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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures
1994 Annual Report
focus on
Agricultural Exports

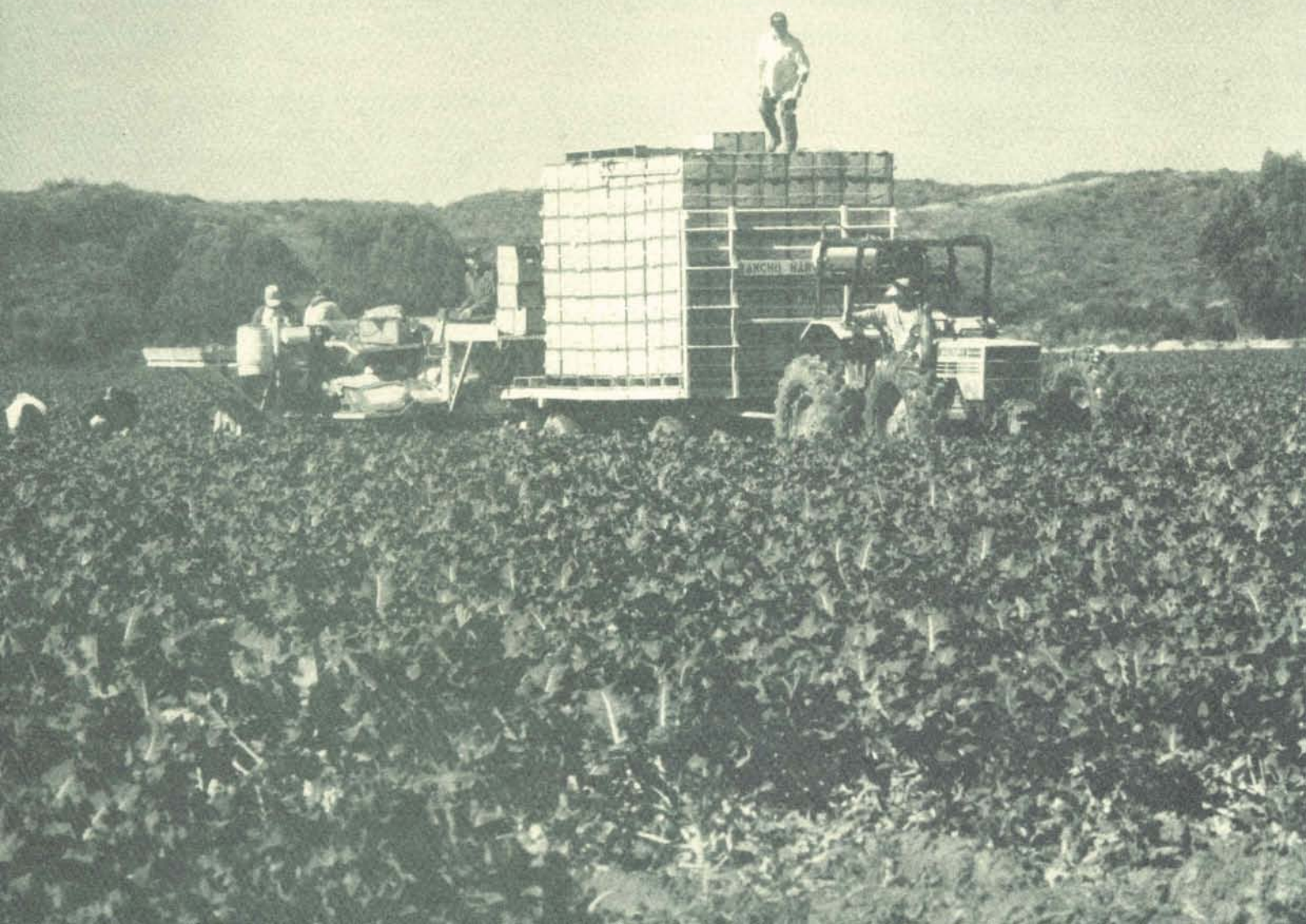


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San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures

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Christine Linne		Gail Perez

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Jim Parks		Jenny Weaver

Student Interns

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Calendar Year Contributions 1994

John Gorman	Jody Olson
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Photos for the 1994 Annual Report by Richard Little
Project Coordinator: Robert Hopkins, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, San Luis Obispo County
Designed and Printed by The Prynters



Printed on Recycled Paper



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

2156 SIERRA WAY, SUITE A • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93401

RICHARD D. GREEK
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

(805) 781-5910

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TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

Mr. Harry Ovitt, District 1

Mr. Laurence L. Laurent, District 2

Ms. Evelyn Delany, District 3

Ms. Ruth Brackett, District 4

Mr. David Blakely, Chairman District 5 and

Mr. Robert Hendrix, San Luis Obispo County Administrative Officer

Ms. Ann M. Veneman, Secretary California Department of Food and Agriculture

We are pleased to publish our 1994 Crop Report for San Luis Obispo County. Agricultural commodities sold are estimated at \$299,215,000 in gross receipts, an all time record. These figures represent the total farmgate value of the local industry and do not reflect the net income of agricultural operations.

These receipts generate substantial economic activity, through the multiplier affect, with an estimated 900 million to a billion dollars in local agribusiness related commerce. Businesses involved in the financing, production, processing and marketing of agricultural products as well as the agricultural employment sector make up this important portion of the local economy.

Recent changes in global trade and commerce have opened up the world to California and San Luis Obispo County agricultural products. We salute the agricultural enterprises which are making substantial contributions to the local economy through agricultural exports.

We extend our gratitude to all sectors of the agricultural community for their cooperation in providing production and value information. Also a special thanks to the many individuals who provided support for this year's report.

Sincerely,

Richard Greek

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to serve the public's interests with a cooperative spirit. We are responsible for insuring equity in the market place, promoting and protecting agriculture, environmental quality and the health and welfare of San Luis Obispo County's citizens. We fulfill our mission through our six program areas.

Pest Prevention

Pest Prevention protects local agriculture from exotic pests, such as Medfly. We inspect incoming shipments daily at our post offices, shipping companies, airports and nurseries. In case a destructive pest slips past our inspection safety net, we have up to 27 insect traps per square mile in our urban areas. These traps and other detection activities provide for the early detection and eradication of exotic pests.

1994 Highlights

- Twenty-two serious pests intercepted
- Certified 2070 shipments for foreign export

Environmental Protection

We protect the public's health and safety and the environment with a comprehensive pesticide regulatory program. We do this through user education, protection of agricultural workers, samples of pesticide residues, monitoring use and enforcement. Pesticide use is monitored through a detailed permit process and a tracking system for non-restricted materials. Farmers register hazardous materials storage locations with our office.

1994 Highlights

- Conducted 1888 use enforcement inspections.
- Overall program compliance rate of 98%.
- Conducted 22 industry and general public educational workshops.

Product Quality

Our product quality program aims to ensure the highest quality of produce, eggs, honey and nursery products. We certify the 15 local Farmer's Markets and producers for products being sold directly to the consumers and make frequent inspections to guarantee quality of produce sold.

1994 Highlights

- Certified 206 producers for direct marketing

Pest Management

We continue to prepare residents for the Africanized Honey Bee's arrival. Through excellent media coverage, we have been able to focus our educational outreach on children and emergency responders. The bio-control program continues to expand, improving our management of insect and weed pests. Endangered species habitat maps and a species protection guidelines for rodenticide use continue to be refined with input from the agricultural community.

1994 Highlights

- Expansion of yellow starthistle biocontrol program.
- 77 presentations of Africanized Bee Safety Program to 4,000 people. Emergency responders are trained to respond to AHB incidents.

Agricultural Resources

Agricultural resource protection is the goal of this multi-faceted program. We participate in the land use planning process, protecting agricultural land from conversion and from residential land use conflicts. We protect agricultural operators from nuisance complaints using the Right-To-Farm Ordinance. We assist state and local agencies in nuclear power emergency planning and are able to provide vital agricultural land use information in the event of an accident at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

1994 Highlights

- Mapped 2200 plots of agricultural land.

