

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1001 South Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93307

(661) 868-6300 FAX (661) 868-6301

E-mail: agcom15@netxn.com

Website: <http://www.kernag.com>

THEODORE K. DAVIS

Agricultural Commissioner

LOUIE I. CERVANTES

Assistant Commissioner



JACK E. MARKS

Deputy Commissioner

DAVID J. MOORE

Deputy Commissioner

1998

Mr. Bill Lyons, Secretary
California Dept of Food & Agriculture
-and-
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kern

In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I submit the Agricultural Crop Report for 1998.

The 1998 total value of agricultural commodities produced in Kern County is \$2,068,032,200. This represents a 7.7% decrease from the 1997 crop value. This is the third consecutive year Kern County has exceeded the \$2 Billion mark.

Grapes retain their prominence as the number one commodity despite a 14% decrease in value. Cotton continues to decline in value, dropping to the number four crop with a 50% loss in value. Commodities showing the largest increase were: fresh bell pepper increased 211%; tomatoes increased 74%; cantaloupe increased 70% and garlic increased 51%. Total harvested acreage was up 2%. Fruit and Nut harvested acres were up 6%. Bearing cherry acreage increased 108%. Maricopa is now the home of the largest ostrich processing plant in the Western United States. Ostrich breeding stock is exported from Kern County to many Asian Nations.

Included in the 1998 crop report is the affect on crops caused by the El Niño phenomenon. The impact was felt in many crops throughout Kern County. Partially due to El Niño, the total loss from the 1997 revised crop value is nearly \$200 million. This does not include the 1998-99 citrus freeze damage, which will be reported in the 1999 crop report.

These figures represent a **Gross** receipt of producers and do not take into account the various costs of production, marketing, or transportation. No attempt is made to reflect net income of the producer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Theodore K. Davis".

Theodore K. Davis
Agricultural Commissioner

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KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - TOP 20 CROPS

<i>COMMODITY</i>	<i>VALUE</i>	<i>1997 RANK</i>
<i>1. Grapes</i>	<i>\$427,447,000</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2. Citrus, Fresh and Processing</i>	<i>301,847,000</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>3. Almonds, Including By-Products</i>	<i>165,719,000</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>4. Cotton, Including Processed Cottonseed</i>	<i>150,775,000</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>5. Milk, Market and Manufacturing</i>	<i>147,754,000</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6. Carrots, Fresh and Processing</i>	<i>104,793,000</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7. Pistachios</i>	<i>90,940,000</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>8. Nursery Crops</i>	<i>82,636,000</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>9. Cattle and Calves</i>	<i>80,783,000</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>10. Hay, Alfalfa</i>	<i>80,392,000</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>11. Potatoes, Fresh and Processing</i>	<i>74,960,500</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12. Apples, All</i>	<i>30,754,000</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13. Onions, Fresh and Dehydrator</i>	<i>21,766,000</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>14. Wheat</i>	<i>21,084,000</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>15. Tomatoes, Fresh and Processing</i>	<i>19,270,000</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>16. Peppers, Bell Fresh</i>	<i>18,263,000</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>17. Plums</i>	<i>14,661,000</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>18. Nectarines</i>	<i>13,769,000</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>19. Garlic, Fresh and Dehydrator</i>	<i>13,709,000</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>20. Cantaloupes</i>	<i>13,519,000</i>	<i>24</i>

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - PERMANENT ACREAGE

<i>CROP</i>	<i>YEAR</i>	<i>BEARING</i>	<i>NON-BEARING</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Almonds</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>79,587</i>	<i>12,836</i>	<i>92,423</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>72,620</i>	<i>14,959</i>	<i>87,579</i>
<i>Apples</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>5,429</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>5,493</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>5,094</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>5,184</i>
<i>Apricots</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>692</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>820</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>837</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>866</i>
<i>Cherries</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>385</i>	<i>766</i>	<i>1,151</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>283</i>
<i>Figs</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>404</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>515</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>404</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>515</i>
<i>Grapefruit</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1,158</i>	<i>396</i>	<i>1,554</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>1,344</i>
<i>GRAPES, ALL</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>81,434</i>	<i>7,621</i>	<i>89,055</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>77,239</i>	<i>10,657</i>	<i>87,896</i>
<i>Raisin</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>25,609</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>26,186</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>26,408</i>	<i>837</i>	<i>27,245</i>
<i>Table</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>27,403</i>	<i>3,626</i>	<i>31,029</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>24,613</i>	<i>5,042</i>	<i>29,655</i>
<i>Wine</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>28,422</i>	<i>3,418</i>	<i>31,840</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>26,218</i>	<i>4,778</i>	<i>30,996</i>
<i>Kiwi</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>303</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>230</i>
<i>Lemons</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>3,766</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3,766</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>3,919</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>3,985</i>
<i>Nectarines</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2,156</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>2,262</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>2,399</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2,409</i>
<i>Olives</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1,154</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1,168</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>1,154</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1,168</i>

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - PERMANENT ACREAGE

CROP	YEAR	BEARING	NON-BEARING	TOTAL
ORANGES, ALL	1998	37,256	1,864	39,120
	1997	36,644	1,842	38,486
Navels	1998	27,270	1,405	28,675
	1997	27,476	1,383	28,859
Valencias	1998	9,986	459	10,445
	1997	9,168	459	9,627
Peaches	1998	2,091	308	2,399
	1997	2,862	24	2,886
Pears	1998	284	16	300
	1997	416	16	432
Pecans	1998	603	0	603
	1997	603	0	603
Persimmons	1998	81	22	103
	1997	81	22	103
Pistachios	1998	25,932	6,142	32,074
	1997	24,222	7,118	31,340
Plums	1998	2,379	105	2,484
	1997	2,904	28	2,932
Pomegranates	1998	430	0	430
	1997	438	6	444
Prunes	1998	102	220	322
	1997	102	217	319
Tangerines & Tangelos	1998	1,467	437	1,904
	1997	1,615	355	1,970
Walnuts	1998	1,461	17	1,478
	1997	1,413	46	1,459
Misc.	a/1998	99	0	99
	b/1997	310	0	310

