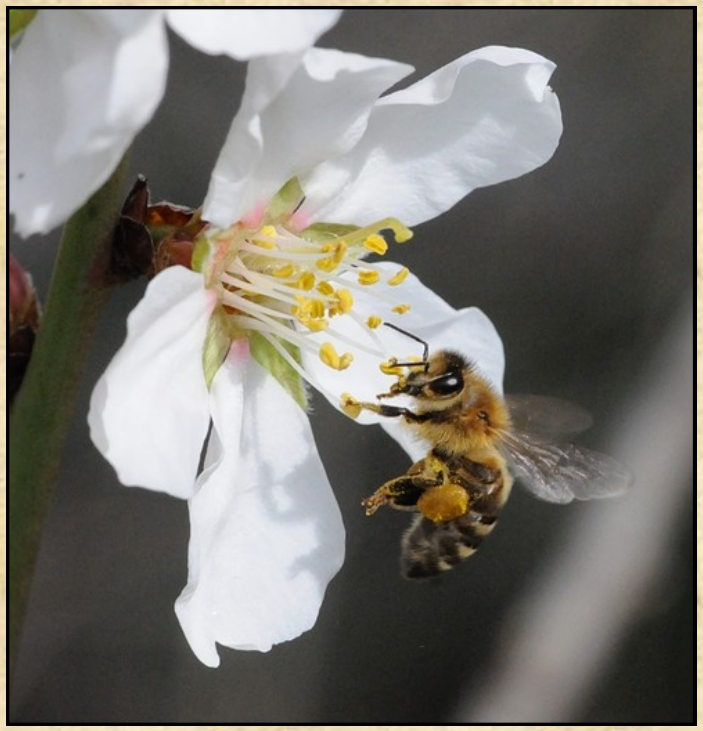
HONEY BEES AND CROP POLLINATION



2011 AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

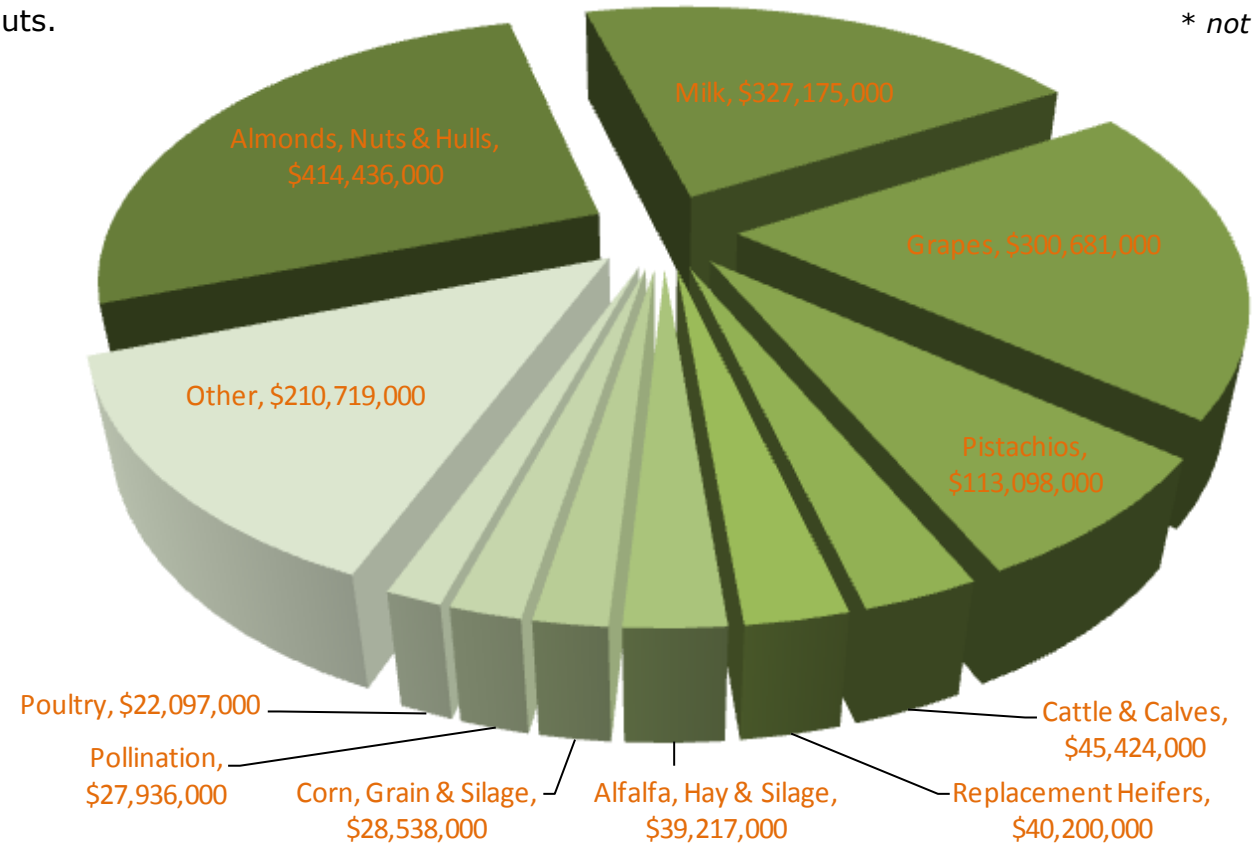
MADERA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TEN LEADING CROPS
MADERA COUNTY 2011

