

**1992 TULARE COUNTY
ANNUAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT SUMMARY**

GENERAL:

The value of all agricultural commodities produced in Tulare County for the 1992 crop year was **\$2,221,612,100**. This is an increase of more than \$343 million (or 18%) from the previous year. Most of this increase is attributable to recovering from the devastating freeze of December 1990. It must be remembered though, that not all commodities have fully recovered. Avocados and lemons, to name but two, are still feeling the effects of the freeze. Furthermore, although mother nature has brought about an end to the natural drought we've suffered through the past several years, its effects will linger until groundwater levels have returned to normal.

Nevertheless, the value of this year's production marks an all-time high for Tulare County and again underlines the importance of agriculture to our economic well-being.

FIELD CROPS: \$291,716,000 - up 3.9%

Alfalfa hay...harvested acreage dropped significantly (possibly because of the threat of water shortages). Although the price was higher, there was an overall decrease in value of \$5.3 million for this commodity.

Cotton (lint)...yields increased slightly and, although the price dropped from last year, the overall value increased \$7.3 million from 1991.

Wheat...both acreage and price were up significantly resulting in a gain of more than \$3.4 million.

SEED CROPS: \$4,115,000 - up 48%

VEGETABLE CROPS: \$47,937,000 - up 9.8%

Broccoli...acreage was up significantly, leading to an increase of \$2.3 million.

Cauliflower...both acreage and price were down, resulting in a decrease in overall return.

Cucumbers...acreage, yield, and price were all up leading to an overall increase of \$4.8 million.

Tomatoes...acreage and yield were up but price was down. Overall there was an increase of \$4.8 million in this crop.

INDUSTRIAL CROPS: \$3,996,000 - down 18.8%

Harvested board feet of timber increased but the price dropped dramatically (due primarily to the harvest of salvage timber) resulting in a lower value of \$3,426,000, 21% below last year.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS: \$1,102,776,100 - up 36.4%

Apples...with more acreage coming into production (especially of premium varieties) and yields up as well, there was an overall increase of \$7.5 million.

Avocado production, which dropped to zero after the freeze, is beginning to slowly recover. Production is still only about 1/4 of the 1990 pre-freeze level.

Oranges are rebounding from the effects of the freeze. An increase in producing acreage and yield helped oranges regain the no. 2 slot in our list of leading commodities.

Lemons have not recovered from the freeze. Acreage, yield and price were all down for an \$8.2 million loss.

Olive acreage was up slightly and production was up significantly (in fact a record year for yield) as olives rebounded from the freeze, resulting in an increase of \$39.2 million overall.

Nectarine price was down but yield and acreage were up enough to result in an increase of \$16.1 million.

Peaches...although cling varieties did okay, freestone varieties suffered a very dramatic decrease in price. Overall, peaches fell \$14.4 million.

Plums were another treefruit crop that saw a significant reduction in price. This coupled with lower yields resulted in an overall reduction of \$11.9 million.

Walnut acreage remained almost the same but yields fell sharply. Prices increased, but not enough to offset the reduced production. The overall walnut value decreased \$14.4 million.

Grapes (all uses) decreased about 1.3% but easily retained their no. 3 position on the list of leading crops.

NURSERY PRODUCTS: \$19,639,000 - down 11.1%

APIARY PRODUCTS: \$6,010,000 - up 9.5%

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: \$277,331,000 - down 2.6%

Cattle & Calves...the number of head sold and price were both up for a net gain of \$24.6 million.

Hogs & Pigs...the number sold was up but price was down for a net loss of \$1.4 million.

Turkeys suffered the largest loss in this category. Overall value dropped some \$31.1 million or a decrease of almost 81%.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS: \$468,092,000 - up 10%

The price for both market milk and manufacturing milk rose this year. Production increased as well to make this commodity the leading agricultural product in Tulare county for the fourth 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.