



# California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## CALIFORNIA FARM REVENUES DOWN FOR 2009

California agriculture revenues decreased 9 percent for 2009 from the revised 2008 income level of \$38.4 billion, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service. The State's 81,500 farms and ranches received \$34.8 billion for their output last year.

California's decline in revenue was led by the dairy sector. Dairy producers received \$4.54 billion for their milk production in 2009, down 34 percent from 2008, and down 38 percent from the 2007 record high of \$7.34 billion. Herd size decreased 3 percent from 2008. Milk production from the State's dairy farms decreased 4 percent. Milk prices received by producers continued to fall from \$18.05 in 2007 to \$16.82 in 2008 to \$11.49 per hundred pounds of milk sold in 2009. California produced 18.6 percent of the nation's milk supply last year. The volatile beginning to 2009 dairy pricing had a negative impact on both dairy income and total farm revenues in 2009. Milk prices remained low for the first 7 months before beginning to recover.

Eight California products exceeded \$1 billion in receipts for 2009, down from ten products in 2008. Five of the eight commodities registered an increase in value. The commodity with the greatest increase was tomatoes, which saw a 15 percent increase. In 2008, hay showed the largest increase in value of sales, however, in 2009 it shows the largest decrease of the top 10 commodities, down 44 percent to \$864 million. This brings the total value of hay sales under \$1 billion. The decrease in dairy herds and the decrease in cattle/calves, as well as the downturn in the economy, contributed to the decline in hay receipts. Cattle/calves value of sales decreased by 11 percent in 2009. Final grower returns could change the sales values for the commodities, resulting in an updated dollar amount in next year's report.

Commodity	2007	2008	2009	2009/2008 Percent Change
	<i>Million Dollars 1/</i>			
All Commodities	36,386	38,407	34,841	-9
Milk	7,337	6,924	4,537	-34
Greenhouse/Nursery 2/	2,938	2,726	2,849	5
Grapes	3,080	2,923	3,268	12
Almonds	2,402	2,343	2,294	-2
Lettuce	1,697	1,581	1,726	9
Strawberries	1,411	1,578	1,725	9
Cattle, Calves	1,784	1,885	1,676	-11
Tomatoes, Fresh and Processing	1,223	1,317	1,510	15
Hay	796	1,547	864	-44
Floriculture	1,036	1,060	935	-12

1/ Grower returns subject to revision.

2/ Excludes Floriculture.

More information on California's cash receipts from farm marketings is located at [www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome).

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