Commodity	2011 Rank	2011 Dollar Value	2010 Rank
Almonds, Nuts & Hulls	1	$414,436,000	1
Milk	2	$327,175,000	3
Grapes	3	$300,681,000	4
Pistachios	4	$113,098,000	2
Cattles & Calves	5	$45,424,000	5
Replacement Heifers	6	$40,200,000	6
Alfalfa, Hay & Silage	7	$39,217,000	8
Corn, Grain & Silage	8	$28,538,000	*
Pollination	9	$27,936,000	7
Poultry	10	$22,097,000	10

Diversity, which serves to strengthen the agricultural economy of Madera County, is evident in this listing of our Ten Leading Crops, which include fruit and nut crops, milk, dairy and beef cattle, nursery stock, field crops, poultry and apiary pollination. The wide range of commodities produced in our county is further underscored by that segment on the chart entitled "Other," which includes such diverse products as berries, citrus, cotton, olives, stone fruits, timber, vegetable crops and walnuts.

** not in Top 10*



Front cover: Honey bee by Kathy Keatley Garvey

Madera County Department of Agriculture
Weights and Measures

Jay Seslowe, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

Frank Bigelow, Ronn Dominici, Max Rodriguez, David Rogers, and Tom Wheeler

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2011 Agricultural Crop Report for Madera County. It must be emphasized that the values presented in this report reflect gross returns only and do not in any manner reflect net income or loss to producers.

The gross value of Madera County's agricultural production in 2011 was $1,569,521,000. This represents an overall increase of $221,016,000 (16.39%) over the 2010 production levels.

Almonds continued to be the leading crop in Madera County for the second straight year with a value of $414,436,000. This is an increase of $127,944,000 from 2010 due to favorable conditions and an excellent crop set. Milk increased by 38.28% to $327,175,000 with increases in both production and price per unit of market milk. Grapes moved up to the number three leading crop with a 29.19% increase to $300,681,000. Pistachios, an alternate-bearing crop, dropped to number four with a decrease in production value to $113,098,000. Cattle and Calves remained Madera County's fifth highest individual commodity at $45,424,000.

The preparation of a report of this type requires extensive collaboration, and I sincerely appreciate the contributions of our growers, the UC Cooperative Extension, and my staff. In particular, I would like to thank Senior Agricultural & Standards Inspector, Cha Vang, for his assistance with crop surveys throughout the year and for compilation of this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Seslowe
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures

MADERA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MADERA COUNTY STAFF

Madera County Board of Supervisors

Frank Bigelow
District 1

David Rogers
District 2

Ronn Dominici
District 3

Max Rodriguez
District 4

Tom Wheeler
District 5

County Administrative Officer

Eric Fleming

Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures

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Mary Arias, Program Assistant I