Measurement Standards

Fairness is our business. The groceries, gasoline and other items you buy are tested for correct weight, measure or count. We protect the public from purchasing goods that are "short" weight or measure and verify that prices are correctly scanned at the checkout counter.

1994 Highlights

- Implemented a price verification program dealing with scanners for all types of businesses.

PLANS FOR 1995

The department will be finalizing the implementation of cooperative effort with retail businesses to reduce pricing errors. Retail business employees are empowered and rewarded for detecting pricing errors reducing the need for enforcement. Building on successful public education about Africanized Honey Bees, we will be modifying local ordinances to deal with the inevitable movement of AHB into the county. In the area of environmental protection, efforts are underway to assess how the Federal Clean Water Act will affect agriculture when the new "non-point source pollution prevention" program is implemented in California.

1994 AT A GLANCE

Top Twenty Value Crops

Wine Grapes	\$32,287,000
Lettuce, Head	32,283,000
Broccoli (All)	29,561,000
Cattle & Calves	28,859,000
Vegetable Transplants	12,068,000
Peas, Edible Pod	11,302,000
Celery	11,247,000
Strawberries	9,898,000
Indoor Decoratives	9,708,000
Carrots	8,256,000
Cauliflower	8,098,000
Cut Flowers (Field)	7,700,000
Apples	7,389,000
Oriental Vegetables	7,310,000
Lettuce, Leaf	6,675,000
Cut Flowers (Greenhouse)	6,406,000
Bell Peppers	6,298,000
Rangeland	6,180,000
Avocados	6,161,000
Bedding Plants, Sod & Groundcover	5,251,000

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1993-1994

REVENUE

General Funds	42%	\$1,010,203
State Funds	36%	\$844,223
Collected Fees	13%	\$317,436
Overhead	9%	\$217,504

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	76%	\$1,808,159
Service and Supplies	12%	\$280,765
Overhead	9%	\$217,504
Equipment	3%	\$82,938

TOTAL ACREAGE:

1994 - 1,240,881

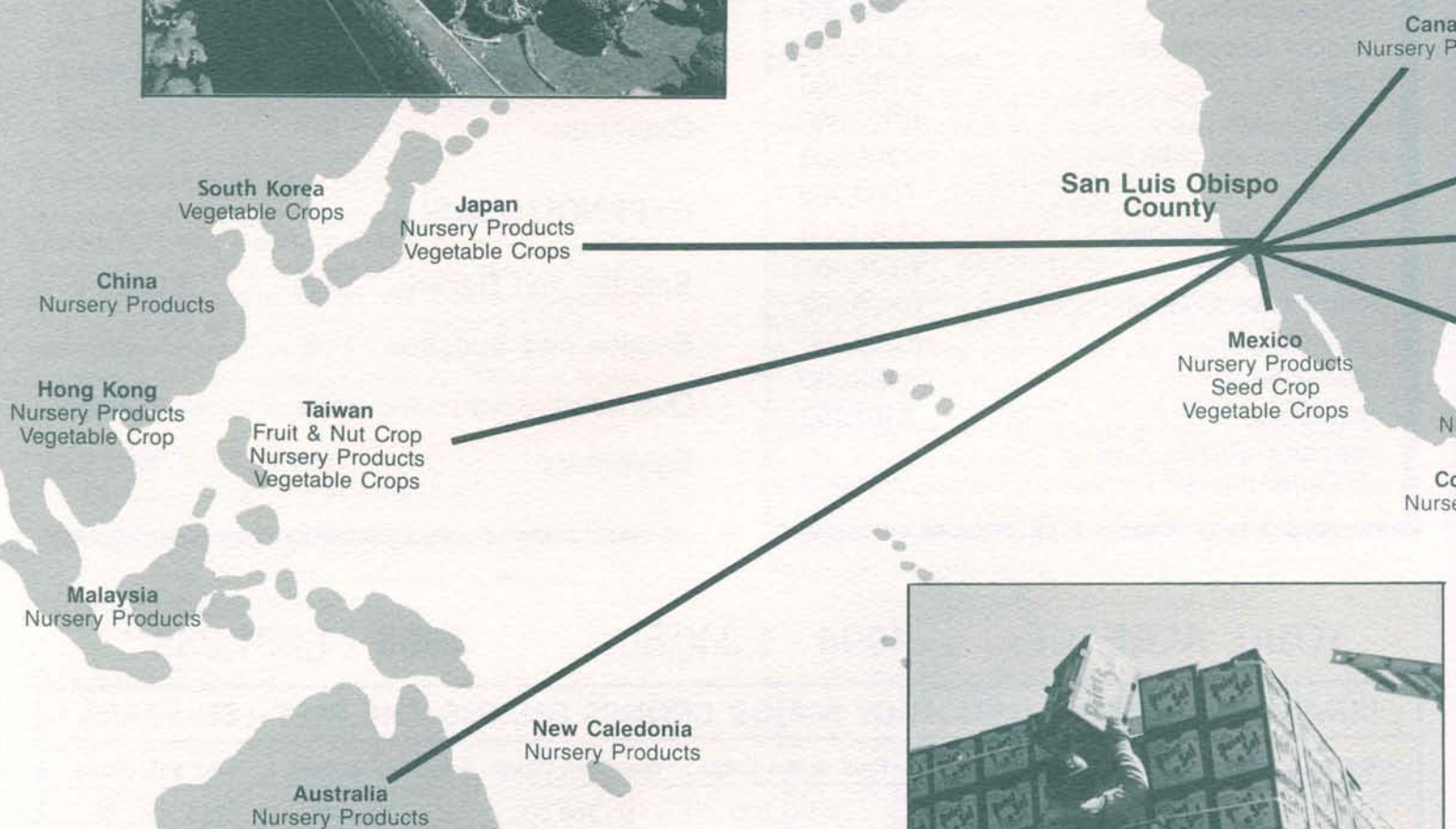
1993 - 1,231,285**

COMPARISON OF VALUATION OF MAJOR GROUPS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year	Animal Industry	Field Crops	Fruit & Nut Crops	Vegetable Crops	Nursery & Seed	Total Valuations
1985	59,336,600	28,244,600	23,191,500	90,268,000	14,673,400	215,704,100
1986	54,024,000	28,367,000	23,740,000	114,314,000	12,148,000	232,593,000
1987	59,770,000	24,323,000	27,126,000	118,449,000	18,143,000	247,811,000
1988	55,415,000	30,240,000	41,122,000	117,448,000	22,635,000	266,860,000
1989	30,875,000	25,370,000	59,946,000	137,859,000	26,645,000	280,695,000
1990	30,276,000	17,666,000	53,541,000	135,349,000	35,657,000	272,489,000
1991	26,440,000	16,989,000	54,746,000	126,352,000	36,070,000	260,597,000
1992	**28,419,000	18,575,000	**56,619,000	**136,324,000	37,749,000	**277,686,000
1993	**33,102,000	20,666,000	**60,353,000	137,316,000	39,783,000	291,220,000
1994	31,431,000	21,020,000	65,720,000	135,527,000	45,517,000	299,215,000