TOTALS	1998	248,653	31,173	279,826
	1997	236,721	36,022	272,743

a/ Includes: Chestnut, Guava/Feijoa, Kumquat, Plumcot, and Quince.

b/ Includes: Chestnut, Guava/Feijoa,

Kumquat, Loquat, Plumcot and Table Grape-Raisin. 3

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT

- FRUITS & NUTS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
<i>Almonds</i>	1998	79,587	0.62	a/49,300	Ton	\$3,200.00	\$157,984,000
	1997	72,620	0.83	a/60,600	Ton	3,060.00	185,336,000
<i>Almond By-Products</i>	1998	---	---	111,000	Ton	69.70	7,735,000
	*1997	---	---	145,000	Ton	77.10	11,178,000
<i>APPLES, ALL</i>	1998	5,429	19.32	104,900	Ton	---	30,754,000
	1997	5,094	17.02	86,700	Ton	---	41,715,000
<i>Fresh</i>	1998	---	---	64,400	Ton	450.00	28,951,000
	1997	---	---	60,100	Ton	636.00	38,241,000
<i>Processing</i>	1998	---	---	40,500	Ton	44.50	1,803,000
	1997	---	---	26,600	Ton	131.00	3,474,000
<i>Apricots</i>	1998	692	3.68	2,550	Ton	1,090.00	2,774,000
	1997	837	5.14	4,300	Ton	751.00	3,228,000
<i>CITRUS, ALL</i>	1998	43,647	18.07	788,700	Ton	---	301,847,000
	1997	43,208	18.85	814,300	Ton	---	300,496,000
<i>Grapefruit</i>	1998	1,158	12.18	14,100	Ton	499.00	7,034,000
	1997	1,030	11.55	11,900	Ton	361.00	4,301,000
<i>Lemons</i>	1998	3,766	19.07	71,800	Ton	525.00	37,714,000
	1997	3,919	24.32	95,300	Ton	496.00	47,254,000
<i>Oranges, Navel</i>	1998	27,270	14.63	399,000	Ton	455.00	181,631,000
	1997	27,476	14.92	410,000	Ton	429.00	175,865,000
<i>Oranges, Valencia</i>	1998	9,986	12.22	122,000	Ton	469.00	57,244,000
	1997	9,168	13.63	125,000	Ton	436.00	54,562,000
<i>Tangerine & Tangelo</i>	1998	1,467	11.45	16,800	Ton	583.00	9,798,000
	1997	1,615	9.97	16,100	Ton	627.00	10,097,000
<i>Processing, All Citrus</i>	1998	---	---	165,000	Ton	51.10	8,426,000
	1997	---	---	156,000	Ton	54.00	8,417,000
<i>GRAPES, ALL</i>	1998	81,289	8.39	682,010	Ton	---	427,447,000
	1997	77,239	10.41	803,990	Ton	---	496,287,000
<i>Raisin Variety</i>	b/1998	25,609	7.23	185,210	Ton	---	122,210,000
	b/1997	26,408	9.23	243,870	Ton	---	149,156,000
<i>Fresh Market</i>	1998	---	---	95,600	Ton	1,100.00	105,431,000
	1997	---	---	113,000	Ton	1,100.00	123,852,000
<i>Raisins</i>	c/1998	---	---	3,150	Ton	1,290.00	4,061,000
	c/1997	---	---	6,280	Ton	925.00	5,811,000

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT

- FRUITS & NUTS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
<i>Processing</i>	1998	---	---	7,570	Ton	\$ 249.00	\$ 1,886,000
	1997	---	---	7,370	Ton	248.00	1,827,000
<i>Crushed</i>	1998	---	---	65,900	Ton	162.00	10,661,000
	1997	---	---	97,100	Ton	182.00	17,666,000
<i>Juice</i>	1998	---	---	1,040	Ton	164.00	171,000
	1997	---	---	---	Ton	---	---
<i>Table</i>	1998	27,403	8.06	220,800	Ton	---	221,308,000
<i>Variety</i>	1997	24,613	11.56	284,500	Ton	---	262,185,000
<i>Fresh</i>	1998	---	---	171,000	Ton	1,250.00	214,322,000
	1997	---	---	219,700	Ton	1,150.00	252,071,000
<i>Crushed</i>	1998	---	---	49,800	Ton	140.00	6,986,000
	1997	---	---	64,800	Ton	156.00	10,114,000
<i>Raisin</i>	1998	---	---	---	Ton	---	---
	1997	---	---	---	Ton	---	---
<i>Wine</i>	1998	28,277	9.76	276,000	Ton	---	83,929,000
<i>Variety</i>	1997	26,218	10.51	275,620	Ton	---	84,946,000
<i>Crushed</i>	1998	---	---	276,000	Ton	304.00	83,929,000
	1997	---	---	272,000	Ton	299.00	81,297,000
<i>Juice</i>	d/1998	---	---	---	Ton	---	---
	1997	---	---	3,620	Ton	1,010.00	3,649,000
<i>Kiwi</i>	1998	303	8.71	2,640	Ton	400.00	1,057,000
	1997	230	6.74	1,550	Ton	1,100.00	1,708,000
<i>Nectarines</i>	1998	2,156	5.43	11,700	Ton	1,180.00	13,769,000
	1997	2,399	4.29	10,300	Ton	960.00	9,890,000
<i>Olives</i>	1998	1,154	1.93	2,230	Ton	460.00	1,026,000
	1997	1,154	3.26	3,760	Ton	655.00	2,464,000
<i>Peaches</i>	1998	2,091	6.22	13,000	Ton	825.00	10,720,000
	1997	2,862	4.61	13,200	Ton	905.00	11,945,000
<i>Pistachios</i>	1998	25,932	1.77	e/45,900	Ton	1,980.00	90,940,000
	1997	24,222	1.47	e/35,600	Ton	2,260.00	80,526,000
<i>Plums</i>	1998	2,379	5.88	14,000	Ton	1,050.00	14,661,000
	1997	2,904	5.75	16,700	Ton	914.00	15,267,000
<i>Walnuts</i>	1998	1,461	2.05	e/2,990	Ton	964.00	2,883,000
	1997	1,413	1.44	e/2,030	Ton	1,280.00	2,604,000