Pest Detection Trappers

Justin Betts
Benjamin Holschlag
Gloria Johnson
Peter Konovalov
Alan Pehl
Charles Reiring, Jr.
Ron Uyeno

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MADERA COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

County Established	March 11, 1893
County Seat	Madera (city)
Population[a]	152,925
Total County Acreage	1,366,925
2011 Harvested Acreage	669,490
Field Crop Acreage	97,000
Fruit and Nut Acreage	214,920
Nursery Acreage	440
Vegetable Acreage	4,130
Rangeland Acreage	353,000
Forest Acreage	414,300
U. S. Parkland Acreage	83,000

Bordering Counties

Merced County	Northwest
Mariposa County	North
Mono County	East
Fresno County	South and West

Ranking of Madera County Among Counties of California

Population[a]	33
Total Acreage	24
Total Agricultural Production[b]	14
Commodity, by Value	
Figs	1
Grapes, Raisin Variety	2
Pistachios	4
Almonds	5
Grapes, Table Variety	5
Cattles & Calves	7
Corn, Silage	7
Grapes, Wine Variety	7
Olives	7
Milk, Market	9

Ranking of Madera County Among Counties of the United States

Total Agricultural Production[c]	21

a/ US Bureau of Census, 2011 Estimate
b/ County Agricultural Commissioner's Data, 2010
c/ USDA Ag Census, 2007

Madera County Crop Reports from 2001 to 2011 are available at:
http://www.madera-county.com/agcommissioner/cropreports/index.html

Field Crops

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	VALUE Per Unit	Total
Alfalfa							
Hay	**2011**	**20,200**	**7.64**	**154,328**	**Ton**	**$236.00**	**$36,421,000**
	2010	28,900	6.09	176,001	Ton	133.00	23,408,000
	2009	30,000	7.00	210,000	Ton	113.00	23,730,000
Silage[a]	**2011**			**52,764**	**Ton**	**53.00**	**2,796,000**
	2010			62,522	Ton	34.00	2,126,000
	2009			52,710	Ton	30.00	1,581,000
Total	**2011**	**20,200**					**39,217,000**
	2010	28,900					25,534,000
	2009	30,000					25,311,000
Beans, Dry[b]	**2011**	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	**-**	**-**
	2010	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	**-**	**-**
	2009	620	1.51	936	Ton	742.00	695,000
Corn							
Grain	**2011**	**1,300**	**6.89**	**8,957**	**Ton**	**244.00**	**2,186,000**
	2010	1,100	5.49	6,039	Ton	192.00	1,159,000
	2009	1,100	5.51	6,061	Ton	178.00	1,079,000
Silage	**2011**	**24,400**	**27.00**	**658,800**	**Ton**	**40.00**	**26,352,000**
	2010	21,300	26.94	573,822	Ton	30.00	17,215,000
	2009	19,700	25.25	497,425	Ton	25.00	12,436,000
Total	**2011**	**25,700**					**28,538,000**
	2010	22,400					18,374,000
	2009	20,800					13,515,000
Cotton							
Lint	**2011**	**5,500**	**1,554**[c]	**17,806**	**Bale**[d]	**1.11**[e]	**9,487,000**
	2010	4,100	1,561	13,334	Bale	1.20	7,680,000
	2009	330	1,123	772	Bale	0.72	267,000
Seed	**2011**			**7,124**	**Ton**	**289.00**	**2,059,000**
	2010			5,328	Ton	237.00	1,263,000
	2009			310	Ton	290.00	90,000
Oat							
Hay	**2011**	**3,600**	**2.38**	**8,568**	**Ton**	**124.00**	**1,062,000**
	2010	3,100	2.08	6,448	Ton	81.00	522,000
	2009	3,400	2.14	7,276	Ton	72.00	524,000
Pasture							
Irrigated	**2011**	**2,700**			**Acre**	**150.00**	**405,000**
	2010	3,300			Acre	150.00	495,000
	2009	3,300			Acre	150.00	495,000
Rangeland	**2011**	**353,000**			**Acre**	**15.00**	**5,295,000**
	2010	353,000			Acre	12.00	4,236,000
	2009	353,000			Acre	12.00	4,236,000

