



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MEASUREMENT STANDARDS

RUBEN J. ARROYO
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

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May 15, 2009

Mr. Matthew Bettenhausen
Acting Secretary
California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)
3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, California 95655

Dear Secretary Bettenhausen,

Subsequent to data requests from several state agencies regarding the impact of the continued drought in California, as well as the extreme reduction in allotted water from state water projects, we have estimated a loss in excess of \$566.7 million. These estimates were compiled from both communication with farmers and our current permitted acreage data as compared with the previous year.

Attached, please find the California County Agricultural Commissioner's Disaster Report. Please use this report for preparing a request for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Primary Disaster Declaration for the Kern County agricultural industry. This report is extensive and is commodity specific, delineating losses on a real scale for each crop, including an estimated loss to rangeland of 50%. While not every crop which showed a decrease in permitted acres has been listed, we feel this report best represents an overall picture of the impact of a water crisis on the agricultural industry in our county.

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Director Glenn Fankhauser or myself at (661) 868-6300. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruben J. Arroyo,
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

cc: Kern County Board of Supervisors
Georgiana Armstrong – Kern County Office of Emergency Service
Joann B. Esser – Kern County Farm Service Agency
Kevin Masuhara – County/State Liason, California Department of Food and Agriculture

CALIFORNIA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER DISASTER REPORT

1. County:		2. Date of Disaster:		3. Type and Brief Description of Disaster:			
KERN		July 2008 – Ongoing		Drought			
4. Crops Damaged:	5. 5-Yr. Avg. Yield:	6. 5-Yr. Avg. Price:	7. Acres Planted	8. Acres Damaged	9. Acres Not Planted	10. Est. Yield:	11. Est. Dollar Loss:
<i>(List crops in order of importance, including hay & pasture.)</i>	<i>(From Annual Crop Report)</i>	<i>(From Annual Crop Report)</i>					<i>Column No.: [(5 - 10) x 7 + (5 x 9)] x 6</i>
Arrugula	8.41	413.33/acre	498.9		419.5	.54	3,081,100
Barley	1.47	122.40/acre	2052.6		2172.85	.49	637,170
Bean Dried	1.45	641.00/acre	1587.3		839.32	.65	1,594,073
Bean Succulent	5.07	834.25/acre	80		404	.17	2,035,803
Beet	16.18	219.00/acre	432		1104.5	.28	5,417,974
Bok Choy	12.68	245.40/acre	780		390	.67	24,202,133
Broccoli	10.05	326.80/acre	999		1929	.34	9,505,546
Cabbage	17.24	258.00/acre	1001		1922.2	.34	12,914,352
Carrot	33.34	223.20/acre	22847.5		33058.5	.41	41,151,974
Cilantro	8.46	421.40/acre	213		540	.28	2,659,346
Collard	15.14	241.40/acre	284		778	.27	3,862,883
Corn for Fodder	22.82	23.14/acre	12554.87		22923.86	.35	18,633,031
Cotton	.66	1844.44/acre	33210.95		27915.71	.54	41,333,313
Garlic	7.28	432.60/acre	1624.5		2923.6	.36	14,111,406
Honeydew	14.31	381.40/acre	190		141	.57	1,765,237
Kale	13.37	262.60/acre	364		736	.33	3,830,514
Kohlrabi	10.73	348.00/acre	288		363	.44	2,386,761
Lettuce Head	17.82	287.78/acre	1080		1335	.45	10,507,734
Lettuce Romaine	15.8	293.60/acre	29		201	.13	1,065,836
Melon	14.31	381.40/acre	66		176.5	.27	1,316,728
Oat for Fodder	22.82	23.14/acre	7407.54		5300.28	.58	6,611,007
Onion Dry	21.64	161.03/acre	5809.48		4140.8	.58	34,131,041
Op Rose	14212.4	2.37/acre	1548.01		2216.9	.41	126,813,417
Pepper fruiting	17.26	962.20/acre	1871.75		1001.1	.65	46,540,414
Rangeland	1	7.00/acre	1821000	1821000		.5	6,373,500
12. County's Total Crop Acres:							

13. Total Farms in County: <i>(Use most recent U.S. Farm Census number.)</i>		Number		
		2117		
14. Farms with Production Losses of:		Number		
100%				
90 to 99%				
80 to 89%				
70 to 79%				
60 to 69%				
50 to 59%				
40 to 49%				
30 to 39%				
20 to 29%				
Less than 20%				
15. Livestock and Poultry Losses of:		Number Destroyed/Damaged	3-Year Avg. Price <i>(From Annual Crop Report)</i>	Dollar Loss
Cattle <i>(Excluding milk cows)</i>				
Milk Cows				
Milk Production				
Sheep				
Hogs				
Poultry				
Aquaculture				
Apiary				
Other				
16. Farms with <u>Physical</u> Losses of:		Number		
Major				
Minor				
17. Farm Facilities Damaged:		Number		Dollar Loss
		Destroyed	Major	Minor

Dwellings & Service Buildings				
Structures				
Machinery & Equipment				
Land Damages (<i>Acres</i>)				
Other				