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - FRUITS & NUTS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
Misc.	f/1998	3,769	---	6,920	Ton	---	\$ 9,543,000
	g/1997	2,444	---	6,380	Ton	---	6,729,000
TOTALS	1998	249,889	---	1,837,840	Ton	---	\$ 1,073,140,000
	*1997	236,626	---	2,004,410	Ton	---	1,169,373,000

*revised

a/ Almond production stated in terms of Nut Meat Equivalents.

b/ Total production includes raisins on a Fresh Equivalent basis.

c/ A combined value reflecting free tonnage and reserve tonnage.

Dry Ratio: 1997 - 4.20 to 1 1998 - 4.80 to 1

d/ Acres, total production, and total value included in Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut.

e/ Pistachio and walnut production stated in terms of In-shell Equivalents.

f/ Includes: Blueberries, Boysenberries, Cherries, Figs (Fresh and Dry), Kumquats, Ollaliberries, All Pears, Pecans,

Persimmons, Pomegranates, Prunes, Raspberries, Strawberries, Processing Apricots and Peaches, and Wine Grapes for Juice Use.

g/ Includes: Blueberries, Bushberries, Cherries, Figs (Fresh and Dry), Guava/Feijoas, Kumquats, Loquats, All Pears,

Pecans, Persimmons, Plumcots, Pomegranates, Prunes, Raspberries, Strawberries, and Table Grapes for Raisin Use.

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
Cotton	1998	16,005	8,000	Ton	a/\$285.00	\$ 2,281,000
	1997	20,840	18,200	Ton	a/226.00	4,121,000
Field	b/1998	1,656	3,250	Ton	---	726,000
	c/1997	2,656	7,560	Ton	---	1,237,000
Vegetable	d/1998	797	59	Ton	---	1,442,000
	e/1997	204	21	Ton	---	320,000
TOTALS	1998	f/2,453	11,309	Ton	---	\$4,449,000
	1997	f/2,860	25,781	Ton	---	5,678,000

a/ Includes a per acre approval.

b/ Includes: Alfalfa, Blackeyes, and Wheat.

c/ Includes: Alfalfa, Barley, Blackeyes, Triticale, and Wheat.

d/ Includes: Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Onions.

e/ Includes: Broccoli, Cabbage, Lettuce, Radish, and Onions.

f/ Does not include cotton acreage.

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
Barley	a/1998	13,824	2.01	27,800	Ton	\$ 93.20	\$ 2,592,000
	a/1997	7,820	0.75	5,860	Ton	117.00	684,000
Beans, Dry Edible	1998	6,331	1.16	7,340	Ton	591.00	4,338,000
	1997	7,081	1.35	9,570	Ton	559.00	5,348,000
Cotton Lint, Acala	1998	148,045	b/869	c/260,000	Bale	d/0.72	92,189,000
	1997	196,665	b/1,296	c/515,000	Bale	d/0.75	191,306,000
Cotton Lint, Pima	1998	45,675	b/791	c/73,000	Bale	d/0.97	34,982,000
	1997	55,730	b/1,200	c/135,000	Bale	d/1.03	68,940,000
Cottonseed, Processing	1998	---	---	124,000	Ton	190.00	23,604,000
	1997	---	---	218,000	Ton	183.00	39,839,000
Hay, Alfalfa	1998	120,000	6.98	838,000	Ton	95.90	80,392,000
	1997	95,000	7.08	673,000	Ton	123.00	82,528,000
Hay, Grain	1998	13,000	3.29	42,700	Ton	77.90	3,328,000
	1997	10,000	2.44	24,400	Ton	138.00	3,357,000
Hay, Other	1998	12,000	4.80	57,600	Ton	40.00	2,304,000
	1997	5,000	2.40	12,000	Ton	85.80	1,029,000
Pasture, Irrigated	1998	8,000	---	---	Acre	135.00	1,080,000
	1997	8,000	---	---	Acre	135.00	1,080,000
Pasture, Other	1998	---	---	---	---	---	895,000
	*1997	---	---	---	---	---	1,030,000
Pasture, Range	1998	1,973,000	---	---	Acre	5.00	9,864,000
	*1997	2,190,789	---	---	Acre	5.00	10,954,000
Safflower	1998	7,800	0.83	6,500	Ton	304.00	1,979,000
	1997	5,900	1.29	7,610	Ton	323.00	2,458,000
Silage and Forage	1998	41,000	15.56	638,000	Ton	16.80	10,728,000
	1997	30,000	17.93	538,000	Ton	17.00	9,144,000
Sugar Beets	1998	5,191	31.98	166,000	Ton	35.50	5,896,000
	1997	3,785	31.70	120,000	Ton	37.00	4,440,000
Wheat	1998	72,000	2.44	176,000	Ton	120.00	21,084,000
	1997	73,000	2.66	194,000	Ton	141.00	27,276,000
Misc.	e/1998	11,719	---	55,900	Ton	---	5,232,000
	f/1997	10,509	---	39,200	Ton	---	4,502,000
TOTALS	1998 g/	504,585	---	---	---	---	\$300,487,000
	*1997 g/	508,490	---	---	---	---	453,915,000

*revised a/ May contain dryland b/ Pounds Lint Per Acre c/ 495 Pounds Net Weight Bale d/ Price Per Pound

e/ Includes: Field Corn (Grain), Rye, Sorghum Grain, and Straw. f/ Includes: Field Corn (Grain), Sorghum Grain, and Straw. g/ Does not include Range acreage.

