

# The Pumpkin Leader

Warm summer days, cooling evening breezes, rich fertile soil, and plenty of cool clean water. This is the ideal combination of environmental conditions that makes San Joaquin County the number one pumpkin-producing county in California. In fact, 2003 figures show that San Joaquin County produced over 70% of all the commercially grown pumpkins in the state!

Botanically, pumpkins are a type of squash and are a fruit. They belong in the family *Cucurbitacae* that includes squash, gourds, melons, and cucumbers. Pumpkins are native to North America. Archeologists believe that pumpkins were one of the first plants to be domesticated in the Americas. Pumpkin seeds (*Cucurbita pepo*) dating back some 10,000 years have been excavated in Mexico. Pumpkins were a staple in the diet of Native American Indians.

When the Pilgrims arrived in America, they were introduced to many new foods, including the pumpkins that Native Indians had been cultivating for centuries. In 1621, at the first Thanksgiving celebration, Pilgrims took pumpkins, cut off the tops and removed the seeds. They then filled the pumpkins with a mixture of milk, maple syrup and spices, and cooked them in the shells. It is believed the Thanksgiving pumpkin pie evolved from this treat. Even today no Thanksgiving table is complete without pumpkin pie.

While history has shown the pumpkin to be an important food source, in our current society the pumpkin has gained a new role. Almost all pumpkins grown in San Joaquin County are destined for ornamental purposes. The Halloween Jack O'Lantern is the main use of local pumpkins. Every October, just before Halloween, fields take on an orange tint as the pumpkins reach maturity just in time for the festivities to begin. Ornamental use around the holiday table is the other major market. This has created an opportunity for the development of many new varieties. Seed companies are constantly trying to produce new shapes, colors, and sizes in an effort to draw consumer's dollars. We are all familiar with the small 'Jack Be Little', the white 'Lumina' and the mammoth 'Big Mack' varieties. Some varieties have a high dry-matter content, which allows a pie to cook evenly, others, an easy to eat hull-less seed.

The versatile Pumpkin has always been an important crop for Americans, and it continues to play an important role in our lives today. Whether for Jack O'Lanterns or pumpkin pie, a Thanksgiving table centerpiece or pumpkin bread, chances are that your pumpkin came from right here in San Joaquin County, the Pumpkin Leader.

#### SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

# 2004 ANNUAL CROP REPORT

# Scott Hudson Agricultural Commissioner

Compiled by Don McCoon, Jr.

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SCOTT HUDSON
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
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VICKI HELMAR

ASST. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

ASST. SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

A.G. KAWAMURA, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
AND
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Dear Secretary and Board Members:

In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, I am pleased to present the seventy-first Annual Report of Agricultural Production in San Joaquin County. The values shown are estimates based on the most common method of sale for the individual commodity, except for fresh fruits and vegetables where the value is based on the F.O.B. packed price at the shipping point. The figures contained in this report are gross values rather than net returns to the grower.

The gross value of agricultural production for 2004 in San Joaquin County is estimated to be an all time high of \$1,613,289,000. This represents a 9% increase from the estimated 1,477,650,000 for 2003. Significant increases occurred in Livestock & Poultry, Livestock & Poultry products, Nursery, Apiary Products, and Field crops. Vegetable and Fruit & Nut crop values were up slightly. Seed crops decreased in value. Highlights of the 2004 crop year are as follows:

- Despite a 5% drop in harvested acreage, total production value increased by about 9%.
- A levee breach flooded over 11,000 acres of cropland in the Upper and Lower Jones Tract.
- Milk is the county's most valuable agricultural commodity again in 2004. Higher prices paid to producers
  combined with an increase in production resulted in an all time high value of over 324.6 million dollars.
- The Grape industry continued its comeback with an increase in value for the second year in a row.
- Almonds remained the number three crop, receiving prices that have doubled in the last two years.
- Continued high demand for Livestock & Poultry resulted in values increasing by 25%.
- The Nursery industry experienced continued demand for Woody Ornamentals as trees, bushes and other landscaping plants were shipped to new housing developments across the State.
- October's unexpected heavy rains wreaked havoc with bean and processing tomato crops.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all who assisted my biologists and deputies by furnishing the necessary information that made this report possible.

Respectfully submitted

Scott Hudson

Agricultural Commissioner

# FIELD CROPS

Harvested acreage decreased due to Jones Tract flood and early October rains.

