

# MADERA COUNTY



## AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

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"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm.  
One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery,  
and the other that heat comes from the furnace."

*Aldo Leopold, naturalist*

For centuries, pistachios have grown wild in the high desert regions of the Middle East. Considered a rare delicacy, pistachios were a favorite of the Queen of Sheba, who hoarded the entire Assyrian supply for herself and her court.

Although pistachios were imported to America in the 1880s, the birth of the California pistachio industry may be traced to 1929, when plant scientist William E. Whitehouse traveled to Persia (modern day Iran), where he would spend six months selectively gathering pistachio seeds. Whitehouse returned to California with twenty pounds of seed, and began experimental plantings the following year.

Traditionally, nut-bearing and rootstock cultivar seeds are germinated and grown in pots for fifteen months. Rootstocks are then planted in the orchard to allow trees to adapt to environmental conditions, and subsequently are grafted with nut-bearing cultivar. Pistachio trees generally grow in the orchard for five years before the first harvest, reaching peak production in twenty years. A long-term producer, pistachios have been known in the Middle East to bear for more than 100 years.

Pistachios are encased in an outer hull which, upon ripening, turns rosy and splits naturally. Harvest usually begins during the first part of September and continues for six to eight weeks. California pistachios are mechanically shaken from the tree onto a catching frame, and are then transported to be hulled, dried, and roasted.

The first commercial crop of pistachios in California was harvested in 1976, producing 1.5 million pounds of pistachios. In 1999, California production topped 187 million pounds. California produces over 95 percent of our nations pistachio crop, with Madera County having the second highest production in the state.

*Our thanks to the California Pistachio Commission for their generous contribution of the central cover picture, as well as information on the pistachio.*



# Madera County Department of Agriculture

## Weights and Measures

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**Robert J. Rolan, Agricultural Commissioner**  
**Sealer of Weights & Measures**

**David A. Robinson, Assistant**  
**Commissioner/Sealer**

William J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 1998 Agricultural Crop Report.

The 1998 growing season, shortened and subdued by severe weather conditions, challenged all involved in production agriculture. Virtually every commodity produced in Madera County was impacted, as is evident in the total production value of \$636,720,000, down 19% from the record total achieved in 1997.

During the spring, extended rainfall delayed the growth of field crops, resulting in a 32% decrease in overall production value. Cotton hit with severe production losses and declining prices fell 48% in value. Silage crops, planted in quantity where cotton had been planned, also saw declines in value.

Production of fruit and nut crops declined 29% overall. Rain, affecting bloom and pollination, resulted in almond production dropping 42% from 1997, with no accompanying rise in price. Grape production was down 25%; prices were up for raisins and table grapes, though down for crush and wine grapes.

Dairies are on the rise in the county; milk values increased 42% in a single year. Additionally, nursery acreage increased 72%, with nursery stock value topping 15 million dollars.

In the preparation of a report of this type, extensive collaboration between many individuals is required, and I sincerely appreciate the contributions of our growers and ranchers, the staff of the University of California Cooperative Extension, and industry representatives. Additionally, I would like to thank the members of our department, especially Susan Wilson and Marilyn Key, for compiling the information into its final form.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert J. Rolan  
Agricultural Commissioner

