

# BUILDING PROSPERITY IN THE YUBA-SUTTER REGION

APPENDIX IV

## AGRICULTURE ECONOMIC PROFILE

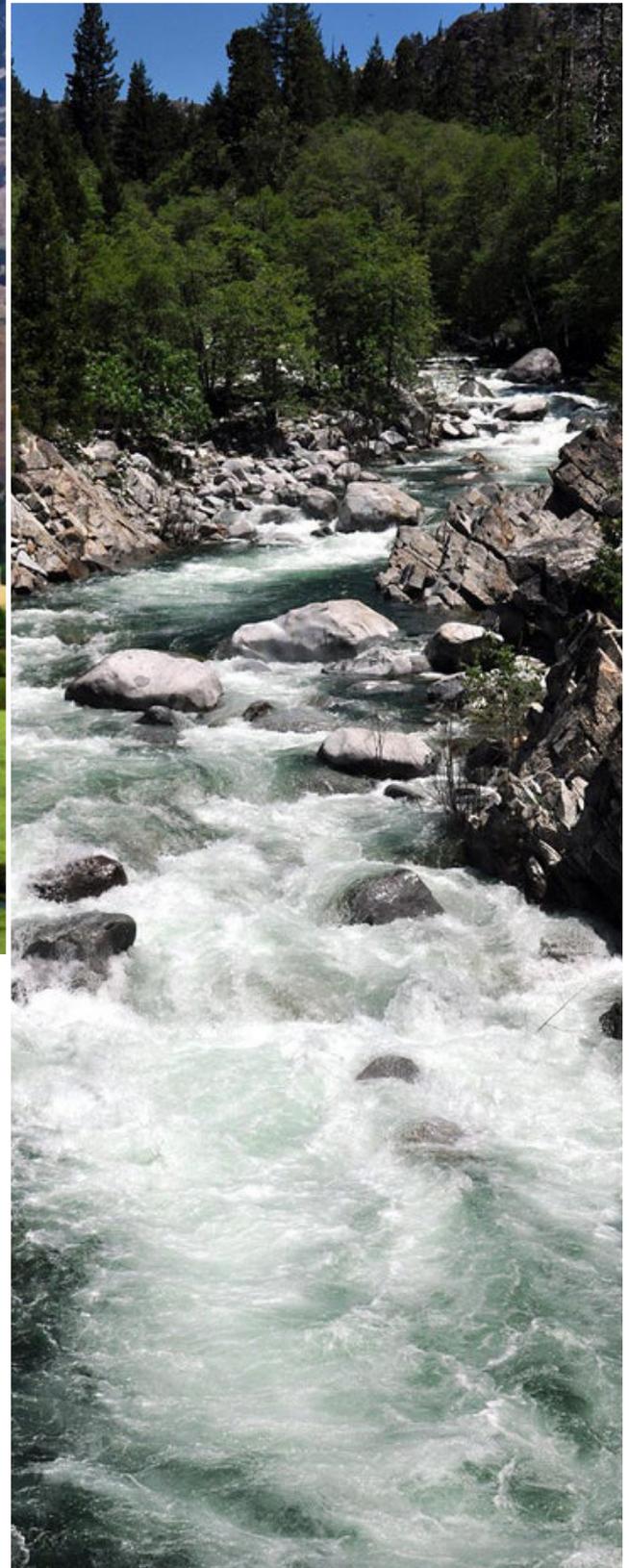
2020-2025

COMPREHENSIVE  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY

Updated January 2022



YUBA-SUTTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



# AGRICULTURE AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

California is the leading state in the US in terms of income derived from agricultural activities. This sector also provides 10 percent of the state's labor force. Of approximately 99 million acres of land comprising the State, 25 million acres have been dedicated to farmland. The success of this sector is associated with the state's long growing season as well as the fertile soil. Additionally, most of the land is irrigated which results in the stability of farming activities. The agricultural products in California are utilized for both consumption and export nationwide and internationally. The exports account for one-fifth of the state's income.

This appendix will help economic developers, planners, local food advocates, and community members to understand the geography of the Yuba-Sutter region's place in the multi-billion-dollar California agriculture industry. The economic indicators provided can help local governments design ways to support agricultural businesses as key components of vibrant and resilient local economies.

