

Farm Workers in Ventura County



VENTURA COUNTY'S
2016
CROP & LIVESTOCK
REPORT

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A special thank you to all the farmworkers who shared their stories and are included in this report.

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Agricultural Commissioner
Henry S. Gonzales

January 9, 2018

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California Department of Food & Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Ventura County
Steve Bennett, 1st District
Linda Parks, 2nd District
Kathy Long, 3rd District
Peter C. Foy, 4th District, Chair
John C. Zaragoza, 5th District

Pursuant to Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2016 Ventura County Crop and Livestock Report. This report reflects gross values only and does not represent the net return to farmers or the multiplier effect on the local economy. From these totals, farmers pay their workers, water, fuel, and electricity bills, bank loans or land leases, insurance, taxes, equipment and materials, and all other farming costs.

The estimated gross value of Ventura County agriculture for calendar year 2016 is \$2,110,187,000. This represents a 4.2% decrease in comparison with 2015, or \$88,368,000 less than in 2015.

Strawberries were again the number one crop at \$654,902,000, a 6.0% increase over 2015. Lemons remained in second place with a value of \$266,977,000, a 2.9% increase. Nursery stock came in at \$206,840,000, an increase of 5.6% over 2015, and enough to move into third place. Celery moved up to fourth place with a 3.9% increase to \$202,363,000. Raspberries endured a 25% drop in value to \$171,163,000 and moved down to fifth place. The drop in value is attributed to a significant reduction in planted acreage. Avocados stayed in sixth place, regardless of enduring a 31% reduction in value to \$129,000,000. Early season competition with hundreds of millions of pounds of imported avocados dropped early market values. Additionally, drought and heat led to substantial fruit drop.

Rounding out the top ten were peppers at \$61,078,000, cut flowers at \$48,042,000, tomatoes at \$47,987,000, and Kale again in the precarious tenth spot at \$29,498,000.

Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Korinne Bell deserves recognition for the overall production of this report. Our thanks to Ventura County's General Services Agency, Graphic Designer, Matthew Kreiger for the graphic design and layout.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry S. Gonzales
Agricultural Commissioner
County of Ventura

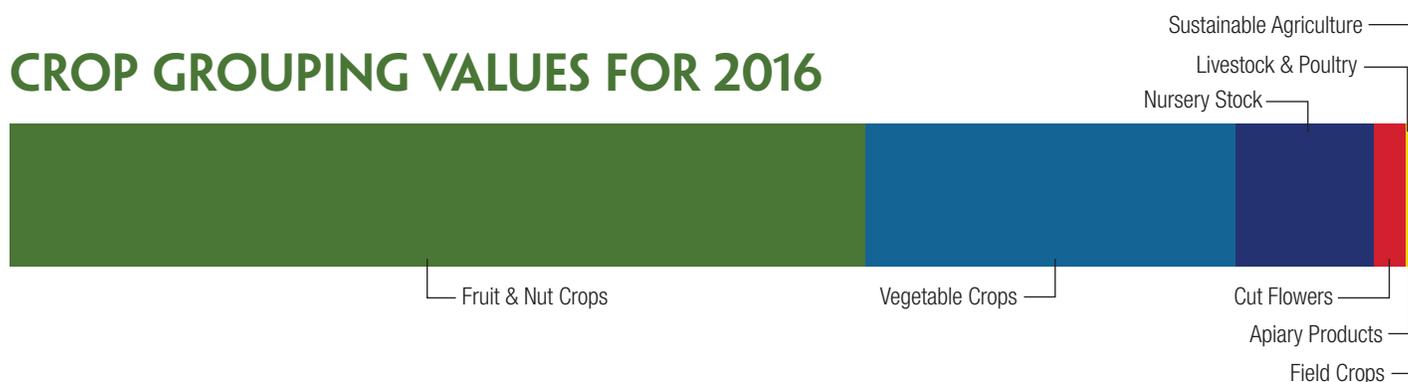
Recapitulation & Index 2015-2016

CROP GROUPING	YEAR	VALUE ¹
■ 1. Fruit & Nut Crops	2016	\$1,286,534,000
	2015	\$1,357,101,000
■ 2. Vegetable Crops	2016	\$556,675,000
	2015	\$583,281,000
■ 3. Nursery Stock	2016	\$206,840,000
	2015	\$195,817,000
■ 4. Cut Flowers	2016	\$48,042,000
	2015	\$48,522,000
■ 5. Livestock & Poultry	2016	\$5,707,000
	2015	\$6,878,000
■ 6. Apiary Products	2016	\$2,786,000
	2015	\$2,108,000
■ 7. Sustainable Agriculture	2016	\$2,018,000
	2015	\$3,838,000
■ 8. Field Crops	2016	\$1,585,000
	2015	\$1,010,000
GRAND TOTAL²	2016	\$2,110,187,000
	2015	\$2,198,555,000

¹ Figures are rounded off to nearest \$1,000

² Ventura County has approximately 96,625 acres of irrigated cropland. Our total farmed acreage is 293,549 (196,924 acres are Rangeland).