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
Cantaloupes	1998	2,327	16.68	38,800	Ton	\$ 348.00	\$ 13,519,000
	1997	2,283	15.64	35,700	Ton	222.00	7,941,000
Corn, Sweet	1998	454	5.59	2,540	Ton	223.00	566,000
	1997	469	5.91	2,770	Ton	217.00	602,000
Garlic, Dehydrator	1998	2,533	5.21	13,200	Ton	313.00	4,129,000
	1997	1,781	5.59	9,960	Ton	196.00	1,948,000
Garlic, Fresh	1998	945	5.51	5,200	Ton	1,840.00	9,580,000
	1997	1,141	5.68	6,480	Ton	1,100.00	7,134,000
Lettuce, Head	1998	3,208	13.34	42,780	Ton	---	11,008,000
Naked Pack		---	---	26,500	Ton	293.00	7,761,000
Wrapped Pack		---	---	4,480	Ton	274.00	1,227,000
Bulk Shredder		---	---	11,800	Ton	171.00	2,020,000
Lettuce, Head	1997	3,760	19.51	73,360	Ton	---	17,438,000
Naked Pack		---	---	59,000	Ton	243.00	14,331,000
Wrapped Pack		---	---	4,260	Ton	308.00	1,311,000
Bulk Shredder		---	---	10,100	Ton	178.00	1,796,000
Melons, Other	1998	952	12.82	12,200	Ton	258.00	3,151,000
	1997	1,000	15.30	15,300	Ton	224.00	3,422,000
Onions, Fresh	1998	1,634	25.70	42,000	Ton	239.00	10,049,000
	1997	1,621	27.58	44,700	Ton	244.00	10,905,000
Onions, Dehydrator	1998	8,715	16.87	147,000	Ton	79.70	11,717,000
	1997	7,867	19.19	151,000	Ton	76.80	11,600,000
Peppers, Bell	1998	2,415	12.63	30,500	Ton	599.00	18,263,000
	1997	1,511	16.90	25,500	Ton	230.00	5,867,000

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT

- VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
POTATOES, ALL	1998 *1997	23,307 19,757	16.93 20.68	394,590 408,580	Ton Ton	--- ---	\$ 74,960,500 64,932,000
Spring Total	1998 *1997	19,380 17,698	17.83 21.60	345,600 382,200	Ton Ton	--- ---	58,977,000 57,138,000
Fresh Market	1998 *1997	--- ---	--- ---	211,000 240,800	Ton Ton	\$225.00 193.00	47,521,000 46,426,000
Processing	1998 *1997	--- ---	--- ---	81,800 81,200	Ton Ton	136.00 127.00	11,087,000 10,291,000
Culls	1998 1997	--- ---	--- ---	52,800 60,200	Ton Ton	7.00 7.00	369,000 421,000
Winter Total	1998 1997	3,927 2,059	12.48 12.81	48,990 26,380	Ton Ton	--- ---	15,983,500 7,794,000
Fresh Market	1998 1997	--- ---	--- ---	39,200 21,100	Ton Ton	406.00 368.00	15,915,000 7,757,000
Culls	1998 1997	--- ---	--- ---	9,790 5,280	Ton Ton	7.00 7.00	68,500 37,000
Tomatoes, Fresh	1998 a/1997	2,340 ---	12.86 ---	30,100 ---	Ton Ton	472.00 ---	14,204,000 ---
Tomatoes, Processing	1998 1997	2,700 2,324	34.33 39.59	92,700 92,000	Ton Ton	54.60 51.00	5,066,000 4,694,000
Watermelons, Seeded	1998 1997	1,508 2,023	22.15 21.60	33,400 43,700	Ton Ton	95.70 106.00	3,198,000 4,647,000
Watermelons, Seedless	1998 1997	1,691 1,712	25.60 30.26	43,300 51,800	Ton Ton	134.00 199.00	5,814,000 10,308,000
Misc.	b/1998 *c/1997	47,989 48,169	--- ---	1,303,000 1,414,300	Ton Ton	--- ---	140,352,000 135,078,000
TOTALS	1998 *1997	102,718 95,418	--- ---	2,231,310 2,375,150	Ton Ton	--- ---	\$325,576,500 286,516,000

*revised

a/ 1997 Fresh Tomatoes included in Miscellaneous Vegetables.

b/ Includes: Artichokes, Asparagus, Beans (Snap), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cactus, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Gai Lon, Leaf Lettuce, Leeks, Lima Beans, Mixed Greens, Mushrooms, Okra, Onions (Green), Parsley, Peas, Peppers (Chili and Processing), Pumpkins, Radishes, Red Beets, Romaine Lettuce, Spinach, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Turnips, and Yams.

c/ Includes: Asparagus, Beans (Snap), Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Eggplant, Herbs (Spice), Leaf Lettuce, Lima Beans, Mixed Greens, Mushrooms, Napa Cabbage, Okra, Onions (Green), Parsley, Peas, Pea Sprouts, Peppers (Chili and Processing), Pumpkins, Radishes, Red Beets, Romaine Lettuce, Rutabagas, Spinach, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes (Fresh), and Turnips.

