



# 2020 Monterey County Crop & Livestock Report

Henry Gonzales  
Monterey County Agricultural  
Commissioner

2020

MONTEREY  
COUNTY  
**Crop &  
Livestock  
Report**

**Resilience**  
— IN ADVERSITY —



# Informe Sobre Cultivos y Ganado 2020

Henry Gonzales  
Comisionado Agrícola del  
Condado de Monterey

2020

Informe  
Sobre Cultivos  
y Ganado  
CONDADO  
DE MONTEREY

**PREMIER SPANISH  
VERSION**

**Resiliencia**  
— EN LA ADVERSIDAD —

# AG COMMUNITY SHOWS RESILIENCE



## Monterey County Ag Community Shows Resilience

Henry S. Gonzales, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner



A field of brussels sprouts shrouded in the haze of wildfires.

The year 2020 will forever be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic that infected over 171 million people, took over 3 million lives, and wreaked havoc on economies worldwide. Monterey County was similarly, but proportionately impacted by the pandemic. Monterey County also suffered through the River, Carmel, Dolan, and Coleman wildfires during the ever-developing pandemic. The adversity of the pandemic and wildfire disasters challenged the resilience of county governments, businesses, and residents. As some businesses closed to reduce the spread of the pandemic, agriculture could not close or stop producing the bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables, healthy animal proteins, and ornamental and medicinal plants essential to human life.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, an agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security, lists Food and Agriculture among the nation's 16 Critical Infrastructure Sectors. Indeed, the food and agriculture sector has been long recognized for their essential role in the production, processing and delivery of food and agricultural products to people across America and the world. Food and agriculture workers along with workers from the other 15 sectors, are essential to the security of the nation and the economic engine of Monterey County.

Early in the pandemic it was realized that agricultural workers were in greater peril of contracting COVID-19 than most residents.

With COVID-19 being primarily transmitted from person to person via minute particles within our breath, working and living near one another placed most agricultural workers in jeopardy. It was obvious there was a compelling need for action to help protect our agricultural workers. They are not only essential to our critical infrastructure, county economy, and food and agricultural sector; but are also more susceptible to infection due to reasons beyond their control.

To increase protections for agricultural workers, Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo called together a group of local agriculture leaders, and along with Monterey County Supervisor Christopher Lopez launched an effort to develop best practices for agricultural employers to protect agricultural workers. The effort came to fruition in the *Advisory for Agricultural Worker Protection During COVID-19 Crisis on the Central Coast* (see page 14).

Early in the pandemic, anecdotal reports of agricultural losses and reductions circulated. Between April 20, 2020, and April 24, 2021, to gain a better understanding of the losses, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office conducted a survey of agricultural producers. The survey showed significant losses particularly among growers providing fresh produce to the foodservice sector. The closing of schools and the cancellation of most conferences and travel resulted in the cancellation of contracts for fresh produce. Approximately 20% of county growers responded to the survey. Of those responding to the survey, 38% reported losses. A total of 2,093 acres were reported as a loss or not planted. Losses continued after the survey and are reflected in the overall numbers in this year's crop report.

In partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) statewide distributed hundreds of thousands of surgical masks to help protect farmworkers from contracting the coronavirus. The pandemic had made the surgical masks and other protective items scarce. The CDFA and CDPR were able to obtain surgical masks and other protective items from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. In addition to the surgical masks, CACs helped distribute cloth face coverings, latex gloves, hand sanitizer, and N95 respirators designated for pesticide handlers. Additionally, the worldwide non-profit humanitarian aid organization MedShare donated 54,000 Disney character children's cloth face coverings for the children of farmworkers. All of these items were distributed by staff from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office directly to farmworkers and through community-based organizations, growers and farm labor contractors.