CROP GROUPING VALUES FOR 2016



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$1,254,592,000	\$1,280,274,000	\$1,338,004,000	\$1,357,101,000	\$1,286,534,000
Vegetable Crops	\$460,280,000	\$568,722,000	\$557,614,000	\$583,281,000	\$556,675,000
Nursery Stock	\$186,351,000	\$190,889,000	\$180,499,000	\$195,817,000	\$206,840,000
Cut Flowers	\$46,829,000	\$43,079,000	\$47,615,000	\$48,522,000	\$48,042,000
Livestock & Poultry Products	\$6,872,000	\$6,517,000	\$7,887,000	\$6,878,000	\$5,707,000
Apiary Products	\$3,326,000	\$1,392,000	\$554,000	\$2,108,000	\$2,786,000
Sustainable Agriculture	\$3,045,000	\$3,557,000	\$3,443,000	\$3,838,000	\$2,018,000
Field Crops	\$2,491,000	\$474,000	\$1,417,000	\$1,010,000	\$1,585,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,963,798,000	\$2,094,915,000	\$2,137,033,000	\$2,198,555,000	\$2,110,187,000

Working towards a dream

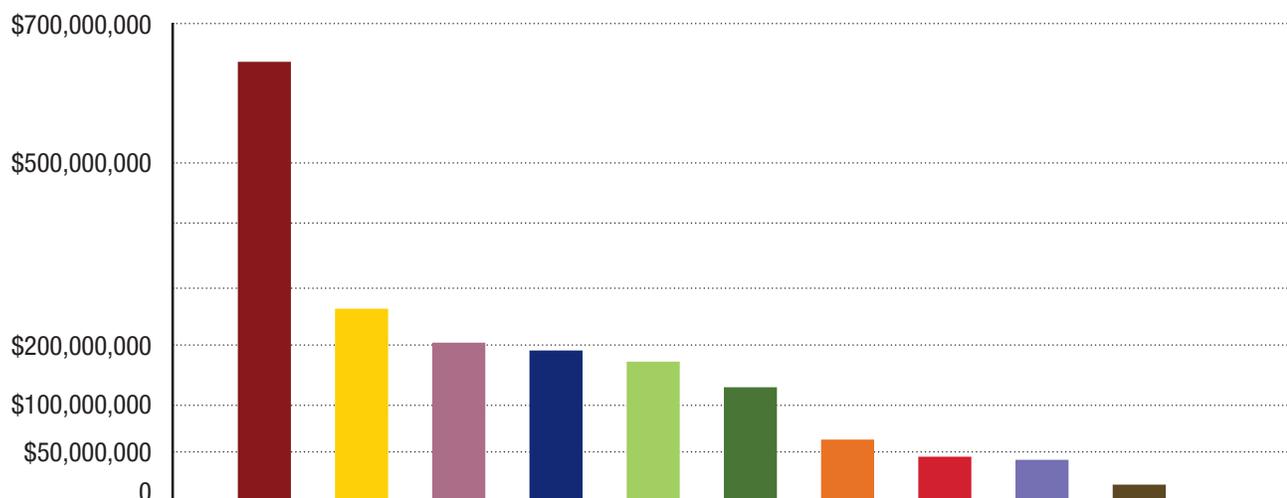
I have been working in agriculture for 14 years. My job is to make sure that all of the boxes are closed and secured, so when they arrive to their destination none of the crop is damaged. I like working with the celery harvest because there is always work, and when the harvest slows down I am able to take a rest. When I really need work I will follow the harvest all the way to Gilroy or Westmoreland depending on the situation, but I would rather stay in Oxnard if I could. As a worker I try to do my best and enjoy every opportunity given to me, because I have the ability to work and enjoy the time with my friends at work. One of my dreams is to send all my kids to college. It's my motivation every day and I have hope they are going to do it.

Tomas Burgos
Terry Farms



Ten Leading Crops for 2016

RANK	CROP	VALUE
1st	Strawberries	\$654,902,000
2nd	Lemons	\$266,977,000
3rd	Nursery Stock	\$206,840,000
4th	Celery	\$202,363,000
5th	Raspberries	\$171,163,000
6th	Avocados	\$129,000,000
7th	Peppers	\$61,078,000
8th	Cut Flowers	\$48,042,000
9th	Tomatoes	\$47,987,000
10th	Kale	\$29,498,000



