**	**TON**	**$20.00**	**$101,000**
	2003				TON		
Sugar Beets	**2004**	**2,783**	**39.95**	**111,181**	**TON**	**$31.00**	**$ 3,447,000**
	2003	2,667	29.20	77,876	TON	$35.00	$ 2,726,000
Wheat Grain	**2004**	**60,741**	**2.65**	**160,964**	**TON**	**$134.00**	**$ 21,569,000**
	2003	100,931	1.81	182,685	TON	$123.30	$ 22,525,000
Wheat Silage	**2004**	**5,756**	**13.80**	**355,433**	**TON**	**$21.00**	**$ 7,464,000**
	2003	20,788	13.81	287,082	TON	$18.61	$ 5,343,000
Others e/	**2004**	**63,989**					**$ 3,467,000**
	2003	66,310					$ 5,664,000
TOTAL	**2004**	**699,129**					**$379,551,000**
	2003	722,423					$313,559,000

d/ included in Others in 2004.

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

"Every man is proud of what he does well, his heart is in his work and he will do twice as much of it with less fatigue. The man who produces a good, full crop will scarcely ever let any part of it go to waste. He will gather it in due season and store it in perfect security."

~ Abraham Lincoln ~

Fruit & Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Production Per Acre	Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Almonds	2004	9,434	0.66	6,226	TON	$3,485.00	$21,698,000
	2003	9,365	0.68	6,368	TON	$2,549.00	$16,232,000
Almond Hulls	2004			6,811	TON	$95.00	$647,000
	2003			6,761	TON	$81.00	$548,000
Apricots Fresh	2004	811	8.64	7007	TON	$861.00	$6,033,000
	2003	729	7.00	5,103	TON	$998.00	$5,093,000
Firewood	2004			1,465	CORD	$125.00	$183,000
	2003			1,600	CORD	$115.00	$184,000
Grapes Raisin Varieties	2004						
Fresh, Table				1,918	TON	$873.00	$1,674,000
Dried				4,792	TON	$1,092.00	$5,233,000
Crushed				1,206	TON	$201.00	$242,000
Canned				672	TON	$247.00	$166,000
Total		1,894		8,588			$7,315,000
Grapes Raisin Varieties	2003						
Fresh, Table				401	TON	$978.00	$392,000
Dried				4,285	TON	$584.00	$2,502,000
Crushed				2,006	TON	$95.00	$191,000
Canned				223	TON	$250.00	$56,000
Total*		1,687		6,915			$3,141,000
Grapes Table Varieties							
Crushed	2004	140	8.76	1,226	TON	$205.00	$251,000
	2003	512	12.97	6,641	TON	$95.00	$631,000
Fresh	2004	751	8.62	6,474	TON	$873.00	$5,652,000
	2003	300	6.22	1,866	TON	$905.65	$1,690,000

Fruit & Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Value Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Wine Varieties Total	**2004**	**2,469**	**11.59**	**28,616**	**TON**	**$240.00**	**$6,868,000**
	2003	2,182	9.48	20,685	TON	$204.87	$4,238,000
Grapes Total	**2004**	**5,254**					**$20,086,000**
	2003	6,575					$9,700,000
Nectarines	**2004**	**2,408**	**6.82**	**16,423**	**TON**	**$815.00**	**$13,385,000**
	2003	2,397	6.56	15,724	TON	$721.02	$11,337,000
Peaches Clingstone	**2004**	**645**	**16.89**	**10,894**	**TON**	**$245.00**	**$2,669,000**
	2003	1,223	19.97	24,423	TON	$230.71	$ 5,635,000
Peaches Freestone	**2004**	**3,118**	**6.85**	**21,358**	**TON**	**$819.00**	**$17,492,000**
	2003	2,573	8.09	20,816	TON	$791.99	$16,486,000
Peaches Freezer /a	**2004**	**492**	**17.29**	**8,507**	**TON**	**$215.00**	**$1,829,000**
	2003						
Peaches Total	**2004**	**4,255**					**$21,990,000**
	2003	3,796					$22,121,000
Pistachios	**2004**	**9,898**	**1.09**	**10,789**	**TON**	**$2,838.00**	**$30,619,000**
	2003	8,600	1.74	14,964	TON	$ 2,522.29	$37,744,000
Plums	**2004**	**2,396**	**7.83**	**18,761**	**TON**	**$1,046.00**	**$19,624,000**
	2003	1,752	7.37	12,912	TON	$732.40	$9,457,000
Walnuts	**2004**	**9,695**	**1.71**	**16,578**	**TON**	**$1,349.00**	**$22,364,000**
	2003	9,368	1.89	17,706	TON	$1,125.03	$19,920,000
Others b/	**2004**	**4,424**					**$16,163,000**
	2003	3,735					$19,933,000
TOTAL	**2004**	**48,575**					**$172,792,000**
	2003	44,423					$152,269,000

