

## III.4 County Level Production

**I**n 1999, agricultural producers in each of 11 California counties accounted for over \$1 billion in gross production value. Farms in five other counties produced more than \$500 million and those in another 19, between \$100 and \$500 million.

- There is great variety in the commodities produced in different counties. In some counties, growers specialize in a certain type of crop. For example, farmers in Monterey produce an abundance of cool-weather vegetable crops. In many Central Valley counties, farmers have favorable soil and weather for producing a variety of agricultural products.
- The top six counties, Fresno, Tulare, Monterey, Kern, Merced and San Joaquin, account for about half of California's total value of agricultural production. Of the 10 highest ranked counties, seven list dairy products among their top five grossing commodities, and six list grapes.
- With the exception of San Francisco whose top commodity is nursery products, counties with a low value of production list cattle and calves or pasture as a top commodity.

TABLE 37

**California Counties by Gross Value of Agricultural Production in 1999\***

Rank 1999	County	Value of Production (\$ million)	Top Commodities**
1	Fresno	3,559	Grapes, Poultry, Cotton, Tomatoes, Milk
2	Tulare	3,075	Milk, Grapes, Navel & Valencia Oranges, Cattle & Calves, Plums
3	Monterey	2,369	Head Lettuce, Leaf Lettuce, Broccoli, Strawberries, Nursery, Grapes
4	Kern	2,128	Grapes, Cotton & Processed Cottonseed, Citrus, Milk, Almonds & By-Products
5	Merced	1,534	Milk, Chickens, Almonds, Tomatoes, Cotton
6	San Joaquin	1,352	Grapes, Milk, Tomatoes, Cherries, Almond Meats
7	San Diego	1,242	Plants/Foliage, Trees and Shrubs, Avocados, Bedding Plants, Cut Flowers
8	Stanislaus	1,210	Milk, Almonds, Chickens, Cattle & Calves, Tomatoes
9	Riverside	1,197	Milk, Table Grapes, Nursery, Eggs, Lemons
10	Ventura	1,059	Strawberries, Lemons, Nursery Stock, Celery, Valencia Oranges
11	Imperial	1,045	Cattle & Calves, Alfalfa, Lettuce, Carrots, Sugar Beets
12	Kings	901	Milk, Cotton, Cattle & Calves, Turkeys, Alfalfa Hay
13	San Bernardino	722	Milk, Cattle & Calves, Oranges, Eggs, Nursery Products, Alfalfa
14	Madera	700	Grapes, Milk, Almonds, Pistachios, Nursery Stock
15	Santa Barbara	653	Strawberries, Broccoli, Winegrapes, Avocados, Head Lettuce
16	Sonoma	483	Winegrapes, Market Milk, Livestock/Poultry/Aquaculture, Cattle & Calves, Vegetables
17	San Luis Obispo	393	Winegrapes, Cattle & Calves, Broccoli, Iceberg Lettuce, Vegetable Transplants
18	Colusa	351	Rice, Processing Tomatoes, Almond Meats, Cucumber Seed, Rice Seed
19	Sutter	347	Rice, Prunes, Peaches, Tomatoes, Walnuts
20	Orange	341	Nursery Stock & Cut Flowers, Strawberries, Tomatoes, Bell & Misc. Peppers, Avocados
21	Yolo	339	Processing Tomatoes, Winegrapes, Seed Crops, Rice, Alfalfa
22	Sacramento	293	Winegrapes, Milk, Bartlett Pears, Processing Tomatoes, Ornamental Nursery Stock
23	Butte	257	Milling Rice, Almonds, Prunes, Walnuts, Kiwifruit
24	Glenn	253	Rice Paddy, Dairy Products, Almonds, Prunes, Cattle & Calves
25	Los Angeles	253	Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Bedding Plants, Root Vegetables, Peaches, Dry Onions
26	Santa Cruz	248	Strawberries, Woody Nursery Ornamentals, Raspberries, Apples, Head Lettuce
27	Napa	228	Grapes, Nursery Products, Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range
28	Solano	195	Processing Tomatoes, Nursery Stock, Alfalfa Hay, Winegrapes, Cattle & Calves
29	San Benito	179	Bell Peppers, Nursery Stock, Salad Lettuce, Head Lettuce, Livestock & Poultry

