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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY RELEASES ANNUAL CROP REPORT
With many crop values decreasing, bees make a surprising buzz in production

(STOCKTON, CA) The San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner formally presented the 2016 Annual Agricultural Crop Report to the County Board of Supervisors today for adoption. The numbers will be used by the United States Department of Agriculture as part of its annual compilation of detailed agricultural data for every county in America.

“California’s historic drought certainly hindered crop production in San Joaquin County as well as many other regions in California. Even so, our County’s agriculture is still a global leader providing a significant number of jobs and billions of dollars to the economy”, said Chuck Winn, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. “Many people may not know that the crops farmers grow in San Joaquin are exported to 90 different countries. The way these crops perform in the market impacts our local, state and national economy on a massive scale. We are confident that San Joaquin farmers have the expertise, resiliency and experience to guide us through this decline and lead us to the next bumper crop season.”

Agricultural Commissioner Tim Pelican announced that the gross value of agricultural production for 2016 was over \$2.3 billion, signaling a decline of nearly 15 percent from 2015 value. While decreases occurred across many Fruit and Nut Crops, Field Crops, and Livestock and Poultry Products categories, Apiary (beekeeping) Products experienced nearly a 19 percent increase and Grape values increased more than 21 percent over the prior year.

“Parched, dry conditions throughout the State as well as volatile world market prices resulted in substantial losses to fruit, nut, vegetable and field crops in 2016. In addition, livestock and poultry were especially hard hit by the decline of egg prices,” said Pelican. “But our bees were abuzz in 2016 with the apiary industry alone accounting for \$23 million of the 2016 crop report, solely in pollination services. In total, bees are responsible for over a quarter of our total agricultural output. This year that number is roughly \$568 million. And that is a large economic impact for a workforce that is individually so small in size.”

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Details from the 2016 crop year:

- Grapes took number one position replacing almonds with a production value of \$425,781,000, a 21.41% increase in value from 2015.
- Milk, the County's number two commodity, saw a loss of 2.68% in production value in 2016, with a total value of \$362,196,000.
- Almonds dropped to number three position and were valued at \$348,819,000, sustaining a loss of 19.53% in production value when compared to 2015 values.
- Walnuts experienced a production value of \$273,965,000, marking a loss of 14.31% due to lower sale prices.
- Nursery Products increased by 2.45% to \$107,387,000.
- Apiary was a bright spot showing a 18.89% increase in value resulting from higher prices.
- A special section devoted to Apiary industry highlighting need for pollinator protection and their important role in production of food crops.

“In 2016, there were 220,000 hives spread over 103,000 acres servicing at least nine commodities - like melons, pumpkins, apples and cherries - that San Joaquin County leads the State in production,” added Pelican. “Without the busy pollinators, Californians and for that matter, people around the world would be without many of the foods we depend on.”

For the 2016 Crop Report, and past years, please visit:

https://www.sjgov.org/departments/agcomm/crop_reports

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