* Acreage ammendment.
a/ Item was included in Others in 2003.
b/ Includes 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	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Cantaloupes a/	**2004**				**TON**		
	2003	687	23.79	16,344	TON	$217.70	$3,558,000
Garlic, Processed b/	**2004**	**3,158**	**6.65**	**21,001**	**TON**	**$132.00**	**$2,772,000**
	2003				TON		
Melons, All b/ c/	**2004**	**877**	**17.17**	**15,058**	**TON**	**$260.00**	**$3,915,000**
	2003				TON		
Tomatoes Processed	**2004**	**20,309**	**43.13**	**875,927**	**TON**	**$51.00**	**$44,672,000**
	2003	19,131	27.71	530,120	TON	$49.98	$26,495,000
Other d/	**2004**	**7,880**					**$45,840,000**
	2003	11,369					$140,868,000
TOTAL	**2004**	**32,224**					**$97,199,000**
	2003	31,187					$170,921,000

a/ 2004 figure in Melons, All.
b/ 2003 figure in Other.
c/ Includes Cantaloupes, Specialty Melons, and Watermelon.
d/ Includes Asparagus, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Carrots, Dehydrator Onion, Eggplant, Fresh Tomatoes, Lettuce, Romaine, Onions, Peppers, and Sweet Corns

Seed Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Cotton Cert. a/	**2004**					
	2003	1,310	1,499	TON	$300.00	$450,000
Others b/	**2004**	**6,694**				**$7,112,000**
	2003	3,903				$2,131,000
TOTAL	**2004**	**6,694**				**$7,112,000**
	2003	5,213				$2,581,000

a/ Included in 2004 Others.
b/ Alfalfa Certified, Alfalfa Non-Certified, Asparagus, Barley Certified, Barley Non-Certified, Cotton Certified, Corn Certified, Lettuce, Onion, & Wheat Certified.

Inventories of Livestock & Poultry

Item	January 1, 2004 Number of Head	January 1, 2003 Number of Head
Cattle and Calves		
All	274,000	268,000
Dairy Cows 2 Years and Over	150,000	147,000
Cattle and Calves on Feed	5,000	5,000
Other	145,000	144,000
Sheep and Lambs	10,872	10,450
Goats	2,600	3,100
Hogs and Pigs	1,400	3,600
Turkeys	476,326	473,686
Ducks	1,700	n/a

Livestock & Poultry

Item	Year	Number Of Head	Total Liveweight	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Breeding Stock a/	2004					$1,508,000
	2003					$1,495,000
Cattle and Calves	2004	211,791	1,289,466	Cwt.	$99.00	$127,657,000
	2003	184,401	1,181,169	Cwt.	$87.78	$103,683,000
Sheep and Lambs	2004	10,872	12,027	Cwt.	$104.00	$1,251,000
	2003	10,450	11,195	Cwt.	$104.41	$1,169,000
Turkeys	2004	1,905,305	42,564,514	lb.	$0.42	$17,877,000
	2003	1,894,744	38,122,249	lb.	$0.79	$30,117,000
Others b/	2004					$25,239,000
	2003					$26,753,000
TOTAL	2004					$173,532,000
	2003					$163,217,000

a/ For all animals except horses
b/ Includes catfish, chickens, ducks, goats, hogs and pigs.

