



2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile

Merced, California



Number of farms

2,964 farms in 2002, 3,218 farms in 1997, down 8 percent.

Land in farms

1,006,127 acres in 2002, 920,813 acres in 1997, up 9 percent.

Average size of farm

339 acres in 2002, 286 acres in 1997, up 19 percent.

Market Value of Production

\$1,409,254,000 in 2002, \$1,286,561,000 in 1997, up 10 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$597,577,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$811,677,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

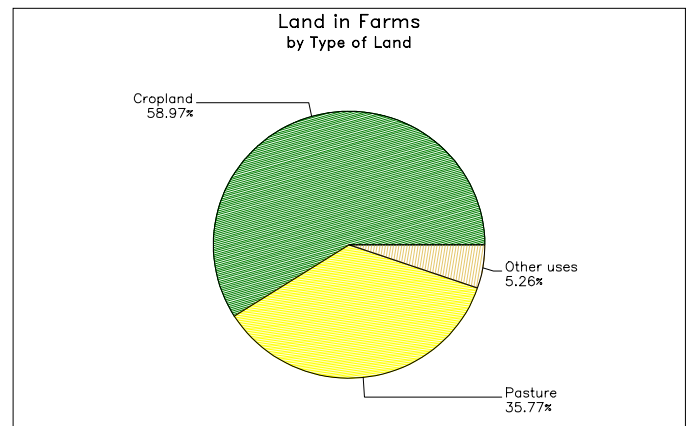
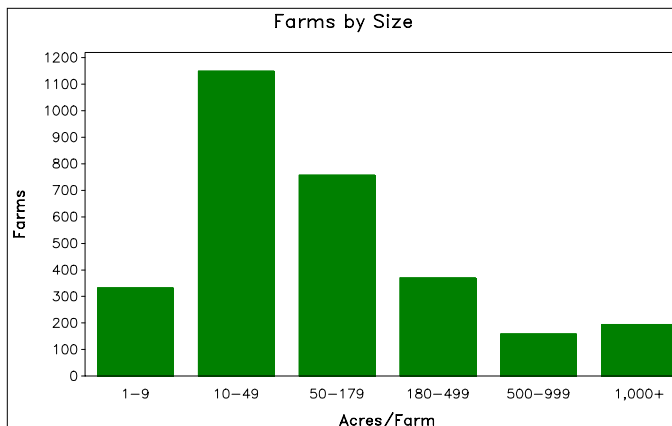
\$475,457 in 2002, \$399,801 in 1997, up 19 percent.

Government Payments

\$11,479,000 in 2002, \$4,971,000 in 1997, up 131 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$25,284 in 2002, \$16,515 in 1997, up 53 percent.



**2002 Census of Agriculture
County Profile
United States Department of Agriculture, California Agricultural Statistics Service**

Merced, California

Ranked items among the 58 state counties and 3,078 U.S. counties, 2002

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe ¹	U.S. Rank	Universe ¹
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	1,409,254	5	58	5	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	597,577	11	58	14	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	811,677	2	58	3	3,070
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	24,367	11	48	584	2,871
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	560
Cotton and cottonseed	(D)	(D)	17	(D)	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	180,800	8	56	11	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	267,730	12	55	13	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	15,456	27	55	182	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	(D)	(D)	43	(D)	1,774
Other crops and hay	58,313	5	57	14	3,046
Poultry and eggs	221,675	1	56	10	2,918
Cattle and calves	61,232	6	57	114	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	519,095	2	47	2	2,493
Hogs and pigs	881	6	53	907	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	2,044	8	56	46	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	235	35	56	962	3,014
Aquaculture	3,983	5	51	59	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	2,531	7	54	38	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	(D)	1	50	(D)	2,599
Layers 20 weeks old and older	4,462,056	2	56	7	2,983
Turkeys	1,286,500	1	48	15	2,328
Cattle and calves	465,107	2	57	4	3,059
Colonies of bees	30,913	3	54	5	2,392
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	146,800	3	57	12	3,059
Almonds	100,357	3	41	3	72
Corn for silage	61,545	2	33	3	2,307
All Cotton	58,049	5	17	58	663
All Vegetables harvested	46,499	8	56	11	2,710

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	421	Farming	2,106
\$1,000 to \$2,499	139	Other	858
\$2,500 to \$4,999	131		
\$5,000 to \$9,999	193	Principal operators by sex:	
\$10,000 to \$19,999	257	Male	2,697
\$20,000 to \$24,999	108	Female	267
\$25,000 to \$39,999	234		
\$40,000 to \$49,999	92	Average age of principal operator (years)	54.9
\$50,000 to \$99,999	322		
\$100,000 to \$249,999	350	All operators ² by race:	
\$250,000 to \$499,999	216	White	3,961
\$500,000 or more	501	Black or African American	8
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	1,242,622	American Indian or Alaska Native	53
Average per farm (\$)	419,663	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	17
		Asian	288
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	207,396	More than one race	31
Average per farm (\$)	70,042	All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	594

(D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

¹ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.

² Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.