

## How Much Organic Crop Production in California?

The rapid growth of California's organic farm industry has stimulated discussion about the size of the industry. However, prior to enactment of the Organic Foods Act of 1990 there was no objective of size measure available. Organic farmers must now register their operations with their county Agricultural Commissioner. Thirty-two county Crop Reports for 1993, issued by these Ag Commissioners now provide organic crop acreage or, in a few cases, organic crop value (see table below).

Using these published data, CIRS estimates the annual value of organic crop production is more than \$200 million, or roughly 1.5% of the state's total crop production. CIRS calculated the fraction of each county's harvested crop acreage represented by organic crops or the corresponding fraction of farm gate value. Using these, the farm gate value of organic crop production in the thirty-two counties is probably between \$83 million and \$317.5 million, with a most likely value of \$272.6 million. Because more than two dozen counties did not report either organic crop value or organic crop acres they have not been considered. Also, livestock production has not been included. Therefore, it is likely that the total value of organic farm production is somewhat larger.

Brian Baker of California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), provided CIRS with data on their members' crop acreage. CCOF members represent about one-third of the organic farms of the state. By crop type, farms they have certified include: 16,158 acres of orchard crops; 7,450 acres of vegetable crops; 7,936 acres of field crops; and an additional 17,577 acres in other types of land use (mostly fallow, range and pasture).

CCOF estimates that their members account for about \$80 million in farm cash receipts from commodity sales. Since CCOF represents one-third of California organic farms, CCOF uses simple proportions to put the total of organic farm cash receipts at \$240 million, with a conservative estimate of \$200 million.

<u>County</u>	<u>All Crops</u>		<u>Organic Crops</u>		
	<u>Value</u>	<u>Crop Acres</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Crop Acres</u>
Tulare	\$2,568.9	776,015			3,500
Monterey	1,809.0	313,764	27	10.9	1,000
Kern	1,782.9	809,725	28		4,876
San Diego	898.5	80,221	400	4.3	
Ventura	823.0	121,886	24		1,143
San Joaquin	805.4	544,800	6		269
Merced	670.1	555,455	21		753
Kings	530.6	512,949	1		38
Madera	519.5	309,073	16		1,931
Santa Barbara	453.4	54,770			4,500
Butte	267.1	206,308	51		1,559
San Luis Obispo	258.0	206,353	68		2,437

Santa Cruz	237.1	21,365	50	2.0	
Yolo	225.8	355,152		2.7	1,242
Glenn	202.7	241,301	26		1,095
San Mateo	202.4	9,795	9		111
Los Angeles	198.6	16,353	20		143
Sonoma	184.7	82,539	472		3,541
Solano	148.7	216,169	16		400
Napa	138.4	34,944	20		467
San Benito	124.3	60,809	8		891
Yuba	96.4	77,379			75
Mendocino	71.8	22,115	162		2,878
Contra Costa	64.3	38,964	24		119
8 small counties	114.8	146,601	102		660

Note: Crop values are expressed in millions. Only crop acreage figures have been included: livestock production has been excluded. Six other counties reported a total of 82 organic farms, but did not provide either organic crop acreage or value of production.