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# MADERA COUNTY

## AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



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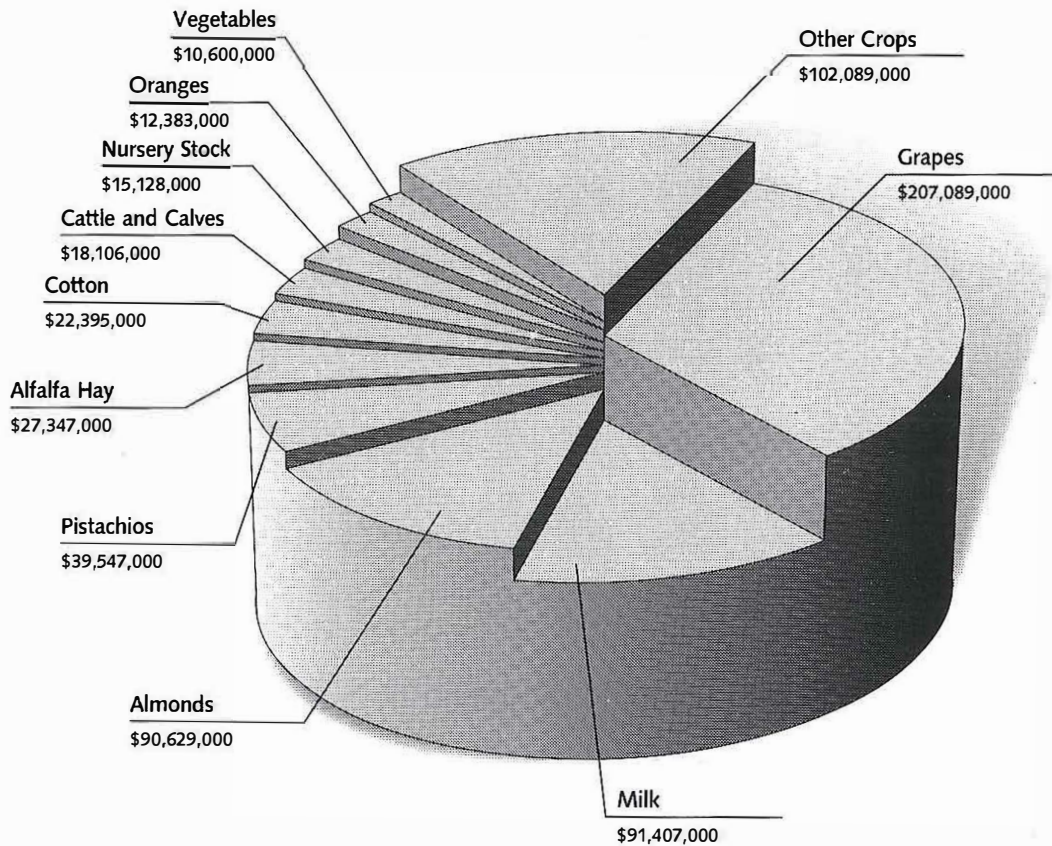
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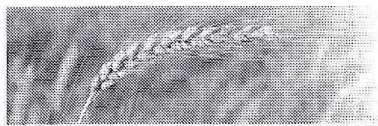
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## TEN LEADING CROPS MADERA COUNTY - 1998

COMMODITY	1998 RANK	1998 DOLLAR VALUE	1997 RANK
Grape	1	\$207,089,000	1
Milk	2	\$91,407,000	3
Almonds	3	\$90,629,000	2
Pistachios	4	\$39,547,000	4
Alfalfa Hay	5	\$27,347,000	6
Cotton	6	\$22,395,000	5
Cattle and Calves	7	\$18,106,000	8
Nursery Stock	8	\$15,128,000	—
Oranges	9	\$12,383,000	9
Vegetables	10	\$10,600,000	10





# FIELD CROPS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Barley, Irrigated	1998	1,056	1.48	1,563	Ton	\$103.00	\$ 161,000
	1997	856	1.60	1,370	Ton	\$130.00	\$ 178,000
Beans, Dry <sup>a</sup>	1998	2,100	1.33	2,793	Ton	567.00	1,584,000
	1997	2,259	1.03	2,327	Ton	560.00	1,303,000
Corn, Field	1998	8,372	4.52	37,841	Ton	101.00	3,822,000
	1997	9,743	4.20	40,921	Ton	111.00	4,542,000
Corn, Silage	1998	6,961	25.00	174,025	Ton	18.00	3,132,000
	1997	3,057	26.00	79,482	Ton	22.00	1,749,000
Silage, Other <sup>b</sup>	1998	3,870 <sup>c</sup>	11.70	111,500	Ton	20.00	2,230,000
	1997	1,950	13.40	26,130	Ton	19.00	496,000
Cotton, Lint	1998	27,130	950 <sup>d</sup>	53,695	Bale	.71 <sup>e</sup>	18,299,000
	1997	37,275	1,338	99,748	Bale	.76	37,904,000
Cotton, Seed	1998			23,403	Ton	175.00	4,096,000
	1997			41,570	Ton	176.00	7,316,000
Hay, Alfalfa	1998	37,313	6.98	260,445	Ton	105.00	27,347,000
	1997	39,356	7.40	291,234	Ton	114.00	33,201,000
Pasture, Irrigated	1998	5,500				120.00	660,000
	1997	5,000				120.00	660,000
Pasture, Other	1998	381,000				8.00	3,048,000
	1997	381,000				8.00	3,048,000
Stubble Other <sup>f</sup>	1998	14,500				14.00	203,000
	1997	14,500				14.00	203,000
Sugar Beets	1998	440	31.50	13,860	Ton	37.00	513,000
	1997	357	33.50	11,960	Ton	43.00	514,000
Wheat	1998	14,000	2.18	30,520	Ton	101.00	3,083,000
	1997	28,543	2.40	68,503	Ton	123.00	8,426,000
Misc. <sup>g</sup>	1998	3,362					674,000
	1997	6,024					2,115,000
TOTAL	1998	491,104					\$68,852,000
	1997	515,920					\$101,655,000