|                    |      | ACRES     | Production |           |      |          | Gross Va     | lue          |
|--------------------|------|-----------|------------|-----------|------|----------|--------------|--------------|
|                    | YEAR | HARVESTED | YIELD      | TOTAL     | UNIT | VALUE    | SUBTOTAL     | TOTAL        |
| BEANS, DRY, ALL    | 2004 | 6,800     | 1.22       | 8,300     | TON  | \$723.00 | SCOTOTAL     | \$6,000,00   |
|                    | 2003 | 9,400     | 1.09       | 10,200    | TON  | \$640.00 |              | \$6,526,000  |
| BLACKEYE           | 2004 | 1,600     | 1.14       | 1,820     | TON  | \$625.00 | \$1,140,000  | 1            |
|                    | 2003 | 1,600     | 1.00       | 1,600     | TON  | \$570.00 | \$930,000    |              |
| KIDNEY             | 2004 | 900       | 1.09       | 1,000     | TON  | \$800.00 | \$800,000    |              |
|                    | 2003 | 2,200     | 1.05       | 2,300     | TON  | \$616.20 | \$1,421,000  |              |
| LIMA               | 2004 | 3,600     | 1.40       | 5,000     | TON  | \$756.00 | \$3,789,000  |              |
|                    | 2003 | 4,400     | 1.22       | 5,400     | TON  | \$681.00 | \$3,663,000  |              |
| GARBANZO / OTHER   | 2004 | 710       | 0.99       | 703       | TON  | \$683.00 | \$481,000    |              |
|                    | 2003 | 1,200     | 0.73       | 876       | TON  | \$585.00 | \$512,000    |              |
| CORN, GRAIN        | 2004 | 43,300    | 4.47       | 193,400   | TON  | \$115.00 |              | \$22,242,000 |
|                    | 2003 | 46,700    | 4.62       | 216,000   | TON  | \$95.00  |              | \$20,619,000 |
| HAY, ALL           | 2004 | 87,100    | 6.53       | 568,500   | TON  | \$115.00 |              | \$65,625,000 |
|                    | 2003 | 80,100    | 6.60       | 528,400   | TON  | \$96.00  |              | \$50,467,000 |
| ALFALFA            | 2004 | 64,900    | 7.43       | 482,118   | TON  | \$121.00 | \$58,336,000 |              |
|                    | 2003 | 63,476    | 7.11       | 451,314   | TON  | \$100.00 | \$45,303,000 |              |
| OTHER              | 2004 | 22,200    | 3.89       | 86,400    | TON  | \$84.00  | \$7,289,000  |              |
|                    | 2003 | 16,636    | 4.63       | 77,100    | TON  | \$67.00  | \$5,164,000  |              |
| PASTURE & RANGE    | 2004 | 135,000   | 1000       |           | ACRE | \$37.45  |              | \$5,037,000  |
|                    | 2003 | 135,000   |            |           | ACRE | \$37.39  |              | \$5,055,000  |
| IRRIGATED          | 2004 | 14,500    |            |           | ACRE | \$138.00 | \$1,989,000  |              |
|                    | 2003 | 15,200    |            |           | ACRE | \$135.00 | \$2,055,000  |              |
| OTHER              | 2004 | 120,000   |            | - 50      | ACRE | \$25.00  | \$3,048,000  |              |
|                    | 2003 | 120,000   |            |           | ACRE | \$25.00  | \$3,000,000  |              |
| RICE               | 2004 | 6,030     | 4.70       | 28,300    | TON  | \$180.00 |              | \$5,101,000  |
|                    | 2003 | 6,350     | 4.05       | 25,700    | TON  | \$216.06 |              | \$5,552,000  |
| AFFLOWER           | 2004 | 6,000     | 1.50       | 9,000     | TON  | \$214.00 |              | \$1,922,000  |
|                    | 2003 | 10,700    | 1.12       | 12,000    | TON  | \$286.00 |              | \$3,432,000  |
| ILAGE, CORN        | 2004 | 43,100    | 31.22      | 1,345,600 | TON  | \$21.00  |              | \$27,706,000 |
|                    | 2003 | 40,100    | 28.35      | 1,136,800 | TON  | \$20.00  |              | \$22,828,000 |
| ILAGE, OTHER       | 2004 | 24,200    | 12.43      | 301,000   | TON  | \$18.23  |              | \$5,488,000  |
| NCLUDES GREEN CHOP | 2003 | 42,300    | 12.96      | 547,700   | TON  | \$18.37  |              | \$10,062,000 |

## FIELD CROPS

Harvested acreage decreased due to Jones Tract flood and early October rains.

#### Production

|                |      | 212       | Othercasons |        |      |                    |          |               |
|----------------|------|-----------|-------------|--------|------|--------------------|----------|---------------|
|                |      | ACRES     |             |        |      | <b>Gross Value</b> |          |               |
| CROP           | YEAR | HARVESTED | YIELD       | TOTAL  | UNIT | VALUE              | SUBTOTAL | TOTAL         |
| WHEAT          | 2004 | 32,700    | 2.61        | 85,200 | TON  | \$125.00           |          | \$10,654,000  |
|                | 2003 | 45,000    | 1.85        | 83,300 | TON  | \$112.00           |          | \$9,351,000   |
| OTHER*         | 2004 | 4,980     |             |        |      |                    |          | \$1,526,000   |
|                | 2003 | 4,820     |             |        |      |                    |          | \$1,695,000   |
| TOTAL          | 2004 | 389,000   |             |        |      |                    |          | #1=1 #12 PA   |
| to to the same |      |           |             |        |      |                    |          | \$151,763,000 |
|                | 2003 | 420,700   |             |        |      |                    |          | \$135,587,000 |

NUMBERS MAY NOT COMPUTE EXACTLY DUE TO ROUNDING

\*INCLUDES BARLEY, COTTON, SUNFLOWERS AND OATS FOR GRAIN.