Photo: Corn silage harvest by Thomas Hagopian/Grower

Field Crops

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	VALUE Per Unit	Total
Wheat							
Grain	**2011**	**7,600**	**2.84**	**21,584**	**Ton**	**$244.00**	**$5,266,000**
	2010	14,200	2.40	34,080	Ton	182.00	6,203,000
	2009	6,000	2.46	14,760	Ton	245.00	3,616,000
Silage	**2011**	**22,400**	**13.93**	**312,032**	**Ton**	**31.00**	**9,673,000**
	2010	17,800	14.98	266,644	Ton	21.00	5,600,000
	2009	16,500	14.40	237,600	Ton	18.00	4,277,000
Total	**2011**	**30,000**					**14,939,000**
	2010	32,000					11,803,000
	2009	22,500					7,893,000
Winter Forage	**2011**	**2,500**	**14.13**	**35,325**	**Ton**	**33.00**	**1,166,000**
	2010	2,700	16.81	45,387	Ton	20.00	908,000
	2009	3,400	12.17	41,378	Ton	18.00	745,000
Miscellaneous[f]	**2011**	**6,800**					**9,088,000**
	2010	8,900					8,601,000
	2009	12,100					7,451,000
TOTAL	**2011**	**450,000**					**$111,256,000**
	2010	458,400					79,416,000
	2009	449,450					*61,222,000**

a/ Alfalfa acreage yields both hay and silage
b/ Includes Black-eyes, Kidneys and Limas. 2010 & 2011 acreage & value included in Misc.
c/ Pounds
d/ Bale: 480 pounds
e/ Price per pound
f/ Includes barley (hay & silage), dried beans, safflower, sorghum, seed crops, Sudan grass, wheat hay, field and stubble straw.

** Revised*

Vegetable Crops

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	VALUE Per Unit	Total
Tomatoes							
Fresh	**2011**	**400**	**16.06**	**6,424**	**Ton**	**$440.00**	**$2,827,000**
	2010	320	16.22	5,190	Ton	425.00	2,206,000
	2009	400	15.80	6,320	Ton	441.00	2,787,000
Processed	**2011**	**2,100**	**55.92**	**117,432**	**Ton**	**65.00**	**7,633,000**
	2010	2,700	49.17	132,759	Ton	64.00	8,497,000
	2009	2,000	39.52	79,040	Ton	81.00	6,402,000
Miscellaneous[a]	**2011**	**1,630**					**23,601,000**
	2010	1,700					12,572,000
	2009	1,740					8,156,000
TOTAL	**2011**	**4,130**					**$34,061,000**
	2010	4,720					23,275,000
	2009	4,140					17,345,000

a/ Includes artichokes, carrots, all cabbage, eggplant, herbs, melons, onions, all peppers, potatoes, all squash and miscellaneous truck crops