a/ Includes black-eyes, kidneys and limas

b/ Includes alfalfa, oat and winter forage

c/ Does not include alfalfa acreage

d/ Pounds

e/ Per pound

f/ Includes alfalfa, corn and grain

g/ Includes dryland grains, oats, rice, safflower, seed crops and sorghum





## FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Almonds <sup>a</sup>	1998	43,635	.67	29,235	Ton	\$3,100.00	\$90,629,000
	1997	42,514	1.17	49,741	Ton	\$3,100.00	\$154,197,000
Almond Hulls	1998			58,470	Ton	70.00	4,093,000
	1997			99,483	Ton	84.00	8,357,000
Apples	1998	2,726	7.78	21,208	Ton	445.00	9,437,000
	1997	3,138	9.09	28,524	Ton	605.00	17,257,000
Figs	1998	9,430	1.32	12,448	Ton	751.00	9,348,000
	1997	9,199	1.73	15,914	Ton	718.00	11,426,000
Grapes, Raisin	1998	43,898					92,905,000
	1997	43,761					126,545,000
Dried	1998	30,738	1.72	52,869	Ton	1,158.00	61,222,000
	1997	30,112	3.02	90,938	Ton	872.00	79,298,000
Crushed	1998	9,960	8.60	85,656	Ton	165.00	14,133,000
	1997	10,438	11.72	122,345	Ton	186.00	22,756,000
Fresh	1998	3,200	6.02	19,264	Ton	911.00	17,550,000
	1997	3,211	8.90	28,578	Ton	857.00	24,491,000
Grapes, Table	1998	2,544	6.65	16,918	Ton	1,005.00	17,923,000
	1997	2,577	7.90	20,358	Ton	974.00	19,829,000
Grapes, Wine <sup>b</sup>	1998	40,266					96,261,000
	1997	40,990					129,489,000
Red Varieties	1998	17,477	8.36	146,108	Ton	325.00	47,485,000
	1997	16,466	11.27	185,572	Ton	333.00	61,795,000
White Varieties	1998	22,789	10.39	236,777	Ton	206.00	48,776,000
	1997	24,524	12.16	298,212	Ton	227.00	67,694,000
Grapes Total	1998						207,089,000
	1997						275,863,000
Nectarines	1998	640	5.86	3,750	Ton	580.00	2,175,000
	1997	651	7.70	5,013	Ton	750.00	3,760,000
Olives	1998	1,160	5.48	6,357	Ton	482.00	3,064,000
	1997	1,805	4.28	7,728	Ton	692.00	5,346,000
Oranges	1998	3,931	18.00	70,758	Ton	175.00	12,383,000
	1997	4,281	15.70	67,212	Ton	212.00	14,249,000

a/ Meat basis

b/ Includes table grapes crushed





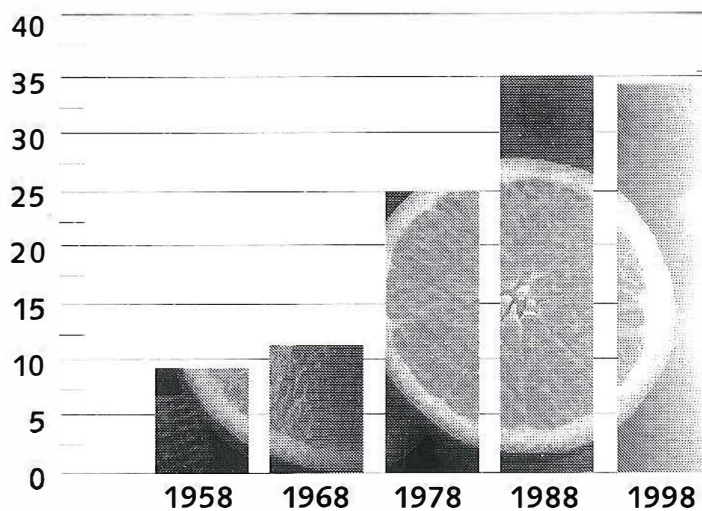
# FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION			VALUE		
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Peach, Free	1998	876	10.62	9,303	Ton	436.00	4,056,000
	1997	1,090	7.70	8,393	Ton	488.00	4,096,000
Pistachios	1998	17,854	1.00	17,854	Ton	2,215.00	39,547,000
	1997	17,517	1.25	21,896	Ton	2,550.00	55,835,000
Plums	1998	1,204	9.55	11,498	Ton	717.00	8,244,000
	1997	1,308	7.87	10,294	Ton	741.00	7,628,000
Prunes <sup>c</sup>	1998	946	2.12	2,005	Ton	917.00	1,839,000
	1997	1,293	3.60	4,655	Ton	849.00	3,952,000
Walnuts	1998	977	1.57	1,534	Ton	962.00	1,476,000
	1997	890	1.35	1,202	Ton	1,400.00	1,683,000
Misc. <sup>d</sup>	1998	1,568					7,748,000
	1997	1,680					4,324,000
TOTAL	1998	171,655					\$401,128,000
	1997	172,694					\$567,973,000