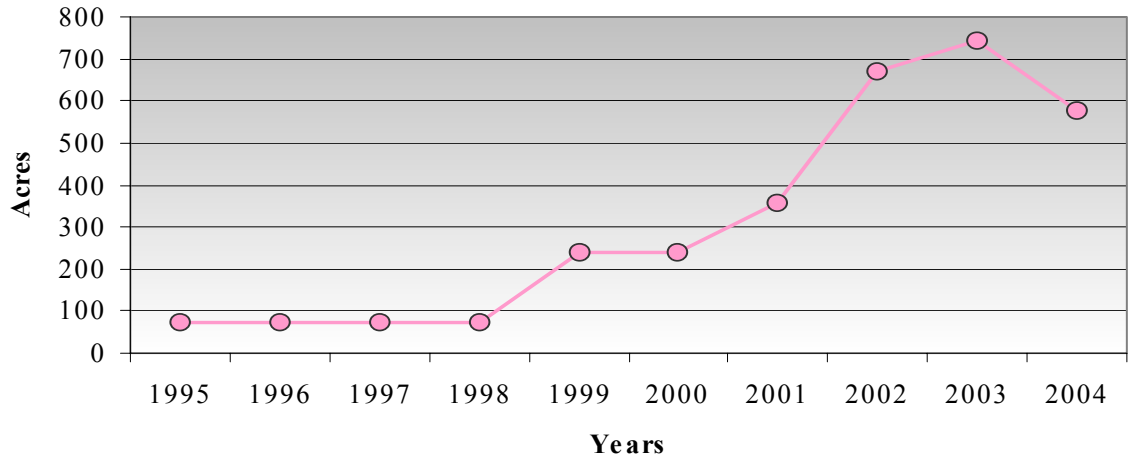
Livestock & Poultry Products

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Eggs- Chicken Market	2004	2,522,010	Doz.	$0.88	$2,219,000
	2003	3,124,700	Doz.	$0.88	$2,750,000
Manure	2004	537,455	TON	$6.00	$3,225,000
	2003	524,871	TON	$6.00	$3,149,000
Milk Market	2004	30,853,465	Cwt.	$14.58	$449,844,000
	2003	29,062,421	Cwt.	$11.15	$324,046,000
Milk Mfg.	2004	215,287	Cwt.	$15.20	$3,272,000
	2003	69,037	Cwt.	$11.82	$816,000
Milk- Goats	2004	24,631	Cwt.	$31.24	$769,000
	2003	17,253	Cwt.	$31.85	$550,000
Milk Total	2004				$453,885,000
	2003				$325,412,000
Wool*	2004	73,603	lb.	$0.78	$57,000
	2003	88,825	lb.	$0.92	$82,000
TOTAL	2004				$459,386,000
	2003				$331,393,000

* Price does not include wool incentive.

10 Years

Cherry Acres in Production



Apiary Products

Item	Year	Total Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total
Honey	**2004**	**778,066**	**lb.**	**$0.96**	**$747,000**
	2003	1,305,992	lb.	$1.35	$1,763,000
Beeswax	**2004**	**21,261**	**lb.**	**$1.32**	**$28,000**
	2003	21,767	lb.	$1.05	$23,000
Seed Alfalfa	**2004**	**10,869**	**Colonies**	**$32.00**	**$348,000**
	2003	941	Colonies	$35.00	$33,000
Tree Fruit a/	**2004**	**29,828**	**Colonies**	**$46.00**	**$1,372,000**
	2003	24,574	Colonies	$47.25	$1,161,000
Melons	**2004**	**1,271**	**Colonies**	**$16.00**	**$20,000**
	2003	1,980	Colonies	$20.00	$40,000
Vegetable Seed	**2004**	**108**	**Colonies**	**$26.00**	**$3,000**
	2003	281	Colonies	$20.00	$6,000
TOTAL	**2004**				**$2,518,000**
	2003				$3,026,000

a/ almonds, apples, apricots, cherries, kiwi, and plums

Agricultural Quick Facts

85% of the land area in Kings County is farmland.

