Ventura County agriculture and its labor force

John Krist, CEO
Farm Bureau of Ventura County
Characteristics of Ventura County agriculture

- Diverse
- Small
- High-value
- Labor-intensive

Characteristics of Ventura County farm workers

- Foreign-born
- Largely undocumented
- Low wages
- Mostly permanent residents
Characteristics of VC agriculture
Harvested cropland: 89,321 acres
Urbanized land: 105,461 acres
Acres converted from farmland to urban uses 1992-2012: 8,772
Commodities produced by Farm Bureau members

- Alfalfa
- Apples
- Arugula
- Artichokes
- Avocados
- Barley
- Beans (Lima)
- Beans (Green snap)
- Bees
- Beneficial insects, nematodes and snails
- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Bok choy
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Cantaloupes
- Carrots
- Cattle
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Cherimoyas
- Cherries
- Chicory
- Chinese
- Cabbage
- Chinese greens
- Chives
- Christmas trees
- Cilantro
- Collard
- Container plants
- Corn
- Cucumber
- Dill
- Ducks
- Eggs
- Eggplant
- Endive
- Fennel
- Flowers
- Gai Lon
- Grapes
- Grapefruit
- Herbs
- Hogs
- Honey
- Kale
- Kiwi
- Kohlrabi
- Leek
- Lemons
- Lettuce
- Limes
- Mint
- Mizuna
- Mushrooms
- Mustard
- Nectarines
- Nursery stock
- Olives
- Oranges
- Parsley
- Peaches
- Pears
- Peas
- Peppers
- Pimentos
- Plums
- Potatoes
- Pumpkins
- Radishes
- Rapini
- Raspberries
- Sage
- Sheep
- Spinach
- Squash
- Strawberries
- Sunflowers
- Swiss chard
- Tangerines
- Tomatoes
- Turf/sod
- Turnips
- Watercress
- Watermelon
- Zucchini
By the numbers

- Number of farms in VC: 2,150
- Average size: 131 acres
- Statewide average: 328 acres
- National average: 434 acres
- VC median: 12 acres
- Percentage <50 acres: 78%
- Orchard crops: 41,027 acres
- Berries, vegetables: 59,674 acres
• No. 9 ag county in California, No. 10 in U.S.

• Total crop value: $2.1 billion

• Average per acre: $23,500

• Real increase in per-acre value since 1998: 50%

• 9 times the per-acre value of No. 1 (Fresno)

• Nation’s leading producer of lemons, raspberries
No. 1: Strawberries
$609 million
13,555 acres

No. 2: Avocados
$210 million
20,121 acres

No. 3: Raspberries
$196 million
4,286 acres
No. 4: Nursery stock
$186 million
3,194 acres
(field access)
7 million sq. ft.
(greenhouses)

No. 5: Lemons
$190 million
15,345 acres
Ventura County's ag labor force

- Born outside of the U.S.: 95%
- Of those, percentage born in Mexico: 96%
- Average length of time in U.S.: 11 years
- Percentage lacking legal status: 57%
- Percentage with U.S. citizenship: 10%
- Percentage who speak only Spanish: 53%
- Median age: 32

Source: Results from California counties sampled by National Agricultural Workers Survey (2004)
Average Ventura County Annual Agricultural Wages 1990-2012 (Nominal)

$16,797

$29,242

Includes the following industry sectors:
- NAICS 111: Crop Production
- NAICS 1112: Vegetable and Melon Farming
- NAICS 1113: Fruit and Tree Nut Farming
- NAICS 1114: Greenhouse, Nursery, and Floriculture Production
- NAICS 115: Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry

Source: California Employment Development Department

+ 74%
Average Ventura County Annual Agricultural Wages 1990-2012 (Constant 1990 Dollars)

$16,797

- 3%

$16,257

Includes the following industry sectors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAICS Code</th>
<th>Industry Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Crop Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1112</td>
<td>Vegetable and Melon Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1113</td>
<td>Fruit and Tree Nut Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1114</td>
<td>Greenhouse, Nursery, and Floriculture Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Employment Development Department
**Average Ventura County Agricultural Employment 1990-2012**

- **Jobs in all categories, including support**
- **45,491**

---

**Includes the following industry sectors:**

- **Crop Production**: NAICS Code 111
- **Vegetable and Melon Farming**: NAICS Code 1112
- **Fruit and Tree Nut Farming**: NAICS Code 1113
- **Greenhouse, Nursery, and Floriculture Production**: NAICS Code 1114
- **Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry**: NAICS Code 115

**Source:** California Employment Development Department
Thank you!

www.farmbureauvc.com
info@farmbureauvc.com

(805) 289-0155