**Revised

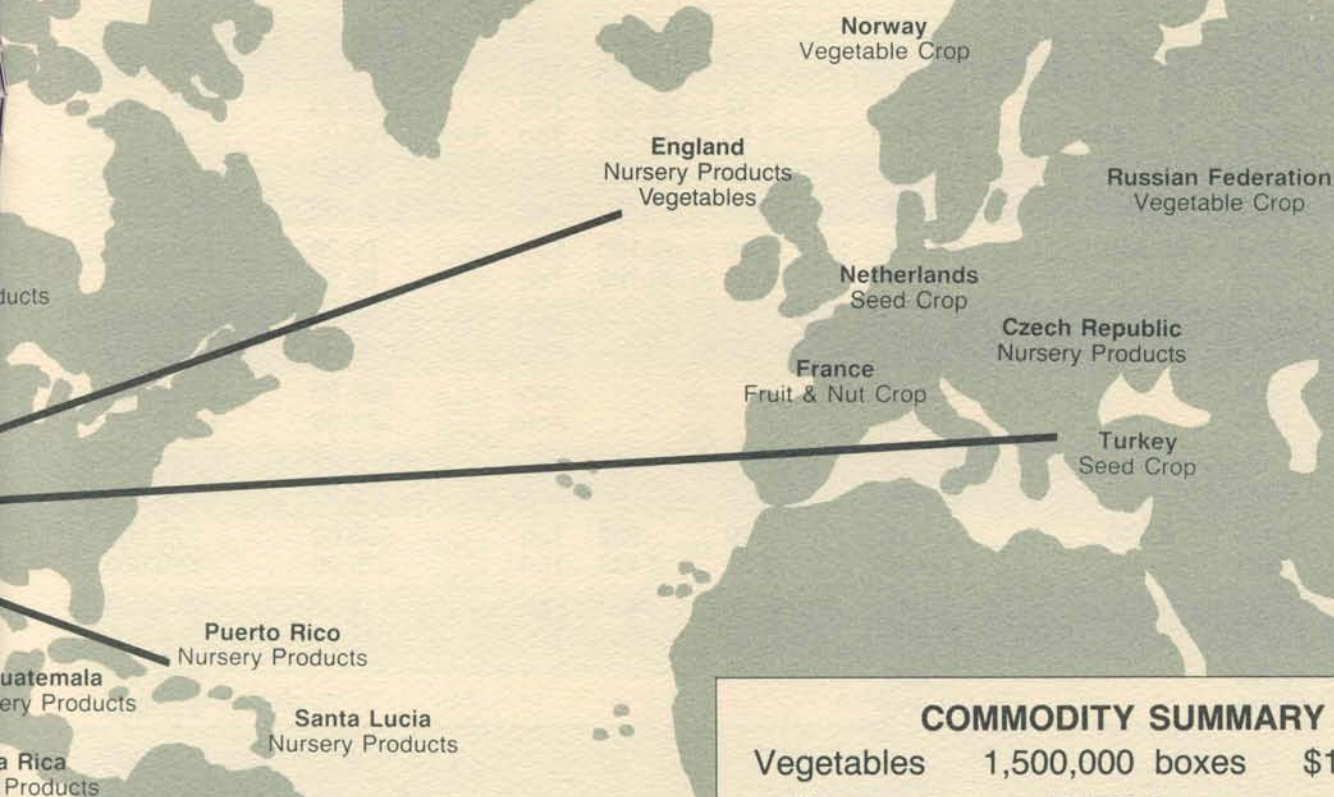
AGRICULTURAL COM



TOP FIVE COMMODITIES

Broccoli	\$9,376,000
Apples	772,800
Orchids	681,200
Ornamental Transplants	288,000
Lettuce	284,300

MODITY EXPORTS



COMMODITY SUMMARY

Vegetables	1,500,000	boxes	\$12,070,430
Nursery	7,400	boxes	\$1,130,490
	4,750,000	plants	
Fruit & Nut	1,530,000	lbs.	\$703,170
Seed	14,200	lbs.	\$16,250

Export Summary Information

California

In 1993* California set an all time agricultural export record of \$10.4 billion. Japan and Canada account for over 50% of all exports with 28% and 23% respectively. Beef Cattle was the single largest California export commodity, with over \$1 billion.

San Luis Obispo County

Total 1994 estimated foreign export was \$12,070,430.

27 different commodities were shipped to 21 different countries.

Japan was the leading importing country with over \$9,000,000 worth. Japan, Taiwan, Mexico and Canada accounted for about 95% of all exports.

*1994 information was unavailable at time of printing.

FIELD CROPS



Generally prices for grain and hay crops improved compared to 1993. Overall value was up slightly with generally lower yields counteracting price gains.