c/ Dried weight

d/ Includes apricots, cherries, kiwis, lemons, cling peaches, pears, pecans, strawberries, tangerines, tangelos, persimmons, and pomegranates

**Number of Crops Valued at One Million Dollars or More**





## APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Unit	Per Total
Honey	1998	580,800	Pound	\$ .60	\$348,000
	1997	640,320	Pound	\$ .58	\$371,000
Pollination	1998	109,500	Colony	39.80	4,358,000
	1997	114,119	Colony	42.25	4,822,000
TOTAL	1998				\$4,706,000
	1997				\$5,193,000



## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Unit	Per Total
Milk	1998	6,088,877	CWT	\$ 14.65	\$89,213,000
	1997	5,143,928	CWT	\$ 12.30	\$63,270,000
Market	1998	146,919	CWT	14.93	2,194,000
	1997	84,369	CWT	12.16	1,026,000
Milk Manufacturing	1998				2,165,000
	1997				1,959,000
Other Livestock & Poultry Products <sup>a</sup>	1998				2,165,000
	1997				1,959,000
TOTAL	1998				\$93,572,000
	1997				\$66,255,000

a/ Includes market eggs, fertilizer, hogs, sheep, lambs and wool



## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Item	Year	Head	Liveweight	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	1998	41,000	282,900	CWT	\$ 64.00	\$18,106,000
	1997	38,011	262,276	CWT	\$ 61.00	\$15,999,000
All Chickens	1998	6,376,400	32,664,000	Pound	.351	11,465,000
	1997	3,900,170	20,514,894	Pound	.307	6,298,000
Turkeys	1998	1,241,100	30,715,000	Pound	.350	10,750,000
	1997	936,271	19,183,670	Pound	.345	6,618,000
TOTAL	1998					\$40,321,000
	1997					\$28,915,000





## VEGETABLE CROPS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Per Unit	Total
Vegetables <sup>a</sup>	1998	4,816				\$10,600,000
	1997	5,151				\$12,746,000

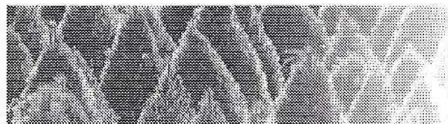
a/ Includes artichokes, all cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, garlic, all melons, onions, all peppers, potatoes, all squash, all tomatoes, and miscellaneous truck crops



## NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Field Acres	Total Value
Nursery Stock <sup>a</sup>	1998	671	\$15,128,000
	1997	390	\$ 4,541,000

a/ Includes citrus, figs, grapevines, pistachios, ornamentals and Christmas trees



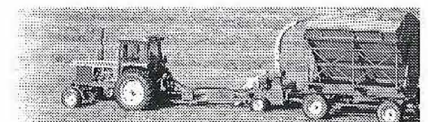
## FOREST PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Total Value
Timber	1998	9,978	MBF	\$2,413,000
	1997	5,504	MBF	\$1,225,000



## MADERA COUNTY

Total Acres in County	1,374,160
Population in County	114,300
Land in Farms - Acres	641,546
Harvested Cropland - Acres	287,246





# MADERA COUNTY ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT

## COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

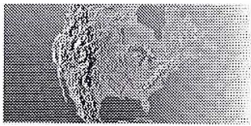
Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Program Scope
Yellow Star Thistle <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Seed Head Weevil <i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>	2 Sites
Puncture Vine <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Seed and Stem Weevil <i>Microlarunus lareynii</i> <i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i>	Countywide
Klamath Weed <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Klamath Weed Beetle <i>Chrysolina quadrugemina</i>	3 Sites
Ash Whitefly <i>Siphoninus phylllyrae</i>	Wasp <i>Encarsia nr. inaron</i>	Countywide
Russian Thistle <i>Salsola sp.</i>	Casebearer Moth <i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i>	3 sites