## **SEED CROPS**

Decreased acreage and early rain hurt 2004 seed crops.

| Th           |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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|                      |      |           | ounction |        |      |         |                    |             |
|----------------------|------|-----------|----------|--------|------|---------|--------------------|-------------|
|                      |      | ACRES     |          |        |      |         | <b>Gross Value</b> |             |
| CROP                 | YEAR | HARVESTED | YIELD    | TOTAL  | UNIT | VALUE   | SUBTOTAL           | TOTAL       |
| KIDNEY BEAN*         | 2004 | 660       | 22.10    | 14,600 | CWT  | \$45.00 |                    | \$657,000   |
|                      | 2003 | 946       | 21.00    | 19,866 | CWT  | \$35.00 |                    | \$695,000   |
| BEANS, OTHER*        | 2004 | 589       | 25.88    | 15,246 | CWT  | \$40.34 |                    | \$615,000   |
|                      | 2003 | 550       | 19.00    | 10,450 | CWT  | \$37.00 |                    | \$389,000   |
| VEGETABLE SEED**     | 2004 | 787       |          |        |      |         |                    | \$4,919,466 |
|                      | 2003 | 1,293     |          |        |      |         |                    | \$6,890,000 |
| MISCELLANEOUS,       | 2004 | 570       |          |        |      |         |                    | \$368,000   |
| SUDAN, GRAIN & ETC.* | 2003 | 510       |          |        |      |         |                    | \$473,000   |
| TOTAL                | 2004 | 2,610     |          |        |      |         |                    | \$6,559,000 |
|                      | 2003 | 3,300     |          |        |      |         |                    | \$8,447,000 |

<sup>\*</sup>INCLUDES CERTIFIED SEED.

<sup>\*\*</sup>INCLUDES POTATOES FOR SEED.

# VEGETABLE CROPS Tomatoes were the leading vegetable crop again in 2004

|               |      |                    | duction |           |      |            | Gross Va       | lue           |
|---------------|------|--------------------|---------|-----------|------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| CROP          | YEAR | ACRES<br>HARVESTED | YIELD   | TOTAL     | UNIT | VALUE      | SUBTOTAL       | TOTAL         |
| ASPARAGUS     | 2004 | 18,200             | 1.40    | 25,500    | TON  | \$2,200.00 |                | \$56,056,000  |
|               | 2003 | 19,300             | 1.38    | 26,600    | TON  | \$1,600.00 |                | \$42,614,000  |
| CORN, SWEET   | 2004 | 1,700              | 8.76    | 14,900    | TON  | \$590.00   |                | \$8,781,000   |
|               | 2003 | 3,210              | 8.29    | 26,600    | TON  | \$229.00   |                | \$6,096,000   |
| CUCUMBERS     | 2004 | 2,180              | 14.50   | 31,500    | TON  | \$836.00   |                | \$26,365,000  |
|               | 2003 | 2,380              | 8.29    | 19,700    | TON  | \$400.00   |                | \$7,895,000   |
| MELONS, ALL   | 2004 | 3,470              | 18.70   | 64,800    | TON  | \$227.00   |                | \$14,698,000  |
|               | 2003 | 3,140              | 18.10   | 56,900    | TON  | \$264.00   |                | \$15,012,000  |
| WATERMELON    | 2004 | 2,710              | 20.00   | 54,200    | TON  | \$212.00   | \$11,490,000   |               |
|               | 2003 | 1,280              | 28.00   | 35,900    | TON  | \$280.00   | \$10,051,000   |               |
| OTHER         | 2004 | 760                | 13.96   | 10,600    | TON  | \$302.00   | \$3,208,000    |               |
|               | 2003 | 1,860              | 11.31   | 21,000    | TON  | \$236.00   | \$4,961,000    |               |
| ONIONS, DRY   | 2004 | 1,840              | 20.00   | 36,200    | TON  | \$183.00   |                | \$6,609,000   |
|               | 2003 | 1,820              | 33.00   | 59,100    | TON  | \$250.00   |                | \$14,762,000  |
| PEPPERS       | 2004 | 1,300              | 12.00   | 15,600    | TON  | \$692.00   |                | \$10,804,000  |
|               | 2003 | 1,050              | 15.00   | 15,800    | TON  | \$576.00   |                | \$9,072,000   |
| POTATOES      | 2004 | 2,950              | 18.75   | 55,400    | TON  | \$310.00   |                | \$17,164,000  |
|               | 2003 | 4,030              | 20.91   | 84,300    | TON  | \$185.00   |                | \$15,633,000  |
| PUMPKINS      | 2004 | 3,120              | 14.21   | 44,300    | TON  | \$152.00   |                | \$6,751,000   |
|               | 2003 | 3,470              | 14.00   | 48,500    | TON  | \$150.00   |                | \$7,279,000   |
| TOMATOES, ALL | 2004 | 39,230             | 34.68   | 1,360,400 | TON  | \$80.00    | V              | \$107,053,000 |
|               | 2003 | 42,080             | 30.07   | 1,265,600 | TON  | \$90.00    | and the second | \$118,380,000 |
| SHIPPING      | 2004 | 10,130             | 10.78   | 109,200   | TON  | \$408.00   | \$44,492,000   |               |
|               | 2003 | 10,580             | 10.97   | 116,100   | TON  | \$525.00   | \$60,920,000   |               |
| PROCESSING    | 2004 | 29,100             | 43.00   | 1,251,200 | TON  | \$50.00    | \$62,561,000   |               |
|               | 2003 | 31,500             | 36.50   | 1,149,200 | TON  | \$50.00    | \$57,460,000   |               |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 2004 | 5,610              |         |           |      |            |                | \$18,859,000  |
| VEGETABLES    | 2003 | 5,610              |         |           |      |            |                | \$22,227,000  |
| TOTAL         | 2004 | 79,600             |         |           |      |            |                | \$273,140,000 |
|               | 2003 | 86,100             |         |           |      |            |                | \$258,970,000 |

