



ORGANIC FARMING & CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET PROGRAM





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Organic Production In Merced County

Consumer demand for organic products has increased dramatically over the past decade, resulting in a corresponding growth in the number of organic producers to meet this growing demand. Merced County is no exception. There have been an increasing number of new producers growing an array of organic products in recent years.

In 2001, Merced County had a total of 47 registered organic producers and three organic livestock and poultry processors. They produced 20 commodities on a total of 2,380 acres along with some milk and egg production.

According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Organic Program, Merced

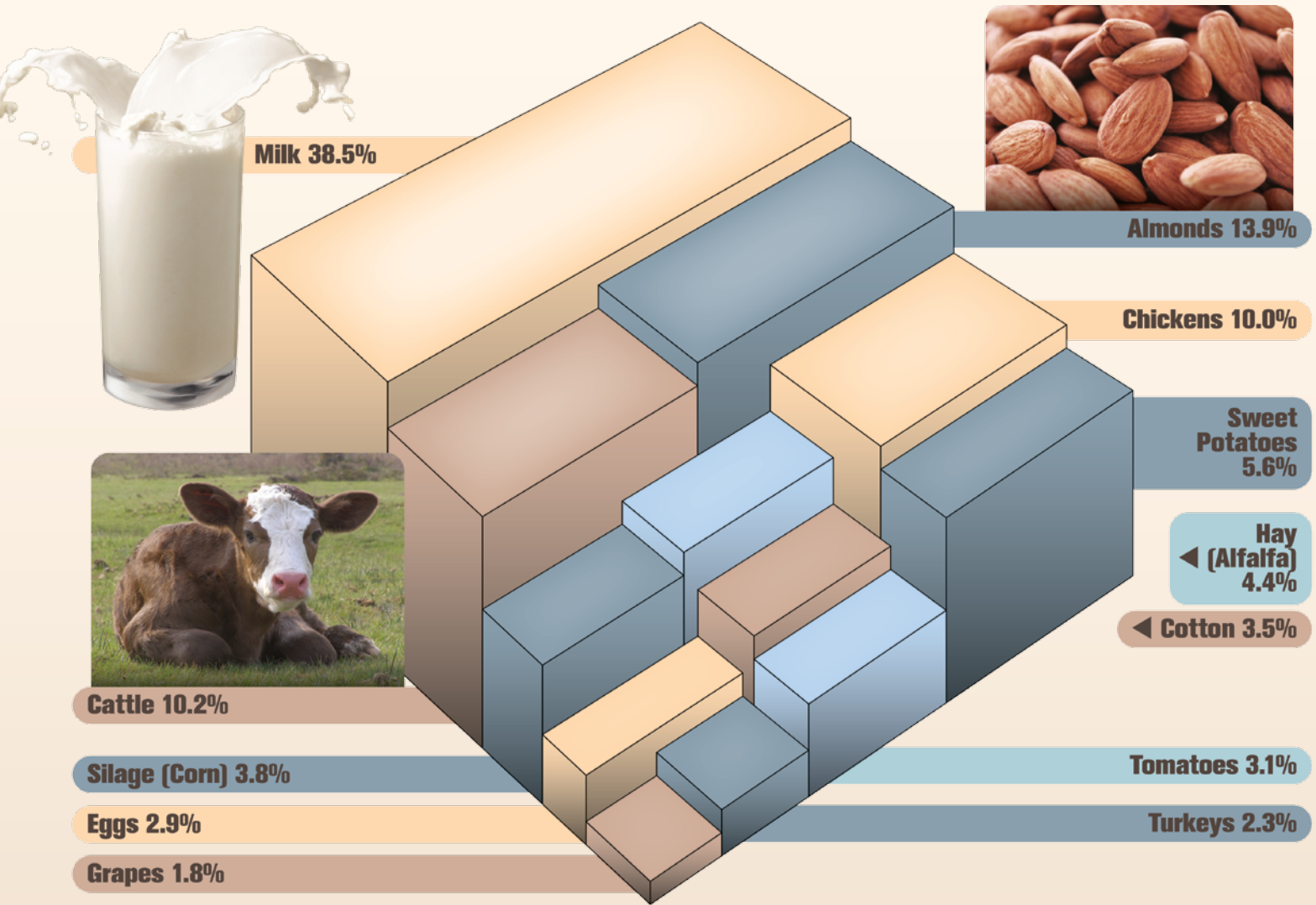
County had 55 growers of organic commodities, three organic processors, and five organic handlers in 2011. These growers farmed a total of 35,170 acres to produce assorted organic field crops, berries, fruits, nuts, vegetables, as well as organic pastureland, fallow farmland, and rangeland. Organic eggs, livestock, milk, and poultry were also produced. In all, over 117 different organic commodities were produced in Merced County during 2011 with a reported value of over \$87,000,000.

Anyone interested in learning more information about the Organic Program in California, or in learning the process for registering as an organic producer, processor, or handler, may do so by contacting their local County Agricultural Commissioner's office.