The average age of California producers in 2002 was 56.8 compared to the national average of 55.3 years old.

In 2002, 29.6 percent of agricultural producers were women.

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.

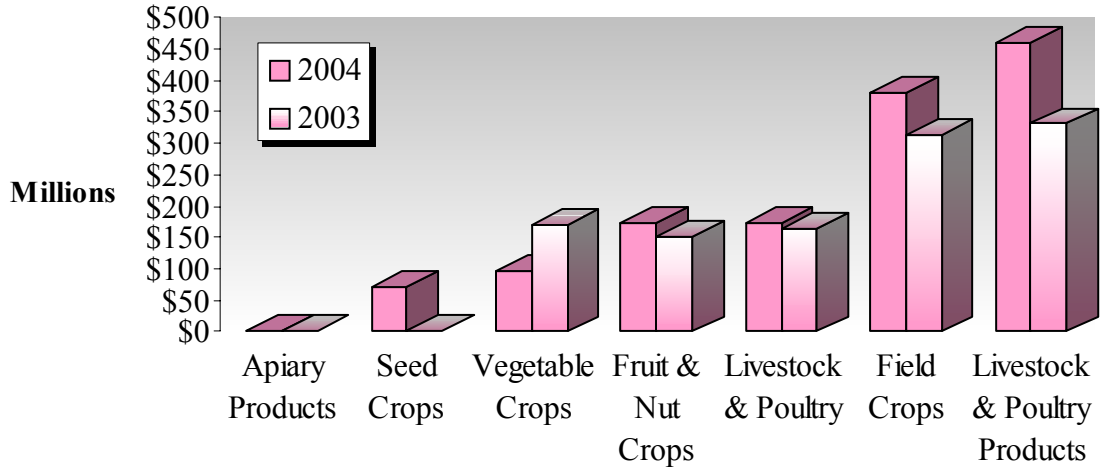
The most prolific milk producing cow the world has ever known, No. 289, lived in this county for 19 years and gave 54,070 gallons of milk - enough to fill more than eight 60-foot tanker trucks.

5 Year Comparison Of Acreage & Crop Values

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Apiary Products	**$2,518,000**	$3,026,000	$2,531,000	$2,004,000	$2,647,000
Field Crops	**$379,551,000**	$313,559,000	$326,741,000	$308,302,000	*$336,361,000
Acreage	**699,129**	722,423	687,894	594,379	641,117
Fruit and Nut Crops	**$172,792,000**	$152,269,000	$145,624,000	$89,563,000	*$80,223,000
Acreage	**48,575**	*44,094	42,970	34,976	30,634
Livestock and Poultry	**$173,532,000**	$163,217,000	$104,201,000	$115,369,000	$106,229,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	**$459,386,000**	$331,393,000	*$309,252,000	$367,657,000	$298,609,000
Seed Crops	**$7,112,000**	$2,581,000	$5,617,000	$5,389,000	$18,412,000
Acreage	**6,694**	5,213	6,572	5,842	24,608
Vegetable Crops	**$97,199,000**	170,921,000	$129,841,000	$63,666,000	$43,998,000
Acreage	**32,224**	31,187	*24,296	19,935	15,376
TOTAL	**$1,292,090,000**	$1,136,966,000	$714,555,000	$951,950,000	$886,479,000