# **NURSERY PRODUCTS**

The largest percentage increase was for new orchard and vineyard stock.

|                                |       | QUANTITY    |       |               |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|
|                                |       | SOLD BY     |       | GROSS VALUI   |
| ITEM                           | YEAR  | PRODUCERS   | UNIT  | TOTAL         |
| GRAPEVINES, STRAWBERRY PLANTS, | 2004  | 212,349,000 | PLANT | \$13,192,000  |
| FRUIT & NUT TREES              | 2003  | 129,315,000 | PLANT | \$9,811,000   |
| VEGETABLE PLANTS               | 2004  | 280,656,000 | PLANT | \$9,277,000   |
|                                | 2003  | 283,714,000 | PLANT | \$7,568,000   |
| FLOWERING POTTED PLANTS        | 2004  | 2,241,000   | EACH  | \$9,480,000   |
|                                | 2003  | 2,128,000   | EACH  | \$7,616,000   |
| FOLIAGE PLANTS                 | 2004  | 3,335,000   | EACH  | \$16,219,000  |
|                                | 2003  | 4,317,000   | EACH  | \$13,469,000  |
| BEDDING PLANTS                 | 2004  | 495,000     | PKG   | \$3,690,000   |
|                                | 2003  | 1,566,000   | PKG   | \$5,174,000   |
| WOODY ORNAMENTALS              | 2004  | 50,212,000  | EACH  | \$54,490,000  |
|                                | *2003 | 7,371,000   | EACH  | \$42,542,000  |
| BULBS, RHIZOMES, TURF,         | 2004  |             |       | \$31,309,000  |
| CACTUS, CHRISTMAS TREES, ETC.  | 2003  |             |       | \$26,794,000  |
| TOTAL                          | 2004  |             |       | \$137,657,000 |
|                                | 2003  |             |       | \$112,974,000 |

\*REVISED

NUMBERS MAY NOT COMPUTE EXACTLY DUE TO ROUNDING

# **APIARY PRODUCTS**

Beekeepers benefitted from higher pollination fees in 2004

|             |      |            |      | PER     |              |
|-------------|------|------------|------|---------|--------------|
| ITEM        | YEAR | PRODUCTION | UNIT | UNIT    | TOTAL        |
| HONEY       | 2004 | 179,000    | LBS  | \$1.00  | \$179,000    |
|             | 2003 | 181,000    | LBS  | \$1.30  | \$235,300    |
| BEESWAX     | 2004 | 2,990      | LBS  | \$1.12  | \$3,300      |
|             | 2003 | 3,022      | LBS  | \$1.00  | \$3,000      |
| POLLINATION | 2004 | 190,300    | HIVE | \$54.60 | \$10,390,400 |
|             | 2003 | 192,300    | HIVE | \$45.00 | \$8,653,500  |
| TOTAL       | 2004 |            |      |         | \$10,573,000 |
|             | 2003 |            |      |         | \$8,892,000  |

# LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Continued high demand led to increased values in 2004.

|                  |      |            |            | PER  |          |              |
|------------------|------|------------|------------|------|----------|--------------|
| ITEM             | YEAR | PRODUCTION | UNIT       | UNIT | SUBTOTAL | TOTAL        |
| CATTLE & CALVES  | 2004 | 122,600    | 566,627    | CWT  | \$71.58  | \$40,559,000 |
|                  | 2003 | 64,300     | 549,000    | CWT  | \$57,51  | \$31,583,000 |
| SHEEP & LAMBS    | 2004 | 19,500     | 25,350     | CWT  | \$105.30 | \$2,668,000  |
|                  | 2003 | 14,000     | 18,000     | CWT  | \$94.00  | \$1,711,000  |
| BROILERS         | 2004 | 1,942,600  | 10,471,000 | LBS  | \$0.45   | \$4,712,000  |
|                  | 2003 | 2,667,150  | 10,669,000 | LBS  | \$0.38   | \$4,054,000  |
| OTHER CHICKENS   | 2004 | 1,248,100  |            | EACH | \$0.02   | \$25,000     |
| & SPENT HENS     | 2003 | 1,629,700  |            | EACH | \$0.02   | \$33,000     |
| TURKEYS          | 2004 | 450,200    | 17,359,712 | LBS  | \$0,38   | \$6,586,000  |
|                  | 2003 | 587,800    | 14,107,000 | LBS  | \$0.35   | \$4,990,000  |
| OTHER LIVESTOCK* | 2004 |            |            |      |          | \$6,914,000  |
|                  | 2003 |            |            |      |          | \$6,679,000  |
| TOTAL            | 2004 |            |            |      |          | \$61,464,000 |
|                  | 2003 |            |            |      |          | \$49,050,000 |

NUMBERS MAY NOT COMPUTE EXACTLY DUE TO ROUNDING

\*OTHER LIVESTOCK INCLUDES HOGS, SQUAB, DUCKS AND OTHER FOWL.

# LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Higher production and increased prices led to record Milk values.

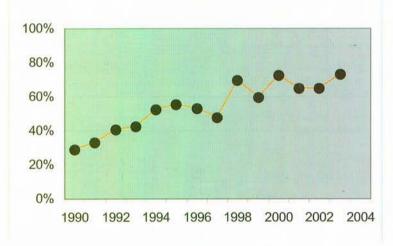
|               |      |            |        | PER     |               |               |
|---------------|------|------------|--------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| ITEM          | YEAR | PRODUCTION | UNIT   | UNIT    | SUBTOTAL      | TOTAL         |
| MILK, ALL     | 2004 | 21,846,000 | CWT    | \$15.00 |               | \$324,657,000 |
|               | 2003 | 21,458,000 | CWT    | \$12.00 |               | \$256,633,000 |
| MARKET        | 2004 | 21,768,000 | CWT    | \$15.00 | \$323,478,000 |               |
|               | 2003 | 21,398,000 | CWT    | \$12.00 | \$255,918,000 |               |
| MANUFACTURING | 2004 | 78,000     | CWT    | \$15.10 | \$1,179,000   |               |
|               | 2003 | 60,000     | CWT    | \$11.90 | \$715,000     |               |
| WOOL          | 2004 | 132,000    | LBS    | \$0.77  |               | \$101,000     |
|               | 2003 | 119,000    | LBS    | \$0.75  |               | \$89,000      |
| EGGS, CHICKEN | 2004 | 49,923,340 | DOZ    | \$0.58  |               | \$28,898,000  |
|               | 2003 | 65,186,100 | DOZ    | \$0.79  |               | \$51,558,000  |
| MANURE        | 2004 | 399,000    | TON    | \$3.00  |               | \$1,202,000   |
|               | 2003 | 382,000    | TON    | \$5.00  |               | \$1,908,000   |
| TOTAL         | 2004 |            | 70-50- |         |               | \$354,858,000 |
|               | 2003 |            |        |         |               | \$310,188,000 |

# Pumpkin Facts And Trivia



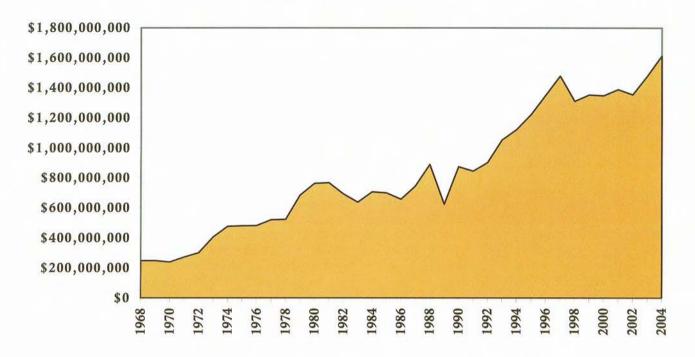
- Pumpkins and other squashes have been grown in North America for 10,000 years. They are indigenous to the western hemisphere and are believed to be the first plants domesticated by early Americans.
- Pumpkins are fruits. A Pumpkin is a type of squash and is a member of the gourd family (Cucurbitacae), which includes squash, cucumbers, gourds, and melons.
- Pumpkins range in size from less than 1 pound to just over 1400 pounds.
- Pumpkin flowers are edible. They can be stuffed, fried, candied or used as a garnish for soups and salads.
- Pumpkins are grown on six of the seven continents, with Antarctica being the only continent where they are not grown.
- Apocolocynposis is the fear of turning into a pumpkin.