ACREAGE			PRODUCTION			VALUE		
CROP	YEAR	PLANTED	HARVESTED	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa Hay	1994		3,800	7.20	27,360	Ton	\$131.00	\$3,584,000
	1993		3,700	6.60	24,420	Ton	115.00	2,808,000
Barley	1994	36,500	34,500	1.02	35,190	Ton	108.00	3,801,000
	1993	34,000	33,200	1.12	37,184	Ton	105.00	3,904,000
Garbanzo Beans	1994	950	605	10.17	6,153	Cwt	35.00	215,000
	1993	1,175	1,125	14.00	15,750	Cwt	29.00	457,000
† Grain Hay	1994	22,500	22,200	1.90	42,180	Ton	92.00	3,881,000
	1993	18,500	18,500	2.20	40,700	Ton	82.00	3,337,000
Grain Stubble (Grazed)	1994		77,000			Acre	4.50	347,000
	1993		72,000			Acre	4.00	288,000
Irrigated Pasture	1994		5,400			Acre	300.00	1,620,000
	1993		5,500			Acre	325.00	1,788,000
Rangeland (Grazed)	1994		1,030,000			Acre	6.00	6,180,000
	1993		1,025,000			Acre	6.00	6,150,000
Safflower	1994	2,070	2,040	0.29	592	Ton	300.00	177,000
	1993	6,500	6,400	0.38	2,432	Ton	275.00	669,000
Wheat	1994	8,000	7,900	0.97	7,663	Ton	122.00	935,000
	1993	10,600	10,465	1.00	10,465	Ton	97.00	1,015,000
*Miscellaneous	1994		1,600					280,000
	1993		1,500					250,000
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	1994		1,185,045					\$21,020,000
	1993		1,177,390					\$20,666,000

*Dry Beans, Oats, Sudangrass, Straw

†Includes winter forage

SEED CROPS



Overall increases for seed crops were substantial with vegetable and flower seeds leading the way. Both barley and vegetable seed were exported during 1994 with an estimated value of \$16,200.

CROP	YEAR	PLANTED ACREAGE	HARVESTED ACREAGE	VALUE
Barley	1994	610	610	73,000
	1993	950	940	122,000
Oats	1994	720	720	220,000
	1993	395	380	184,000
Vegetable	1994	79	79	362,000
	1993	46	46	185,000
*Miscellaneous	1994	705	705	277,000
	1993	200	200	80,000
TOTAL SEED CROP	1994	2,114	2,114	\$932,000
	1993	1,591	1,566	\$571,000

*Dry bean, Flower seeds, Sudangrass, Wheat

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Overall acreage and value figures set a new record in 1994, up over 5 million dollars, with apples, avocados and strawberries leading the way. Wine grapes continued as the number one commodity, although yield reduction due to fall rains depressed the overall value compared to 1993. Apples represent the largest fruit crop export with approximately 39,000 boxes exported.

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		BEARING ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
Almonds	1994	2,200	0.040	88	Ton	\$4,605.00	\$	405,000
	1993	2,400	0.015	36	Ton	4,580.00		165,000
Apples	1994	1,250	13.136	16,420	Ton	450.00		7,389,000
	1993	1,206	8.184	9,870	Ton	440.00		4,343,000
Avocados	1994	1,135	2.895	3,286	Ton	1,875.00		6,161,000
	1993	1,135	3.320	3,768	Ton	1,145.00		4,315,000
Bushberries	1994	46	5.390	248	Ton	3,337.00		827,000
	1993	34	6.571	223	Ton	3,229.00		721,000
Grapes (All)	1994	9,080		41,262				32,287,000
	1993	** 8,676		46,878				34,475,000
Chardonnay	1994	2,960	3.820	11,307	Ton	1,061.00		11,997,000
	1993	** 2,828	4.420	12,500	Ton	1,040.00		13,000,000
Sauvignon Blanc	1994	655	6.970	4,565	Ton	564.00		2,575,000
	1993	** 644	7.130	4,592	Ton	554.00		2,544,000
Cabernet Sauvignon	1994	2,595	4.460	11,574	Ton	788.00		9,120,000
	1993	** 2,394	5.080	12,162	Ton	738.00		8,975,000
Zinfandel	1994	1,040	6.510	6,770	Ton	489.00		3,311,000
	1993	1,010	7.070	7,141	Ton	484.00		3,456,000
All Other	1994	1,830	3.850	7,046	Ton	750.00		5,284,000
	1993	** 1,800	5.824	10,483	Ton	620.00		6,500,000
Lemons	1994	1,035	17.950	18,578	Ton	221.00		4,106,000
	1993	1,035	21.156	21,896	Ton	178.00		3,898,000
Pistachios	1994	90	0.460	41	Ton	2,500.00		104,000
	1993	90	0.411	37	Ton	3,000.00		111,000
Strawberries	1994	650	20.860	13,559	Ton	730.00		9,898,000
	1993	700	15.100	10,570	Ton	713.00		7,536,000
Valencia Oranges	1994	262	13.890	3,639	Ton	153.00		557,000
	1993	257	9.760	2,508	Ton	267.00		670,000
English Walnuts	1994	2,700	0.435	1,175	Ton	1,010.00		1,186,000
	1993	** 2,700	0.461	1,245	Ton	1,320.00		1,643,000
*Miscellaneous	1994	730						2,800,000
	1993	730						2,476,000
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	1994	19,178						\$65,720,000
	1993	** 18,963						\$60,353,000

