

What Makes San Diego County Agriculture Unique?



- San Diego County is the most southwestern county in the United States with a geographic area of 4,200 square miles, approximately the size of Connecticut, and a population of 2.9 million.
- The U.S. Weather Bureau describes the San Diego climate as the most nearly perfect in America, characterized as Mediterranean, with warm winters and cool summers.
- San Diego County's varied topography creates a wide fluctuation of microclimates resulting in nearly 30 different types of vegetation communities. This diversity allows for San Diego to grow over 200 different agricultural commodities - strawberries along the coast, apples in the mountains, and grapefruit in the desert.

- San Diego County has the sixth highest urban population among counties in the United States, but the County also has the 12th largest agricultural economy.
- Agriculture in San Diego County covers 315,000 acres and ranks 5th as a component of San Diego County's economy.
- San Diego County has 5,255 farms, the second highest number of farms of all counties in the United States.
- 63% of San Diego County farms are 1-9 acres, 37% are greater than 10 acres. Median size farm in San Diego is 5 acres.
- In San Diego 92% of the farms are family owned. 77% of the farmers live on their land. Native Americans hold 22% of the farmland in San Diego County.
- The high cost of water (more than \$600/acre foot) and land make farming in San Diego County expensive and encourages growers to raise products with a high dollar value per acre.
- San Diego County ranks number one in both California and the nation in the production value of nursery, floriculture, sod and avocados.
- Statewide, San Diego County is in the top five in the production of chickens, fresh market tomatoes, eggs, mushrooms, grapefruit, tangerines, and honey.



Information is from the 2006 Crop Statistics and Annual Report, Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures. A complete copy is available on-line at www.sdcawm.org/crop_statistics.html

County of San Diego, Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures
5555 Overland Ave, Ste. 3101
San Diego, CA 92123
858-694-2739 www.sdcawm.org



County of San Diego

Agricultural Overview 2006



In 2006, the Agricultural Commissioner system celebrated its 125th anniversary. In 1881, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors established a three member Board of Horticulture. In 1911, the board was consolidated into a single Horticultural Commissioner, and in 1929, the title was officially changed to "Agricultural Commissioner."

Historically, one of the duties of the Agricultural Commissioner is to report on the state of agriculture in this county. For many decades, the Agricultural Commissioner has tallied information gathered from local farmers and compiled an annual crop report.

All the values for 2006 have been tabulated and the total value of San Diego County's agriculture was \$1,461,665,261. Although this is slightly lower (-4.6%) than the 2005 value, it is apparent that agriculture still thrives and flourishes in our County, with over 47 crops worth at least \$1 million.

In 2006, the value of **Nursery and Flower** crops was 69% of the total value of agriculture in San Diego County. Indoor Flowering and Foliage Plants remains the number one crop and has been the top commodity in San Diego County for over two decades.

2006 Agricultural Crop Highlights

Total Value	\$1,461,665,261
Agricultural Value State Ranking	8th
Change in Value from 2005	\$69,875,975
Percent of Change	-4.6%
Total Acreage	315,296
#1 Crop	Indoor Flowering & Foliage Plants
Crop with the Highest Value Per Acre	Indoor Flowering & Foliage Plants
Dollar Value Per Acre	\$623,121
Crop with the Lowest Value Per Acre	Oat Grain
Dollar Value Per Acre	\$15.15



County of San Diego,
Department of Agriculture,
Weights and Measures
5555 Overland Avenue Suite 3101
San Diego, CA 92123 858-694-2739
www.sdcawm.org

San Diego County Agriculture

2006 Agricultural Overview

For the past several years, value and acreage of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs has increased rapidly. In 2006, these crops showed a slight decrease in acreage (-4.4%) and a slight increase in value (0.2%) to \$287,586,060. Overall acreage for all nurseries and cut flowers decreased in 2006 (-3.4%) while the total value remained essentially the same (0.0%).