San Joaquin County's
Share of State Pumpkin Crop

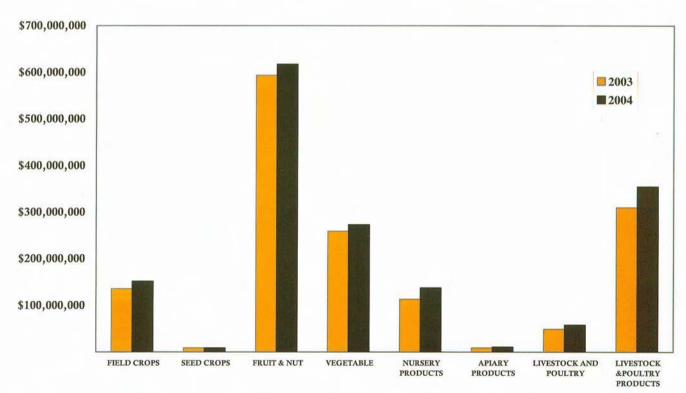


- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snakebites.
- Pumpkins are low in calories, fat and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of vitamin A, vitamin B, potassium, protein and iron.
- 90% of all pumpkins sold are used for Jack O' Lanterns.
- In 1621, at the first Thanksgiving celebration, Pilgrims took pumpkins, cut off the tops and removed the seeds. They then filled the pumpkins with a mixture of milk, maple syrup and spices, and cooked them in the shells. It is believed the Thanksgiving pumpkin pie evolved from this treat.

# Yearly Values of Agricultural Commodities in San Joaquin County



# **Gross Values by Crop Category**



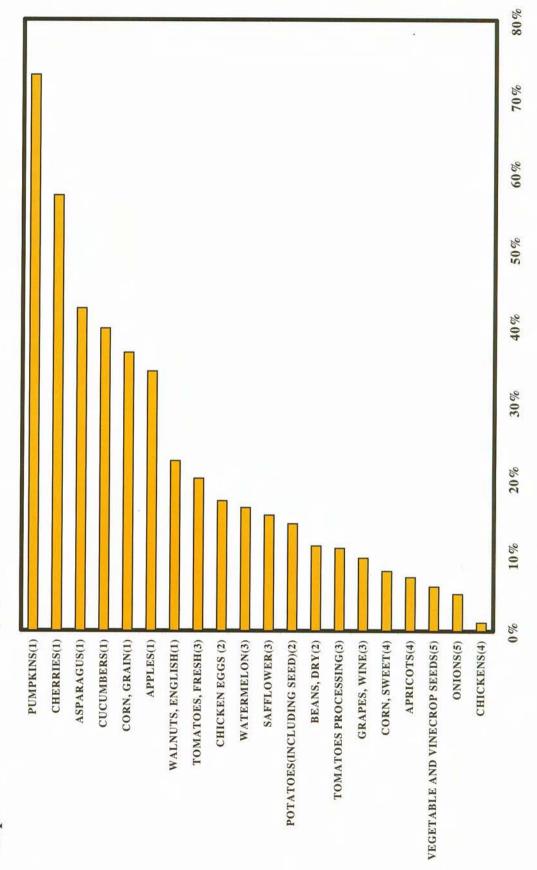
TOTAL VALUE 2003: \$1,477,650,000\*

TOTAL VALUE 2004: \$1,613,289,000

<sup>\*</sup>revised

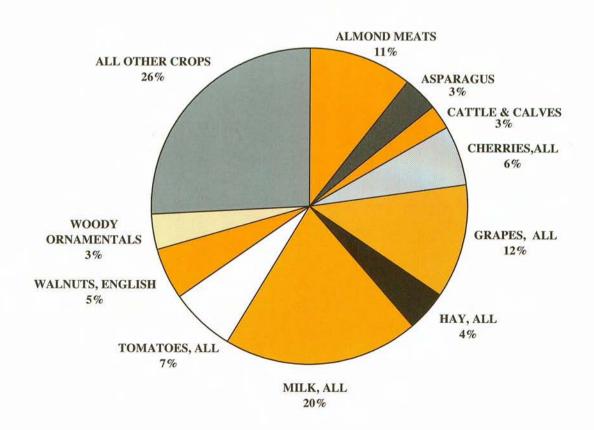
# SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY'S SHARE OF STATEWIDE PRODUCTION

value during the 2003 crop year. The bars represent San Joaquin County's percentage of the state value for that crop. The numbers in parentheses next to the crop labels show San Joaquin County's ranking for that Listed below are the crops in which San Joaquin County ranked in the top 5 in the State based on gross



# SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY'S TOP TEN LEADING CROPS

| MILK, ALL         | 324,657,000 |
|-------------------|-------------|
| GRAPES, ALL       | 188,824,000 |
| ALMOND MEATS      | 172,030,000 |
| TOMATOES, ALL     | 107,053,000 |
| CHERRIES, ALL     | 97,904,000  |
| WALNUTS, ENGLISH  | 87,926,000  |
| HAY, ALL          | 65,625,000  |
| ASPARAGUS         | 56,056,000  |
| WOODY ORNAMENTALS | 54,490,000  |
| CATTLE & CALVES   | 40,559,000  |
| ALL OTHER CROPS   | 418,361,000 |



