



University of California **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION** **FRESNO COUNTY**

Fresno County Profile



Fresno County is located in California's San Joaquin Valley which, together with the Sacramento Valley to the north, form the Great Central Valley, one of the distinct physical regions of the state. The Coast Range foothills, which form the county's western boundary, reach a height of over 4,000 feet near Coalinga, while some peaks along the crest of the Sierra Nevada, the county's eastern boundary, exceed 14,000 feet. The Valley floor in between is sixty miles wide and has an elevation near the city of Fresno of about 325 feet.

Rich soil, irrigation, and the hard work of farmers who came from all over the world continue to make Fresno County the richest and most productive agricultural county in America. In 2008, Fresno County growers grossed over 5.7 billion dollars from the production of more than 350 commercial crops.



Agriculture is the major industry in Fresno County and is a driving force in the county's economy. Every dollar received by Fresno County producers results in the economic extension benefit of \$3.50 to the total economy of the county.

Fresno County is one of the largest, fastest growing, and most diverse counties in the state of California. With a population of 909,153 Fresno County is the state's 10th largest county. The largest city, Fresno, with a population of 427,652, remains the state's fifth largest city.

In Fresno County, three in five people are either Hispanic or members of a minority race, such as African American, Asian, American Indian, or Pacific Islander. Fresno County is the state's third most diverse county.



Population	
2008 - 909,153	
Diversity	
White	36.4%
Hispanic	47.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.7%
African American	5.1%
American Indian	.8%
Facts	
Median Household Income	\$46,547
Persons in poverty	20.0%
Children in poverty	28.9%
Language other than English	40.8%
Unemployment	10.6%
Children Overweight	38.8%
Adults Overweight/Obese	63.6%

Major Crops	Dollar Value (millions)
Grapes	723.2
Almonds	591.6
Poultry	556
Milk	457.7
Tomatoes	451.5
Cattle/Calves	323.3
Peaches	190.2
Oranges	177.6
Garlic	169.6
Nectarines	152.3
Land Area	6000 sq. miles
Land in Farms/Acres	1.88 million
No. of Farms	6,281
Small Family Farms	4,994

2008 Efforts and Accomplishments

Agriculture

- **Research began on soil decontamination of Japanese dodder** with efforts to decrease the soil quarantine time after eradication.
- **Stewardship guidelines for the production of biotech alfalfa** were developed as a result of information from a large-scale field trial.
- **Control of the parasitic weed dodder may be enhanced** with the use of Chateau, a newly registered herbicide in alfalfa.
- Fresno County growers could **save up to \$30/acre** in fruit and nut crops by using improved weed sprayer techniques.
- An estimated 1,800 acres of **garbanzo beans were treated with a newly registered herbicide**, saving growers more than \$100/acre in hand weeding costs.
- **Dairy farmers obtained assistance** on mandatory regulations related to dairy waste management.
- Fly monitoring systems **minimize the use of pesticides** to control fly populations on dairies.
- 700 small family **farmers in Fresno are made aware of the labor and OSHA compliance** requirements mandated by the State Department of Industrial Relations.
- **Strawberry growers are able to control an insect** grub that has killed up to 20% of the plants in the field.
- A novel **fungicide allows organic table grape growers to plan for long-term fruit storage** without the use of sulfur.
- Field studies have identified grape rootstocks that **improve water and fertilizer uptake, saving money and natural resources.**
- **Susceptibility of processing tomato varieties to Tomato Spotted Wilt virus** has been quantified and the information is being used by producers and consultants.
- Growers visited field trials documenting the performance of **two fungicides in garlic that were recently registered for the management of white rot.**
- Based on UC research, **cotton seed companies developed new cotton varieties with improved fusarium tolerance.**
- **Almond growers learned** to use soil and water data to evaluate field salinity impact and improve field sampling techniques in dealing with the drought.

Human Resources

- To better reach residents with the lowest incomes, **two out of three food stamp nutrition education classes** took place at Employment & Temporary Assistance locations.
- Low-income class participants' health will improve because **91% changed at least one nutrition-related behavior** and 81% improved at least one food budgeting skill.
- The Youth Nutrition Program **reached 67% more low-income students** through their extender training partnerships.
- **As a result of evaluation received** from middle school students mentored by the Project LEAN program, a water fountain was donated to their school playing field.
- **Fresno County 4-H All Stars** provided over 4000 pounds of food for the hungry.
- Fairmont 4-H Club completed **860 hours of community service** work.
- **Master Gardeners contributed 18,290 volunteer hours** providing gardening, integrated pest management, tree care and weed control advice to homeowners.
- Through the Plant-a-Row for the Hungry Program, **Master Gardeners collected over 2,000 pounds of citrus to donate** to local food pantries.

We Deliver the Future!