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	VALUE Per Unit	Total
Almonds[a]	**2011**	**89,000**	**1.23**	**109,470[b]**	**Ton**	**$3,497.00**	**$382,817,000**
	2010	80,000	0.91	72,800	Ton	3,501.00	254,873,000
	2009	68,000	0.79	53,720	Ton	3,018.00	162,127,000
Almond Hulls	**2011**			**234,215**	**Ton**	**135.00**	**31,619,000**
	2010			155,758	Ton	103.00	16,043,000
	2009			114,936	Ton	86.00	9,884,000
Cherries	**2011**	**440**	**3.72**	**1,637**	**Ton**	**3,456.00**	**5,657,000**
	2010	400	5.23	2,092	Ton	2,713.00	5,676,000
	2009	380	4.84	1,839	Ton	2,648.00	4,870,000
Figs	**2011**	**5,700**	**1.80**	**10,260**	**Ton**	**1,471.00**	**15,092,000**
	2010	6,750	1.95	13,163	Ton	1,518.00	19,981,000
	2009	6,280	1.70	10,676	Ton	1,511.00	16,131,000
Grapes							
Raisin Varieties							
Crushed	**2011**	**10,500**	**10.66**	**111,930**	**Ton**	**260.00**	**29,102,000**
	2010	10,000	9.29	92,900	Ton	212.00	19,695,000
	2009	10,900	7.60	82,840	Ton	165.00	13,669,000
Dried	**2011**	**22,300**	**2.58**	**57,534**	**Ton**	**1,530.00**	**88,027,000**
	2010	21,000	2.60	54,600	Ton	1,321.00	72,127,000
	2009	21,100	2.80	59,080	Ton	1,139.00	67,292,000
Fresh	**2011**	**1,000**	**10.90**	**10,900**	**Ton**	**1,417.00**	**15,445,000**
	2010	900	10.30	9,270	Ton	1,001.00	9,279,000
	2009	1,020	10.05	10,251	Ton	856.00	8,775,000
Table Varieties	**2011**	**2,250**	**9.72**	**21,870**	**Ton**	**1,578.00**	**34,511,000**
	2010	2,300	9.41	21,643	Ton	1,424.00	30,820,000
	2009	2,060	9.90	20,394	Ton	1,510.00	30,795,000
Wine Varieties[c]							
Red Varieties	**2011**	**23,400**	**10.44**	**244,296**	**Ton**	**335.00**	**81,839,000**
	2010	22,400	10.25	229,600	Ton	257.00	59,007,000
	2009	23,500	10.43	245,105	Ton	262.00	64,218,000
White Varieties	**2011**	**15,000**	**11.54**	**173,100**	**Ton**	**299.00**	**51,757,000**
	2010	15,200	11.32	172,064	Ton	243.00	41,812,000
	2009	15,900	10.42	165,678	Ton	248.00	41,088,000
Total Grapes	**2011**	**74,450**					**300,681,000**
	2010	71,800					232,740,000
	2009	74,480					*225,837,000**
Olives	**2011**	**1,100**	**1.76**	**1,936**	**Ton**	**618.00**	**1,196,000**
Fresh & Oil	2010	1,380	4.76	6,569	Ton	793.00	5,209,000
	2009	1,100	0.57	627	Ton	1,116.00	700,000

* *Revised*

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Harvested Acreage	PRODUCTION Per Acre	PRODUCTION Total	PRODUCTION Unit	VALUE Per Unit	VALUE Total
Oranges	**2011**	**3,400**	**18.40**	**62,560**	**Ton**	**$215.00**	**$13,450,000**
	2010	3,430	12.74	43,698	Ton	168.00	7,341,000
	2009	3,550	12.64	44,872	Ton	187.00	8,391,000
Peaches							
Cling	**2011**	**260**	**15.30**	**3,978**	**Ton**	**291.00**	**1,158,000**
	2010	320	16.00	5,120	Ton	310.00	1,587,000
	2009	340	16.21	5,512	Ton	318.00	1,753,000
Freestone	**2011**	**630**	**15.99**	**10,074**	**Ton**	**621.00**	**6,256,000**
	2010	740	12.84	9,502	Ton	493.00	4,684,000
	2009	770	11.48	8,840	Ton	527.00	4,659,000
Pistachios	**2011**	**28,300**	**0.97**	**27,451[b]**	**Ton**	**4,120.00**	**113,098,000**
	2010	28,000	1.74	48,720	Ton	4,920.00	239,702,000
	2009	27,700	0.84	23,268	Ton	3,520.00	81,903,000
Plums[d]	**2011**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
	2010	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2009	180	8.55	1,539	Ton	904.00	1,391,000
Plums, Dried	**2011**	**1,200**	**3.71**	**4,452**	**Ton**	**1,383.00**	**6,157,000**
	2010	1,100	3.62	3,982	Ton	1,437.00	5,722,000
	2009	1,290	3.45	4,451	Ton	1,445.00	6,431,000
Walnuts	**2011**	**1,340**	**1.54**	**2,064**	**Ton**	**2,749.00**	**5,674,000**
	2010	1,250	1.78	2,225	Ton	1,867.00	4,154,000
	2009	1,200	1.53	1,836	Ton	1,674.00	3,073,000
Miscellaneous							
Fruits & Nuts[e]	**2011**	**9,100**					**39,919,000**
	2010	4,800					33,834,000
	2009	4,190					23,531,000
Orchard	**2011**			**6,500**	**Cord**		**975,000**
Firewood	2010			6,500	Cord		975,000
	2009			7,000	Cord		980,000
TOTAL	**2011**	**214,920**					**$923,749,000**
	2010	199,970					832,521,000
	2009	189,460					552,033,000