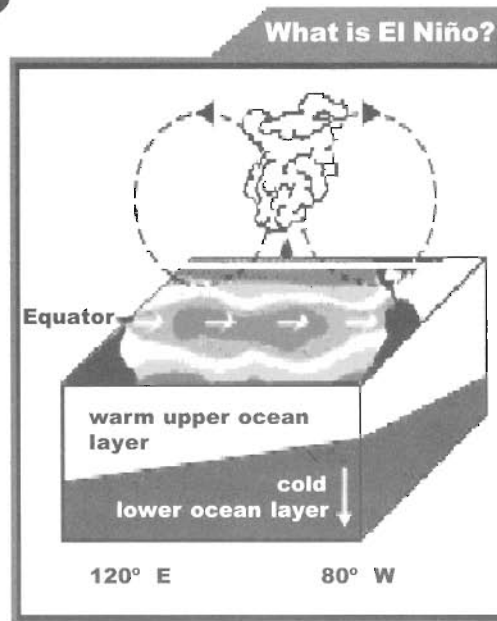
el niño returns

What is an El Niño?

An El Niño is a temporary change in the climate of the Pacific Ocean, in the region around the equator. Its effects will be seen in both the ocean and atmosphere, generally in the Northern Hemisphere winter. Simply put, El Niño is a vast swath of warm water - the current stretch is about one and a half times the size of the continental United States - that appears off Peru every two to seven years.

Most of the time, this bathtub-temperature water remains in the western Pacific held by westbound trade winds, but sometimes the winds slacken or even move in the opposite direction. When this happens, the piled up water sloshes back across the Pacific to the South American Coast. The warmer ocean then affects the winds, making them weaker! So as the winds get weaker the ocean gets warmer; which makes the winds get weaker, which makes the ocean get warmer...which makes El Niño grow. The warm water provides the thermal energy to expedite evaporation, hence cloud formation and storms. The extra heat within the water acts like wood tossed on a fire, creating more, and bigger, storms. Raging with the heat trapped in its waters, El Niño sends debilitating storms to the California coast, droughts in Australia and cool, wet winters to Gulf Coast states.

Because of the high economic stakes and public awareness, the El Niño of 1997- 1998 will be the most closely scrutinized in history. Timing has a great deal to do with the impact of rainfall on California. The winter season of 1997 - 1998 was one of the wettest on record across California, with typically double the normal amount of rainfall and about \$550 million in flood and storm damage statewide. However, the season previous, with only normal rainfall, had over triple the damage, at \$1.8 billion. This discrepancy appears to be best explained by timing of storms within the season and not the total seasonal rainfall. The following chart shows estimated statewide damage caused by storms and flooding in California since 1949. This data was compiled by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.



el niño returns

Ten Costliest Storms in California

Season	Type of Storm	Date(s)	Damage (\$ Billions)*
1994-95	Neither	January & March 1995	\$1.95
1996-97	Neither	December 1996 - January 1997	\$1.88
1982-83	El Niño	December 1982 - March 1983	\$1.44
1968-69	El Niño	Nov-Dec 1968/ Jan-Mar 1969	\$1.34
1955-56	Neither	December 19 - 27, 1955	\$1.20
1964-65	La Niña	December 19 - 24, 1964	\$1.13
1979-80	Neither	January - March 1980	\$0.71
1992-93	Neither	December 29, 1992/ January 5 - 19, 1993	\$0.68
1985-86	Neither	February 11 - 20, 1986	\$0.61
1997-98	El Niño	December 1997 - April 1998	\$0.55

* Damage is calculated in 1998 Dollars

El Niño and Our Agriculture

The impacts of the 1997 - 1998 El Niño storms held off until January 1998. Precipitation records were broken all over the state and 42 of California's 58 counties, including Kern, were declared major disaster areas.

Despite the blossoming of almonds and cherries, bees were hiding in hives rather than pollinating. The cherry crop suffered in quantity and quality due to rain during bloom, ripening, and harvest. Almonds, walnuts, and pistachios were slow to develop. Stone fruit suffered brown rot. Bunch rot became a concern in table grapes. Fungal problems abounded in orchards and vineyards. Stone fruit trees suffered damaged roots as they stood in totally saturated soil. Romaine lettuce shortages frustrated grocers and restaurateurs. Many planted cotton fields were later plowed under for failure to thrive. Standing water delayed spring planting of tomatoes and field crops. Inaccessibility hindered or prevented normal cultural activities. Alfalfa was made moldy by rain. The land remained wet for the first half of 1998 resulting in delayed planting, damaged produce, and high supermarket prices for California fruits and vegetables.

The precipitation total, as a percentage of normal, in Bakersfield was 247%. Kern County's Disaster Report for the month of February showed significant damage in Potatoes, Almonds, Onions, Alfalfa, Carrots, Lettuce, Sugar Beets, Wheat, Corn Silage, Peaches, and Oats, totaling over \$5.1 million and a loss of nearly 3,000 acres. Cattle, Dairy Cows and Calves, Apiary, Farm Structures, Machinery and Equipment, and Land Damages added another \$300,000 in damages to report. Kern County's Cherry crop was hit hard with nearly \$4 million in losses from 77% of Bearing Acres lost due to rain damage. 11

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT

- NURSERY CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
Christmas Trees	1998	---	4,970	Tree	---	\$ 106,000
	1997	---	5,800	Tree	---	123,000
Fruit and Nut Trees, Vines	a/1998	524	14,539,000	Plant	---	35,956,000
	a/1997	503	52,648,000	Plant	---	39,813,000
Herbaceous Plants	1998	---	---	---	---	1,606,000
	1997	---	---	---	---	1,504,000
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	a/1998	20	42,100	Plant	---	309,000
	a/1997	20	266,000	Plant	---	447,000
Propagative Material	1998	---	---	---	---	674,000
	1997	---	---	---	---	1,020,000
Roses	1998	1,678	29,953,000	Plant	\$1.23	36,697,000
	1997	1,522	22,179,000	Plant	1.35	30,007,000
Turf	1998	804	35,035,000	Sq Ft	0.21	7,288,000
	1997	840	36,595,000	Sq Ft	0.18	6,715,000
TOTALS	1998	3,026	---	---	---	\$82,636,000
	1997	2,885	---	---	---	79,629,000

a/ Includes container grown plants.