* Revised

2004 and 2003 Production Value Comparisons

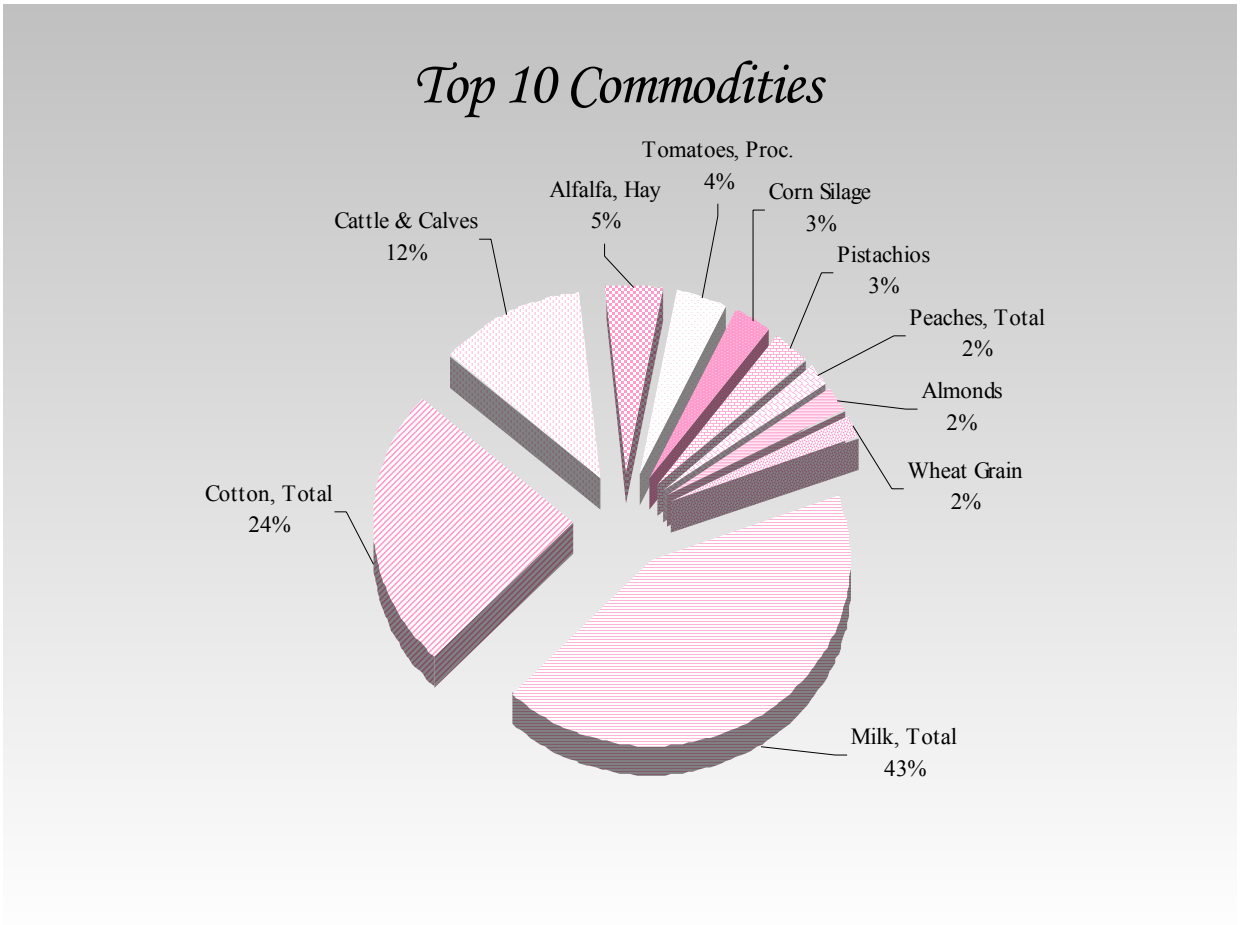


"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man".
~ George Washington ~