a/ Meat basis
b/ Reflects total production, including imperfect stock; price weighted accordingly
c/ Includes table grape crushed
d/ 2010 & 2011 harvested acreage & value included in Miscellaneous Fruits & Nuts
e/ Includes apples, apricots, berries, kiwis, nectarines, pears, pecans, persimmons, plums pomegranates, tangelos, tangerines, almond and walnut shells

Photo: Persimmons by Thomas Hagopian/Grower

FOREST PRODUCTS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Production	Unit	VALUE Total Value
Timber	**2011**	**3,839**	**MBF[a]**	**$282,000**
	2010	3,353	MBF	225,000
	2009	280	MBF	36,000
Firewood	**2011**	**1,745**	**Cord[b]**	**204,000[c]**
	2010	2,075	Cord	228,000
	2009	1,380	Cord	287,000
TOTAL	**2011**			**$486,000**
	2010			453,000
	2009			323,000

a/ Thousand Board Feet
b/ Cord: 128 cubic feet
c/ Includes value for Christmas trees, greenery, pinecones and saw logs

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Field Acres	House Sq. Foot	VALUE Total Value
Nursery Stock[a]	**2011**	**440**	**532,000**	**$19,057,000**
	2010	840	653,000	24,445,000
	2009	740	669,000	26,081,000

a/ Includes grapevines, fruit trees, nut trees and ornamentals

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Total	Unit	VALUE Per Unit	Total
Apiary Products					
Beeswax	**2011**	**41,500**	**Pound**	**$1.18**	**$49,000**
	2010	30,000	Pound	2.04	61,000
	2009	22,000	Pound	2.12	47,000
Honey	**2011**	**515,000**	**Pound**	**1.50**	**773,000**
	2010	781,000	Pound	1.43	1,117,000
	2009	611,000	Pound	1.26	770,000
Pollination	**2011**	**194,000**	**Colony**	**144.00**	**27,936,000**
	2010	190,000	Colony	139.00	26,410,000
	2009	141,000	Colony	138.00	19,458,000
TOTAL	**2011**				**$28,758,000**
	2010				27,690,000
	2009				20,275,000

Photo: Beehive brood frame; used with permission by the American Beekeeping Federation

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Head	Liveweight	Unit	VALUE Per Unit	Total
Cattles and Calves[a]	**2011**	**78,500**	**567,800**	**CWT[b]**	**$80.00**	**$45,424,000**
	2010	76,300	551,720	CWT	79.00	43,586,000
	2009	81,040	596,220	CWT	68.00	40,543,000
Replacement Heifers[c]	**2011**	**30,000**			**1,340.00**	**40,200,000**
	2010	29,200			1,310.00	38,252,000
	2009	28,520			1,210.00	34,509,000
Poultry	**2011**					**22,097,000**
	2010					22,994,000
	2009					24,531,000
TOTAL	**2011**					**$107,721,000**
	2010					104,832,000
	2009					99,583,000

a/ Range and dairy cattle sold for beef
b/ Hundredweight: 100 pounds
c/ Milk cows

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	PRODUCTION Production	Unit	VALUE Per Unit	Total
Milk Market[a]	**2011**	**17,780,987**	**CWT**	**$18.33**	**$325,946,000**
	2010	15,671,924	CWT	14.52	227,556,000
	2009	14,382,349	CWT	11.25	161,758,000
Milk Manufacturing[a]	**2011**	**65,222**	**CWT**	**18.84**	**1,229,000**
	2010	621,409	CWT	14.57	9,054,000
	2009	571,168	CWT	12.08	6,897,000
Other Products[b]	**2011**				**17,258,000**
	2010				19,365,000
	2009				18,019,000
TOTAL	**2011**				**$344,433,000**
	2010				255,975,000
	2009				186,674,000

a/ Madera County has 49 dairies, with 68,183 lactating cows
b/ Includes aquaculture, ducks, market eggs, hogs, manure, sheep, lambs and wool

Photo: dairy cow by Peggy Greb

Sustainable Agriculture Report 2011

PEST PREVENTION

Pest prevention programs are mandated by the California Food and Agricultural Code to prevent the introduction and spread of pests in California. Pest prevention involves three strata: pest exclusion, pest detection and integrated pest management.

