

**Presentation by the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner
 for the
 Regional Conservation Strategy Conservation Steering Committee
 Meeting of August 22, 2007**

Agriculture in Santa Barbara County

Total Land in County (excluding Channel Islands)	1,634,393 Acres
Total Private Lands	855,000 (approx)
Land Zoned Agriculture	760,000 Acres
Land in Ag Preserves	550,000 Acres - Stable
Prime	50,000 Acres
Non-Prime	500,000 Acres
Gross Ag Value (2006)	\$1,016,735,144
Leading Crops	
Strawberries	\$231,000,000
Broccoli	\$129,000,000
Grapes	\$107,000,000
Head Lettuce	\$67,000,000
Celery	\$42,000,000
Avocados	\$40,000,000
Lemons	\$14,000,000
Nursery Products (Total)	\$173,000,000

Production Areas

Santa Maria Valley	290,000 acres
Vegetables, Wine Grapes, Cattle	
Lompoc Valley	136,000 acres
Vegetables, Seed Crops, Wine Grapes, Cattle	
Santa Ynez Valley	231,000 acres
Wine Grapes, Cattle, Field Crops, vegetables	
Los Alamos Valley	79,000 acres
Vegetables (west), Wine Grapes, Cattle (east)	
South Coast	106,000 acres
Nursery Crops, Avocados, Lemons	
Gaviota Coast	51,000 acres
Avocados, Cattle, Lemons	

North Gaviota Coast **43,000 acres**
Cattle
Cuyama Valley **113,000 acres**
Carrots, Alfalfa, Wine Grapes, Cattle

Agricultural Practices (From Ag Waiver Questionnaires)

Irrigation Practices

80% of growers use micro-sprinkler or drip irrigation on Central Coast

Pesticide Practices

88% of growers use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs

Fertilizer Management Practices

75% of growers have some type of crop nutrient/fertilizer management program

California Tiger Salamander Range

Crops

Rotational Crops –Vegetables, beans, squash – 15,410 acres (40%)
Grapes – 12,179 acres (31%)
Field Crops & Orchards - 7,384 acres (20%) – Mostly pasture or grazing
Strawberries – 3,768 (9%)
All other acreage – Rangeland

Trends

Higher Land Values

\$41,000/ acre vegetable land – up \$10,000/acre since 2003

\$50,000/acre for grapes - \$20,000/ acre since 2004

\$12,500/acre for rangeland – Stable over the past year

Lower value to Higher Value – less grazing, less grain crops

Competing with Ranchettes

Non Ag - motocross

Strawberries increasing

High potential return

Ventura losing acreage

Urbanization

VOC requirements

New Crops

Raspberries

Processing Facilities Needed

Value Added

Wine Grape – crushing facilities and wineries

Cattle sales all out of county

Future Expansion Areas

Limited by soils, water, climate, topography

Estimate addition 10,000 to 20,000 acres

Mostly converting grazing or grain to higher value

Mostly along major road corridors

AREA study may provide additional information