Kings County's 10 Leading Commodities

Crop	2004 Rank	Dollar Value	2003 Rank	2002 Rank
Milk, Total	1	$453,885,000	1	1
Cotton, Total	2	$253,553,000	2	2
Cattle and Calves	3	$127,657,000	3	3
Alfalfa, Hay	4	$50,624,000	4	4
Tomatoes, Proc.	5	$44,672,000	7	7
Corn Silage	6	$32,063,000	8	10
Pistachios	7	$30,619,000	5	6
Peaches,Total	8	$21,990,000	10	9
Almonds	9	$21,698,000	13	13
Wheat Grain	10	$21,569,000	9	8

Total $ 1,058,330,000



"Whoever makes two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, deserves better of mankind, and does more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together".

~ Jonathan Swift ~

County Biological Control

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Puncture Vine Tribulus terrestris	Stem Mining Weevil Microlarinus lypriformi	Generally Distributed
	Seed Head Weevil Microlarinus lareynil	Generally Distributed
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea solstitialis	Seed Head Weevil Bangasternus orientalis	2 Sites
	Gall Fly Urophora sirunaseva	1 Sites
	Hairy Weevil Eustenopus villosus	3 Sites
Ash Whitefly Siphoninus phillyreae	Parasitic Wasp Encarsia parenorea	Generally Distributed
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid Glycaspis brimblecombei	Parasitic Wasp Psyllaephagus bliteus	1 Site
Silverleaf Whitefly Bemisia argentifolii	Parasitic Wasp Eretmocerus sp.(M95104)	6 Sites
	Eretmocerus sp.(M95012)	6 Sites
	Eretmocerus mundus	6 Sites

County Pest Exclusion

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
European Corn Borer Ostrinia nubilalis	Railroad Corn Shipments	80 Inspections
Gypsy Moth Lymantria dispar	Household Goods Shipments	435 Inspections
Various Pests	Truck Shipments	29,948 Inspections
Crops	Activity	Scope of Program
Export Commodities	Origin Certification	1,317 issued
Export Seed	Field Inspections	133 sites / 6,949 acres

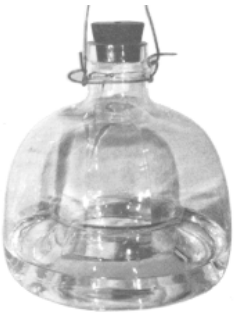
County Pest Eradication

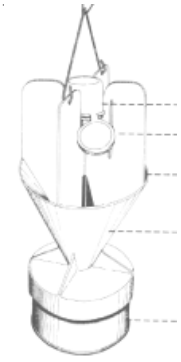
Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Scope of Program
Pink Bollworm Pectinophora gossypiella	Mechanical/Host Free Period	181,095 Acres
Alligatorweed Alternanthera philoxeriodes	Visual Inspection Mechanical/Chemical	6 Sites Treated

County Pest Detection

Pest	Number of Traps	Type of Traps
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	214	Jackson Traps
Mexican Fruit Fly	91	McPhail Traps
All Prupose Fruit Fly	106	Champ Traps
Oriental Fruit Fly	60	Jackson Traps
Melon Fly	60	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
Western Cherry Fruit Fly	24	Adult Monitoring Traps
Apple Maggot	30	Adult Monitoring Traps
Total Traps	1019	

Jackson Trap


McPhail Trap


Japanese Beetle Trap

Export Commodities

Commodities Exported From Kings County

Almonds
Apricots
Asparagus Seed
Blueberries
Calcium Salts
Cherries
Cotton Lint
Cotton Seed
Garlic
Garlic Seed
Kiwifruit
Lettuce
Nectarines
Onions
Peaches
Pistachios
Plums
Pomegranates
Rice
Tomato Powder
Watermelon