Top Twelve Leading Farm Commodities 2011

RANK	CROP	VALUE	PREVIOUS RANK
1	Milk includes Market and Manufacturing	\$1,101,381,000	1
2	Almonds (Kernel Basis)	\$397,168,000	2
3	Cattle and Calves	\$290,823,000	4 ↑
4	Chickens includes Fryers and Other Chickens.	\$285,652,000	3 ↓
5	Sweet Potatoes	\$159,094,000	5
6	Hay (Alfalfa)	\$124,279,000	9 ↑↑↑↑
7	Silage (Corn)	\$107,475,000	8 ↑
8	Cotton includes Acala and Pima Cotton.	\$98,830,000	10 ↑↑
9	Tomatoes includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.	\$89,268,000	6 ↓↓↓
10	Eggs, Chicken (Market)	\$85,196,000	7 ↓↓↓
11	Turkeys	\$65,993,000	11
12	Grapes (Wine)	\$50,179,000	14 ↑↑





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Equal Opportunity Employer

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and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Merced

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Jerry O'Banion John Pedrozo

James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2011 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of Merced County's agricultural commodities.

For the second time, Merced County agriculture surpassed the three-billion-dollar mark in gross production value. Overall, the 2011 growing season was again good for most crops. Merced County agricultural commodities grossed \$3,259,868,000, an increase of \$526,376,000 over 2010 values and a record high. These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the costs of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 2011 CROP YEAR

- Milk remains the county's number one commodity with an overall value of \$1,101,381,000, an increase of \$238,562,000 (27.6%) over the 2010 crop year. Much of this increase is due to the increase in price and a modest increase in production. Prices increased approximately 28% for market milk and approximately 20% for milk used in manufacturing.
- Almonds remained the second leading commodity with a gross production value of \$397,168,000. Increases in acreage, yield and price provided for a 38.6% increase in overall value.
- Cattle & Calves surpassed chickens and took the number three spot with a gross production value of \$290,823,000. This is a 29.0% increase over last year. The \$65,415,000 can be attributed to a significant increase in cattle prices as well as an increase in production.
- Chickens remained steady in 2011, although there was a slight drop in production and prices increased a modest 3.0%. Total value was up \$10,116,000 for a total of \$285,652,000 making chickens our fourth leading commodity.
- Sweet potatoes remained the number five commodity despite the slight decrease in production. Prices were up nearly 20%. Total production value was \$159,094,000, up 4.1% from 2010.
- Cotton regained top twelve status in 2010 but jumped to number eight in 2011. An increase in cotton acreage, combined with higher prices and production equated to a total production value of \$98,830,000.
- Alfalfa hay and corn silage came in as our number six and seven leading crops. Both posted significant gains in prices. Tomatoes and market chicken eggs were both down due to lower acreage and production respectively.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers, ranchers, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data for this report.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson, *Agricultural Commissioner*

Field Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Barley	2011	2,294	2.37	5,441	Ton	\$169.38	\$922,000
	2010	4,065	1.97	7,993		\$154.32	\$1,233,000
Beans (Dry Lima)	2011	1,278	1.34	1,710	Ton	\$913.31	\$1,561,000
	2010	1,823	1.36	2,476		\$972.53	\$2,408,000
Corn (Grain) ⁽¹⁾	2011	15,992	6.14	98,121	Ton	\$244.89	\$24,029,000
	2010	12,088	5.88	71,133		\$196.46	\$13,975,000
Cotton (Acala)	2011	47,010	2.97	139,804	500-Lb Bale	\$576.34	\$80,575,000
	2010	25,915	2.88	74,566		\$553.63	\$41,282,000
Cotton (Pima)	2011	8,595	2.62	22,525	500-Lb Bale	\$810.45	\$18,255,000
	2010	13,350	2.40	32,081		\$889.09	\$28,522,000
Cotton (Seed)	2011	—	1.03	57,473	Ton	\$200.00	\$11,495,000
	2010	—	0.98	38,595		\$291.84	\$11,264,000
Hay (Alfalfa)	2011	76,682	6.67	511,811	Ton	\$242.82	\$124,279,000
	2010	84,186	6.47	544,262		\$143.17	\$77,922,000
Hay (Grain) ⁽²⁾	2011	32,802	3.62	118,804	Ton	\$133.38	\$15,846,000
	2010	36,074	3.12	112,721		\$78.14	\$8,808,000
Hay (Sudan)	2011	9,939	2.17	21,583	Ton	\$137.65	\$2,971,000
	2010	9,708	4.63	44,922		\$123.75	\$5,559,000
Misc. Field Crops ⁽³⁾	2011	2,364	—	—	—	—	\$1,253,000
	2010	3,219	—	—		—	\$1,518,000
Pasture (Irrigated)	2011	26,597	—	26,597	Acre	\$167.34	\$4,451,000
	2010	30,719	—	30,719		\$160.00	\$4,915,000
Pasture (Other)	2011	562,471	—	562,471	Acre	\$19.03	\$10,704,000
	2010	567,391	—	567,391		\$25.00	\$14,185,000
Rice	2011	2,261	4.31	9,742	Ton	\$359.47	\$3,502,000
	2010	2,499	4.05	10,125		\$293.43	\$2,971,000
Silage (Alfalfa)	2011	—	2.34	179,198	Ton	\$64.85	\$11,621,000
	2010	—	0.84	70,598		\$33.36	\$2,355,000
Silage (Corn)	2011	87,768	27.07	2,375,923	Ton	\$45.24	\$107,475,000
	2010	90,119	27.74	2,499,530		\$31.67	\$79,164,000
Silage (Other) ⁽⁴⁾	2011	66,206	13.63	902,409	Ton	\$30.32	\$27,361,000
	2010	70,647	15.57	1,100,045		\$21.27	\$23,392,000
Straw ⁽⁵⁾	2011	—	—	3,808	Ton	\$43.88	\$167,000
	2010	—	—	3,779		\$32.64	\$123,000
Stubble (Pasture)	2011	—	—	13,803	Acre	\$50.00	\$690,000
	2010	—	—	15,153		\$20.00	\$303,000
Wheat ⁽⁶⁾	2011	16,675	3.03	50,503	Ton	\$245.54	\$12,401,000
	2010	11,940	2.89	34,474		\$175.15	\$6,038,000
Total	2011	958,933					\$459,557,000
	2010	963,745					\$325,939,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2011: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn), and grain for feed.