Other Million Dollar Crops

CROP/PRODUCT	VALUE
Woody Ornamentals*	\$98,513,000
Bedding Plants, Ground Cover & Turf*	\$39,376,000
Cabbage	\$29,495,000
Lettuce (total)	\$29,368,000
Cilantro	\$24,583,000
Fruit & Nut Trees*	\$21,342,000
Vegetable Transplants*	\$21,022,000
Lilies & Irises**	\$20,645,000
Asian Vegetables	\$18,457,000
Blueberries	\$17,294,000

CROP/PRODUCT	VALUE
Oranges (Valencia)	\$17,196,000
Mandarins & Tangelos	\$13,283,000
Cucumbers	\$11,914,000
Spinach	\$10,887,000
Herbaceous Perennials*	\$10,554,000
Delphinium, Larkspur, Stock & Snapdragons**	\$9,789,000
Potted Plants*	\$9,490,000
Parsley	\$9,220,000
Greens	\$9,019,000
Radishes	\$8,795,000

* Included in Nursery Stock total above

** Included in Cut Flower total above



ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES | 2015-2016

Fruit & Nut Crops

Crop	Year	PRODUCTION				VALUE	
		Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Avocados	2016	18,486	3.33	61,648	tons	\$2,092.53	\$129,000,000
	2015	19,459	2.90	56,512	tons	\$3,341.20	\$188,818,000
Blueberries	2016	486	3.54	1,720	tons	\$10,054.55	\$17,294,000
	2015	515	3.28	1,691	tons	\$11,810.76	\$19,972,000
Grapefruit	2016	89	2.97	265	tons	\$2,891.00	\$766,000
	2015	123	3.17	390	tons	\$2,256.41	\$880,000
Lemons	2016	14,801	18.30	270,802	tons	\$985.88	\$266,977,000
	2015	14,725	17.47	257,265	tons	\$1,008.84	\$259,539,000
Mandarins & Tangelos	2016	1,526	5.36	8,179	tons	\$1,624.04	\$13,283,000
	2015	2,310	5.32	12,286	tons	\$799.69	\$9,825,000
Oranges (Navel)	2016	424	7.78	3,300	tons	\$416.06	\$1,373,000
	2015	444	11.81	5,243	tons	\$437.92	\$2,296,000
Oranges (Valencia)	2016	2,399	16.24	38,969	tons	\$441.27	\$17,196,000
	2015	2,210	10.89	24,076	tons	\$518.86	\$12,492,000
Raspberries	2016	4,350	15.19	66,077	tons	\$2,590.36	\$171,163,000
	2015	4,834	13.53	65,389	tons	\$3,489.61	\$228,217,000
Strawberries - Total	2016	10,230	24.82	253,909	tons	\$2,579.28	\$654,902,000
	2015	11,262	25.20	283,802	tons	\$2,176.98	\$617,832,000
Fresh	2016	---	---	174,626	tons	\$3,408.90	\$595,282,000
	2015	---	---	237,485	tons	\$2,390.18	\$567,633,000
Processed	2016	---	---	79,283	tons	\$751.99	\$59,620,000
	2015	---	---	46,317	tons	\$1,083.81	\$50,199,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts ³	2016	938	---	---	tons	---	\$14,580,000
	2015	1,104	---	---	tons	---	\$17,230,000
TOTAL	2016	53,729					\$1,286,534,000
	2015	56,986					\$1,357,101,000

³ MISC. FRUITS AND NUTS include Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Bushberries, Cherimoya, Grapes, Guavas, Kiwi, Limes, Olives, Persimmons, Macadamias, Walnuts; and miscellaneous citrus, deciduous, and subtropical fruit.



