California Land
- California total land amounts 99.8 million acres. The state’s 79.6 thousand farms occupy 27.6 percent of that total.
- Approximately 46% of the state’s land corresponds to federal land, and the rest is non-federal land, rural and developed, and water surface.
- The 2002 Census of Agriculture reports 27.6 million acres of agricultural land in California, 51 percent of which are pastures and rangelands. Harvested cropland occupies 31 percent, while pastured cropland and other cropland together account for 9 percent.
- During the past 4 decades the area of cropland allocated to orchards and vineyards, vegetables and melons, has consistently increased.

Farmland Conversion
- Between 1988 and 2002, about 734 thousand acres of land have been converted into urban and built-up uses. This quantity is equivalent to 2.4 percent of the total agricultural land available in the state in 1987 (30.6 million acres).
- Of the total acres converted from 2000 to 2002, 59,144 acres were formerly cropland and 35,126 were grazing land.

Farm Sales and Distribution
- Total farm sales in 2003 were $27.8 billion.
- A large number of farms accounts for a small portion of state agricultural sales and a small number of farms contributes with large sales.
- Most farms in the state contribute very little to total agricultural output.
- Only 10% of the firms, each with more than half a million dollars in sales, account for 86% of total sales.

Agriculture is important to the California economy
- The value added of all local industries combined equals the Gross State Product (GSP), which was $1,446 billion in 2003.
- Value added results from subtracting costs inputs and services purchased from outside the geographic region or industry from total sales.
- Value added of agriculture (farming, agricultural support services and food industry) has increased significantly in the last 25 years, but the rate of growth of the state economy has been even faster.
- Consequently, the share of agriculture in the GSP has decreased.

The multiplier effect of California’s agriculture
- For every $1 billion increase in the value added of California farms, the overall Gross State Product (GSP) increases by $1.93 billion.
- For every $1 billion increase in the output of California farms, the number of jobs in the farming sector increases by 10,872 and the overall state employment increases by 17,875 jobs.
- If we consider farms together with closely related sectors, such as harvesting services, contract labor, packing and cooling, cotton ginning, fertilizers and pesticides industry, and food industry, a $1 billion increase in the value added of this group of activities results in a $2.28 billion increase in the GSP.
- Considering the multiplier effects, farms and closely related industries account for 6.4 percent of GSP.