For 2010: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn).

⁽²⁾ For 2011: Includes Oat, Rye Grass, and Wheat.

For 2010: Includes Oat, Wheat, and Winter Forage Hay.

⁽³⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Beans (Dry Other), Corn Stalks and Earledge, Milo, Oat Grain, and Safflower.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2011: Includes Oat, Sudan, and Wheat.

For 2010: Includes Oat, Sorghum, Sudan, Triticale, Wheat, and Winter Forage.

⁽⁵⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Straw from Barley, Bean (Dry), Oat, Rice, and Wheat.

⁽⁶⁾ For 2010: Includes Dryland farming

Vegetable Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Beans, Lima (Freezer)	2011	524	1.46	766	Ton	\$569.00	\$436,000
	2010	992	1.80	1,789		\$599.38	\$1,073,000
Melons (Cantaloupe) ⁽¹⁾	2011	4,527	638.86	2,892,119	40-Lb Ctn	\$5.65	\$16,326,000
	2010	6,353	599.38	3,807,831		\$4.73	\$18,021,000
Melons (Other) ⁽²⁾	2011	2,003	349.50	700,043	Ton	\$19.15	\$13,404,000
	2010	3,401	21.16	71,970		\$244.45	\$17,593,000
Misc. Vegetables ⁽³⁾	2011	2,801	—	—	—	—	\$20,237,000
	2010	3,422	—	—		—	\$20,946,000
Sweet Potatoes ⁽⁴⁾	2011	16,651	13.83	230,220	Ton	\$691.05	\$159,094,000
	2010	16,548	15.39	254,674		\$600.23	\$152,863,000
Tomatoes (Market) ⁽⁵⁾	2011	6,524	1,255.78	8,192,409	25-Lb Ctn	\$5.44	\$44,564,000
	2010	8,612	1,069.88	9,214,183		\$4.99	\$45,971,000
Tomatoes (Processing)	2011	13,000	51.20	665,586	Ton	\$67.17	\$44,704,000
	2010	20,582	44.71	920,164		\$66.65	\$61,326,000
Total	2011	46,030					\$298,765,000
	2010	59,910					\$317,794,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2011, 2010: Price reflects wholesale after packing and shipping.

⁽²⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Honeydew, Mixed Melons, and Watermelon.

⁽³⁾ For 2011: Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage (Napa), Cantaloupe (Organic), Cilantro, Corn (Fresh), Cucumber, Dill, Garlic, Leek, Onion, Parsley, Pepper (Bell, Spice), Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radish, Rosemary, Sage, Spice/Herb, and Squash.

For 2010: Includes Asparagus, Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage (Napa), Cantaloupe (Organic), Cilantro, Corn (Fresh), Cucumber, Dill, Garlic, Leek, Onion, Parsley, Pepper (Bell, Spice), Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radish, Sage, Spice/Herb, and Squash.

^(4,5) For 2011, 2010: Price reflects wholesale after packing and shipping.

Apiary Industry

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Beeswax	2011	34,070	Lb	\$2.62	\$89,000
	2010	57,420		\$2.37	\$136,000
Bulk Bees ⁽¹⁾	2011	81,465	Lb	\$13.43	\$1,094,000
	2010	67,492		\$12.00	\$810,000
Honey ⁽²⁾	2011	2,214,523	Lb	\$1.66	\$3,676,000
	2010	3,732,326		\$1.49	\$5,561,000
Pollination ⁽³⁾	2011	147,756	Colony	\$144.19	\$21,305,000
	2010	169,624		\$121.59	\$20,625,000
Queens ⁽⁴⁾	2011	28,725	Each	\$14.63	\$420,000
	2010	25,867		\$17.94	\$464,000
Total	2011				\$26,585,000
	2010				\$27,596,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Bees Sold as Bulk Bees, Nuclei, and Packaged Bees.

⁽²⁾ For 2011: Honey produced by 48,598 resident colonies.

For 2010: Honey produced by 44,180 resident colonies.

⁽³⁾ For 2011, 2010: Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.

Seed Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Seed Crops ⁽¹⁾	2011	3,613	—	—	—	—	\$2,113,000
	2010	5,072	—	—	—	—	\$3,175,000
Total	2011	3,613					\$2,113,000
	2010	5,072					\$3,175,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2011: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Barley, Cotton, Kohlrabi, Mustard, Oat, Radish, Triticale, Tomato, and Wheat,

For 2010: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Barley, Bean (Lima), Cotton, Lettuce, Oat, Radish, Rice, Rye, and Wheat.