The **Pest Exclusion Program** prevents the introduction of injurious pests that are not of common occurrence in the county.

During 2011, eighteen nursery locations were inspected to ensure pest cleanliness. Over 390 shipments of plant materials, received by nurseries, were inspected for potentially injurious pests prior to retail sale.

Over twenty beehive shipments from Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) infested states, with over 10,000 beehives, were inspected for RIFA. RIFA were found on three beehive shipments in January and February of 2011.

During 2011, over seventy countries received agricultural commodities, which required certification that the commodities were free from potentially injurious pests. Over 3,700 phytosanitary inspections were performed on Madera County commodities destined for export.

The **Pest Detection Program** utilizes insect traps and surveys for the detection of foreign pests which may have eluded exclusion efforts. Over 1,160 traps were deployed in the county, with over 11,400 trap servicings performed during the 2011 season. The trapping program in Madera County targeted multiple pests, including the following:

Caribbean Fruit Fly, European Corn Borer, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Khapra Beetle, Light Brown Apple Moth, Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Melon Fruit Fly, Mexican Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly

Honey Is...

Honey is honey, it's just that simple. A bottle of pure honey contains the natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of plants or secretions of living parts of plants. Nothing else.

Honey is made by bees in one of the world's most efficient facilities, the beehive. The 60,000 or so bees in a beehive may collectively travel as much as 55,000 miles and visit more than two million flowers to gather enough nectar to make just a pound of honey!

The color and flavor of honey differ depending on the bees' nectar source (the blossoms). In fact, there are more than 300 unique kinds of honey in the United States, originating from such diverse floral sources as Clover, Eucalyptus and Orange Blossoms. In general, lighter colored honeys are mild in flavor, while darker honeys are usually more robust in flavor.

Honey Is...: text courtesy of the National Honey Board/www.honey.com

The **Integrated Pest Control Program** strives to eradicate infestations of new pests before they become widespread. Pink Bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*), a non-established and economically significant pest of cotton, is controlled by post-season plowdown of cotton plants. In 2011, plowdown of over 5,500 acres of cotton was verified, ensuring the destruction of habitat supportive of this pest.

PEST MANAGEMENT

The **Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Program** serves to detect and control the vector of Pierce's Disease, a potentially catastrophic disease of vineyards. This program involved the placement of 299 traps, with 5,466 subsequent trap servicing in 2011. In addition, incoming shipments of host material and susceptible county plantings were inspected. Multiple Glassy-winged Sharpshooters were found in Madera and Chowchilla. Our office deployed over 800 delimitation traps throughout the find sites, with over 16,900 subsequent trap servicings. Treatment was performed on and around the find sites.

The **Vertebrate Pest Management Program** provides expertise and materials, to growers and homeowners, for the control of certain depredating vertebrate pests.

Fifty-five **Organic Farms**, totaling more than 6,200 acres, two handlers and one processor, were registered in Madera County in 2011. Utilizing organic principles defined in the California Organic Products Act of 2003, these farms produce a wide array of commodities, such as:

alfalfa, almonds, apples, apricots, artichokes, arugula, dried beans, green beans, beets, berries, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, cantaloupe, carrots, chard, cherries, collards, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, fennel, figs, garlic, grapes (table, raisin, wine), hay, herbs, honeydew, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, livestock, okra, olives, onions, peaches, peas, peppers, persimmons, pistachios, dried plums, pomegranates, potatoes, radish, seed crops, spinach, squash, sunflower, tomatoes, turnips, watermelons, yams.

