

2025 County of Monterey Crop & Livestock Report

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COUNTY OF MONTEREY CROP & LIVESTOCK

25
Years
OF ORGANICS



Gross Production Value

2025

\$4,822,429,000

3% Decrease



2024

\$4,992,581,000

The Cost of Farming:



Trends and Challenges

Fluctuating tariffs impacted export of commodities and increased the cost of production to our growers

Continued normal weather patterns led to a typical elongated growing season

Gross production value continues to remain high, but does not include costs to growers

Labor shortages continue to impact productivity on Monterey County farms



FAST FACTS

The Organic Food Production Act (OFPA) was passed in the 1990 Farm Bill and established a national standard for organic food production, certification, and labeling in the United States.

Trends and Challenges



Wine Grape production continued to decline a second year in a row with a 25% loss in gross value in 2025 to \$114,603,000 from \$152,251,000 and dropped to number nine in the county's top ten crops.

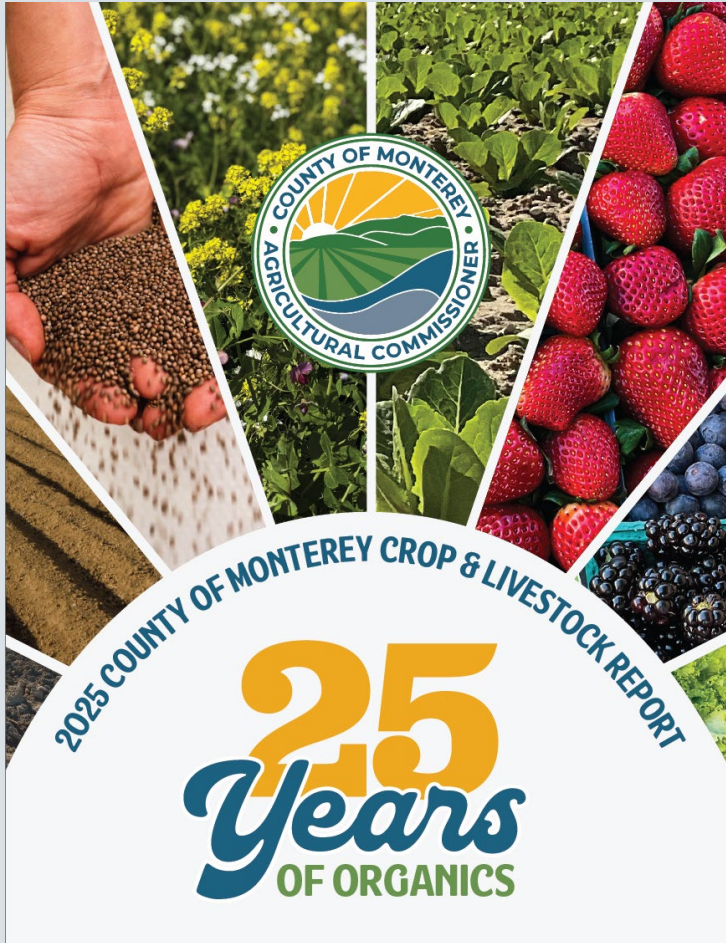
International exports fell from 375,847,000 to 282,358,000 pounds in 2025, a 25% loss, attributed in part to fluctuating tariffs.



Strawberries had another successful year along with leaf lettuce production. Both commodities surpassing the \$1B gross production value.



25 Years of Organics



The USDA Organic Seal has become trusted around the world for organic standards

USDA's National Organic Program established 25 years ago continues to strengthen the US's organic integrity

MCCO was established by the BOS in 1999 and registered with SOP in 2001, achieved national certification in 2002

MCCO continues to provide certification to local growers and ensure compliance and organic integrity

25 Years of Organics



MONTEREY COUNTY CERTIFIED *Organic* (MCCO) PROGRAM TIMELINE

- 1999** • The MCCO program is established by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, housed within the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
- 2001** • MCCO becomes the first county-run organic certification program registered with the State of California. It also applies for accreditation with the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP).
- 2002** • MCCO earns its official NOP accreditation and begins certifying crop producers, handlers, processors, and wild crop harvesters.
- 2025** • Monterey County reaches 180 producers cultivating 71,409 acres.
- 2026** • MCCO marks 25 years of service (2001—2026), continuing to adapt to complex regulations and guide the next generation of organic producers.

25 Years with the NOP

What is Organic

Balancing Challenges and Opportunities for New and Transitioning Organic Growers

The Cost of Farming

Strengthening Monterey County Agriculture

MCCO 1999-2026

Top Ten Crops in Value



1. Strawberry	\$1,068,736,000
2. Leaf Lettuce	\$1,001,000,000
3. Head Lettuce	\$583,706,000
4. Broccoli	\$516,030,000
5. Cauliflower	\$194,220,000
6. Celery	\$182,652,000
7. Spinach	\$173,238,000
8. Nursery & Flower	\$127,888,000
9. Wine Grapes	\$114,603,000
10. Livestock & Poultry	\$109,669,000

Monterey County's Leading Crop Commodities in California*



Strawberries	31.3%
Lettuce, All	57.6%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head (Iceberg)• Romaine• Leaf	
Broccoli	62.1%
Celery	36.0%
Cauliflower	54.3%
Spinach	41.3%
Brussel Sprouts	61.5%
Mushrooms*	52.5%
Cabbage	32.8%
Kale*	18.0%

*2023-2024 California Agricultural Statistics Review



To More Than 56,000 Agricultural Workers

Farmers, Ranchers, Boards, Commissions, Agricultural Associations

Agricultural Commissioner's Office Staff

Thank you!