Fruit and Nut Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Almonds (Hulls)	2011	—	—	206,858	Ton	\$129.46	\$26,780,000
	2010	—	—	157,513		\$100.88	\$15,890,000
Almonds (Kernel Basis)	2011	98,504	1.05	103,429	Ton	\$3,840.00	\$397,168,000
	2010	98,895	0.78	77,460		\$3,699.98	\$286,600,000
Apricots	2011	349	12.54	4,378	Ton	\$390.00	\$1,707,000
	2010	413	14.24	5,884		\$381.52	\$2,245,000
Figs (Dry)	2011	950	1.19	1,127	Ton	\$1,795.35	\$2,024,000
	2010	980	1.26	1,235		\$1,339.19	\$1,653,000
Grapes (Raisin)	2011	544	1.96	1,067	Ton	\$1,682.23	\$1,794,000
	2010	551	1.50	826		\$1,486.11	\$1,227,000
Grapes (Wine)	2011	11,617	10.05	116,771	Ton	\$429.72	\$50,179,000
	2010	11,186	9.03	101,004		\$334.27	\$33,763,000
Miscellaneous ⁽¹⁾	2011	2,209	—	—	—	—	\$19,578,000
	2010	2,179	—	—		—	\$30,983,000
Peaches (Clingstone)	2011	2,412	18.90	45,578	Ton	\$292.07	\$13,312,000
	2010	2,631	21.04	55,352		\$285.95	\$15,828,000
Peaches (Freestone)	2011	1,756	21.76	38,209	Ton	\$258.29	\$9,869,000
	2010	1,875	23.71	44,453		\$268.71	\$11,945,000
Pistachios	2011	5,162	0.65	3,373	Ton	\$4,175.51	\$14,082,000
	2010	4,446	1.86	8,265		\$4,949.71	\$40,912,000
Plums, Dried	2011	1,646	2.61	4,295	Ton	\$1,439.38	\$6,182,000
	2010	1,706	2.20	3,752		\$1,523.06	\$5,714,000
Strawberries	2011	82	5.01	408	Ton	\$1,274.24	\$520,000
	2010	74	7.13	527		\$1,516.09	\$800,000
Walnuts (English)	2011	5,147	1.63	8,372	Ton	\$2,980.68	\$24,954,000
	2010	5,326	1.64	8,741		\$2,069.46	\$18,088,000
Total	2011	130,377					\$568,151,000
	2010	130,261					\$465,648,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2011: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Fig (Fresh), Fruit Juice, Grape (Raisin to Wine), Kiwi, Nectarine, Olives, Orange, Organic Fruit and Nut, Pear (Asian), Pecan, Persimmon, Plum, Pluot, and Pomegranate.

For 2010: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Fig (Fresh), Fruit Juice, Grape (Raisin to Wine), Kiwi, Nectarine, Olives, Orange (Madarin), Organic Fruit and Nut, Pear (Asian), Pecan, Persimmon, Plum, Pluot, and Pomegranate.

Fruit and Nut Acreage Planting

CROPS	BEARING 2011	NON-BEARING 2011	BEARING 2006	NON-BEARING 2006
Almonds	98,504	2,178	87,771	7,247
Apples	1	0	145	0
Apricots	349	0	1,201	0
Berries	114	0	109	0
Cherries	316	91	340	3
Figs	965	381	2,507	0
Grapes (Raisin)	544	0	736	1
Grapes (Table)	0	0	124	0
Grapes (Wine)	11,617	1,266	11,397	225
Jujubes	0	0	20	0
Kiwis	26	0	33	0
Mandarins	16	0	9	0
Nectarines	41	0	121	3
Olives	55	22	2	0
Oranges	16	0	8	0
Peaches (Clingstone)	2,412	48	3,427	47
Peaches (Freestone)	1,756	40	1,848	214
Pears	7	0	6	0
Pecans	26	0	32	5
Persimmons	16	19	17	0
Pistachios	5,162	475	4,861	284
Plums	74	0	90	0
Plums (Dried)	1,646	249	1,853	38
Pluots	15	0	72	0
Pomegranates	313	54	12	0
Walnuts (English)	5,147	524	5,877	426
Total	129,138	5,347	122,618	8,493



Nursery Products

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
All Nursery Products ⁽¹⁾	2011	1,392	—	—	—	—	\$41,828,000
	2010	1,316	—	—	—	—	\$45,855,000
Total	2011	1,392					\$41,828,000
	2010	1,316					\$45,855,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2011: Includes Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Crowns and Cuttings, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees, Decorative Plants, Dried Flowers, Greenhouse Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Transplants (Strawberry and Vegetable), and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

For 2010: Includes Bud Wood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Crowns and Cuttings, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees, Decorative Plants, Dried Flowers, Greenhouse Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Transplants (Strawberry and Vegetable) and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Countries Of Export

Albania	Denmark	Indonesia	Qatar	Singapore
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Ireland	Republic of Armenia	Slovenia
Australia	Ecuador	Israel	Republic of Kazakhstan	South Africa
Azerbaijan	Egypt	Italy	Republic of Kenya	Spain
Belgium	England	Japan	Republic of Korea	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Estonia	Jordan	Republic of Latvia	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Finland	Kingdom of Bahrain	Republic of Macedonia	Taiwan
Canary Islands	France	Kuwait	Romania	Thailand
Chile	Georgia	Latvia	Russia	Tunisia
China	Germany	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia	Turkey
Costa Rica	Greece	Lithuania	Serbia	Ukraine
Croatia	Hong Kong	Lybia	Montenegro	United Arab Emirates
Czech Republic	Hungary	Malaysia	Morocco	Venezuela
	India	Mexico	Portugal	Vietnam