Gains in the 2005 value (29%) of **Fruit and Nut Crops** declined (-32%) in 2006. Avocados remain the largest fruit crop, although the value decreased significantly (-45%), due to a drop in price and improved data gathering. Citrus decreased in both acreage (-9%) and value (-10%). Navel Oranges contributed to this decrease due to a significant drop in production.



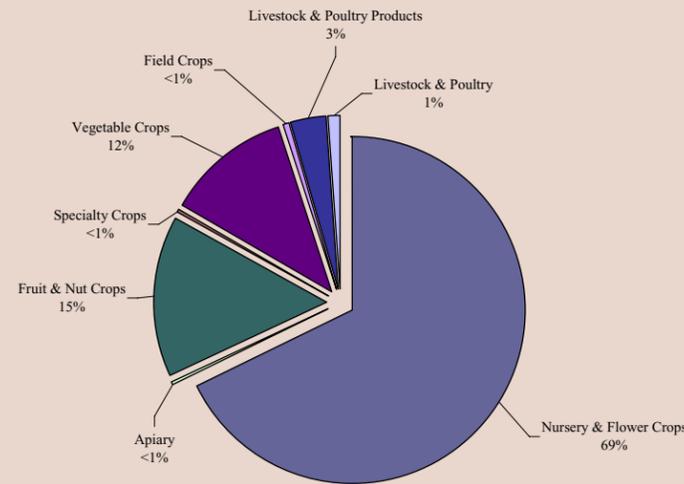
Vegetables and Vine Fruits value grew (25%) while acreage decreased slightly (-3.8%). The biggest gains were in tomatoes, increasing in both production and price. Mushrooms also showed significant gains in value (43%) while acreage stayed the same. Some of this increase is attributed to shifting towards more lucrative varieties of mushrooms.

The value of **Livestock and Poultry** decreased (-13%) with losses in all categories as livestock and poultry facilities continue to either close or migrate out of San Diego County. The number of head of cattle continues to decrease (-10%) following a trend since 2003. Correspondingly, milk production decreased (-19%). The overall value of Livestock and Poultry Products increased (4%) due to increased value of ratite products such as emu oil.



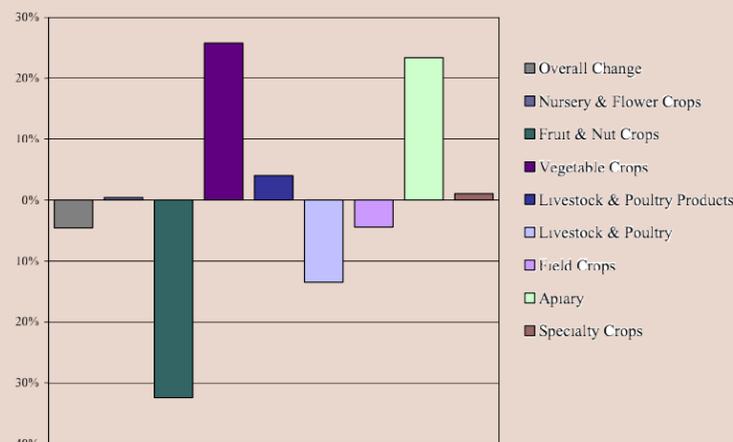
Field Crops which includes grains, rangeland and irrigated pasture, decreased in value (-4%) while bee products increased (23%). The largest increase was due to the rise in pollination value.