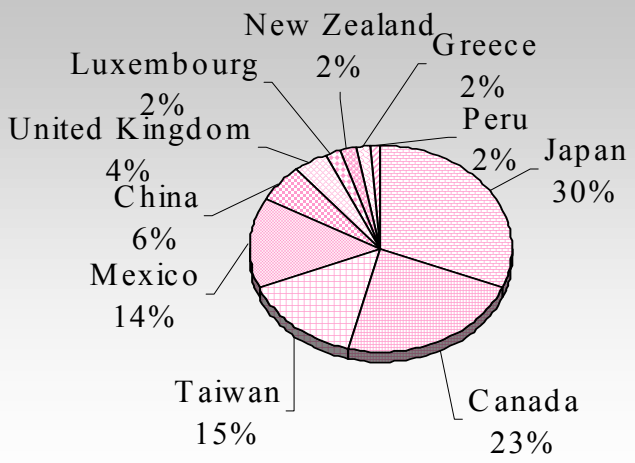
Export Trade Partners of Kings County in 2004

Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Canada
China
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
El Salvador
France
Germany
Greece
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Hong Kong
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Korea
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
New Caledonia
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Saipan
Singapore
Spain
Switzerland
Taiwan
United Kingdom

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

Export Partners

Top Ten Export Partners 2004



Fairs & Expositions

The Kings Fair 2005

July 7-10, 2005

"Who Let The Pigs Out??"

801 S. 10th Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230

Phone (559) 584-3318
Fax (559) 584-0192

www.kingsfair.com

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
Apples
Apricots
Aprium
Asian Pears
Asparagus
Basil
Bell Peppers
Beans
Cabbage
Cantaloupes
Cherries
Cherry Tomatoes
Cheese
Chili Peppers
Corn
Cucumbers
Eggplant
Figs
Fresh cut Flowers
Garlic
Gourds
Grapefruit
Grapes
Herbs
Honey
Kiwifruit
Lemons
Mandarin
Mistletoe
Mixed Melons
Mushrooms
Nectarines
Okra
Olives
Onions
Oranges
Lemons
Limes
Peaches
Pears
Pecans
Peppers
Persimmons
Pistachios
Plums
Pluots
Prunes
Pomegranates
Pommelos
Quince
Radishes
Raisins
Satsumas
Soybeans
Squash
Strawberries
Sweet Corn
Tangerines
Tomatoes
Tomato Plants
Walnuts
Watermelon

"Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own."
~ Samuel Johnson (English poet, critic and writer. 1709-1784) ~

Land Use

Surrounding Counties	2003 Rank	2003 Gross Value*	Total County Area Acres	Top Commodity	2003 Value	Acres or No. of Head
Fresno	1	4,052,767,000	3,840,000	Grapes	400,842,000	218,357
Tulare	2	3,294,660,000	3,112,320	Milk	1,067,797,000	571,000
Monterey	3	3,288,468,000	2,127,359	Lettuce	429,360,000	136,491
Kern	4	2,477,526,000	5,166,720	Grapes	414,554,000	82,427
Kings	9	1,136,933,000	890,545	Milk	325,412,000	184,401

* Gross Value Does not include timber.

Kings County Land Use Summary

Land Use Category	2000 Acres	2000 Percent	2002 Acres	2002 Percent	Acre Change
Prime Farmland	141,213	16	140,876	16	-338
Farmland of Statewide Importance	430,760	48	431,338	48	578
Unique Farmland	28,450	3	28,313	3	-137
Farmland of Local Importance	6,851	1	7,565	1	714
Grazing Land	238,485	27	236,583	27	1,902
Urban and Built-Up Land	28,938	3	29,795	3	857
Other Land	16,018	2	16,245	2	227
Water Area	66	0	66	0	0
Total Acres	890,781		890,781		

From the California Department of Conservation

Cherry Recipes

BING CHERRY BARBECUE SAUCE

This sweet and tangy sauce is great brushed over chicken or pork during grilling. Serve the extra sauce on the side. Try it also as a sauce for turkey burgers.
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 40 minutes

3	cups fresh California Bing Cherries, pitted
1/3	cup red wine vinegar
1/4	cup packed brown sugar
1/4	cup ketchup
2	teaspoons lemon juice
1	teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4	teaspoon black pepper
1/8	teaspoon cinnamon

Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 10 minutes. Let cool slightly and puree in blender or food processor. Return to heat and simmer over medium heat, uncovered, for 30 minutes or until sauce has thickened.

