

Riverside County **AGRICULTURE**

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

A private, nonprofit organization serving farmers throughout Riverside County since 1917

Agriculture is thriving in Riverside County!

As one of the top ten farming counties in the US, Riverside County's more than \$1 billion in annual agriculture production is a significant contributor to California's standing as the top farm state. California's statewide farm production almost equals that of the next two states combined. Riverside ranks #9 out of 58 counties in California, and #10 out of 3,066 counties in the United States!

The total gross value of agricultural production in 2001 (\$1.125 billion) **increased 7.5%** from the value in 2000. Leading agricultural economists agree that every dollar received by Riverside County farmers in 2001, has the **financial impact of three times** that amount.



Agriculture affects many areas of the economy. Besides income to farmers and their employees (and support of their families), agriculture directly impacts trucking and shipping, farm equipment and supplies sales, processing and packaging plants, and warehousing along with direct product sales.



The economic benefit is not just limited to Riverside County or even California. Riverside County produces over 70% of the nation's dates, along with large percentages of other commodities. Besides shipping products nationally, Riverside County has over 30 commodities certified to export to 65 countries around the world.

Who we are and what we do

The Riverside County Farm Bureau, an independent, no-profit organization, was founded in 1917 to represent, protect and advance the social, economic and educational interests of the agricultural industry.

The Riverside County Farm Bureau strives to meet the needs of its thousands of dues paying members by working with elected officials, government agencies, educators, the public, and the media. We are involved politically, striving to protect the interests of agriculture, but also provide various social opportunities and services to members. A membership in the Farm Bureau reaches well beyond the boundaries of the county. At the state level, the California Farm Bureau Federation represents the interest of Farm Bureau members while the American Farm Bureau Federation covers the national scene. In California, there are 53 county farm bureaus representing over 97,000 members. Nationally, Farm Bureau membership exceeds 5,000,000.

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2001 Gross Value of Production Top Five Counties in California Riverside County by Rank and % of State Total

Commodity	Co. Rank *	State Rank	% of Value
Eggs (chicken)	1	24	27.1
Bell Peppers	1	31	17.6
Grapefruit	1	53	47.7
Dates	1	56	71.7
Lemons	2	17	18.2
Spinach	2	42	11.5
Carrots	2	45	19.0
Artichokes	2	59	13.1
Tangerines/Mandarin	2	65	23.5
Avocados	3	20	11.7
Watermelon	3	55	19.5
Honey	3	66	10.1
Oranges	4	6	3.0
Cantaloupes	4	34	7.3
Potatoes	4	38	7.8
Corn, Sweet	5	51	9.8
Sheep and Lambs	5	54	7.4
Honeydew melons	5	61	7.8

* Riverside County ranking within the top five counties in the state.
% Value = Value of Riverside County's portion of the total crop value for the state.

2001 Top Ten Crops in Riverside County

Commodity	County		State	
	Value *	Rank	Rank	% Value
Milk	292.4	1	1	6.4
Nursery	138.4	2	3	5.8
Grapes, Table	108.0	3	2	3.4
Lemons	62.6	4	17	18.2
Eggs	56.2	5	24	27.1
Hay, All	53.5	6	n/a	n/a
Dates	37.5	7	56	71.7
Avocados	35.2	8	20	11.7
Peppers, Bell	29.3	9	51	17.6
Grapefruit, All	27.6	10	32	47.7

* Value in Millions

Note: State Commodity Rank indicates that commodity's ranking on the state's top 75 list.

