

California Agriculture Drought Fact Sheet
May 20, 2015
Revised May 26, 2015

Water Supply

In California, 50 percent of the water is used to protect the environment. About 40 percent goes to farms and the other 10 percent goes to urban areas.

California Water Plan Update, 2013

Crop production per acre-foot of water has risen 43 percent in California between 1967 and 2010.

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, California Department of Water Resources

On average, agricultural water supplies from Redding to Bakersfield have been cut by 70 percent.

NEW - 44 percent of California's 9.6 million acres of irrigated farmland will receive zero surface water allocations in 2015.

NEW - Almost 3/4 of California's irrigated farmland, or 6.85 million acres, is receiving 20 percent or less of its normal surface water supply.

California Farm Water Coalition Agricultural Water Supplier 2015 Survey

NEW - More than 692,000 acres of California farmland were fallowed in 2014 as a result of the drought. For reference, 692,000 acres is slightly smaller than Yosemite National Park, or an area the size of 522,000 football fields,

DWR, NASA

Economy

California Agriculture represents 15% of the average U.S. state economy (\$308.3 billion).

California Agriculture is larger than the economy of 4 states (South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Vermont).

US Department of Commerce, CDFR

California agriculture grows more than 50% of America's fresh fruits, nuts and vegetables across 78,000 farms, 400 crops and 450,000 jobs.

CDFR, Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics – University of California, USDA

California is the country's largest agricultural producer and exporter.

Agricultural products were one of California's top 5 exports in 2013, totaling \$13.7 billion in exports, a \$1.8 billion (15%) increase from the previous year.

California's value of agricultural output was \$46.7 billion in 2013, with total U.S. output valued at \$269.1 billion.

California accounted for 15% of national cash receipts for crops in 2012 and 7.1% of the U.S. revenue for livestock and livestock products.

Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy

Almond production generates 104,000 jobs and \$21 billion in revenue for California.

Almost two off-farm jobs are created for every one on-farm job in the almond industry.

UC Davis Agricultural Issues Center

Crops

Forty six percent of the citrus in California depends on surface water delivered by the federal Central Valley Project.

California Citrus Mutual

REVISED - Almonds account for about 12 percent of California's irrigated acreage and use roughly 8 percent of the state's agricultural water supply.

California Almond Board

Advanced production practices over the past 20 years have helped almond growers improve their water efficiency by 33% for every pound of almonds grown today.

USDA California supplies 85% of the nation's fresh citrus.

USDA

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California Farm Water Coalition Agricultural Water Supplier 2015 Survey

April 2015

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California Department of Food and Agriculture – California Agricultural Statistics 2013 Year

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/California_Ag_Statistics/2013cas-all.pdf

Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics – Hired Workers on California Farms

<http://giannini.ucop.edu/CalAgBook/Chap8.pdf>

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University of California, Davis Agricultural Issues Center - Contributions of the California Almond Industry to Local, State and National Economies

<http://aic.ucdavis.edu/almonds/>

California Citrus Mutual – The Central Valley Project fact sheet

Almond Board of California – No, Almonds Don't Use 10 Percent of California's Water

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United States Department of Agriculture - Citrus Fruits - 2014 Summary

<http://www.usda.gov/nass/PUBS/TODAYRPT/cfirt0914.pdf>

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