Vegetable Crops

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES | 2015-2016

Crop	Year	PRODUCTION				VALUE	
		Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Asian Vegetables	2016	624	27.63	17,238	tons	\$1,070.72	\$18,457,000
	2015	755	20.63	15,579	tons	\$963.22	\$15,006,000
Beans Green Limas, Green Snap	2016	1,847	1.87	3,451	tons	\$1,254.99	\$4,331,000
	2015	1,622	1.84	2,987	tons	\$1,386.34	\$4,141,000
Beets	2016	109	20.14	2,195	tons	\$951.25	\$2,088,000
	2015	107	24.5	2,621	tons	\$1,056.09	\$2,768,000
Broccoli Fresh & Processed	2016	208	13.91	2,893	tons	\$1,359.49	\$3,933,000
	2015	166	12.20	2,026	tons	\$1,317.37	\$2,669,000
Cabbage	2016	3,284	24.49	80,425	tons	\$366.74	\$29,495,000
	2015	3,732	26.25	97,961	tons	\$304.15	\$29,795,000
Carrots	2016	257	41.05	10,549	tons	\$164.57	\$1,736,000
	2015	228	35.12	8,008	tons	\$181.57	\$1,454,000
Celery	2016	13,204	32.54	429,658	tons	\$470.99	\$202,363,000
	2015	11,737	35.24	413,640	tons	\$470.83	\$194,756,000
Cilantro	2016	3,120	9.17	28,606	tons	\$859.37	\$24,583,000
	2015	2,977	8.44	25,125	tons	\$1,099.30	\$27,620,000
Cucumbers⁴	2016	64	80.25	5,136	tons	\$2,319.70	\$11,914,000
	2015	62	93.03	5,768	tons	\$1,988.73	\$11,471,000
Greens⁵	2016	970	8.95	8,678	tons	\$1,039.29	\$9,019,000
	2015	973	10.70	10,408	tons	\$1,715.41	\$17,854,000
Kale	2016	1,202	5.18	6,227	tons	\$4,737.11	\$29,498,000
	2015	1,402	5.49	7,694	tons	\$4,950.35	\$38,088,000
Lettuce - Total	2016	1,984	18.43	36,561	tons	\$803.26	\$29,368,000
	2015	2,067	19.53	40,362	tons	\$839.85	\$33,898,000
Head	2016	109	7.83	853	tons	\$946.07	\$807,000
	2015	128	7.57	969	tons	\$946.34	\$917,000
Leaf	2016	552	21.90	12,090	tons	\$1,743.26	\$21,076,000
	2015	789	24.56	19,378	tons	\$1,282.59	\$24,854,000
Romaine	2016	1,323	17.85	23,618	tons	\$316.90	\$7,485,000
	2015	1,150	17.40	20,015	tons	\$406.05	\$8,127,000

⁴ Includes hydroponics

⁵ Includes: chard, collard, mustard, turnip and watercress.

Crop	PRODUCTION					VALUE	
	Year	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Onions Green & Dry	2016	152	20.22	3,073	tons	\$411.32	\$1,264,000
	2015	338	17.83	6,025	tons	\$446.31	\$2,689,000
Parsley	2016	606	13.80	8,360	tons	\$1,102.87	\$9,220,000
	2015	527	18.37	9,683	tons	\$1,636.16	\$15,843,000
Peppers Bell & Chili	2016	3,471	44.27	153,650	tons	\$397.51	\$61,078,000
	2015	3,256	43.49	141,613	tons	\$382.47	\$54,163,000
Pumpkin	2016	210	13.43	2,821	tons	\$350.58	\$989,000
	2015	150	12.29	1,844	tons	\$369.85	\$682,000
Radishes	2016	796	17.93	14,276	tons	\$616.07	\$8,795,000
	2015	1,006	16.30	16,399	tons	\$643.33	\$10,550,000
Spinach	2016	1,056	9.53	10,062	tons	\$1,081.99	\$10,887,000
	2015	1,513	8.63	13,053	tons	\$1,137.36	\$14,846,000
Sweet Corn	2016	214	7.53	1,612	tons	\$620.97	\$1,001,000
	2015	535	7.17	3,837	tons	\$555.12	\$2,130,000
Tomatoes ⁶	2016	395	69.23	27,347	tons	\$1,754.74	\$47,987,000
	2015	416	67.22	27,966	tons	\$1,804.83	\$50,474,000
Vegetables, Misc. ⁷ Field, Indoor & Processed	2016	3,581	---	---	---	---	\$48,669,000
	2015	3,892	---	---	---	---	\$52,384,000
TOTAL	2016	37,354					\$556,675,000
	2015	39,528					\$583,281,000

⁶ Includes hydroponics

⁷ Includes: artichokes, arugula, asparagus, baby vegetables, cauliflower, eggplant, endive, garlic, gourds, herbs, kohlrabi, leeks, melons, mushrooms, peas, radicchio, sprouts, squash, tomatillos, and turnips.

Building friendships

I started working in agriculture when I was about nineteen or twenty years old. By the end of the year, I will be close to twenty-six years of working in agriculture. When I was younger, I used to harvest tomatoes like many of the farmworkers. I also worked in the harvesting of strawberries and raspberries. Out of all the work I did, harvesting tomatoes was the most labor intensive. The buckets that are used for harvesting tomatoes are heavy and carrying them all day wears you down, in addition to working in the sun all day long. I enjoy working outdoors and I have never really been an office person. When working outdoors, you build friendships and you work with the soil, which is difficult, but I still enjoy it.

Eugenio Garcia
Brucker Farm





Farm Workers...

Farm workers in Ventura County provide the vital labor force that is required in order to produce the \$2.1 billion annual bounty of fresh and healthy fruits, vegetables, animal proteins, as well as beautiful ornamental plants, trees, shrubs, and flowers. Without farm workers to prepare the land, plant seeds, irrigate, hoe weeds, prune trees, graft scions, harvest, box and load the produce, and perform many more farm tasks, there would be no farming in Ventura County or anywhere else.

Farmers use that gross \$2.1 billion to pay their farm workers, plus pay their own tax bills, gasoline and diesel, water, electricity, bank loans, land leases, and everything else essential to maintaining their farming operation. The \$2.1 billion then reverberates throughout the local economy by creating additional nonfarm jobs that support agriculture.