**California Counties by Gross Value of Agricultural Production in 1999\***

Rank 1999	County	Value of Production (\$ million)	Top Commodities**
30	San Mateo	177	Ornamental Nursery Stock, Potted Foliage Plants, Mushrooms
31	Santa Clara	176	Mushrooms, Nursery Crops, Cut Flowers, Winegrapes, Bell Peppers
32	Mendocino	127	Winegrapes, Bartlett Pears, Cattle & Calves, Milk, Pasture
33	Siskiyou	116	Cattle & Calves, Alfalfa Hay, Nursery Products, Pasture & Range, Potatoes & Potato Seed
34	Yuba	108	Rice, Peaches, Walnuts, Cattle & Calves, Prunes
35	Tehama	97	Cattle & Calves, Walnuts, Prunes, Milk, Olives
36	Humboldt	93	Milk, Nursery Stock, Livestock, Field Crops, Vegetable Crops
37	Contra Costa	86	Bedding Plants, All Milk, All Tomatoes, Grapes, Sweet Corn
38	Modoc	63	Alfalfa Hay, Cattle & Calves, Potatoes, Pasture & Range, Fruits & Nuts
39	Placer	58	Rice, Cattle & Calves, Nursery, Chickens, Pasture & Range, Walnuts
40	Marin	53	Milk, Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range, Poultry, Livestock Products
41	Shasta	50	Cattle & Calves, Strawberry Plants, Pasture & Range, Other Hay
42	Lake	49	Pears, Winegrapes, Cattle, Walnuts, All Hay
43	Lassen	46	All Hay, Strawberry Plants, All Livestock, Pasture & Range, Wild Rice
44	Alameda	39	Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Winegrapes, Cattle & Calves, Bedding Plants
45	Del Norte	31	Nursery Products, Milk, Cattle & Calves, Livestock Products, Pasture & Range, Other Hay
46	El Dorado	19	Winegrapes, Nursery Products, Pasture & Range, Apples, Christmas Trees
47	Amador	19	Winegrapes, Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range, Grain Hay, Alfalfa Hay
48	Mono	19	Cattle & Calves, Carrots, Alfalfa Hay, Pasture & Range, Sheep & Lambs
49	Mariposa	18	Cattle & Calves, Range, Misc. Livestock/Poultry Products, All Poultry
50	Plumas	16	Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range, Alfalfa Hay, Wild Hay
51	Calaveras	15	Cattle & Calves, Winegrapes, Poultry, Livestock & Poultry Products, Walnuts
52	Tuolumne	13	Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range, Cord Wood & Fuel, Apiary Products
53	Inyo	13	Cattle & Calves, Turf, Alfalfa Hay, Misc. Hay, Sheep & Lambs
54	Nevada	6	Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range, Winegrapes, Christmas Trees
55	Sierra	5	Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range, Wild Hay, Alfalfa Hay
56	Trinity	2	Cattle & Calves, Pasture & Range, Winegrapes, Nursery Products, Other Hay
57	San Francisco	1	Vegetables, Cut Flowers
58	Alpine		Not Reported