INDUSTRIAL AND WOOD CROPS - 1998

CROP	YEAR	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
Biomass and Composting	1998	558,000	Ton	---	\$7,718,000
	*1997	480,000	Ton	---	7,790,000
Timber	a/1998	1,662,000	Brd Ft	---	354,000
	a/1997	3,707,000	Brd Ft	---	1,633,000
Wood for Fuel	1998	1,816	Cords	b/\$24.60	44,700
	1997	1,650	Cords	b/26.10	43,000
TOTALS	1998	---	---	---	\$8,116,700
	*1997	---	---	---	9,466,000

*revised

a/ Previous year's production and value based on information provided by: Timber Tax Division, Property Tax Department, State Board of Equalization.

b/ Price includes U.S. Forest Service Permits for woodcutting.

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

KIND	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
<i>Cattle and Calves</i>	1998	359,000	1,219,000	Cwt	\$66.30	\$80,783,000
	1997	346,000	1,119,000	Cwt	68.70	76,831,000
<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	1998	125,500	154,000	Cwt	79.30	12,213,000
	*1997	147,000	164,000	Cwt	86.00	14,107,000
<i>Hogs</i>	1998	3,017	6,640	Cwt	34.00	226,000
	1997	2,730	6,000	Cwt	54.80	329,000
<i>Fryers and Roasters</i>	1998	254,000	1,399,000	Lb	0.47	657,000
	1997	564,000	3,003,000	Lb	0.45	1,346,000
<i>Ostriches</i>	1998	6,024	---	---	---	1,512,000
	1997	5,860	---	---	---	1,810,000
<i>Misc.</i>	a/1998	---	---	---	---	91,000
	a/1997	---	---	---	---	121,000
TOTALS	1998	---	---	---	---	\$95,482,000
	1997	---	---	---	---	94,544,000

*Revised

a/ Includes Game Birds for Meat and Other.

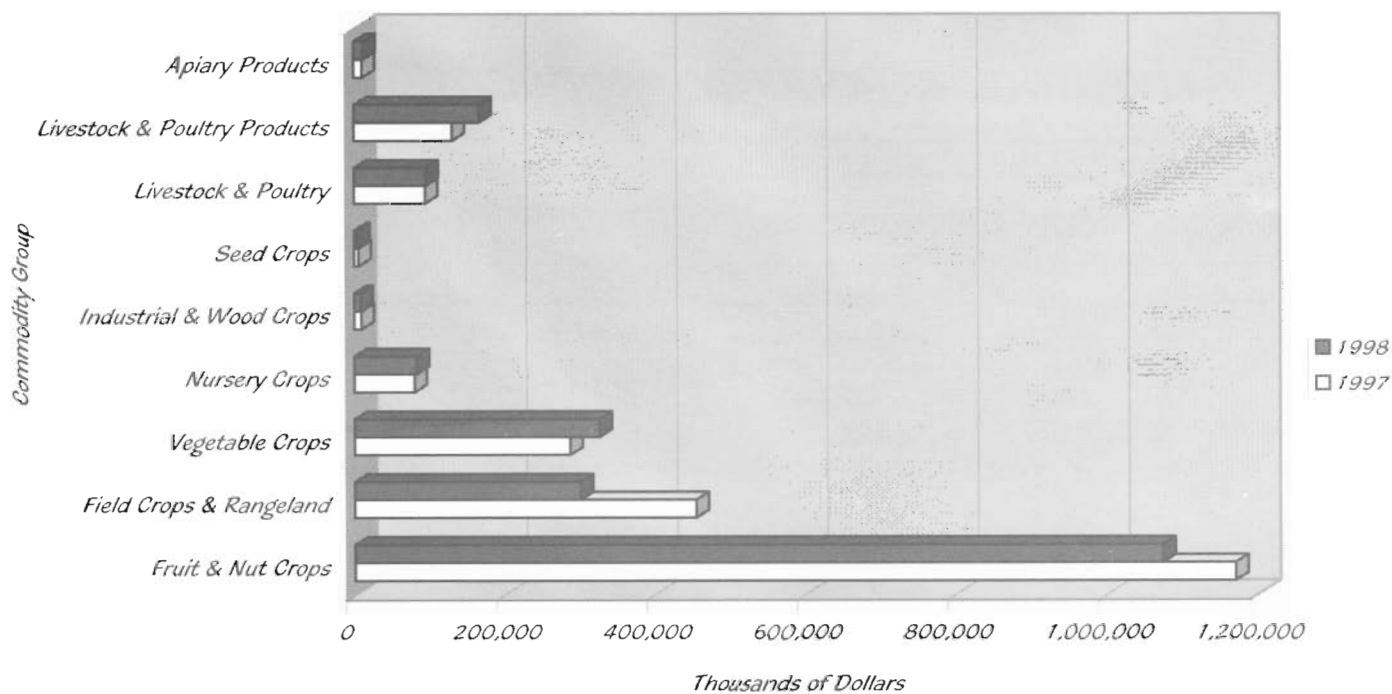
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS - 1998