Products Of Export

Alfalfa Hay	Endive	Pecan	Strawberry
Almond	Fennel	Pistachio Nut	Sudan Hay
Blackberry	Fig	Prune	Sweet Potato
Blueberry	Garlic	Radicchio	Timothy Hay
Broccoli	Lettuce	Raisin	Tomato
Celery	Oat Hay	Raspberry	Treviso
Chicory	Onion		Walnut



Livestock and Poultry Production

CROP	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION PER HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Cattle and Calves ⁽¹⁾	2011	337,231	8.48	2,859,517	Cwt	\$101.70	\$290,823,000
	2010	320,884	8.41	2,698,761		\$83.52	\$225,408,000
Chickens (Fryers & Broilers)	2011	77,622,697	5.75	446,330,508	Lb	\$0.64	\$285,652,000
	2010	77,744,725	5.72	444,699,827		\$0.62	\$275,536,000
Livestock (Misc.) ⁽²⁾	2011	43,351	—	—	—	—	\$6,203,000
	2010	38,735	—	—	—	—	\$5,324,000
Poultry (Misc.) ⁽³⁾	2011	61,000	—	—	—	—	\$535,000
	2010	78,000	—	—	—	—	\$727,000
Sheep and Lambs	2011	27,553	1.41	38,987	Cwt	\$167.22	\$6,519,000
	2010	29,650	1.00	29,650		\$121.97	\$3,616,000
Turkeys	2011	2,627,453	28.87	75,854,568	Lb	\$0.87	\$65,993,000
	2010	2,306,709	31.18	71,923,187		\$0.83	\$59,970,000
Total	2011	80,719,285					\$655,726,000
	2010	80,518,703					\$570,580,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Calves, Cull Bulls (Dairy and Beef), Cull Cows (Dairy and Beef), Replacement Heifers (Dairy and Beef) and Stocker Cattle.

⁽²⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Dairy and Meat Goats sold for meat.

⁽³⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Chukar, Pheasant, and Squab.

Livestock and Poultry Products

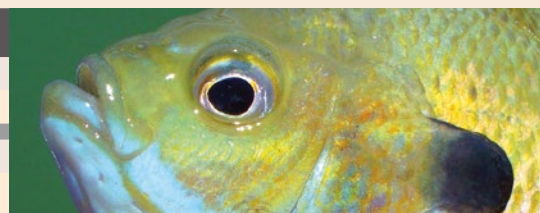
CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Eggs (Other) ⁽¹⁾	2011	1,825,000	Each	\$0.45	\$821,000
	2010	1,460,000		\$0.37	\$540,000
Eggs, Chicken (Market)	2011	107,030,520	Dozen	\$0.80	\$85,196,000
	2010	112,351,020		\$0.83	\$93,251,000
Milk (Goat)	2011	119,840	Cwt	\$36.46	\$4,369,000
	2010	86,884		\$42.83	\$3,721,000
Milk (Manufacturing)	2011	3,521,729	Cwt	\$18.71	\$65,892,000
	2010	8,702,438		\$14.55	\$126,627,000
Milk (Market)	2011	55,581,797	Cwt	\$18.63	\$1,035,489,000
	2010	50,048,038		\$14.71	\$736,192,000
Wool	2011	128,684	Lb	\$1.15	\$148,000
	2010	116,983		\$1.15	\$135,000
Total	2011				\$1,191,915,000
	2010				\$960,466,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2011, 2010: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.

Aquaculture

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Fish (1)	2011	759,598	Lb	\$2.83	\$2,149,000
	2010	832,100		\$2.52	\$2,098,000
Total	2011				\$2,149,000
	2010				\$2,098,000



(1) For 2011: Includes Catfish, Mosquito Fish, Perch, Silver Carp, Sturgeon, and Trout.
For 2010: Includes Black Bass, Bluegill, Catfish, Silver Carp, Sturgeon, and Trout.

Other Agriculture

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	PRODUCTION UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Almond (Shells) (1)	2011	70,115	Ton	\$20.40	\$1,430,000
	2010	49,756		\$19.94	\$992,000
Firewood (2)	2011	17,067	Cord	\$175.78	\$3,000,000
	2010	24,991		\$166.55	\$4,162,000
Fuel (Cogeneration) (3)	2011	85,633	Ton	\$40.00	\$3,425,000
	2010	62,325		\$40.00	\$2,493,000
Manure (4)	2011	956,252	Ton	\$5.46	\$5,224,000
	2010	1,003,570		\$6.67	\$6,694,000
Total	2011				\$13,080,000
	2010				\$14,341,000



(1) For 2011, 2010: For Animal Bedding.

(2) For 2011, 2010: Includes Orchard Prunings and Removals for Firewood (Recorded in Cords).

(3) For 2011, 2010: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removals for Fuel (Recorded in Dry Tons).

(4) For 2011, 2010: Includes Livestock and Poultry Manure.



