

**1994 TULARE COUNTY
ANNUAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT SUMMARY**

GENERAL:

The value of all agricultural commodities produced in Tulare County for the 1994 crop year was **\$2,504,944,000**. This is an increase of more than \$139 million (or 5.9%) from the previous year.

Much of this increase can be attributed to the continued expansion of the export market. Above normal rainfall allowed for an excellent growing season, and also contributed to crop values. The key component of this growth is the continuing strength of the dairy industry in Tulare County. Once again, we are the leading milk-producing county in the United States.

The 1994 production value marks the second consecutive all-time high for Tulare County and again underlines both the strength of farming and importance of agriculture to our economic well-being.

FIELD CROPS: \$345,283,000 - up 10.2%

Alfalfa hay. . .harvested acreage, yield, and price all increased resulting in a gain of \$19.7 million for this commodity. This goes along with the expanding dairy industry which uses alfalfa for feed.

Cotton (lint). . .although acreage and yield dropped from last year's levels, improved prices helped push this commodity to an increase of \$3.4 million over 1993.

Small grain silage. . .continued growth in acreage reflects the ongoing impact of dairy farming in the county. In addition, prices were also improved from 1993 and yield was only fractionally lower for an overall increase of just under \$900,000.

Wheat. . .both price and acreage were up, but yield dropped fractionally. These changes resulted in an increase of just over \$1 million.

SEED CROPS: \$4,041,000 - up 60%

VEGETABLE CROPS: \$65,102,000 - up 42%

Broccoli. . .although acreage was a bit lower, price and yield were both higher leading to an increase of \$2.9 million.

Cauliflower. . .acreage increased but yield was lower. The price was essentially unchanged and the overall result was a \$1 million increase.

Cucumbers. . .acreage and yield were up, but the price was down a bit from last year. However, the price drop was more than made up for by improved yields. This commodity almost doubled in value to \$1.5 million.

Snap Beans. . .a new million dollar commodity! Improved acreage, yield, and price combined for a total value of \$17.8 million.

Tomatoes. . . acreage was up substantially, yield was about twice that of the previous year, and the price improved. These factors combined for an increase of some \$10.6 million.

INDUSTRIAL CROPS: \$8,149,000 - up 27%

Again this year, harvested board feet of timber decreased, but the price more than doubled (due primarily to the harvest of better-quality timber) resulting in a value of \$7.2 million.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS: \$1,211,563,000 - up 2.2%

Almonds. . . one of the alternate bearing crops, with this being an "on" year. The acreage increased slightly and yield almost doubled. Despite a drop of \$1,120 per ton, the value increased by over \$10.4 million.

Apples. . . acreage, yield, and price all dropped. Consequently, the total value dropped by some \$7.3 million.

Avocados. . . yields have largely recovered from the December 1990 freeze and, like last year, are in the normal range of production. The total crop value increased to \$2.9 million.

Cherries. . . although not previously very popular in Tulare County as a commercial crop (due primarily to climatic conditions), cherries are becoming more attractive to growers. New varieties have been developed that both grow and produce well here. This commodity grew by \$4.1 million.

Oranges. . . as with last year, other citrus producing regions had ample supplies for both the fresh and juice markets. Processing prices continue to be poor which is a reflection of the concentrate market availability. In other words, there are plenty of juice oranges to satisfy demand. Fresh-market Navels improved by \$16.6 million, while Valencias were up marginally (a \$3.8 million increase). Oranges regained their number two ranking this year, edging out grapes by \$11.1 million.

Lemons. . . harvested acreage decreased very slightly but the yield increased by more than 3.8 tons per acre. Prices were somewhat lower than in 1993, resulting in a total value of \$11.6 million.

Olives. . . production was down, but both acreage and price were up slightly. An overabundance of olives in the marketplace (and in reserve), as well as depressed prices on a light crop year, combined to drop total the value by \$3.6 million.

Nectarines. . . slightly lower prices combined with increased acreage and a more normal yield to produce a gain of \$39.3 million over the previous year.

Peaches. . . Freestone yields reflected a normal fruit set. This, combined with slightly increased acreage, overcame a significant price drop for a gain of \$9.5 million over last year. The Cling total is essentially unchanged from 1993.

Plums. . . an increase in yield was offset by decreases in both the harvested acreage and price, resulting in an overall decrease of just under \$24 million.

Walnuts. . . although acreage increased slightly, yields and prices dropped enough to offset the acreage gain. This commodity dropped in value by almost \$20 million to \$45.8 million.

Grapes. . . after the success of the 1993 season, grapes (all utilizations) dropped somewhat. Improved prices could not overcome declines in both acreage and yields resulting in a drop to \$364.1 million. However, export markets continued to be strong for the second consecutive year, while domestic markets also showed improvement.

NURSERY PRODUCTS: \$24,176,000 - up 8.6%

APIARY PRODUCTS: \$4,636,000 - down 21.4%

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: \$277,593,000 - down 5.3%

Cattle & Calves. . . again, the number of head sold was lower and prices were also lower for an overall decrease of just over \$15.4 million.

Hogs & Pigs. . . the number of animals sold were virtually identical to last year, but the price was lower. This produced a loss of \$2.1 million when compared with the 1993 figures.

Turkeys. . . a small increase in price was not sufficient to offset the lower number of birds sold. Consequently, this category dropped by less than \$1 million.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS: \$564,401,000 - up 15%

Milk. . . prices for market milk increased slightly. This, when combined with production increases and a relatively strong manufacturing milk value, resulted in an overall increase of over \$69 million. Milk is the leading commodity (in terms of overall value) for the sixth consecutive year.

NOTE:

The values contained in this report reflect only gross figures at the time of harvest and *in no way represent actual farm profit*. The figures are strictly gross values intended for informational and trend uses by industry and governmental agencies.