



A Look at *California* Agriculture

Capital: Sacramento

Population: 39,540,000

Founded: September 9, 1850 (31st)

State Bird: California quail

State Tree: Redwood

State Flower: Poppy

Number of Counties: 58

Largest City: Los Angeles - 4.1 million

Nickname: The Golden State

Number of Farms: 76,700

Average Farm Size: 331 acres

Total Farmland: 25.4 million acres

Area: 163,696 square miles



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Climate & Soil

- 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.
- The San Joaquin series is the state soil.
- California is home to more than 2,000 soils, located in the state's unique blend of valleys, foothills, mountains, coastal areas and deserts.

Crops & Livestock

- California produces more than 400 crops. Of those, the following are commercially produced only in California: almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, kiwifruit, olives, persimmons, pistachios, pomegranates, prunes, raisins and walnuts.
- California grows more than half of the nation's fruits, vegetables and nuts from just three percent of the nation's farmland.
- California leads the nation in milk production with more than 1,781,000 dairy cows.
- Primary livestock production includes: cattle and calves, beef cow operations, dairy cows, hens and pullets, broilers, turkeys, hogs and pigs, sheep, lambs and goats (dairy, meat and milk).
- Over 5 billion eggs are produced each year by 14.5 million hens and pullets of laying age.
- Bee colonies, of which there are over 310,000 in the state, are included in the category of livestock. They are used for pollination of at least 90 different crops, valued at \$11.7 billion.

General

- California is the nation's top agricultural state, and has been for more than 50 years
- There are 76,700 farms and ranches in California.
- The state's average farm size is 331 acres.
- More than 97 percent of California farms are family farms or partnerships.
- The state's two leading commodities in cash receipts are milk (\$6.07 billion) and grapes (\$5.58 billion).
- The top 10 commodities include: milk and cream, almonds, all grapes, cattle and calves, lettuce, strawberries, all tomatoes, pistachios, walnuts, and oranges.
- California's Secretary of Agriculture is Karen Ross.

Economy

- California exports approximately 25% of its agricultural production by volume, accounting for over \$20.4 billion in value.
- California is the largest food and agricultural economy in the nation.
- Agriculture provides more than 3 million jobs in California.
- California's farms and ranches received approximately \$46 billion for their output in 2016.