Pest Prevention

The California Food and Agricultural Code mandates pest prevention programs to prevent the introduction and spread of pests in California. Pest prevention involves Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection, Pierce's Disease Control, and the Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program.



PEST EXCLUSION PROGRAM

Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent the introduction of pests, injurious to agriculture, that are not of common occurrence in Merced County.

A total of 8,286 shipments of incoming plant material were inspected in 2011. Shipments are inspected at United Parcel Service, United States Post Offices, Federal Express and trucking terminals. Twenty-five shipments were rejected. The 25 rejections were for live pests, material not properly certified, or improper container markings.

PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM

To prevent the introduction of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) (left) into Merced County, which is the main insect vector of Pierce's Disease, all shipments of nursery stock from infested counties, shipped by nurseries under a Master

Compliance Agreement, are inspected. GWSS has the ability to spread Pierce's Disease rapidly among grape vines with devastating results. Five hundred eighty-nine shipments of nursery stock from infested counties were inspected in 2011.

In addition, all nurseries receiving nursery stock from GWSS infested areas plus 1,539 residential yards were visually inspected for GWSS presence during 2011. No GWSS were detected.

FEDERAL PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

This program ensures that plants and plant commodities exported to foreign countries from Merced County are free from injurious pests. In 2011, the Merced County staff inspected and issued Phytosanitary Certificates for 6,022 export shipments.

PEST DETECTION PROGRAM

Pest Detection uses visual inspections and insect traps that target specific exotic insects of high agricultural and economic importance.

The trapping program in Merced County targeted the following pests:

Asian Citrus Psyllid (<i>Diaphorina citri</i> Kuwayama)	European Grape Vine Moth (<i>Lobesia botana</i>)
Apple Maggot (<i>Rhagoletis pomonella</i>)	Vine Mealy Bug (<i>Planococcus ficus</i>)
European Pine Shoot Moth (<i>Rhyacionia buoliana</i>)	European Corn Borer (<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>)
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (<i>Homalodisca coagulate</i>)	Gypsy Moth (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)
Light Brown Apple Moth (<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>)	Japanese Beetle (<i>Popillia japonica</i>)
Khapra Beetle (<i>Trogoderma granarium</i>)	Mediterranean Fruit Fly (<i>Ceratitis capitata</i>)
Melon Fly (<i>Dacus cucurbitae</i>)	Mexican Fruit Fly (<i>Anastrepha ludens</i>)
Oriental Fruit Fly (<i>Dacus dorsalis</i>)	Sweet Potato Weevil (<i>Cylas formicarius elegantulus</i>)

A total of 2,827 pest detection traps were placed in Merced County and inspected a total of 35,874 times during the 2011 trapping season.



PEST ERADICATION PROGRAM

The Pest Eradication Program endeavors to eliminate infestations of significant agricultural pests with limited distribution before they are able to cause on-going economic cost to California Agriculture.

Successful eradication projects include Sweet Potato Weevil (*left*), Banana Waterlily, and Japanese Dodder.

Detection and eradication efforts for the invasive weeds South American Sponge Plant (“A” Rated), Purple Loosestrife (“B Rated”), and Purple Mustard (“B Rated”) were conducted

during 2011. Due to budget constraints, little or no work is anticipated to be done in 2012.

Detection and eradication efforts for the insect pest Pink Bollworm (*right*) continues. One native Pink Bollworm moth was trapped on the Westside of Merced County in 2011. The Pink Bollworm is a major cotton pest. Eradication efforts included a State operated trapping program of 55,605 acres in conjunction with County enforcement of the host-free period from January 1 through March 10, also known as cotton plowdown. Treatment is accomplished through mating disruptions utilizing pheromones and sterile moths.



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The Biological Control (Biocontrol) Program uses natural enemies to suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the biocontrol agent becomes established it is self-perpetuating, reducing the need to use pesticides. The following are pests found in Merced County and their Biocontrol Agents.

PEST	ORGANISM
Ash Whitefly (<i>Siphoninus phillyreae</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Encarsia inaron</i>)
	Parasitic Fly (<i>Ametadoria misella</i>)
Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (<i>Harrisina brillians</i>)	Virus (<i>WGLS Granulosis</i>)
	Parasitic Wasp (<i>Apanteles harrisinae</i>)
Italian Thistle (<i>Carduus sp.</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinoclytus conicus</i>)
Klamath Weed (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Leaf Beetle (<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i>)
Milk Thistle (<i>Silybum marianum</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
	Seed Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lareynii</i>)
Puncture Vine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Stem Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i>)
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i>)
	Case-Bearer Moth (<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i>)
Russian Thistle (<i>Salsola sp.</i>)	Russian Thistle Borer (<i>Coleophora parthenica</i>)
	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>)
	Seed-Head Gall Fly (<i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>)
Yellowstar Thistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	Hairy Weevil (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>)
	False Peacock Fly (<i>Chaetorellia succinea</i>)
	Rust Fungus (<i>Puccinia jaceae var. solstitialis</i>)

Organic Farming

Merced County had 55 growers of organic commodities, three organic processors, and five organic handlers in 2011. These growers farmed a total of 35,170 acres to produce assorted organic field crops, berries, fruits, nuts, vegetables, as well as, organic pastureland, fallow farmland, and rangeland. Organic eggs, livestock, milk, and poultry were also produced.