The value of organic production in Madera County during 2011 was **$16,123,000.**

About the Honey Bee…

On average, a worker bee in the summer lasts six to eight weeks. Their most common cause of death is wearing their wings out. During that six to eight-week period, their average honey production is 1/12 of a teaspoon. In that short lifetime, they fly the equivalent of 1 1/2 times the circumference of the earth.

The peak population of a colony of honeybees is usually at mid-summer (after spring buildup) and results in 60,000 to 80,000 bees per colony. A good, prolific queen can lay up to 3,000 eggs per day.

Picture of beehive entrance and About the Honey Bee text used with permission by the American Beekeeping Federation

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT SUMMARY
MADERA COUNTY 2011

Item	Year	Harvested Acres	Total Value
Apiary	**2011**		**$28,758,000**
	2010		27,690,000
	2009		20,275,000
Field Crops	**2011**	**450,000**	**111,256,000**
	2010	458,400	79,416,000
	2009	449,450	*61,222,000**
Fruit and Nut Crops	**2011**	**214,920**	**923,749,000**
	2010	199,600	832,521,000
	2009	189,460	552,033,000
Forest Products	**2011**		**486,000**
	2010		453,000
	2009		323,000
Livestock and Poultry	**2011**		**107,721,000**
	2010		104,832,000
	2009		99,583,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	**2011**		**344,433,000**
	2010		255,975,000
	2009		186,674,000
Nursery Products	**2011**	**440**	**19,057,000**
	2010	840	24,445,000
	2009	740	26,081,000
Vegetable Crops	**2011**	**4,130**	**34,061,000**
	2010	4,720	23,275,000
	2009	4,140	17,345,000
TOTAL	**2011**		**$1,569,521,000**
	2010		1,348,505,000
	2009		*963,536,000**

** Revised*

Honey Bees: Their Value to Crop Pollination

Unlike people in other countries of the world, consumers in the United States enjoy delicious, nutritious and affordable agricultural products year-round. America's farmers feed more and more people each year while using less land to do so.

Honey bees are a critical component of this agricultural picture. As honey bees visit blossoms to gather the nectar and pollen necessary for their survival, they help agricultural crops, home gardens and wildlife habitats flourish. Simply put, pollination is the first indispensable step in a process that results in the production of fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. Without the honey bees' pollination work, the quantity and quality of many crops would be reduced and some would not yield at all. Almonds are the leading crop in Madera County with a value of $414,436,000 (2011 Crop Report). Without the honey bees' pollination work it would be impossible to commercially produce this crop.

The USDA has estimated that 80 percent of insect crop pollination is accomplished by honey bees. To meet the demands of agriculture, however, special efforts are required. About one-half of the full-time beekeepers in the United States move their colonies from state to state and field to field during the year to provide pollination services to farmers as well as to reach abundant sources of nectar for honey production.

California has the largest beekeeping industry of any state in the U.S. Commercial beekeepers move their hives at least six times each year to pollinate crops or to place them near natural food sources for bees. Most of the hives of bees in California are rented one or more times a year for pollination of agricultural crops. Nearly 3/4 of the country's documented commercial honey bee crop pollination is conducted in California.

Pollination by honey bees is as vital to the production of many crops as water and sunlight. There is no substitute! One third of our daily diet relies on honey bee pollination. Including the "indirect" value of honey bee pollination (meat, dairy products, vegetables, hay, etc.), honey bees are responsible for nearly half of California's agricultural production (cash receipts for farm marketing). Thus, honey bee pollination is really worth in excess of 400 times the intrinsic earning power of the bees to beekeepers.

Excerpt from: The Story of Pollination by the National Honey Board/www.honey.com
Excerpt from: Don't Underestimate the Value of Honey Bees! by Eric C. Mussen, Ph.D., UC Extension Apiculturist

Photo: Honey bee on sweet clover by Alexander Wild/www.Alexanderwild.com

"A healthy beekeeping industry is vitally important to a healthy agricultural economy, to wildlife habitat, to a healthy environment - and to the plants in your own backyard."

– Gene Brandi, *Beekeeper*

Madera County

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