Besides distributing face coverings and other protective items, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office created and distributed thousands of COVID-19 informational cards to farmworkers. The Spanish language wallet-sized cards listed symptoms of COVID-19, along with information about where farmworkers could receive free medical attention, information, food, and childcare. The cards also identified farmworkers as essential agriculture workers.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office partnered with several community groups to create a public service announcement (PSA) video in Spanish and Mxteco. The PSA featured recognizable individuals in the community including the Mexican Consulate speaking directly to farmworkers about the actions they could take to protect themselves, their family, and the community from COVID-19.

The wildfires presented yet another set of emergencies for Monterey County agriculture. The wildfire smoke created a hazard for farmworkers. Prior to the wildfires, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office had started distributing N95 respirators to pesticide applicators. When the first wildfire struck the N95 respirators were redirected to protect farmworkers from the wildfire smoke. The losses primarily to wine grapes and strawberries were estimated at \$74,586,292.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office, as a key part of the nation's critical infrastructure, continued with their essential work serving the agriculture industry and community. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office continued to inspect and certify produce destined for export, inspected pesticide applications for farmworker safety, conducted pesticide exposure investigations, inspected farmer's markets, and conducted all work mandated of the agency as essential to our nation's security.



Worker prunes grapes while using face covering.

# CHALLENGES OF 2020

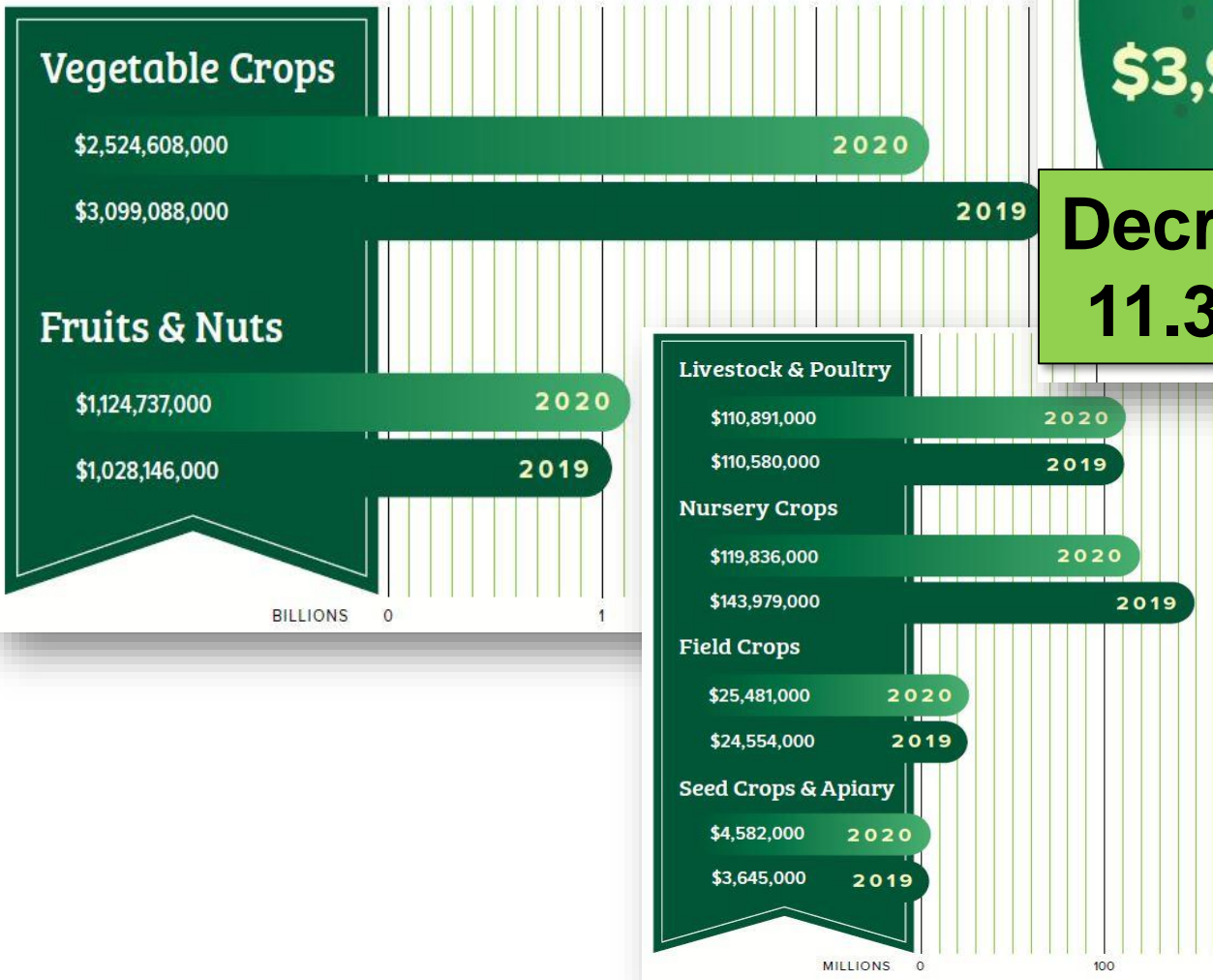




# 2020 GROSS PRODUCTION VALUE



**Decrease in Value  
11.3% from 2019**





