



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
LES WRIGHT  
AG COMMISSIONER/SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Fresno County  
**Farm Bureau**  
*Serving agriculture since 1917*

## Crop Report Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the crop report?**

The Fresno County Annual Crop and Livestock Report (crop report) is a state mandate that reflects the county's gross value of agricultural production, separating the information by commodity group for a calendar year. Information is gathered through the use of a crop report survey from a random sample of growers, ranchers, processors, packers and many other sources.

Due to its diversity, California is the only state that produces annual county crop reports, which are more precise and unique than other government and industry reports. The report is also the only source of specialty crop and general county data.

### **Is the information provided confidential?**

The Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner is charged by federal law to maintain confidentiality of information obtained from individuals who participate in the survey, including responder's names and addresses, and actual reported data. Once the crop report is completed, all surveys and supporting materials with participant information are shredded and disposed of.

### **Who uses the crop report?**

The information provided in the crop report helps groups, such as ranchers and growers, agricultural suppliers, agricultural lenders, agricultural research and education agencies, agricultural regulatory agencies, transportation agencies, farm labor offices and health and disease programs, plan for the upcoming year in regards to harvesting, processing, pricing, transportation and credit.

Lenders use the crop report extensively to be informed of cropping trends and potential capital needs for different crops. In addition, research and education agencies use the crop report as a historical baseline of what is being grown. It provides valuable information in policy alternative decision making. Finally, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) uses the crop report. During disaster relief, the FSA pays growers based on a weighted average of the crop report data for the impacted crop.

### **Why participate in the crop report survey?**

Input from growers is essential in creating an accurate picture of the county for all stakeholders. In Fresno County, crop varieties and production are unique, which is not captured anywhere else. State and federal agencies do not have access to data concerning crops grown in Fresno County.

### **How does it benefit Fresno County?**

Every year there is a gap between when Fresno County fiscal year begins and ends, and when the funds from property taxes are received. Since the county cannot operate without funds, it applies for a tax and revenue anticipation note (TRAN), which is a short term loan. The county needs this loan prior to July 1 to ensure that all county services will continue for residents.

When Fresno County officials apply for the Standard & Poor's Bond Rating, they present a financial package, which includes the county's risk management strategies, current budget for the year and a forecast for the upcoming year. This portfolio highlights resources that are unique to the area and includes a page focusing on Fresno County's record agricultural production and trends of the previous 10 years. The current Fresno County's Standard & Poor's credit rating is SP-1+, the highest rating possible. If the rating were to slip down from SP-1+, it could cost two times more in interest to borrow the money needed for ongoing operational costs.

When farmers report accurate information to the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, it saves taxpayer money.

### **When is the crop report due?**

The crop report is due annually on April 15. When completed, the report is presented to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Copies are sent to the California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary. It is then released to the press and public. The crop report is also available online at the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's website.

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