



California

Capital: Sacramento
Population: 33,871,648 (2000 census)
Founded: September 9, 1850 (31st State)
State Bird: California quail
State Fish: Golden trout
State Tree: Redwood
State Flower: Poppy
State Motto: Eureka!
Number of Counties: 58
Largest City: Los Angeles **Population:** 9.9 million, accounts for nearly 3 of every 10 Californians.
Area: 155,959 square miles

A Look at California Agriculture



Climate



- California's moderate, Mediterranean climate, coupled with the state's fertile soil and diverse land resources, allows year-round production of many commodities. Some of those with year-round crop seasons include lemons, artichokes, avocados, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, mushrooms, potatoes, spinach and squash.

Soil



- California is home to more than 1,688 soils, located in the state's unique blend of valleys, foothills, mountains, coastal areas and deserts.
- The San Joaquin series is the state soil.

General



- California is the nation's top agricultural state, and has been for more than 50 years. Agriculture generates approximately \$31.8 billion a year, more than any other state.
- There are 77,000 farms and ranches in California; they cover about one-third of California's total land area.
- The state's average farm size is 347 acres, smaller than the national average of 443 acres. — More than 60% of the state's farms are less than 50 acres in size, one indicator of the growing number of specialty crop operations.
- More than 92 percent of California farms are family farms or partnerships.
- The top 10 commodities include: milk and cream, all grapes, nursery products, almonds, cattle and calves, all lettuce, strawberries, all tomatoes, all hay, and flowers.

Crops



- California produces more than 350 crops. Of those, the following are commercially-produced only in California: almonds, artichokes, figs, olives, persimmons, pomegranates, prunes, raisins and walnuts.
- California grows more than half of the nation's fruits, vegetables and nuts from less than four percent of the nation's farmland.
- The second leading commodity, grapes, account for \$2.75 billion in cash receipts annually.

Animals



- Livestock and poultry account for about 24% of California's gross cash income, with a combined total of \$7.1 billion.
- California leads the nation in milk production with over 1.7 million dairy cows, \$5.2 billion in cash receipts.
- Over 5.3 billion eggs are produced each year by 20.3 million hens and pullets of laying age.
- Bee colonies, of which there are over 400,000 in the state, are included in the category of livestock.
- They are used both for pollination and production of honey, and their value is over \$16 million.



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