*Apricot, Black Walnut, Cherry, Feijoa, Fig, Grapefruit, Kiwi, Lime, Navel Orange, Nectarine, Peach, Pear, Persimmon, Pomegranate, Plum, Table Grape, Starfruit, Pepino, Raisin Grape, Tangelo.

**Revised

VEGETABLE CROPS

Broccoli and lettuce were the leading export vegetable crops, with a combined export commodity group with approximately 18,000 tons shipped to foreign countries.

CROP	YEAR	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beans (Green)	1994	276	356	98,256	30#	\$ 5.36	\$ 527,000
	1993	310	415	128,650	30#	7.27	935,000
Bell Peppers	1994	1,391	660	918,060	30#	6.86	6,298,000
	1993	1,123	754	846,742	30#	7.24	6,130,000
Broccoli (Fresh)	1994	9,224	578	5,331,472	23#	5.04	26,871,000
	1993	8,450	713	6,024,850	23#	4.69	28,257,000
Broccoli (Freezer)	1994	1,135	6	6,810	Ton	395.00	2,690,000
	1993	1,114	6	6,684	Ton	340.00	2,273,000
Cabbage	1994	842	873	735,066	45#	4.91	3,609,000
	1993	807	981	791,667	45#	4.69	3,713,000
Carrots	1994	2,897	38	110,086	Ton	75.00	8,256,000
	1993	2,447	26	63,622	Ton	106.00	6,744,000
Cauliflower	1994	2,131	696	1,483,176	25#	5.46	8,098,000
	1993	1,500	622	933,000	25#	5.41	5,048,000
Celery	1994	1,393	1,100	1,532,300	60#	7.34	11,247,000
	1993	1,261	1,129	1,423,669	60#	6.63	9,439,000
Oriental Vegetables	1994	1,009	740	746,660	80#	9.79	7,310,000
	1993	1,421	826	1,173,746	80#	6.29	7,383,000
Lettuce, Head	1994	7,388	714	5,275,032	50#	6.12	32,283,000
	1993	7,722	699	5,397,678	50#	6.06	32,710,000
Lettuce, Leaf	1994	1,359	893	1,213,587	25#	5.50	6,675,000
	1993	1,530	841	1,286,730	25#	5.24	6,742,000
Peas, Edible Pod	1994	2,800	544	1,523,200	10#	7.42	11,302,000
	1993	2,900	560	1,624,000	10#	10.88	17,669,000
Squash	1994	525	628	329,700	30#	5.34	1,761,000
	1993	479	454	217,466	30#	5.03	1,094,000
Tomato	1994	94	1,002	94,188	20#	13.27	1,250,000
	1993	120	1,765	212,241	20#	7.91	1,679,000
*Miscellaneous	1994	1,300					7,350,000
	1993	1,400					7,500,000
TOTAL VEGETABLE CROPS	1994	33,764					\$135,527,000
	1993	32,584					\$137,316,000

*Anise, Artichokes, Baby Vegetables, Broccoflower, Brussel Sprouts, Cilantro, Chili Peppers, Cucumber, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Kale, Mushrooms, Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes, Spinach, Sweet Corn, Tomatillos, Watermelon.