Major Agricultural Categories

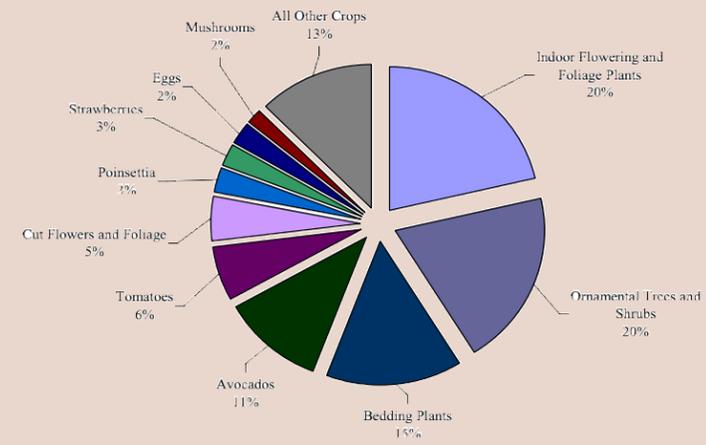


	ACRES	VALUE
Nursery & Flower Crops	9,872	\$991,254,764
Fruit & Nut Crops	44,028	\$220,325,305
Vegetable Crops	6,777	\$173,506,449
Livestock & Poultry Products		\$49,543,392
Livestock & Poultry		\$16,087,533
Field Crops	254,619	\$5,882,609
Apiary		\$4,100,209
Specialty Crops		\$965,000
Total Value of Agriculture	315,296	\$1,461,665,261

Percent Change in Major Crops

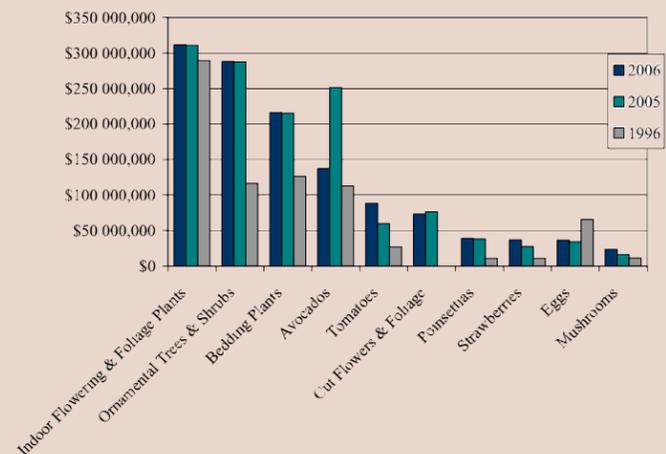


Top Ten Crops



Crop	2006	2005	1996
Indoor Flowering & Foliage Plants	\$311,560,400	\$311,050,300	\$289,448,520
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	\$288,020,450	\$287,586,060	\$116,232,545
Bedding Plants	\$216,042,250	\$215,366,320	\$126,339,313
Avocados	\$137,305,800	\$251,452,135	\$112,860,416
Tomatoes	\$88,378,386	\$59,729,263	\$27,107,326
Cut Flowers & Foliage	\$73,279,195	\$76,432,320	
Poinsettias	\$39,092,881	\$38,127,200	\$10,999,585
Strawberries	\$36,800,756	\$27,409,785	\$10,990,514
Eggs	\$36,396,428	\$34,213,600	\$65,641,919
Mushrooms	\$23,609,334	\$16,512,288	\$11,147,745

Two and Ten Year Comparisons



Of course, these figures do not reflect cost of production, or the countless hours of hard work by farmers. It is estimated that for every dollar value of an agricultural product, a multiplying factor (3.5) may be applied, yielding an estimated economic impact of \$5.1 billion to San Diego County.

This past year, farmers from San Diego County shipped 8,255 shipments of agricultural products to 67 different countries. Most shipments were destined to Mexico (6,369) followed by Japan (603) and Canada (520).

San Diego County has 317 registered organic growers, more than any other county in the nation. In 2006, San Diego organic growers produced over 140 different crops ranging from avocados to jujubes.



This past year, AWM fought to eradicate infestations of Diaprepes, Chrysanthemum White Rust, and various weeds, including Spotted Knapweed, Perennial Pepperweed and Yellow Star thistle.



Last year inspectors found 380 pests of significant economic importance (A rated) or of unknown economic importance (Q rated). Examples of finds are Giant African, Apple, and Cuban snails; diseases such as Chrysanthemum White and Gladiolus Rusts and first-time finds of Bamboo mealy bug and Bougainvillea looper.

Just as the Horticultural Commissioner 125 years ago, today's Agricultural Commissioner is committed to protecting and promoting the valuable agricultural resources of this county. Additional crop production information can be found at: www.sdcounty.ca.gov/awm/crop_statistics.html.