Any farm worker can tell us exactly what this job entails and what it takes to perform the work. From personal experience as a farm worker, I can attest that farm work is physically demanding. Being at a field site just before sunrise, working long hours in inclement weather, developing blisters before callouses, and performing tiring repetitive motions while contorting one's body into unnatural positions is hard work and can test a person's resolve.

Farm workers do more than just provide labor. Farm workers develop skills and techniques such as the ability to recognize when a strawberry is ripe and how to pluck the red, heart-shaped fruit from the peduncle without crushing the delicate flesh. This skillful feat must be performed rapidly and all day long in order to ensure that the buyer receives the freshest and most delicious fruit.

Farm workers in Ventura County have been scarce in recent years resulting in closures of a number of relatively large agricultural companies. These operations have shut down as a result of a lack of farm workers and also due to the need to pay more competitive, higher wages in order to attract available farm workers. The increase in farm worker wages is largely due to the fundamental law of supply and demand. The scarcity of farm workers everywhere has been attributed to increased security at the border with Mexico since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and increased deportations in general. It is estimated that 60% - 75% of farm workers are

I used to work in the chili packing house and other nurseries. I didn't really like working in the chili packing house because I felt enclosed. Working in the agriculture fields is more comfortable because you are exposed to the outdoors. I am a planter. Right now we are replanting and pruning because the plants have overgrown and we want all the plants to grow evenly. I have not worked in agriculture for that long, I started when I was twenty years old and since loved the work I do. There are times when the work gets tough, especially when there is a lot of wind because all the potted plants fall over and we have to go and pick all of them up. Usually it takes all day. A few years ago I lived in Las Vegas, but did not like it because it was very hot, so I left and came to Oxnard. I usually wake up around five in the morning to make my lunch, get ready and try to make it on time because anything can happen on the road. I am always ready for anything and aware of all my surroundings because we do not always do the same job.



Lurdes Noemi Rodriguez
River Ridge Farms



in Ventura County

I have been working in agriculture for eleven years. In this job, I transport all the plants that are in the yard to the warehouse so they can be packed and ready to be shipped to stores. Before working in agriculture, I used to work cleaning offices but did not like it and came to work in this nursery. When I began working in this nursery, I did not know how to drive let alone the various names of plants. Over time, I was able to memorize the names of plants. I learned how to drive the tractor through this job. My job is to transport the plants and make sure that they arrive to their destination in good condition. When they give the orders I always try to do my best.



Diego Florian
River Ridge Farms

undocumented. Another contributing factor to the lack of farm workers is gradual improvements to the Mexican economy.

Some farmers are using the costly and very bureaucratic federal H-2A program to bring farm workers to work at their farms while others are conducting research into mechanization of some labor intensive farm tasks. Although machines can be built to conduct many if not all the work a farm worker currently performs, the overriding questions are: Will the machine be economically feasible? Can a machine be built that will replace the skilled eye and mental ability of a person to discern between strawberries, pick that strawberry without crushing the delicate flesh, pack it into a basket, and deliver the tray to a truck at a cost that is competitive with farm worker pay?

Farm workers in Ventura County can speak to the lack of affordable housing and how that expense impacts their decision of where and how to live. The County of Ventura must compete for farm workers with other states in the nation and other counties in the state, like the Central Valley, which have a much lower cost of living. Since housing is such a large part of a household budget, the lack of affordable housing in Ventura County is also seen as a competitive disadvantage. If you add the additional disadvantage that Ventura County row crop land is the most expensive in the state, the reality of farming comes into focus. Although the historical dispute in Ventura County has been over agricultural land and how best to protect it for future use, and the last few years of drought have really shown that water is our limiting agricultural factor, the more recent scarcity of farm workers in Ventura County may be the defining limit.

– **Henry S. Gonzales**, *Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner*

When I was sixteen years old I started working in agriculture. There weren't many opportunities and I worked any available job. As a harvester, I travel to different cities following various crops like grapes, grapefruit, oranges, lemons and avocados. It really depends what is in season. Working as a seasonal harvester means that you get paid by the box. Following cash crops you can make a bit more money. I mostly live in Fresno, but the grape harvest slowed down and so we came with our harvest crew to Ventura County because it is avocado season.



Sergio Gomez
Rico Farm Labor Inc.

