

ORANGE COUNTY CROP REPORT

2004

2004 VERSUS 2003

The total gross f.o.b. value of Orange County agricultural products for the year 2004 was \$293,562,971 representing a 6% decrease compared to the 2003 overall income. Agricultural production values are based upon the free on board (f.o.b.) packed price at the first point of delivery, and include cost of production, harvesting, and preparation for market. Gross values, therefore, do not reflect net returns to the producer. Federal incentive, conservation and other support payments are excluded from this report.

In compliance with the California Food and Agricultural Code Section 2279, the Agricultural Commissioner compiles Orange County agricultural production information and then forwards this data to the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The following are highlights of the 2004 Orange County Crop Report:

1. Strawberry production total value decreased by 13% with a slight increase in acreage.
2. Nursery stock value decreased by 1% to \$211,438,660.
3. Avocado value decreased by 52% with a slight increase in acreage.
4. Vegetable production total value increased by 25% with an increase in acreage.
5. Livestock value increased due in part to the increase in the number of cattle that grazed in Orange County.
6. Field crops increased in value by 26%.

Confidentiality of Crop Production and Plant Production Data

Basic crop and plant production data are collected from many sources, and may include grower surveys, regulatory and inspection data, shipment data, industry assessments, etc.

Farmers and growers provide crop information to the Agricultural Commissioner on a voluntary basis. These business and financial records are confidential under State and Federal statutes. Several examples include:

1. Plant production data and similar information and market or crop reports which are obtained in confidence from any person [Government Code Sections 6254(e) and 6255].

2. Lists of persons reporting, and reports made by farmers, stockmen, processors, dealers, handlers, and others to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture, or National Agricultural Statistics Service. [18 United States Code 1902, 7 United States Code 2276 and 2204g, and Government Code Section 6254(e)].
3. Individual reports of handlers of farm products required to be filed with the California Department of Food and Agriculture [Food and Agricultural Code Sections 58775 and 58781, and Government Code Section 6254(k)].

This report is produced each year with the outstanding partnership and cooperation of the agricultural industry in Orange County.

**2004 VERSUS 2003
SHOWING PERCENTAGE CHANGE**

Crop	2003	2004	Percentage Change
Animal Industry	\$235,884	\$305,570	30%
Apiculture	267,875	95,595	-64%
Field	888,680	1,116,608	26%
Nursery	214,232,056	211,438,660	-1%
Tree Fruit and Berry Crops	81,398,716	62,379,756	-23%
Vegetables	14,591,513	18,226,782	25%
Total	\$311,614,724	\$293,562,971	-6%

ORANGE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS FOR 2004

TREE FRUIT AND BERRY CROPS

Although strawberries had a slight increase in acreage, there was an 8% decrease in production per acre and a 13% decrease in total value. Avocado value was down 52% in 2004 with a slight increase in acreage.

TREE FRUIT & BERRY CROP	ACREAGE BEARING	PRODUCTION (tons)	F.O.B. VALUE
Valencia Oranges	98	482 tons	\$90,246
Avocados	1,761	5,019 tons	9,330,042
Other Deciduous & Subtropical	333	5,540 tons	1,995,626
Strawberries	1,770	44,078 tons	50,963,842
Total	3,962	55,119 tons	\$62,379,756

APICULTURE

Apiary income showed an decrease of \$172,280 in 2004. Orange County apiary owners reported a 66% decrease in wholesale honey production and an increase of 2% in the value per pound of honey.

APICULTURE	PRODUCTION	F.O.B. VALUE
Producing Colonies	1,453	
Honey (Pounds)	65,199	\$90,627
Beeswax & Miscellaneous Apiary Products	3,000	4,968
Total		\$95,595

NURSERY

For the thirty-sixth straight year, nursery stock and cut flowers ranked first on the "Million Dollar Enterprise" list. Gross returns decreased by \$2,793,396 from the previous year. The total nursery stock and cut flower income was \$211,438,660. Shipments to other states continued to help this industry.

NURSERY STOCK	PRODUCTION	F.O.B. VALUE
Ornamentals	32,175,076	\$168,597,398
Flat Stock (flats)	2,710,667	13,173,842
Cut Flowers (dozen)	319,987	958,632
Christmas Trees (trees)	5,673	516,243
Potted Plants	5,390,544	28,192,545
Total		\$211,438,660

ANIMAL INDUSTRY

The total value of livestock production was increased by \$69,686. This was 30% more than the income for 2003. The total income from livestock was \$305,570.

LIVESTOCK	PRODUCTION	F.O.B. VALUE
Beef Cattle (head)	478	\$195,485
Poultry-Eggs (dozen)		0
Miscellaneous Poultry	11	3,525
Miscellaneous Livestock*		106,560
Total		\$305,570

*Includes - sheep, lambs, hogs, pigs, rabbits and goats

VEGETABLES

The total value for the vegetable crops was \$18,226,782. This is an increase in value of 25% from 2003 with an increase in acreage.

VEGETABLES	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION (tons)	F.O.B. VALUE
Artichokes	5	19	\$17,840
Green Beans	935	6,191	6,191,000
Cabbage	84	2,017	407,963
Cauliflower	129	1,416	848,334
Celery	5	63	43,552
Corn, Sweet	63	526	269,552
Cucumbers	33	389	705,368
Lettuce-Head, Leaf & Romaine	132	1,947	636,669
Peppers-Bell & Miscellaneous	292	7,387	7,132,042
Squash	119	1,020	728,573
Tomatoes	14	154	157,912
Miscellaneous Vegetable Crops	200	5,440	1,087,977
Total	2,011	26,569	\$18,226,782

FIELD CROPS

Total field crop value increased by \$227,928. This increased the overall value of the field crops by 26%.

FIELD CROPS	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION (tons)	F.O.B. VALUE
Beans-Dry	1,100	825	\$1,023,000
Miscellaneous Field Crops & Pasture	21,855	109	93,608
Total	22,955	934	\$1,116,608

FARM ACREAGE AND GROSS VALUE SUMMARY

BEARING ACREAGE

Crop	1984	1994	2004
Field	8,912	38,843	22,955
Tree Fruit and Berry Crops	10,438	4,521	3,962
Vegetables	11,358	6,917	2,011
Total	30,708	50,281	28,928

GROSS VALUE

Crop	1984	1994	2004
Animal Industry	\$2,251,900	\$ 1,828,600	\$305,570
Apiculture	344,700	17,300	95,595
Field	1,260,900	1,910,700	1,116,608
Nursery	124,145,500	127,988,400	211,438,660
Tree Fruit and Berry Crops	95,243,300	40,539,700	62,379,756
Vegetables	46,568,200	45,975,900	18,226,782
Total	\$269,814,500	\$218,260,600	\$293,562,971