

1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
California Agricultural Statistics Service



SAN LUIS OBISPO CALIFORNIA

Land in farms

Decreased 2 percent from 1,324,403 acres in 1992 to 1,301,889 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Decreased 4 percent from 704 acres in 1992 to 679 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Decreased 2 percent from 947 farms in 1992 to 927 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

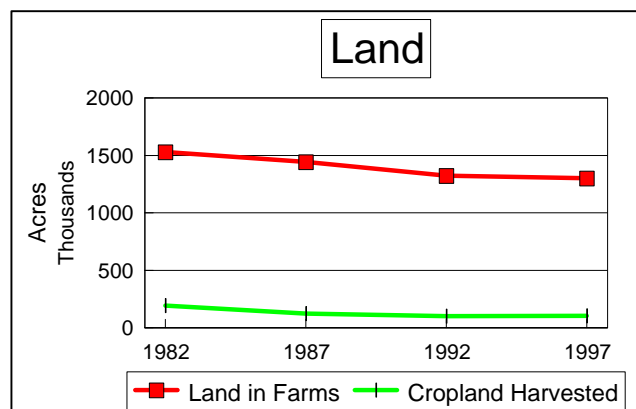
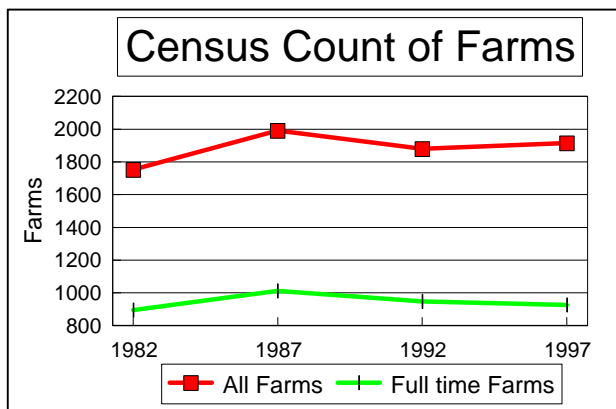
Increased 69 percent to \$312,950,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 90 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 10 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 66 percent from \$98,327 in 1992 to \$163,335 in 1997.



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Ranked Items Within State and U.S., 1997

Item	Quantity	State		U.S.	
		Rank	Universe*	Rank	Universe*
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	312,950	18	58	59	3,076
Value of crops including nursery	280,150	17	58	27	3,070
Value of livestock and poultry	32,800	21	57	819	3,069
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons	118,529	10	56	15	2,739
Fruits, nuts, berries	100,377	18	55	31	2,547
Nursery and greenhouse crops	53,054	15	58	34	2,790
Cattle and calves	24,780	12	57	313	3,063
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	3,974	22	57	157	3,043
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Cattle and calves sold	56,286	12	57	243	3,063
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	(D)	19	43	667	1,882
Sheep and lambs sold	17,024	8	56	77	2,765
Ducks, geese, and other poultry sold	7,244	19	51	332	2,200
Layers, pullets, and pullet chicks sold	(D)	21	47	898	2,203
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Cattle and calves inventory	100,368	13	57	131	3,064
Sheep and lamb inventory	21,132	10	56	78	2,864
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	12,720	17	56	784	3,002
Broiler inventory	(D)	18	50	634	2,620
Horse and pony inventory	4,710	5	57	26	3,066
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Land in orchards-acres	29,384	22	56	35	2,693
Land used for vegetables-acres	22,695	13	56	28	2,741
Barley-acres	22,676	1	36	66	1,411
Hay crops-acres	20,647	20	57	1,004	3,061
Safflower-acres	3,966	9	27	13	104

Some counties do not have five commodities in a group.

Other County Summary Highlights

Item	1997	1992	Percent Change
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$10,000	1,012	1,136	-11
\$10,000 or more	904	744	22
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	223,755	149,630	50
Average per farmdollars..	116,844	79,548	47
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	81,663	29,043	181
Average per farmdollars..	42,644	15,440	176
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	1,549	1,540	1
Partnership or corporation	336	323	4
Other	31	17	82
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	927	947	-2
Other	989	933	6
Operators by sex:			
Male	1,602	1,592	1
Female	314	288	9
Operators by race:			
White	1,786	1,771	1
Black and other races	130	109	19
Average age of operator	56.2	54.5	3

(D) Cannot be disclosed. See "Census of Agriculture Volume 1 Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

* Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.