## COUNTY PEST ERADICATION

Pest	Agent/Mechanism	Program Scope
Pink Bollworm <i>Pectinophora gossypiella</i>	Mechanical/ Host Free Period	27,955 acres

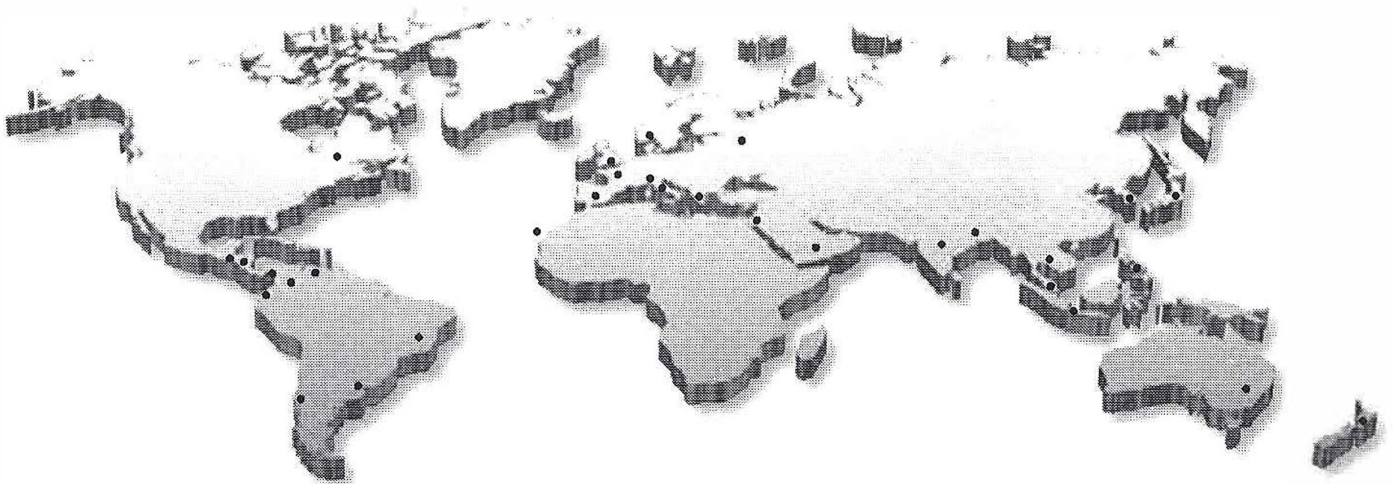
## ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

Crop	Number of Farms	Estimated Acres
Various Crops	18	1,800



## COUNTRIES RECEIVING MADERA COUNTY PRODUCE IN 1998

Argentina	Greece	Nicaragua
Austria	Guatemala	Panama
Australia	Hong Kong	Philippines
Belgium	India	Republic of Latvia
Brazil	Indonesia	Russia
Canada	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Canary Islands	Italy	Singapore
Chile	Japan	Spain
Colombia	Korea	Sweden
Costa Rica	Lebanon	Switzerland
Denmark	Macau	Taiwan
Dominica	Malaysia	Thailand
Ecuador	Mexico	Turkey
Estoria	Nepal	United Arab Emirates
France	Norway	United Kingdom
Fiji	Netherlands	Venezuela
Germany	New Zealand	



# AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT SUMMARY

Item	Year	Harvested Acreage	Total Value
Apiary	1998		\$4,706,000
	1997		\$5,193,000
Field Crops	1998	491,104	68,852,000
	1997	515,920	101,655,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	1998	171,655	401,128,000
	1997	172,694	567,973,000
Livestock and Poultry	1998		40,321,000
	1997		28,915,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	1998		93,572,000
	1997		66,255,000
Nursery	1998	671	14,128,000
	1997	390	4,541,000
Timber Products	1998	9,978 MBF	2,413,000
	1997	5,504 MBF	1,225,000
Vegetable Crops	1998	4,816	10,600,000
	1997	5,151	12,746,000
TOTAL	1998		\$636,720,000
	1997		\$788,503,000

## GROWTH OF MADERA COUNTY AGRICULTURE OVER A TWENTY YEAR SPAN

Gross Production Value (in Hundred Millions)