Nursery Stock

Item	Year	Production	PRODUCTION AREA		Per Unit	Total
			Greenhouse Sq. Ft.	Field Acres		
Fruit & Nut Trees	2016	1,141,068 trees	---	245	\$18.70	\$21,342,000
	2015	1,285,601 trees	---	262	\$20.07	\$25,806,000
Potted Plants	2016	2,628,000 pots	2,096,104	32	\$3.61	\$9,490,000
	2015	2,856,802 pots	2,206,425	35	\$3.71	\$10,603,000
Propagative Material	2016	55,890,293 cuttings	659,404	1	\$0.12	\$6,543,000
	2015	58,523,867 cuttings	694,109	1	\$0.11	\$7,005,000
Herbaceous Perennials	2016	3,045,029 containers	80,847	97	\$3.47	\$10,554,000
	2015	2,591,514 containers	72,185	95	\$3.23	\$8,369,000
Woody Ornamentals	2016	6,577,533 tree/shrubs	110,048	1,894	\$14.98	\$98,513,000
	2015	6,711,768 tree/shrubs	125,054	1,739	\$13.29	\$89,217,000
Bedding Plants, Ground Cover & Turf	2016	11,260,718 flats	403,031	864	\$3.50	\$39,376,000
	2015	13,389,677 flats	427,846	817	\$2.80	\$37,501,000
Vegetable Transplants	2016	5,163,197 flats	1,878,789	117	\$4.07	\$21,022,000
	2015	4,204,558 flats	1,642,825	136	\$4.12	\$17,316,000
TOTAL	2016		5,228,223	3,250		\$206,840,000
	2015		5,168,444	3,085		\$195,817,000

From harvest to harvest

I started working with San Miguel and at the end of 2017, it will be thirteen years working with them. I used to work in the blueberry harvest, but then I got this job and I liked it better because here we get paid by the box. It allows us to earn more money, depending on how many boxes that are filled. Working in the blueberry harvest wasn't so exhausting on my body because I was mostly standing, but when the harvest was over we didn't have a job. It wasn't really consistent. It is hard working from harvest to harvest because you never know when you are going to find another job. So finding a place where there is year round work is truly a blessing.

Viviana Martinez
San Miguel Produce





PRODUCTION AND VALUES | 2015-2016

Cut Flowers

Crop	Year	Acres	Production	Unit	Per Unit	Total Value
Flower Blooms & Stems	2016	50	21,812,632	blooms	---	\$6,271,000
	2015	52	22,960,665	blooms	---	\$6,465,000
Cut Greens & Dried Flowers	2016	63	267,794	bunches	---	\$525,000
	2015	62	262,543	bunches	---	\$515,000
Flower Bunches - Total	2016	559	11,385,148	bunches	---	\$41,246,000
	2015	631	12,759,864	bunches	---	\$41,542,000
Stative, Lace, Aster & Gypsophila	2016	89	1,261,789	bunches	\$2.46	\$3,104,000
	2015	143	2,046,440	bunches	\$2.45	\$5,006,000
Chrysanthemums & Sunflowers	2016	51	2,080,105	bunches	\$1.91	\$3,973,000
	2015	47	1,901,419	bunches	\$2.04	\$3,872,000
Lilies & Irises	2016	130	3,571,799	bunches	\$5.78	\$20,645,000
	2015	142	4,211,067	bunches	\$4.46	\$18,768,000
Lisianthus	2016	30	483,756	bunches	\$3.94	\$1,906,000
	2015	32	508,052	bunches	\$2.84	\$1,444,000
Delphinium, Larkspur, Stock & Snapdragons	2016	197	2,948,494	bunches	\$3.32	\$9,789,000
	2015	204	3,058,181	bunches	\$3.47	\$10,621,000
Miscellaneous	2016	62	1,039,205	bunches	\$1.76	\$1,829,000
	2015	63	1,034,705	bunches	\$1.77	\$1,831,000
TOTAL	2016	672				\$48,042,000
	2015	745				\$48,522,000



Livestock & Poultry

PRODUCTION AND VALUES | 2015-2016

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
				Per Unit	Total
Livestock Cattle, Hogs, Sheep & Goats	2016	20,554	cwt	---	\$2,025,000
	2015	16,576	cwt	---	\$1,985,000
Poultry Chickens & Eggs	2016	---	---	---	\$3,536,000
	2015	---	---	---	\$4,735,000
Other Livestock Alpaca & Squab	2016	---	---	---	\$146,000
	2015	---	---	---	\$158,000
TOTAL	2016				\$5,707,000
	2015				\$6,878,000

Field Crops

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES | 2015-2016

Crop	Year	Acreage	Total
Rangeland	2016	196,924	\$62,000
	2015	197,747	\$41,000
Pasture, Hay & Grain	2016	680	\$205,000
	2015	565	\$168,000
Seed & Dry Beans	2016	455	\$1,318,000
	2015	273	\$801,000
TOTAL	2016	198,059	\$1,585,000
	2015	198,585	\$1,010,000