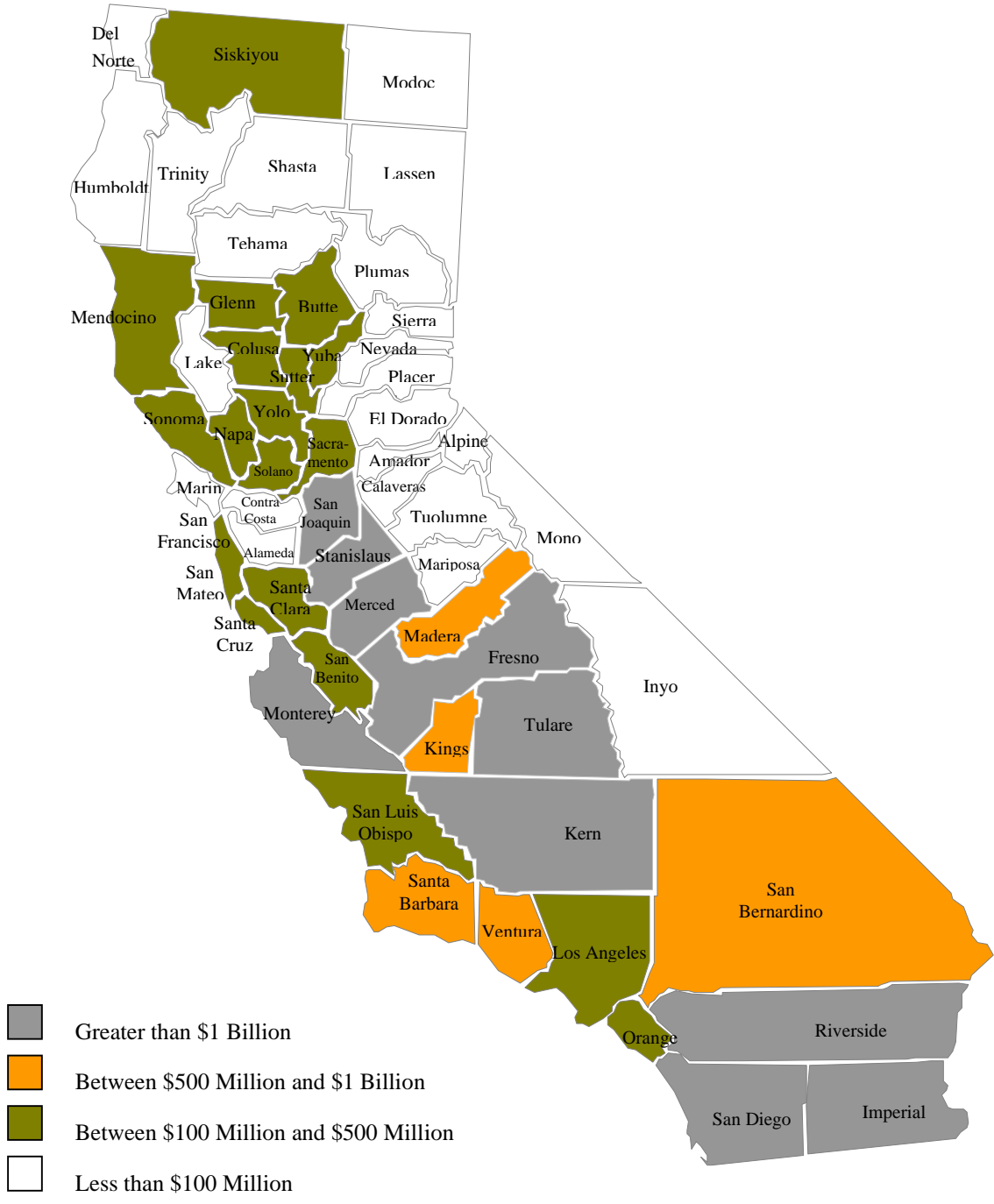
\*The "gross value of production" includes all farm production whether sold into usual marketing channels, or used on the farm where produced.

\*\*The "top commodities" column reflects information reported by the agricultural commissioners of each county. The level of detail reported differs by county. For example, some may report grapes (table, raisin, and wine) as an aggregate category, while others may report them as distinct categories.

Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service, *Summary of Agricultural Commissioners' Reports*, electronic data, 2000.

FIGURE 43

**Gross Agricultural Production Value by County, 1999**



Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service, *Summary of Agricultural Commissioners' Reports*, electronic data, 2000.

FIGURE 44

### California's Production Regions

California can be divided into seven production regions. San Joaquin Valley, the leading agricultural area in the state, produces a broad array of fruit, vegetables, livestock, tree-nuts, field crops, and dairy products. Many San Joaquin Valley counties include the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Sacramento Valley is known for its horticultural and field crops, particularly processed tomatoes and rice. The Central Coast is a major horticultural producer, as it includes the state's top wine grape and vegetable growing areas. The South Coast also grows a number of horticultural crops, including citrus, and is a major producer of nursery and floriculture products. The Desert region produces winter vegetables, field crops, and horticultural specialties such as dates. The Mountain and North Coast regions hold California's vast forest and rangeland resources. All of these regions contain some urban influence, but the coastal regions contain California's major population centers.