PRODUCT	YEAR	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
<i>Milk, Market</i>	1998	9,818,000	Cwt	\$15.00	\$147,473,000
	1997	9,005,000	Cwt	12.50	112,830,000
<i>Milk, Manufacturing</i>	1998	22,700	Cwt	12.40	281,000
	1997	---	Cwt	---	---
<i>Manure</i>	1998	382,000	Ton	---	1,969,000
	1997	234,000	Ton	---	1,115,000
<i>Wool</i>	1998	1,431,000	Lb	0.70	1,002,000
	1997	1,555,000	Lb	0.80	1,244,000
<i>Other Livestock Products</i>	1998	---	---	---	15,465,000
	1997	---	---	---	15,305,000
TOTALS	1998	---	---	---	\$166,190,000
	1997	---	---	---	130,494,000

KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - APIARY PRODUCTS

PRODUCT	YEAR	TOTAL PRODUCTION	UNIT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
Honey	1998	5,460,000	Lb	\$ 0.62	\$ 3,385,000
	1997	4,861,000	Lb	0.72	3,500,000
Beeswax	1998	682,000	Lb	1.45	990,000
	1997	608,000	Lb	1.65	1,003,000
Pollination	1998	184,000	Colony	39.70	7,297,000
	1997	168,000	Colony	37.20	6,244,000
Other Apiary Products	1998	---	---	---	283,000
	1997	---	---	---	197,000
TOTALS	1998	---	---	---	\$11,955,000
	1997	---	---	---	10,944,000

*Kern County Value Comparison by Commodity Group
1997 - 1998*

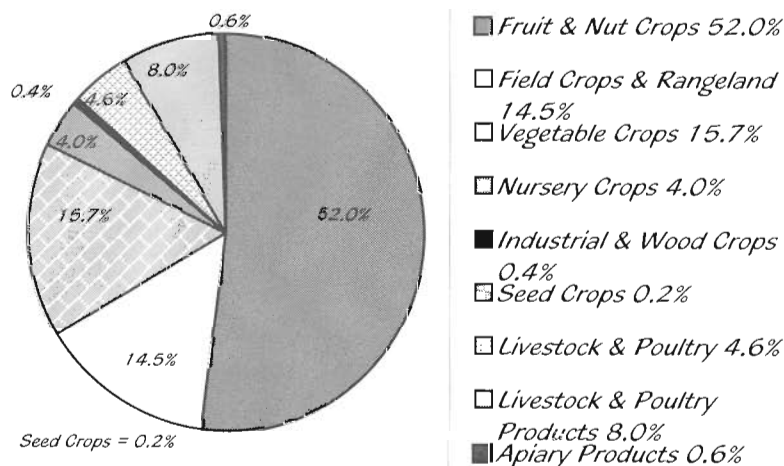


KERN COUNTY 1998 CROP REPORT - SUMMARY

COMMODITY	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	RANGE	TOTAL VALUE
Fruit and Nut Crops	1998	249,889	---	\$ 1,073,140,000
	*1997	236,626	---	1,169,373,000
Field Crops and Rangeland	1998	504,585	1,973,000	300,487,000
	*1997	508,490	2,190,789	453,915,000
Vegetable Crops	1998	102,718	---	325,576,500
	*1997	95,418	---	286,516,000
Nursery Crops	1998	3,026	---	82,636,000
	1997	2,885	---	79,629,000
Industrial and Wood Crops	1998	---	---	8,116,700
	*1997	---	---	9,466,000
Seed Crops	1998	2,453	---	4,449,000
	1997	2,860	---	5,678,000
Livestock and Poultry	1998	---	---	95,482,000
	*1997	---	---	94,544,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	1998	---	---	166,190,000
	1997	---	---	130,494,000
Apiary Products	1998	---	---	11,955,000
	1997	---	---	10,944,000
TOTALS	1998	862,671	1,973,000	\$2,068,032,200
	*1997	846,279	2,190,789	2,240,559,000
Total value without timber	1998			\$2,067,678,200
	*1997			2,238,926,000