ANIMAL INDUSTRY



The value for most animal products declined during 1994 resulting in reduction in overall value. California livestock products have been the leading export commodity with over a billion dollars exported in 1993.

VALUE

COMMODITY	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle and Calves	1994	57,000	347,700	Cwt	\$83.00	\$28,859,000
	1993	55,000	335,500	Cwt	88.00	29,524,000
Hogs	1994	2,934	6,003	Cwt	51.04	306,000
	1993	3,860	8,903	Cwt	59.00	525,000
Honey	1994		145,350	Lbs	0.42	61,000
	1993		123,563	Lbs	0.50	62,000
Market Milk	1994		74,864	Cwt	11.54	864,000
	1993		65,253	Cwt	11.49	750,000
Sheep and Lambs	1994	7,679	10,013	Cwt	65.78	659,000
	1993	7,271	7,686	Cwt	68.00	523,000
Wool	1994		85,959	Lbs	0.62	53,000
	1993		71,898	Lbs	0.40	29,000
* Miscellaneous	1994					629,000
**	1993					1,689,000
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY	1994					\$31,431,000
	1993					\$33,102,000

*Eggs, Poultry, Goats, Game Birds, Bee wax, Pollination.

**Revised



NURSERY PRODUCTS

Nursery products surged to another all time record, up over 5 million dollars. A variety of nursery products were exported with orchids, vegetable and ornamental transplants the leading commodities. Total nursery items exported were estimated at \$1,130,500.

CROP	YEAR	FIELD PRODUCTION (acres)	GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION (sq. ft.)	VALUE
Cut Flowers (Field)	1994	469		\$ 7,700,000
	1993	455		8,708,000
Cut Flowers (Greenhouse)	1994		1,672,272	6,406,000
	1993		1,231,460	5,194,000
Woody Ornamentals Ornamentals and Bedding	1994	16	756,554	1,511,000
	1993	21	338,150	4,939,000
Bedding Plants, Sod & Ground Cover	1994	19	219,815	5,251,000
	1993			
Fruit & Nut Trees	1994	32	90,010	1,575,000
	1993	30	90,000	1,400,000
Vegetable Transplants	1994	68	666,975	12,068,000
	1993	34	1,481,040	10,456,000
Indoor Decoratives	1994		1,077,650	9,708,000
	1993		1,037,740	7,493,000
Christmas Trees, Cut	1994	67		241,000
	1993	85		311,000
*Miscellaneous	1994	5	40,000	125,000
	1993	35	40,000	800,000
TOTAL NURSERY STOCK	1994	676	4,523,276	\$44,585,000
	1993	660	4,218,390	\$39,301,000

*Herbs, Specialty plants, Cacti, Succulents.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROGRAM

There are many sustainable agricultural activities occurring in San Luis Obispo County. Many growers use cover crops, minimum tillage, integrated pest management, crop rotation, along with a wide array of other practices, all within the realm of sustainable agriculture. This year we are highlighting our local bio-control program which reduces pest problems in an economical and environmentally sensitive manner.

PEST

Ash White Fly
Western Grapeleaf Skeletonizer
Blue Gum Psyllid
Eugenia Psyllid
Puncture Vine
Yellow Starthistle
Bull Thistle
Skeleton Weed

BIO-CONTROL AGENT

Wasp
Wasp and Fly
Wasp
Wasp
Seedhead and Stem-mining Weevils
2 Seedhead Weevils, 1 Fly
Gall Fly
Rust, Mite, Midge

SCOPE OF PROGRAM

Countywide
North County
1 site (monitored)
San Luis Obispo
Countywide
23 sites
1 site
5 sites (monitored)

Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A
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