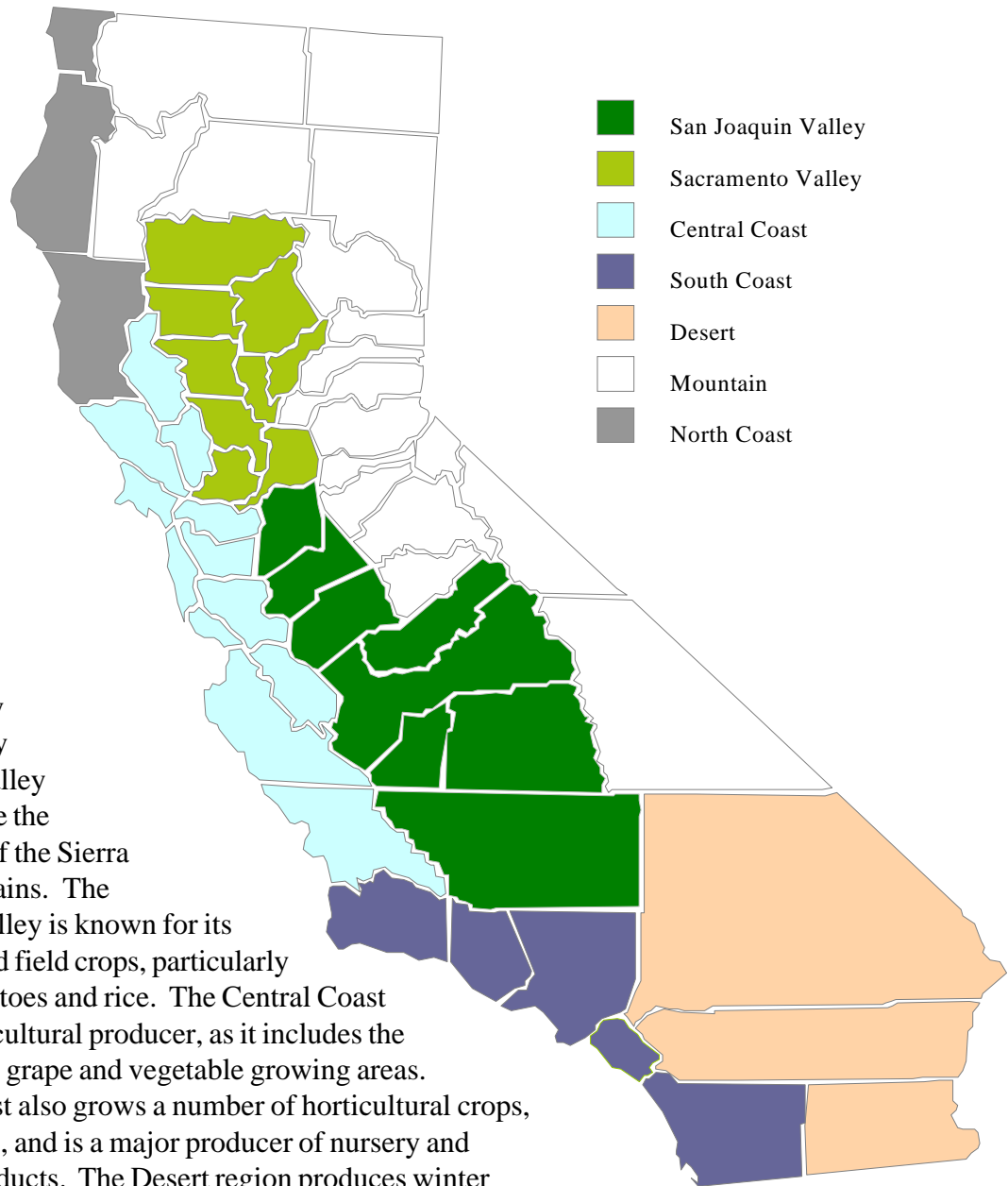


FIGURE 45

### California Topography



Source: University of California, Davis, Shields Library Map Collection.

TABLE 38

**Percent of California Gross Production Value by Commodity Group and Production Region, 1999\***

	Fruit & Tree-Nuts	Livestock Products	Vegetables and Melons	Field Crops	Nursery & Floriculture	All Commodities
Central Coast	14.5%	4.8%	37.3%	2.1%	21.8%	15.8%
Desert	5.0%	17.6%	12.2%	10.9%	4.2%	10.4%
Mountain	0.4%	2.3%	0.7%	4.7%	2.3%	1.7%
North Coast	1.1%	1.2%	0.0%	0.5%	1.6%	0.9%
Sacramento Valley	7.4%	3.6%	5.9%	24.1%	2.7%	7.9%
San Joaquin Valley	58.6%	68.6%	30.7%	56.7%	14.5%	50.8%
South Coast	12.9%	1.9%	13.3%	1.0%	52.9%	12.5%

\* Map of Production Regions appears on page 68.

Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service, *Summary of Agricultural Commissioners' Reports*, electronic data, 2000.

