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San Diego County Agriculture Facts

Why is Farming Important to San Diego County?

- \$5.1 billion annual value to the economy
- Locally produced products available to the public
- Viable farms are a hedge against urban growth
- Carbon sequestration from millions of plants and trees
- Farmers maintain vast amounts of open spaces
- Intrinsic part of the fabric of San Diego County



Where San Diego County Ranks Nationally

- 12th largest farm economy among more than 3000 counties
- More small farms (less than 10 acres) than any other county
- #1 producer of avocados
- #1 producer of nursery crops
- #1 in number of part-time farmers
- #2 in acres of guavas, pomegranates, limes, and macadamias
- #2 in farms with women as principal operator
- #3 in honey production
- #5 in lemons
- #9 in strawberries
- #10 in egg-laying hens

San Diego's Mediterranean-like climate makes it an ideal place to grow agricultural crops and livestock products. More than 2.6 million people live in San Diego County, and more than 6,000 farmers call it home and make their living on 6,565 small family farms, 65 percent of which are nine or fewer acres in size. The high cost of water (more than \$600/acre foot) and land make farming here expensive and encourage growers to raise products with a high dollar value per acre.

San Diego County Crop Report