Certified Farmers Market Program

Prior to the adoption of Certified Farmers Markets (CFM) regulations in 1977, by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), farmers were required to properly pack, size, and label their fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables in standard containers for transport and sale anywhere other than the site where they were grown. These regulations exempt farmers who sell their products at a CFM from packing, sizing, and labeling requirements.

The direct marketing through CFMs provides benefits for both the farming community and the consumer. By selling direct to the public, the grower is able to cut his costs by eliminating the middleman, and is able to bring field and tree ripened fruits and vegetables, which are too delicate for traditional food distribution systems to market. The consumer also benefits from the elimination of the middleman with reduced prices, but more importantly they are assured of getting only California grown fruits and vegetables, fresh and in season.

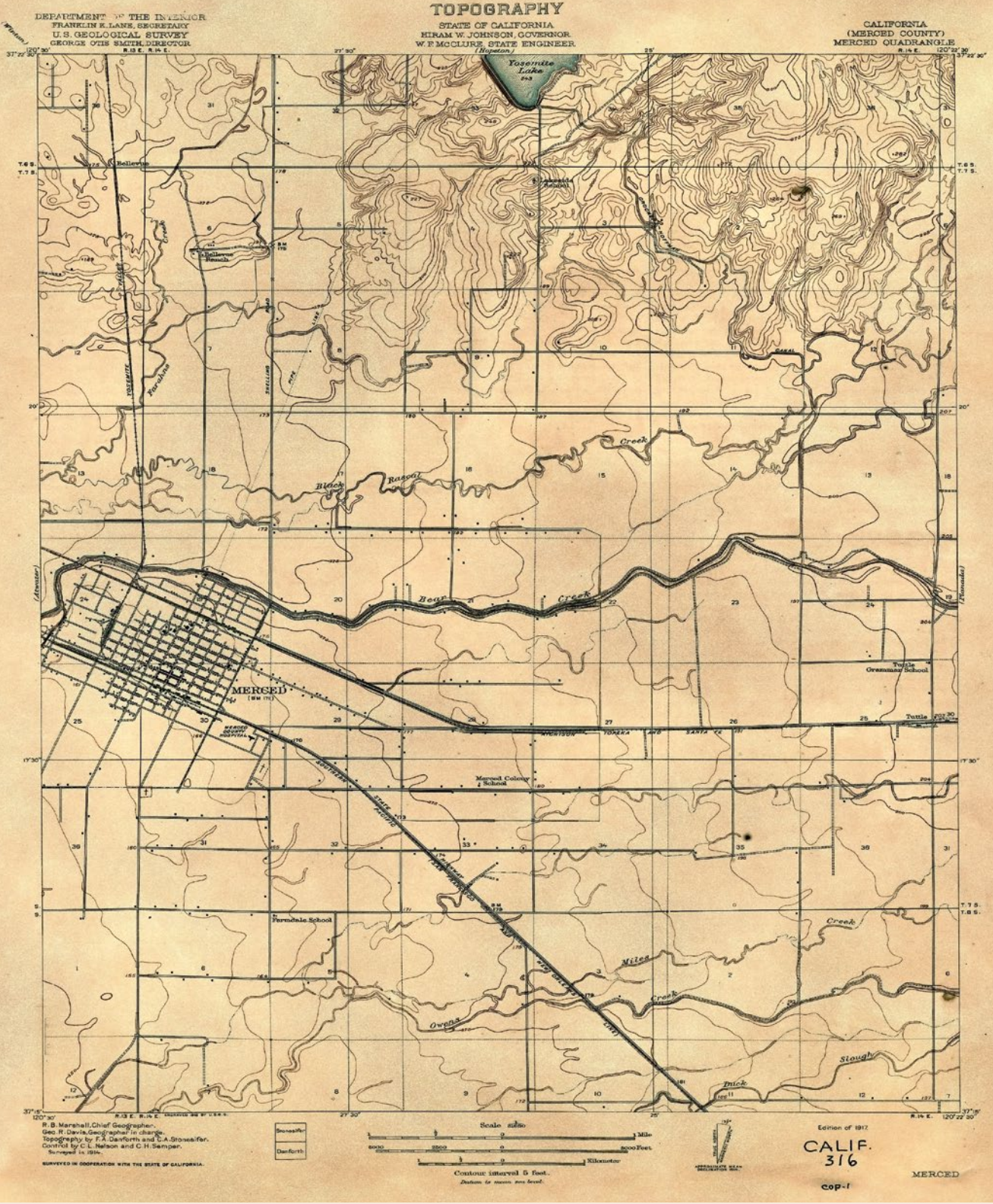


CFMs have also become social gathering places where the farming community and the urban community can come together to communicate, learn, and relate to each other. This type of relationship will go a long way to re-establishing the link between farmers and consumers here in California.

In Merced County, we are fortunate to have six CFMs located throughout the county. Below is a table listing their locations, season, and hours of operation.

If you are interested in opening a Certified Farmers Market, or in becoming a Certified Producer, contact the County Agricultural Commissioner in the county in which you grow your commodities.

