

Fast Facts on Fresno County and California Agriculture

Fresno County has more than 3.3 million turkeys. We have more turkeys than people in Fresno County!

One out of every five jobs in the Central Valley is related to agriculture, from farm workers to salespersons. (Source: Great Valley Center)

Farmers use water to produce our food. It takes three gallons of water to produce a serving of lettuce; seven gallons of water to produce a slice of whole wheat bread; and 14 gallons to produce one serving of oranges.

Fresno County produces more than 350 commercial crops, worth more than \$4.8-billion in 2006.

Every \$1 produced on the farm generates more than \$3.50 in the local and regional economy.

A family of four could live for 10 years off the bread produced by one acre of wheat.

One bale of cotton can produce 1,217 men's t-shirts or 313,600 one-hundred dollar (\$100) bills.

Cotton is a food crop. Almost 200 million gallons of cottonseed oil are used in food products such as margarine and salad dressing. Cottonseed and cottonseed meal are used in feed for livestock and poultry. And even products such as toothpaste, ice cream, and the paper money used to buy them contain by-products of the cotton seed. Cotton is Fresno County's number two crop.

California produces one out of every five glasses of milk consumed in the nation. The dairy industry continues to grow at an astonishing rate with milk production increasing 1 percent from 2002 to 2003. It follows then, that California also has some of the largest dairies in the country with more than 700 cows on average, while the U.S. average is less than 100. In 2003, the average milk production per cow in California was 20,993 pounds, which is 12 percent higher than the national average.

California produces most of the grapes grown in the United States.

Many specialty crops are almost solely produced in California: artichokes, brussels sprouts, almonds, dates, figs, kiwifruit, nectarines, olives, pistachios, dried plums (prunes) and walnuts.

California has 78,500 farming operations, which is less than 4 percent of the nation's total. However, these farms account for 13 percent of the national gross cash receipts from farming. In 2003, land in farms totaled 27.1 million acres. The average farm size in California is 345 acres. Over 350 crops are recognized in the state, including seeds, flowers, and ornamentals.