CHERRY CHIP PICNIC COOKIES

These giant cookies are packed full of fresh Bing cherries and white chocolate chips. Perfect to take along on a picnic.
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 to 17 minutes

1	cup butter, softened
1	cup sugar
1	cup packed brown sugar
2	eggs
1 1/2	teaspoons almond extract
1/2	teaspoon vanilla extract
3 1/4	cups flour
3/4	teaspoon salt
1	teaspoon baking soda
1 1/2	cups fresh California Bing Cherries, pitted and halved
1	(12-oz.) package white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a medium bowl, cream together butter, sugar and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, almond extract and vanilla. In a separate medium bowl, stir together the flour, salt and baking soda; add to butter mixture and stir until blended. Press cherries between two layers of paper towels and stir *half* into the dough with the chocolate chips. Mound rounded tablespoons of dough onto a lightly greased baking sheet; press *remaining* cherries onto the top. Bake for about 15 to 17 minutes, or until cookies are set in the center and lightly browned. Let cool on rack and store in a container with a loose fitting lid.
Makes about 20 large cookies.

Cherry Recipes

Cherry Chocolate Sauce

This classic combination of cherries and chocolate makes a quick yet decadent dessert.

1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons butter
1 (4-oz.) bar German sweet chocolate, chopped
2 tablespoons Kirsch (cherry brandy)
Bowl of California Bing Cherries

Heat cream and butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Add chocolate and simmer, stirring frequently, until melted. Stir in Kirsch. Pour into a small bowl and let cool. Makes about 1 1/4 cups.

Ginger Orange Creme Fraiche

Perfect for a Sunday brunch, this dip combines sweet oranges with spicy ginger.

1/2 cup crème fraiche
3 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons orange juice concentrate
1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh ginger
Bowl of California Bing Cherries

Whisk together all ingredients, except cherries in a small bowl. Cover and chill until ready to serve. Makes about 1 cup.

White Chocolate Almond Sauce

California Bing cherries dipped in this smooth, delicately flavored sauce are a simple and delicious treat for two.

1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons butter
1 (4-oz.) bar white chocolate, chopped
2 tablespoons Amaretto liqueur
Bowl of California Bing Cherries

Heat cream and butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Add white chocolate and simmer, stirring frequently, until melted. Stir in Amaretto. Pour into a small bowl and let cool. Makes about 1 1/4 cups.

Thank You

CALIFORNIA CHERRIES

33 East Oak Street
Lodi, California 95240
TEL : (209) 368-0685
FAX : (209) 368-4309

Special thanks to the California Cherry Advisory Board for their cooperation and information.

Kings County General Information

County Seat	**Hanford**
County Population (2004)	**141,434**
Population per Square Mile	**101.68**
Total Assessed Value (2004)	**$5,656,041,642**
Land Area (Square Miles)	**1,391**
Total Acres	**890,545**
Total Harvested Crop Acreage (2004)	**786,622**
Foreign Ownership (2001)	**4,009 (acres)**
Total Farmland (Acres – 2004)	**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 9th among California counties and 18th among U.S. counties (based on 2002 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
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	0.00	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						
AVERAGE	**0.06**	**0.01**	**0.03**	**0.19**	**0.35**	**0.87**	**1.05**	**1.52**	**1.47**	**1.39**	**0.71**	**0.20**	**7.84**

50 YEAR AVERAGE RAINFALL