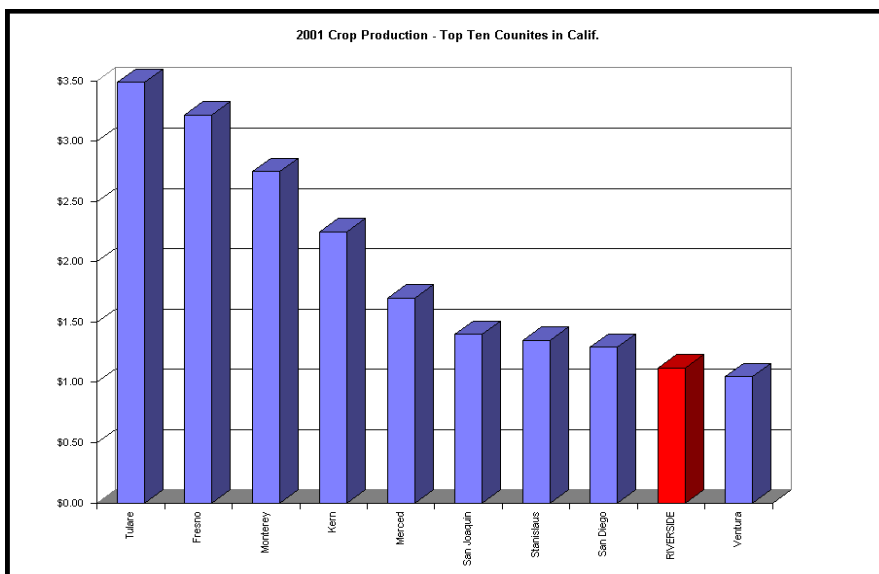
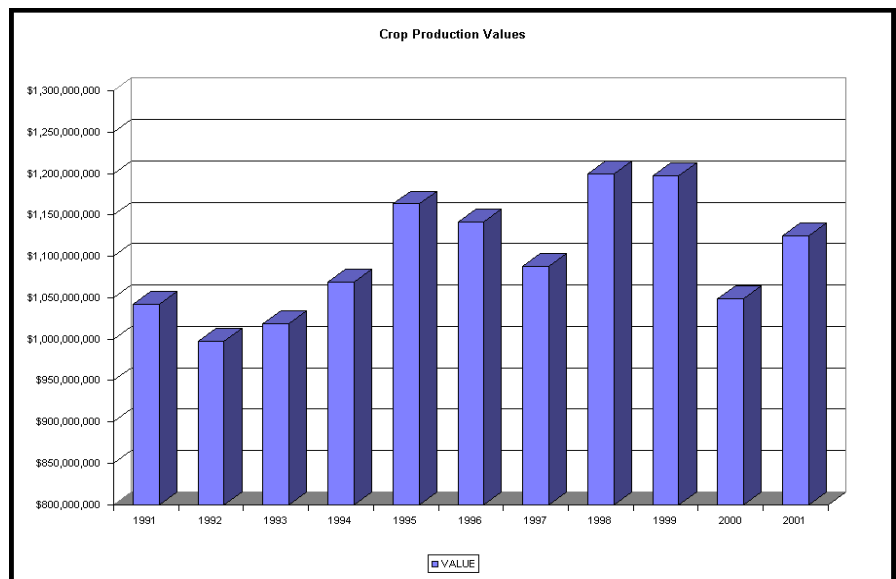
Despite perception, agriculture in Riverside County is on the rise, both in terms of gross value and planted acreage. Shown are the values from the 2001 Riverside County crop report and the increase from 2000.

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Increase from 2000</u>
Total Gross Valuation	\$1,124,908,400	+ 7.5%
Gross for Agriculture Crops	\$757,324,900	+ 11%
Gross Livestock & Poultry	\$367,583,500	+ 0.16%
Total Planted Acreage	285,332	+ 6.5%

- Riverside produces more than **70% of the nation's** date production.
- Riverside ranks **6th** in the state for milk production.

Riverside County Crop Production Values

<u>Year</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>
1991	\$1,042,326,900	6
1992	\$997,654,000	7
1993	\$1,018,641,000	9
1994	\$1,069,323,000	8
1995	\$1,163,430,300	7
1996	\$1,141,819,800	8
1997	\$1,087,920,000	9
1998	\$1,199,506,700	8
1999	\$1,197,362,000	9
2000	\$1,048,561,600	9
2001	\$1,124,908,400	9



California's Billion Dollar Crop Producers 2001

<u>County</u>	<u>Value (Billions)</u>
Tulare	\$3.49
Fresno	3.22
Monterey	2.75
Kern	2.25
Merced	1.70
San Joaquin	1.40
Stanislaus	1.35
San Diego	1.29
RIVERSIDE	1.12
Ventura	1.05

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