# TOP TEN CROPS

CROP	2020 CROP VALUE	2020 CROP RANKING	2019 CROP RANKING
Strawberry	\$922,683,000	1	2
Leaf Lettuce	\$712,681,000	2	1
Head Lettuce	\$428,580,000	3	3
Broccoli	\$341,495,000	4	4
Cauliflower	\$192,790,000	5	5
Spinach	\$141,284,000	6	10
Nursery & Flowers	\$119,836,000	7	9
Brussels Sprout	\$116,250,000	8	7
Celery	\$114,920,000	9	12
Livestock & Poultry	\$110,891,000	10	11





# Organic PRODUCTION

	2020	2019
<b>TOTAL ACRES*</b>	132,809	88,359
<b>TOTAL PRODUCERS</b>	276	286
<b>REPORTED GROSS SALES</b>	\$757,887,000	\$562,702,000

# EXPORTS & TRADE PARTNERS

## TOP TRADING PARTNERS

Mexico Canada Taiwan Japan Hong Kong South Korea  
Saudi Arabia European Union

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>2020 POUNDS</u>	<u>2019 POUNDS</u>
Lettuce	154,725,000	110,203,000
Strawberry	74,316,000	87,229,000
Broccoli	37,281,000	37,081,000
Celery	29,093,000	22,638,000
Cauliflower	24,286,000	18,904,000
Spinach	18,910,000	17,599,000
Cabbage	7,254,000	8,208,000
Raspberry	3,381,000	4,311,000
Radicchio	3,312,000	4,083,000
Carrot	2,329,000	3,405,000
Leek	2,126,000	2,153,000
<u>Other</u>	<u>12,409,000</u>	<u>11,680,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>371,262,000</b>	<b>327,494,000</b>





# MONTEREY COUNTY Industrial Hemp Production



REGISTERED OPERATION TYPES	REGISTRATIONS	ACRES REGISTERED*	HARVESTED ACRES	PRODUCTION (LB)	VALUE
Cultivators	9				
Breeders	1				
EARI <sup>23</sup>	1				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>457.5</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>\$619,000</b>

**\$619,000 in 2020**

# MONTEREY COUNTY Cannabis Production



## Production and Value

PRODUCT	PRODUCTION	UNIT	\$ PER UNIT	VALUE
Nursery Products	2,063,000	Each	\$11.00	\$22,693,000
Flower (Mixed Light)	460,000	Pound	\$900.00	\$414,000,000
Flower (Indoor)	36,200	Pound	\$1,100.00	\$39,820,000
Trim	99,300	Pound	\$75.00	\$7,448,000
Seed	141,000	Each	\$1.00	\$141,000
<b>TOTAL 2020</b>				\$484,102,000
<b>TOTAL 2019</b>				\$449,688,000

**\$34.4 million increase in value  
(+7.6%)**



Thank You!  
Questions?