*Revised

1998 Crop Value Summary

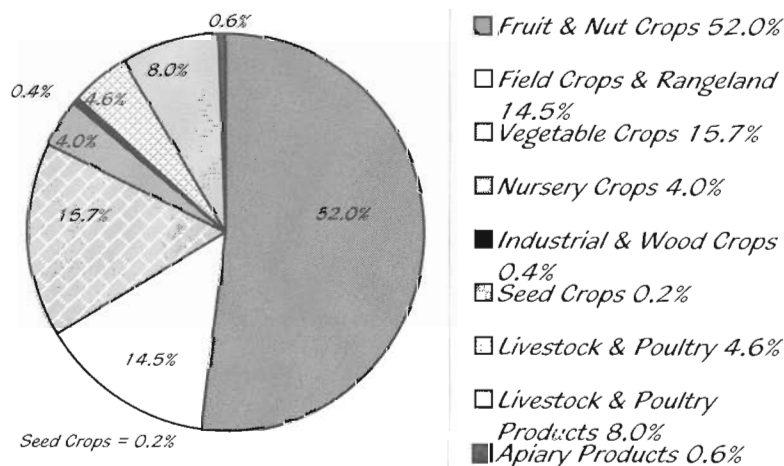


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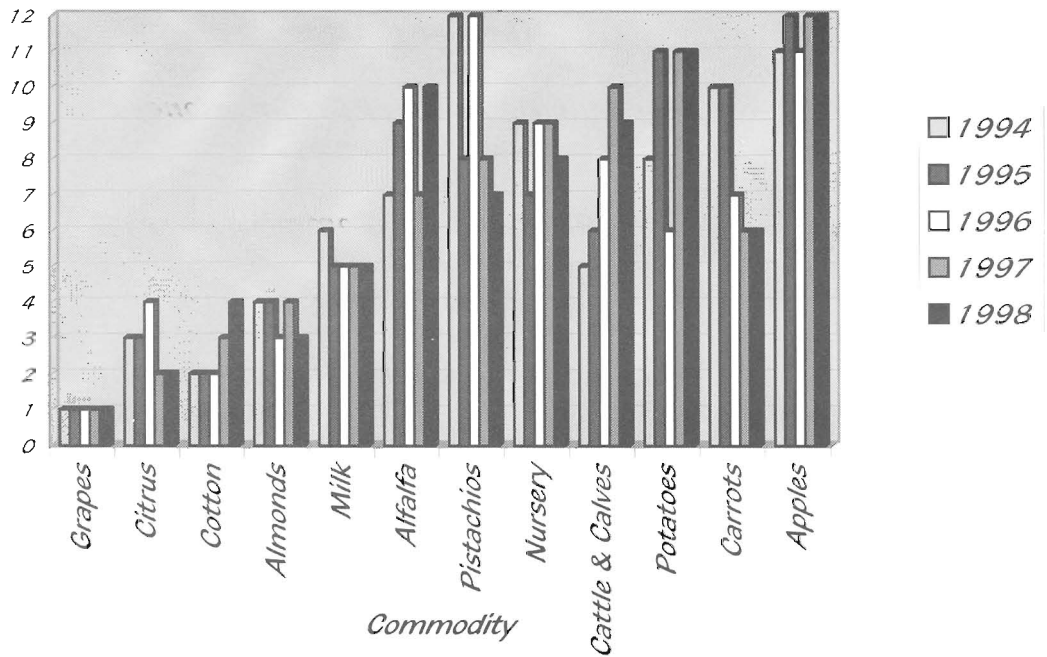
*Revised

1998 Crop Value Summary

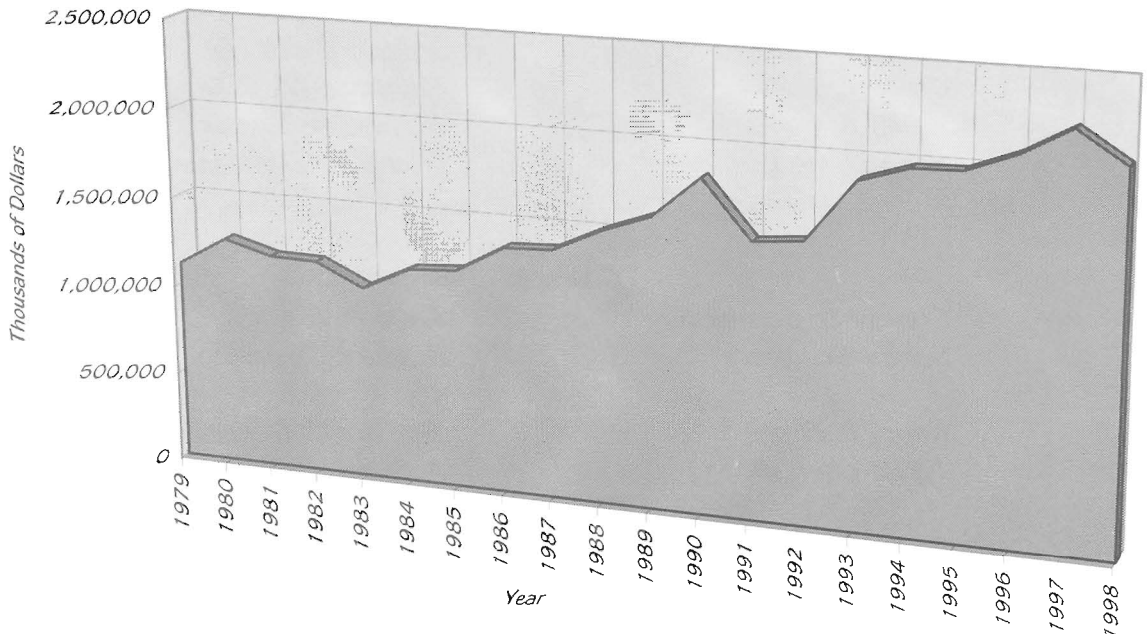


Five Year History Top 12 Commodities

*Ranking by
Dollar Value*



Kern County Total Crop Value A 20 Year Comparison from 1979 - 1998



Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Personnel - 1998

Agricultural Commissioner
Theodore K. Davis

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Louie I. Cervantes

Deputy Agricultural Commissioners
Jack E. Marks
David J. Moore

Supervising Agricultural Biologists

Steven H. Groves, Shafter/Wasco

Barry H. Marlett, Tehachapi

Matthew R. Peet, Pest Exclusion/Detection

Richard L. White, Fruit & Vegetable

Douglas I. Roye, Mettler

Samuel A. Vorhees, Delano/McFarland

Steven G. Watson, Arvin/Lamont

Robert L. Wegis, Pesticide Enforcement

Agricultural Biologists

Irene M. Acosta

Lanette M. Bankston

James A. Brackeen

Jacquelyn K. Bressler

Craig Foy

Edward W. Greynolds

Darin B. Heard

Nancy J. Holland

Craig Hudson

Alpha A. Kamara

Kenneth W. Kenney

Myron K. Kimmel

Gary A. Klawitter

Marilou S. Lagasca

Cortney Lapp

Cerise K. Montanio

G. Duane Orullian

Mark R. Sabin

Joseph V. Sithole

Raymond M. Valles

M. Sharon Wilbur

Michael R. Williams

Clerical

Sharon S. Cornelison

Senior Secretary

Kathryn F. Miller

Account Clerk IV

Nancy L. Finzel

Typist Clerk III

Barbara C. Dullum

Account Clerk III

Barbara McMillian

Data Entry Operator II

Elizabeth A. Hall

Account Clerk II

Crop Report compiled by:

Cerise K. Montanio

Agricultural Biologist II

Mark R. Sabin

Agricultural Biologist III