PRODUCTION AND VALUES | 2015-2016

Apiary Products

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
				Per Unit	Total
Honey	2016	257,380	lbs	\$4.75	\$1,222,000
	2015	183,843	lbs	\$4.75	\$873,000
Beeswax & Pollen	2016	17,160	lbs	\$3.96	\$68,000
	2015	14,300	lbs	\$3.99	\$57,000
Pollination Use	2016	---	---	---	\$1,496,000
	2015	---	---	---	\$1,178,000
TOTAL	2016				\$2,786,000
	2015				\$2,108,000

Sustainable Agriculture

Item	Agent	Target	Scope of Program
Biological Control Commercial Insectaries	Predatory Mites, Predatory Beetles, Predatory Wasps, Predatory Nematodes, Various Predatory Insects	Scale, Mealybug, Snails, Aphids, Mites, Whitefly, Psyllid, Thrip, Nematodes, Flies	3,191,429,107 beneficials, released on 13,538 acres Valued at \$2,018,000
Pest Mitigation	Mechanical/Digging	Dalmation Toadflax, Scotch Thistle, Euphorbia Terracina	1 site each
Pest Eradications	Mechanical/Digging	Spotted Knapweed	1 site
Pest Exclusion & Plant Quarantine*	<u>Incoming Shipments</u>		<u>Inspections</u>
	UPS/Fed Express (Shipments)	Various	1,725
	Truck/Air Freight	Various	849
	Household Goods (Inspections)	Gypsy Moth	56
	<u>Outgoing Shipments</u>		
Federal Certificates	Various	11,190	
State Certificates	Various	500	

* In 2016, Ventura County exported approximately 27 different commodities to 91 different countries



Organic Farming 2015-2016

Crops	Year	Acres	Total Value
Registered Growers	2016		155
	2015		137
Vegetables & Herbs	2016	2,290	\$40,708,000
	2015	3,077	\$39,377,000
Fruits & Nuts	2016	5,019	\$133,404,000
	2015	4,823	\$121,256,000
Field & Seed Crops	2016	81	\$2,846,000
	2015	189	\$ 638,000
Cut Flowers & Nursery Stock	2016	7	\$56,000
	2015	8	\$64,000
Specialty Crops	2016	<1	<\$1,000
	2015	<1	\$1,000
TOTAL*	2016	7,543**	\$177,014,000
	2015	8,281	\$161,336,000

* Included in all other total values.
 ** Includes 146 acres of fallowed land

Following the harvest

I have worked in the harvesting of citrus for five years. I mostly work in citrus and avocado harvesting because I enjoy it. We harvest different fruits and travel to different cities following the harvest. Our company mostly harvests oranges, grapefruits, avocados and lemons. Today we are here working with avocados. The foreman gives us the size and type of avocado the company needs and it's our job to harvest them. Whenever we are harvesting we try to avoid any accidents by being careful and securing the ladders when we use them. Many people love and enjoy avocados but don't know where they come from.

Saul Jimenez
 Rico Farm Labor Inc.





Certified Farmer's Markets

City	Day/Time	Market	Type	Address	Contact
Camarillo	Sat 8 AM - 12 PM	Camarillo Hospice	y/r	2220 Ventura Blvd.	Ruff Smith 805-389-6870 info@camarillohospice.org
Ojai	Sun 9 AM - 1 PM	Ojai	y/r	300 E. Matilija St.	Cynthia Korman 805-698-5555 ojaifarmersmarket@cox.net
Oxnard	Sun 10 AM - 2 PM	Channel Islands Harbor	y/r	3350 S. Harbor Blvd. @ Cabezone Way, Harbor Side	Bryn Prichard 818-591-8161 info@rawinspiration.org
Oxnard	Thu 9 AM - 2 PM	Downtown Oxnard	y/r	Downtown Plaza Park 500 S. C Street @ 5th and C St.	The Oxnard Heritage Foundation 805-247-0197 dofm_info@rock.com
Simi Valley	Fri 11 AM - 3:30 PM	Simi Valley @ Civic Center	y/r	Simi Civic Center Plaza Tapo Cyn @ Alamo St.	Mark Rochin 805-643-6458 pacific209@hotmail.com
Thousand Oaks	Thu 1:30 PM - 6 PM	Thousand Oaks	y/r	The Oaks Shopping Center 222 W. Hillcrest Dr. East End Parking Lot	Karen Wetzel Schott 805-529-6266 www.vccfarmersmarket.com
Ventura	Sat 8:30 AM - 12 PM	Downtown Ventura	y/r	Santa Clara and Palm St. City Parking Lot	Karen Wetzel Schott 805-529-6266 www.vccfarmersmarket.com
Ventura	Wed 9 AM - 1 PM	Midtown Ventura	y/r	Pacific View Mall Front West Parking Lot	Karen Wetzel Schott 805-529-6266 www.vccfarmersmarket.com
Ventura	Thu 3 PM - 7 PM	East Ventura	y/r	901 S Kimball Rd.	Patrice Powell 805-479-9699 openaireproduce@aol.com
Ventura	Tue 3 PM - 5 PM	Patagonia Farm Stand	y/r	259 W. Santa Clara St.	Jacob Kneur 805-645-8616 JacobKneur@Patagonia.com
Westlake Village	Sun 10 AM - 2 PM	Westlake Village	y/r	2797 Agoura Rd.	Jason Bryant 818-591-8161 info@rawinspiration.org
Westlake Promenade Farmers Market	Sat 8 AM - 1 PM	Thousand Oaks	y/r	100 Promenade Way	Jason Bryant 818-591-8161 info@rawinspiration.org



Working Hard...