# Sustainable Agriculture

# **Insect Trapping Program**

To protect our agricultural resources from non-native insects, San Joaquin County maintains a Detection Trapping Program. In 2004, San Joaquin County deployed over 6,500 traps. The majority of these traps targeted the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter. Additionally, over 1,400 traps were utilized for the detection of various fruit flies. Among others, these included the Mediterranean Fruit Fly and Oriental Fruit Fly. The Red Imported Fire Ant program (RIFA) had over 19,000 bait stations placed in various apiaries, nurseries, fairgrounds and newly landscaped areas. Interstate sealed shipments from high risk areas were also profiled for the RIFA. A few of the other pests that county biologists watch for are Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Khapra Beetle and European Corn Borer.

#### **Biological Control**

<u>Weeds</u> – 16 different insects were enlisted to aid in the battle against 9 different weed pests. **Yellow Starthistle** is one of the County's most invasive weeds, and there are 5 different insects working to control it. Other weeds currently targeted for biocontrol are **Puncturevine**, **Water Hyacinth** and various **Thistle** species.

<u>Insect Predators</u> – The <u>Ladybird beetle</u>, *Clitostethus arcuatus*, and its cousin the <u>Asiatic Ladybird beetle</u>, *Harmonia axyridis* are well known for the insatiable appetite for aphid and scale insects. Other predators employed in the fight are the <u>Vedalia beetle</u>, *Rodolia cardinalis*, and a <u>Parasitic fly</u>, *Cryptochaetum iceryae*, which target the Cottony Cushion Scale. Two <u>Encarsia wasps</u>, *Encarsia formosa* and *Encarsia partenopea* feed on the Greenhouse whitefly and Ash whitefly respectively. Two species of <u>Predator mites</u>, *Galendromus* and *Phytoseiulus spp.*, attack Twospotted spider mites. <u>Encyrtid wasps</u>, *Psyllaephagus bliteus*, parasitize Red Gum Lerp Psyllids on eucalyptus trees, while a <u>Nematode</u>, *Steinernema feltiae*, acts on fungus gnat larvae in greenhouses.

<u>Vertebrate pests</u> – Owls are predators of many nocturnal vertebrate pests, especially gophers, voles and mice. The easiest way to introduce owls to an area is to provide habitat for them. Owl boxes have proven to be the best way to do this. Plans to build these owl boxes are distributed for free by the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape commission. Plans are also available at any San Joaquin County Agricultural office. It is estimated that around 1,000 Owl boxes have been built and deployed by property owners around the county.

# **Quarantine Interceptions**

In an effort to stop smuggled or hitchhiking pests from entering our county, the Agricultural Commissioner's office conducts inspections at the USPS Regional Distribution Center, UPS, FedEx and express mail carriers in San Joaquin County. In 2004 San Joaquin County biologists intercepted 133 "Q" and "A" rated pests through quarantine inspections. The most commonly rejected pests were Lesser Snow Scale and various life stages of leafhoppers. Other significant pests intercepted include Glassy Winged Sharpshooter, Magnolia White Scale, Green Shield, and Cockerell Scales, Spiraling Whitefly and assorted mealybugs.

# **Punagrass Eradication Project**

**Punagrass**, Acnatherum brachychaetum, is a tough, unpalatable weed of pastures and hay crops. Localized infestations of this noxious weed occur in the Tracy/Banta area. This native of South America forms large tough clumps that out compete our native plants. Manual removal of mature plants has proven to be the most effective method of control. In 2004 over 2,900 plants were dug up by hand. Since 1996, a total of 78,785 plants have been removed from 21 different alfalfa fields. Eradication has been achieved in 7 of these fields.

# San Joaquin County Trading Partners 2004

San Joaquin County Growers export to all corners of the globe. In 2004 locally grown agricultural commodities were shipped to 139 different countries!

