

III.3 Production by Principal Commodity Group

The 1997 *Census of Agriculture* categorized each farm by its North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) principal commodity group. The census allocated each farm’s total acreage and total sales to whichever commodity group accounted for the largest share (not necessarily the majority) of that farm’s sales. The principal commodity groups are aggregated here as fruits and tree-nuts, livestock and livestock products, vegetables and melons, field crops, and nursery and floriculture. The resulting statistics provide a broad gauge of production of the different commodity groups.

- Fruits and tree-nuts accounted for the largest number of farms and also the smallest average value of production of all categories. Although 73% of fruit and tree-nut farms produced less than \$100,000 each in 1997, the average value of production for fruit and tree-nut producers was over twice that figure.

FIGURE 38

California Fruit and Tree-Nut Producers by Farm Market Value of Products Sold, 1997

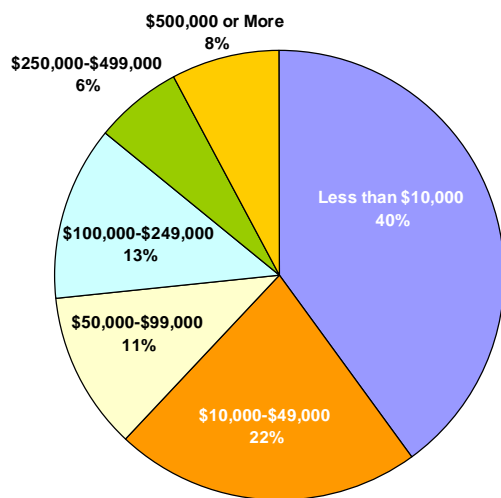


TABLE 32

California Fruits and Tree-Nuts, 1997

Farms	35,422
Acres	4,146,829
Total Value (\$1000)	7,685,708
Average Per Farm (\$)	216,976

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1997 *Census of Agriculture*.

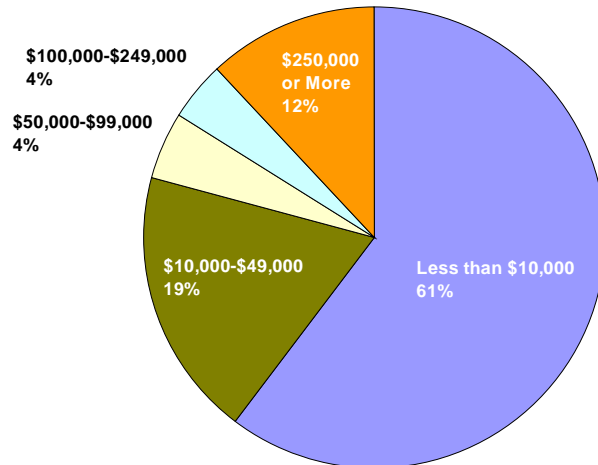
■ In 1997, livestock farms had more total acreage than any other commodity group, but about 80% had less than \$50,000 in sales. Only 12% had sales over \$250,000, yet the average sales value was \$259,804, indicating that a small number of livestock farms had very high sales.

TABLE 33

California Livestock and Products, 1997

Farms	23,330
Acres	15,622,899
Total Value (\$1000)	6,061,233
Average Per Farm (\$)	259,804

FIGURE 39
California Livestock and Product Producers by Farm Market Value of Products Sold, 1997



