Reported by the Fresno County Department of Agriculture
Crop Report for the Month Ending Thursday, October 31st, 2019

SMALL GRAINS: Rice harvesting was underway. Sorghum was being harvested. Growers in the Selma District were preparing the fields for fall planting of wheat, barley, and oats while growers in Huron District have planted theirs. Some planted fields of small grains in Firebaugh District have germinated and were showing good emergence. Baled straw has been stacked and harvested fields were cultivated.

FIELD CROPS: Alfalfa fields were undergoing the last cuttings for the current season; hay was windrowed baled, stacked, and shipped; irrigation was under way and some fields were being treated with herbicides for weed control; alfalfa for seed harvest had been completed. Silage corn and milo harvest was nearing completion. Growers in Kerman District have prepared the fields for new plantings of processing onions and garlic. Cotton fields were defoliated, and harvesting had begun; some cotton growers have shredded and cultivated harvested fields to comply with pink bollworm blow down requirements. Fields of garbanzo beans for processing were being cultivated for next year plantings and fresh onion fields were being treated for weed control. Growers were using mustard as a cover crop to amend soil content. Industrial hemp was sampled and tested for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content; harvest was ongoing. Alfalfa seed was exported to Saudi Arabia.

GRAPEs, DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT AND NUTS: Grape harvest was almost finished; traditional and DOV raisin harvest was complete, and growers were hauling boxed raisins in for processing; Kerman District growers still have some late season raisins laying on the ground. Late season table grape vineyards were being covered with plastic to protect the crop from rain fall. Raisin growers in Sanger District were irrigating vineyards with ditch water to replenish ground water. Stone fruit, almond, pistachio, and walnut harvesting was nearly complete throughout the county. Kiwi harvest continued. Persimmons and pomegranate harvest had begun. Growers had started cultivation on their orchards and vineyards in preparation for next season plantings; which includes irrigating, pruning, weed and pest control, fumigating for new orchards, and adding soil amendments. Almonds, grapes, raisins, pecans, pistachios, walnuts, Asian pear (Honey Gold, Hosui and Shinko); grapes (Arra 29, Autumn, King, Autumn Royal, Christmas Rose, Crimson, Flame, Great Green, Ivory, Krissy, Princess, Red Globe, Scarlet Royal, Summer Royal, Sweet Scarlet, Thompson, Valley Pearl, Red Globe); kiwi (Hayward, and Dino Honey 1-5); nectarines (Arctic Mist, August Fire, Prima Nectarine Diamond 19, Prima Nectarine Diamond 24, September Bright); peaches (August Flame, Autumn Snow, Encore, Gattie, Prima Peach 27, Prima Peach 23, Summer Flame 39, Prima Peach 18, Prima Peach 20, Prima Peach 27, Summer Sweet, Sweet Lady, Snow Giant, Last Tango); persimmon (Fuyu); plums/IS plums (Angeleno, Autumn Cerise, Autumn Sweet, Autumn Red, Black Kat, Diamond Sweet, Flavor Star, Flavor Burst, Friar, Holiday, Prima Black 5, Rosetta Jewel, and Ruby Sugar); pomegranates (Aco, Granada, Rubilee, Early Wonderful, and Wonderful) were packed and/or exported to Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, El Salvador, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam. Some raisin growers have reported that prices have fallen as of October. Export volume for stone fruit was down due to high domestic prices, lower yields, the strong dollar, and the uncertainty revolving around tariffs on agricultural goods.

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VEGETABLES AND BERRIES: Harvest of summer crops (green bean, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumber, daikon, eggplant, garlic, peppers, squash, melons (cantaloupe, honeydew, mixed melons, and watermelon), tomatoes (fresh market and processing) were done. Carrot harvest continued and new plantings were on going. Cauliflower was being picked and the fields were treated for lygus and worms. Parsley harvest continued. Lettuce (head, leaf, and romaine) harvest was in full swing. Hard shell winter squash (acorn, butternut, kabocha, pumpkin, and spaghetti) was available. Processing tomatoes harvest was complete, but a few fresh market tomato fields were still being harvested. Harvested fields were being prepared for planting rotation crops broccoli, winter greens, onion, and garlic). Local roadside stands were harvesting and selling the last of the summer vegetables: sweet corn, fresh onions, peppers, tomatoes, squash and some cabbage and broccoli. Cantaloupe, honeydew, garlic, lettuce seeds, squash, and tomatoes, were exported to Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Thailand.

CITRUS, OLIVES AND AVOCADOS: Orange, grapefruit, lemon, lime, mandarin, and tangerines grew and were coloring as they matured. Citrus maturity testing had started for navel oranges being harvested. Orchards were being irrigated, sprayed with foliar nutrients and plant growth regulators; growers continued to apply insecticide, herbicide and fungicide treatments to control pests and weeds as needed. Olives continued to size up and harvest had begun. Grapefruit (Melo Gold), lemons, lime (Key), mandarins, oranges (Navel), and pomelos were being packed and/or exported to Guatemala, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

APIARY, LIVESTOCK, AND RANGELAND: Beehives were being brought into Firebaugh, Huron, Kerman, and Sanger districts from out of state and placed into open fields waiting to pollinate the almond blossoms in the spring; bees will be fed with bee-bread and supplied with water thru winter. Some bees were attracted to blooming hemp plants. Poultry and egg production was normal. Cattle were moved from higher elevations to lower elevations. Bulls were turned in with cows for spring calving crop; fall calving had started. Sheep continued to graze in harvested grain fields, retired farmland, and open stubble fields. Rangeland conditions were crisply dry waiting for the first winter rains.

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