- With about 51% of total agricultural production value, the San Joaquin Valley is California's highest grossing region. In 1999, it accounted for about 69% of livestock production value, about 59% of fruit and tree-nuts, and about 57% of field crops. The only commodity groups for which it was not dominant were vegetables and melons, and nursery and floriculture.
- Fresno county, California's largest agricultural county in gross production value, was first or second-ranked in 1999 for: fruits and tree-nuts, vegetables, field crops and livestock products. In production value, Fresno county would have ranked as the 29<sup>th</sup> largest agricultural state in the nation.
- Tulare was the first or second largest county in gross production value for livestock, fruit and tree-nuts, and field crops.
- Monterey county farmers accounted for 30% of the state's total vegetable and melon production value. No other county produced as large a share of any single commodity group in 1999.

FIGURE 46

**Fruit and Tree-Nut Production Value by County, 1999**

**\*Other Significant Counties**

Counties with between 1% and 5% of the state total: Madera, Monterey, Riverside, Stanislaus, Sonoma, Merced, San Diego, Napa, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, Sutter, Butte, Mendocino and Orange.

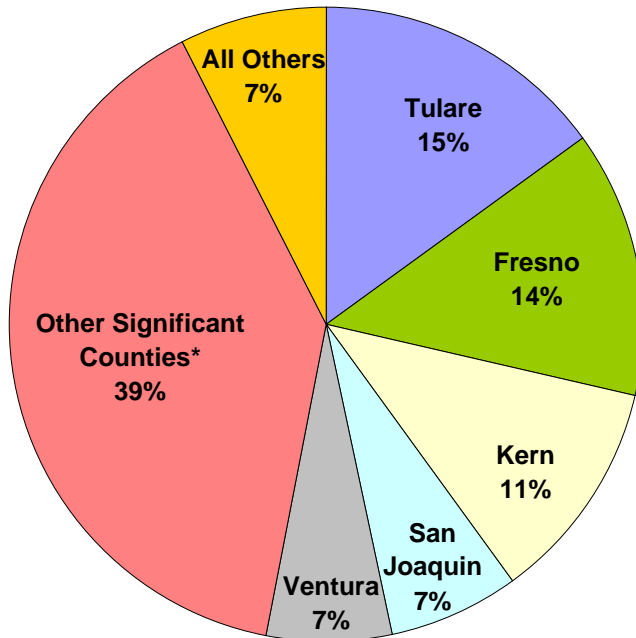
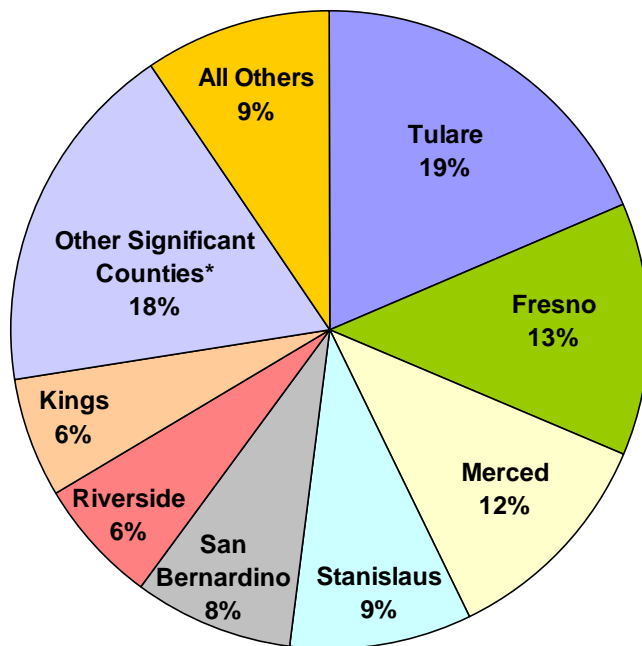


FIGURE 47

**Livestock and Products Production Value by County, 1999**

**\*Other Significant Counties**

Counties with between 1% and 5% of the state total: San Joaquin, Kern, Imperial, Madera, Sonoma, San Diego and Sacramento.



Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service, *Summary of Agricultural Commissioners' Reports*, electronic data, 2000.

FIGURE 48

**Vegetable and Melon Production Value by County, 1999**

**\*Other Significant Counties**

Counties with between 1% and 5% of the state total: Ventura, Santa Barbara, Riverside, San Joaquin, Merced, Yolo, San Luis Obispo, San Diego, San Benito, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Colusa.