| AFGHANISTAN            | ECUADOR          | MACAU                      | REUNION              |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ALGERIA                | EGYPT            | MADAGASCAR                 | ROMANIA              |
| ANGOLA                 | EL SALVADOR / /  | MALAWI                     | RUSSIAN FEDERATION   |
| ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA    | ESTONIA          | MALASIA                    | SAINT LUCIA          |
| ARGENTINA              | EUN CO TO        | MALTA                      | SAMOA                |
| ARMENIA                | FINLAND          | MARSHALL ISLANDS           | SAUDI ARABIA         |
| AUSTRALIA              | FRANCE           | MARTINIQUE                 | SENEGAL              |
| AUSTRIA                | FRENCH POLYNESIA | MAURITIUS                  | SIERRA LEONE         |
| AZERBAIJAN /4/         | GEORGIA A        | MEXICO                     | SINGAPORE            |
| BAHAMAS /// /          | GERMANY          | MOLDOVA                    | SLOVENIA             |
| BAHRAIN ////           | GHANA            | MONGOLIA                   | SOLOMON ISLANDS      |
| BANGLADESH /// /       | GREECE           | MONTSERRAT                 | SOUTH AFRICA         |
| BARBADOS /// /         | GRENADA          | MOROCCO                    | SPAIN                |
| BELARUS /// /          | GUATEMALA        | MOZAMBIQUE                 | SRILANKA             |
| BELGIUM ////           | GUYANA           | NEPAL                      | SWEDEN               |
| BERMUDA ///            | HAITI            | NETHERLAND ANTILLES        | SWITZERLAND          |
| BOLIVIA                | HONDURAS         | NETHERLANDS                | SYRIA                |
| BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA | HONG KONG        | NEW CALEDONIA              | TAIWAN               |
| BRAZIL                 | HUNGARY          | NEW ZEALAND                | TANZANIA             |
| BRUNEI DARUSSALAM      | ICELAND          | NICARAGUA                  | THAILAND             |
| BULGARIA \\\           | INDIA            | NIGERIA                    | TONGA                |
| BURKINA FASO           | INDONESIA        | NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS   | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  |
| CAMBODIA \\\\\\\       | IRELAND          | NORWAY                     | TUNISIA              |
| CAMEROON \\\\\         | ISRAEL           | OMAN /                     | TURKEY               |
| CANADA \\\\\\          | ITALY            | PAKISTAN / / 7             | /UGANDA              |
| CANARY ISLANDS         | JAMAICA          | PANAMA / / / / /           | UKRAINE              |
| CHILE                  | JAPAN \          | PAPUA NEW GUINEA / / / /   | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES |
| COLOMBIA               | JORDAN \         | PARAGUAY / / / / / / /     | UNITED KINGDOM       |
| COSTA RICA             | KAZAKHSTAN       | PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA | URUGUAY              |
| CROATIA                | KENYA            | PERU                       | UZBEKISTAN           |
| CYPRUS                 | KUWAIT           | PHILIPPINES                | VENEZUELA            |
| CZECH REPUBLIC         | LATVIA           | POLAND                     | VIETNAM              |
| CONGO (Zaire)          | LEBANON          | PORTUGAL                   | ZAMBIA               |
| DENMARK                | LIBERIA          | QATAR                      | ZIMBABWE             |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC     | LITHUANIA        | REPUBLIC OF KOREA          |                      |
|                        |                  |                            |                      |

# Organic Agriculture

In 2000, the USDA implemented the National Organics Program (NOP). This was done in an effort to certify the availability of clean, organically grown foods to the American Public. In order to market agricultural products as organic, growers must register with NOP and adhere to a strict set of guidelines. These stringent guidelines help to ensure that all foods labeled as organic are indeed organically grown. The California Organic Products Act of 2003 was enacted in an effort to align the current California Organic laws with the National Organics Program. San Joaquin County has 19 registered growers of organic commodities. In 2004, local growers farmed over 2000 acres to produce 19 different organic commodities. San Joaquin County's 5 most valuable Organic crops are:

- Peaches
- 2. Cherries
- Walnuts

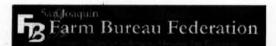
- 4. Almonds
- 5. Corn

#### GENERAL SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY INFORMATION

COUNTY SEAT STOCKTON **COUNTY POPULATION (2004)** 630,600 POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE 450 **INCORPORATED CITIES (7)** ESCALON, LATHROP, LODI, MANTECA, RIPON, STOCKTON AND TRACY LAND AREA (SQUARE MILES) 1,400 LAND IN FARMS (ACRES - 2002) 812,629 TOTAL CROPLAND (ACRES - 2002) 574,752 IRRIGATED CROPLAND (ACRES - 2002) 520,172 **NUMBER OF FARMS (2002)** 4,026 AVERAGE SIZE OF FARMS (ACRES - 2002) 202 AGRICULTURAL WORK FORCE (MONTHLY AVERAGE) 16,800 **SEASON HIGH - JUNE** 28,400 **SEASON LOW - DECEMBER** 11,000 LOWEST ELEVATION IN COUNTY (DELTA AREA) 12' BELOW SEA LEVEL HIGHEST ELEVATION IN COUNTY (SOUTHWESTERN AREA) 3065' ABOVE SEA LEVEL LENGTH OF COUNTY (NORTH TO SOUTH) 75 MILES WIDTH OF COUNTY (EAST TO WEST) 65 MILES AVERAGE JANUARY TEMPERATURE 53° AVERAGE JULY TEMPERATURE 93° AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL NORTH COUNTY 16 INCHES **EAST COUNTY** 12 INCHES SOUTH COUNTY 14 INCHES WEST COUNTY 9 INCHES

#### A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"

The San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office expresses its deep appreciation to the



and



for their contributions to the 2005 Crop Report. We would also like to thank the San Joaquin County Cooperative Extension for their assistance. Without their support the publication of this report would not be possible. Cover photo credit to M. Mirisch.

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