Yuba-Sutter enjoys an abundant water supply, good soil and a long growing season. More than 600,000 of the 798,000 acres (75 percent) in Yuba-Sutter are in agricultural use. The largest use of agricultural land is for field crops and vegetables. Fruit and nut crops account for the second highest use of acreage. Yuba and Sutter counties are among the leading counties of California that produce sorghum, kiwi fruit, honeydew melons, peaches, pears, rice, walnuts, wool, and mohair.



# YUBA COUNTY

Approximately 272,480 acres or 66 percent of the total county area, are comprised of agricultural croplands and pasture. The gross value of Yuba County’s agricultural production for 2020 is \$218,260,000, down approximately seven percent from the 2019 value estimate of \$234,534,000. The decrease in value can be attributed to the decrease in walnut prices and decrease in yield of peaches, prunes and kiwi. In addition, the reduction of timber production contributed to the decline in gross value. The overall value in Yuba County’s agricultural production has remained strong despite the fluctuation in value and yield in multiple leading crops.

The contribution of agriculture to the economy of Yuba County is not totally reflected by the value of the crops.

Processing, transporting, marketing and other farm related services directly or indirectly tied to agriculture benefit appreciably. It is estimated the agricultural industry returned an additional 62.5 percent of the gross agriculture value for an estimated total value of \$354,672,500 in 2020. Agriculture accounts for 1 out of every 11 jobs in Yuba County.

In 2018, Yuba County ranked 32nd in gross value of agricultural production of the entire state of California and second in dried plums production.

To access the complete 2020 crop report visit: [https://www.yuba.org/Yuba%20County/Agricultural%20Commission/Crop%20Reports/CropReport\\_2020.pdf](https://www.yuba.org/Yuba%20County/Agricultural%20Commission/Crop%20Reports/CropReport_2020.pdf)

## LEADING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES



RANK	CROP	2019	2020
1	Rice	\$59,960,000	\$75,627,000
2	Walnut	\$54,326,000	\$37,578,000
3	Livestock - All	\$22,243,000	\$23,468,000
4	Prune/Dried Plums	\$25,522,000	\$22,597,000
5	Peach/Cling	\$22,243,000	\$16,125,000
6	Kiwi	\$13,086,000	\$9,096,000
7	Almonds - All	\$5,583,000	\$6,088,000
8	Pasture - All	\$5,706,000	\$5,692,000
9	Nursery Stock	\$3,955,000	\$3,911,000
10	Timber	\$2,544,000	\$2,161,000



# SUTTER COUNTY

The gross value of Sutter County agricultural production for 2020 was \$568,857,000. This is a decrease of \$129,823,000 or 18.6% below the 2019 total value.

Rice remains the top-ranking crop in 2020 despite a 13.6 percent decrease in acreage. An increase in yield and price offset the reduction in acreage as the total value fell to \$202,525,000. In second place, walnuts total value decreased 40.8% to \$75,448,000 due to a decrease in price. Cling Peaches rose to third with a slight increase in yield to a total value of \$51,412,000. Remaining in fourth, processing tomatoes had an 18.8% decrease in acreage and increases in yield and price to a total value of \$50,528,000. In fifth, nursery products total value rose to \$43,130,000 due to an increase in acreage and per unit value.

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented

challenges for the agricultural industry. Protecting essential agricultural workers from COVID-19 and wildfire smoke, shortages of labor and unstable markets had significant effects on our agricultural community. Our office worked tirelessly to provide personal protective equipment and industry support while trying to keep our own safe and healthy

In 2018, Sutter County ranked 22nd in gross value of agricultural production of the entire state of California, first in dried plums and beans, second in rice production, third in peach production, fourth in Kiwi fruit and fifth in walnuts, pears, green peas, sweet potatoes and honeydew mellons.

To access the complete 2020 crop report visit:

<https://www.suttercounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5108/637752534413030000>

## LEADING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES



RANK	CROP	2019	2020
1	Rice <sup>1</sup>	\$222,863,000	\$202,525,000
2	Walnut	\$127,526,000	\$75,448,000
3	Peaches/Clingstone	\$49,984,000	\$51,412,000
4	Tomatoes/Processing	\$51,666,000	\$50,528,000
5	Nursery Products	\$41,102,000	\$43,130,000
6	Almonds	\$39,866,000	\$39,789,000
7	Prunes	\$62,691,000	\$23,709,000
8	Sunflower/Seed	\$14,529,000	\$13,356,000
9	Corn/Field Grain	\$8,417,000	\$7,502,000
10	Hay, Alfalfa	\$6,504,000	\$6,371,000

1. Includes seed, does not include Wild Rice