I harvest kale and other vegetables and fruits. As an agricultural field worker, I am looking where I can make more money, no matter which type of harvest it is. I have worked in the raspberry and kale fields, of which both are hard and tiring, but just like any job you get used to it. When harvesting kale, I look for the healthier leaves. The yellow leaves are removed or left alone and the green, healthier leaves are cut.



Santiago López
San Miguel Produce

My normal job is to pick strawberries, but since the season is over we are now taking out the plastic from the strawberry rows so it can be plowed and ready for the next strawberry season. I began working when I was 17 years old and now have 20 years working in the strawberries. I enjoy working in this county because there is always work. Even though it's hard labor, it gives us a way to create a better future for our family.



Juana Hernandez
ITO Brothers Inc.

Before working in the strawberry harvest I used to harvest chilies and tomatoes, but the season didn't last that long so I had to look for another job. Working in the strawberry harvest is hard, but you have work yearlong, and that helps out a lot because you have rent, food and other necessities that I need to provide for my kids. My job is to make sure that no spoiled, crushed or green strawberries makes it to the packing house. So I have to check all the strawberry boxes quickly and carefully. I don't mind working in the agriculture fields because it helps me to provide for my family and it gives me the opportunity to provide a better future for my kids.



María De Los Angeles Lira
Rio Mesa Farms

I began working in agriculture when I was seventeen years old for a total of eight years. I try to stay in one place, but I have to follow the harvest because that's my job. I believe that every agricultural job is hard. You need to adapt fast to the crop, the company, and your colleagues and wear the appropriate clothes for the work you going to do that day. You need to learn all this if you want to be successful. Over the years I got used to this work and even enjoy it now. I like being outdoors, there is not much more that you can ask out of life.



Javier Burgos
Terry Farms

I have twenty years working in agriculture. I started working in the fields when I was seventeen, and have been working in various types of cultivation such as planting celery, harvesting blueberries and chilies. The hardest part of this job is when it is raining and you are harvesting strawberries. The furrow gets full with mud and it makes it hard to walk and difficult to push your cart which gets you tired quickly. What I enjoy the most about working in the fields is spending time with my co-workers, because we work together every day and it's like having a second family.

Celia Hernandez
Terry Farms



I began working in agriculture in 1975 and always worked with flowers. It has been a rather long time. The years have been long and hard but I enjoy the work nonetheless. I came to work in California when I was twenty years old and now I am sixty-two and doing the same job. I have only worked with flowers because other crops are far more exhausting to work with. For example, I do not like harvesting strawberries, but they make an excellent milkshake. When you work with flowers, you are in the outdoors surrounded by many different flowers and fragrances. It is the best kind of freedom you can experience. I own a small flower business in Fillmore and I do not have the necessity to move anywhere else. As a flower grower, you need to know the best season to grow each flower and when each variety will sell the best. I see it as a science of its own. We live in a country of opportunities where you can do anything. I had a dream of owning my own business and I have accomplished it.

Humberto Martinez
Independent Flower Grower



I have been working in agriculture for twenty-two years. I started working when I was seventeen and have worked mostly in the strawberry harvest. The climate in Ventura County is really good. It does not get too hot or too cold. That's why many workers decide to stay here. I decided to stay in Oxnard because I was given the opportunity to have a yearlong job. That is really important because my family is stable and don't have to move constantly. My work is mostly general cleaning and machine maintenance, but today I will be using the sprayer to spray the crops. Whenever I am going to spray I make sure to know the product, the restrictions and information needed before I start to spray. It is really important to be aware of your surroundings to making sure no workers are around and that the climate is appropriate for spraying. I like my job as an agriculture worker. I am the type of person who likes to be outside and can't handle being in an enclosed building.

Victor Hernandez
ITO Brothers Inc.



I have been working in agriculture for 12 years and started working in the fields when I was 17. I do different jobs, not just one, depending on the season. Right now we are removing the weeds in the furrows and covering the hoses with soil. Tomorrow we could be doing another job. Next, we are going to be preparing the soil and the plastic tarps. I only work here in Ventura because my boss is good and work is year round. I like the countryside, doing a bit of everything, and being outside.

Bonfilio Soriano
Terry Farms





www.ventura.org/agricultural-commissioner

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