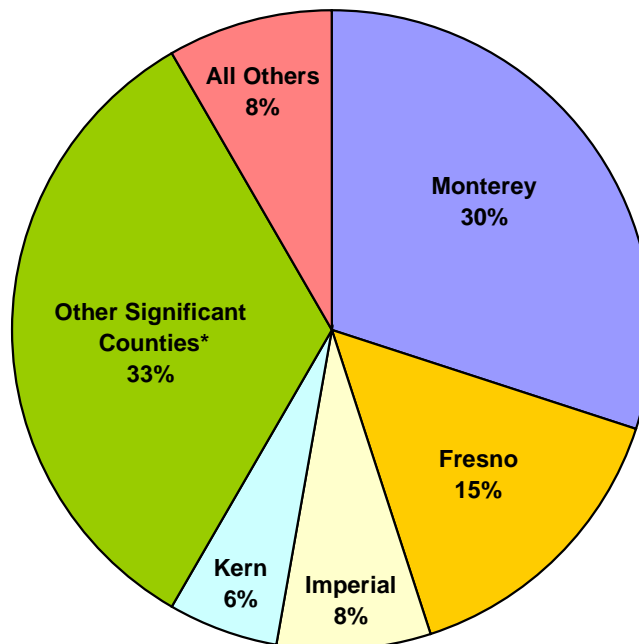
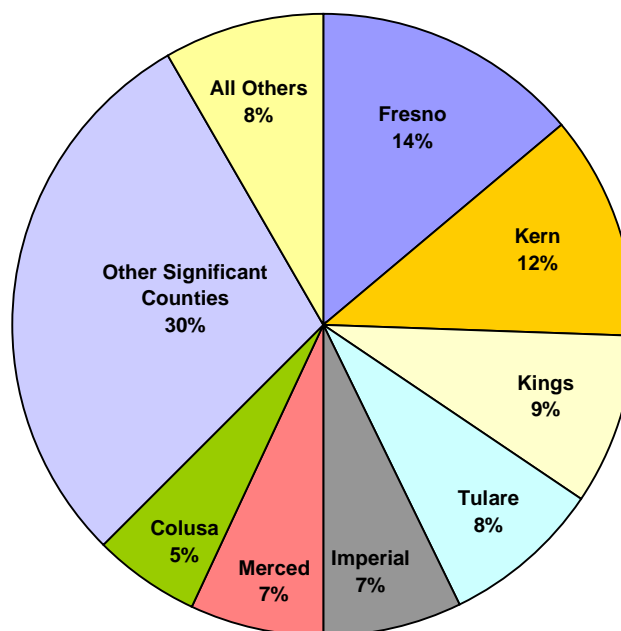


FIGURE 49

**Field Crop Production Value by County, 1999**

**\*Other Significant Counties**

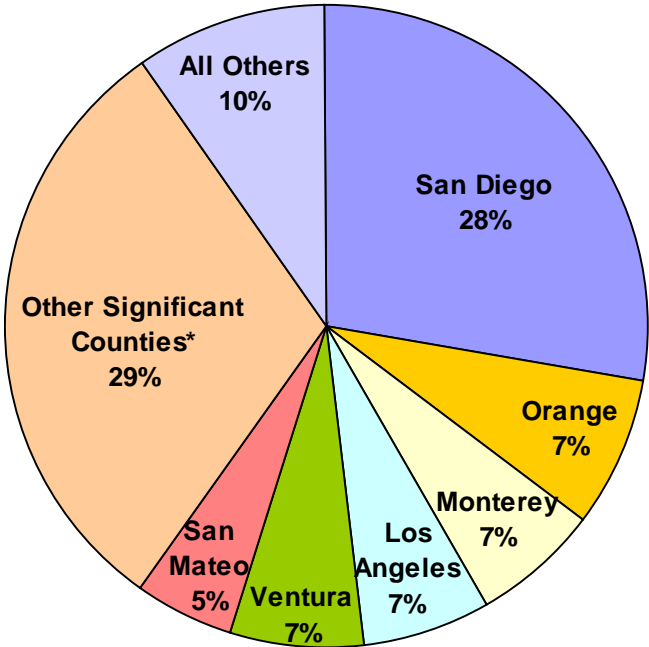
Counties with between 1% and 5% of the state total: San Joaquin, Sutter, Glenn, Butte, Stanislaus, Yolo, Madera, Riverside, Solano, Siskiyou, Sacramento, Yuba.



Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service, *Summary of Agricultural Commissioners' Reports*, electronic data, 2000.

FIGURE 50  
**Nursery, Flower and Foliage Production Value by County, 1999**

**\*Other Significant Counties**  
Counties with between 1% and 5% of the state total:  
Santa Barbara, Kern, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Tulare, Stanislaus, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Fresno, Madera, Solano, Contra Costa.



Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service, *Summary of Agricultural Commissioners' Reports*, electronic data, 2000.