CITY	MARKET	LOCATION	SEASON	DAY	HOURS
Merced	Original Merced County Farmers Market, # 2	The "Promenade" w/ Paulson, n/ East Yosemite Avenue	May-Dec	Wed	8:00am-12:00pm
Gustine	Gustine Certified Market	Schmidt Park Linden Avenue/Hwy 33/140	June-Aug	Tue	4:00pm-7:00pm
Los Banos	Los Banos CFM	H St. & 7th St.	June-Sep	Sat	7:00am-12:00pm
Merced	Original Merced Co. Farmers Market	Parking lot, southwest corner of 19th & N Street	Year-Round	Sat	8:00am-12:00pm
Le Grand	Le Grand CFM	Madison Street, between Le Grand Rd. & Washington Ave.	May-Oct	Tue	6:00pm-8:00pm
Merced	Market on Main	Main Street from M-K Streets & Bob Hart Square	June-Oct	Thu	5:30pm-10:00pm



General County of Merced Information

County Seat	City of Merced	
County Population	259,898 (per 2011 Census estimate)	
Incorporated Cities (6) ...	Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos, Merced	
Farmland:	Total County Acreage 1,265,617 acres	of Statewide Importance ... 151,340 acres
	Grazing Land 562,461 acres	Unique ... 109,030 acres
	Nonagricultural & Natural Vegetation	12,737 acres
		of Local Importance 65,057 acres

Commodity Value Crop Comparison

COMMODITIES	2011	2001	1991	1981
Aquaculture	\$2,149,000	\$2,974,000	\$1,459,000	—
Apiary Industry	\$26,585,000	\$10,350,000	\$4,672,000	\$2,812,000
Field Crops	\$459,557,000	\$251,202,000	\$195,816,000	\$179,656,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$568,151,000	\$224,351,000	\$174,984,000	\$113,098,000
Livestock and Poultry Production	\$655,726,000	\$352,817,000	\$213,823,000	\$184,181,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	\$1,191,915,000	\$658,853,000	\$307,960,000	\$200,733,000
Nursery Products	\$41,828,000	\$22,233,000	\$12,288,000	\$9,932,000
Other Agriculture	\$13,080,000	\$9,438,000	\$10,048,000	—
Seed Crops	\$2,113,000	\$1,963,000	\$1,679,000	\$2,539,000
Vegetable Crops	\$298,765,000	\$166,203,000	\$107,947,000	\$66,438,000
Total	\$3,259,868,000	\$1,700,385,000	\$1,030,676,000	\$759,389,000

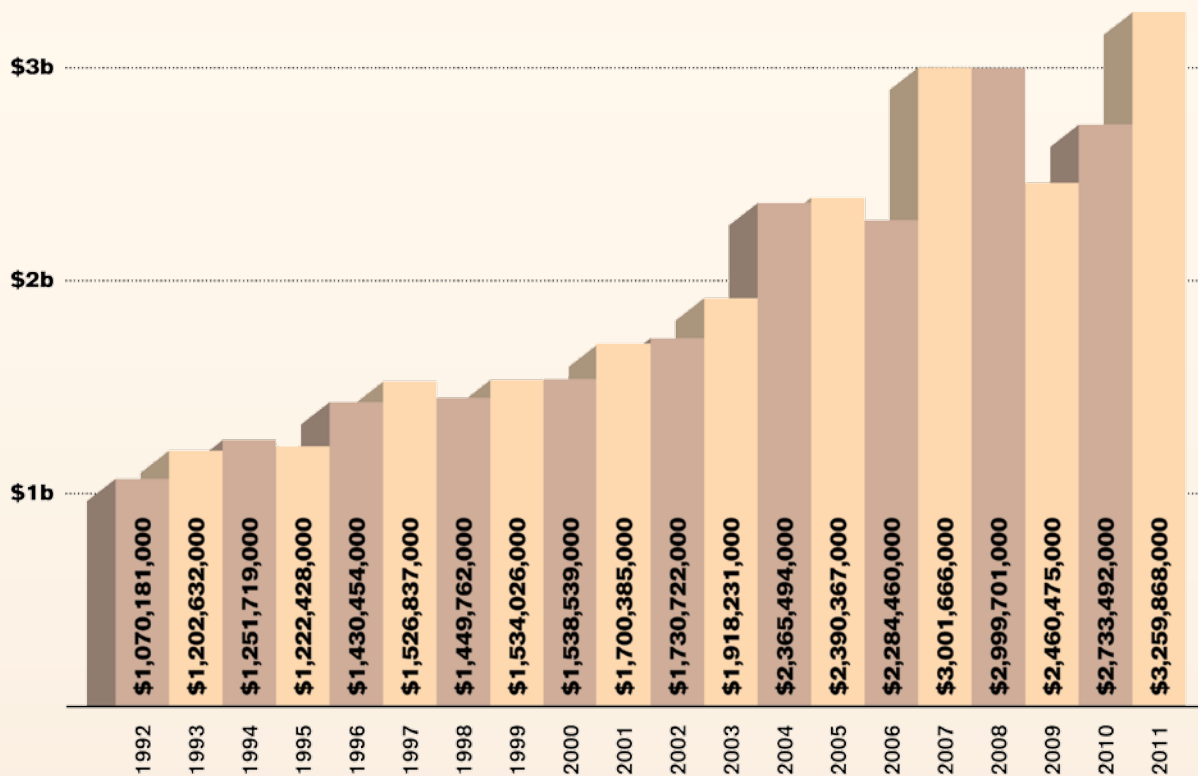


PHOTO: PAUL & LUCIA MARTIN

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