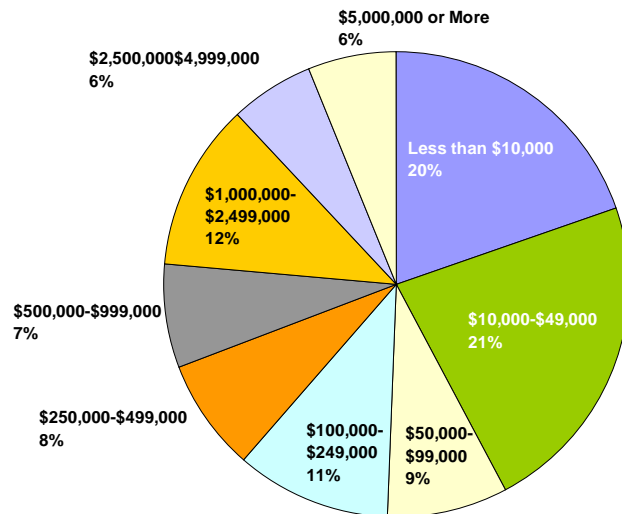
■ The vegetable and melon category accounted for the fewest farms and the largest average per farm sales value. Fifty percent of these farms had sales of more than \$100,000 and about one quarter had sales over \$1 million.

TABLE 34

California Vegetables and Melons, 1997

Farms	3,348
Acres	1,842,290
Total Value (\$1000)	4,235,992
Average Per Farm (\$)	1,265,231

FIGURE 40
California Vegetable and Melon Producers by Farm Market Value of Products Sold, 1997



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1997 Census of Agriculture.

- In 1997, the average farm with field crops as its principal commodity group operated on about 665 acres. About 18% of farms in this category produced over \$500,000, while about 45% produced under \$50,000. The average sales value of \$367,890 per farm indicates that the largest field crop farms do not account for as much of their group’s total sales as do the largest growers in other categories.

FIGURE 41

California Field Crop Producers by Farm Market Value of Products Sold, 1997

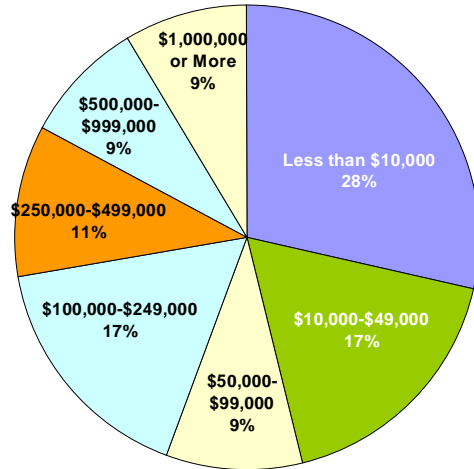


TABLE 35

California Field Crops, 1997

Farms	7,741
Acres	5,147,798
Total Value (\$1000)	2,847,861
Average Per Farm (\$)	367,890

- The average nursery and floriculture farm operated on about 45 acres. About 14% of nursery and floriculture farms produced over \$500,000, while about 59% produced less than \$50,000.

FIGURE 42

California Nursery and Floriculture Producers by Farm Market Value of Products Sold, 1997

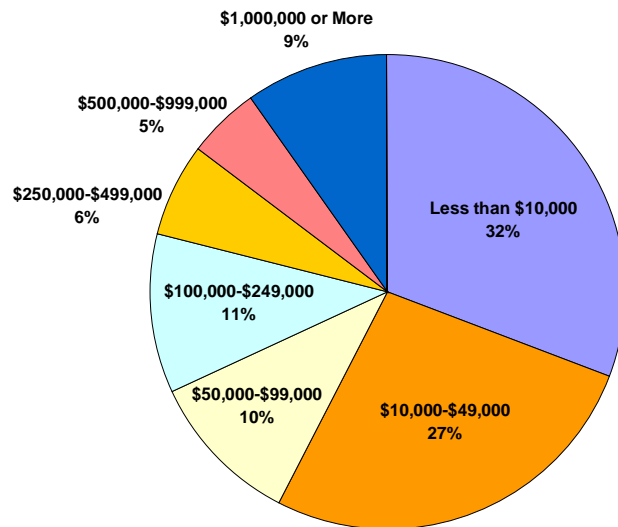


TABLE 36

California Nursery and Floriculture, 1997

Farms	4,285
Acres	194,708
Total Value (\$1000)	2,201,466
Average Per Farm (\$)	513,761

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1997 Census of Agriculture.