

Merced County Farm Bureau

WE FARM. YOU EAT.



mercedfarmbureau.org

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Who is Merced County Farm Bureau...

- MCFB created in 1917
 - Mission: Merced County Farm Bureau exists for the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply.
- Represent 1,500 farmers & ranchers in Merced County
- In 2012, Ag created \$3.28 BILLION in direct revenues (increase by \$20.3 million in 2011)
- Ranks 5th in California and 5th in United States

HOW **BAD** IS THIS DROUGHT?

THIS YEAR'S DROUGHT IS AMONG THE WORST ON RECORD (1924, 1977).

FARM WATER AND THE 2014 DROUGHT

HOW IS IT IMPACTING AGRICULTURE?

800,000+ ACRES IDLED
1,250 square miles

The size of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose,
Fresno and Bakersfield combined

\$2.7 BILLION
in crop losses

PRICES TO CONSUMERS?

10% TO 15%

Consumer price experts say food prices will rise 10 percent to 15 percent due to water supply shortages.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES

Biological Opinion Impacts – 2012-2013

815,000 ACRE-FEET OF WATER

went to the ocean between December 2012 and January 2013 with **NO MEASURABLE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT.**

Enough water for 200,000 acres, which could have grown:

3.2 BILLION heads of lettuce; or
210 MILLION cartons of melons; or
20 MILLION tons of grapes; or
10 MILLION tons of tomatoes

HOW WILL IT IMPACT THE ECONOMY?

JOBS AFFECTED

On-farm
Processing
Transportation
Wholesale
Retail
Ports



INCREASED CROP PRODUCTION AND WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Applied water
↓ **14.5 PERCENT**
Crop production per acre-foot* ↑
85.4 PERCENT

**15,000
LOST JOBS**
=
\$5 BILLION
in lost economic
activity

HOW ARE FARMERS BEING MORE EFFICIENT?

Between 2003 and 2013

California farmers spent
\$3 BILLION upgrading
irrigation systems on

**2.4 MILLION
ACRES**

WHICH CROPS ARE BEING HIT?

Iceberg lettuce
Broccoli
Bell peppers
Cantaloupes
Tomatoes
and other
annual crops



WATER SUPPLY IMPACTS

SUPPLY CUTS UP TO 100 PERCENT

mean added costs to keep critical permanent crops alive, such as almonds, grapes and pistachios.

**UNEMPLOYMENT
WILL RISE**

HOW ARE FARMERS BEING MORE EFFICIENT?

Between 2003 and 2013

California farmers spent
\$3 BILLION upgrading
irrigation systems on

**2.4 MILLION
ACRES**



*An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, or about the amount of water two families use in a year for domestic purposes. It is roughly the size of a football field one foot deep.



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Efforts by Merced County Growers

- Longstanding Conservation Programs
 - ▣ Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS)
 - ▣ Water District (ie Henry Miller Reclamation District; Central California Irrigation District, etc.)
- FY2013-14 NRCS has 685 applicants (135 are part of Drought Program) which is 2nd Highest number in CA

Water Facts by the numbers...

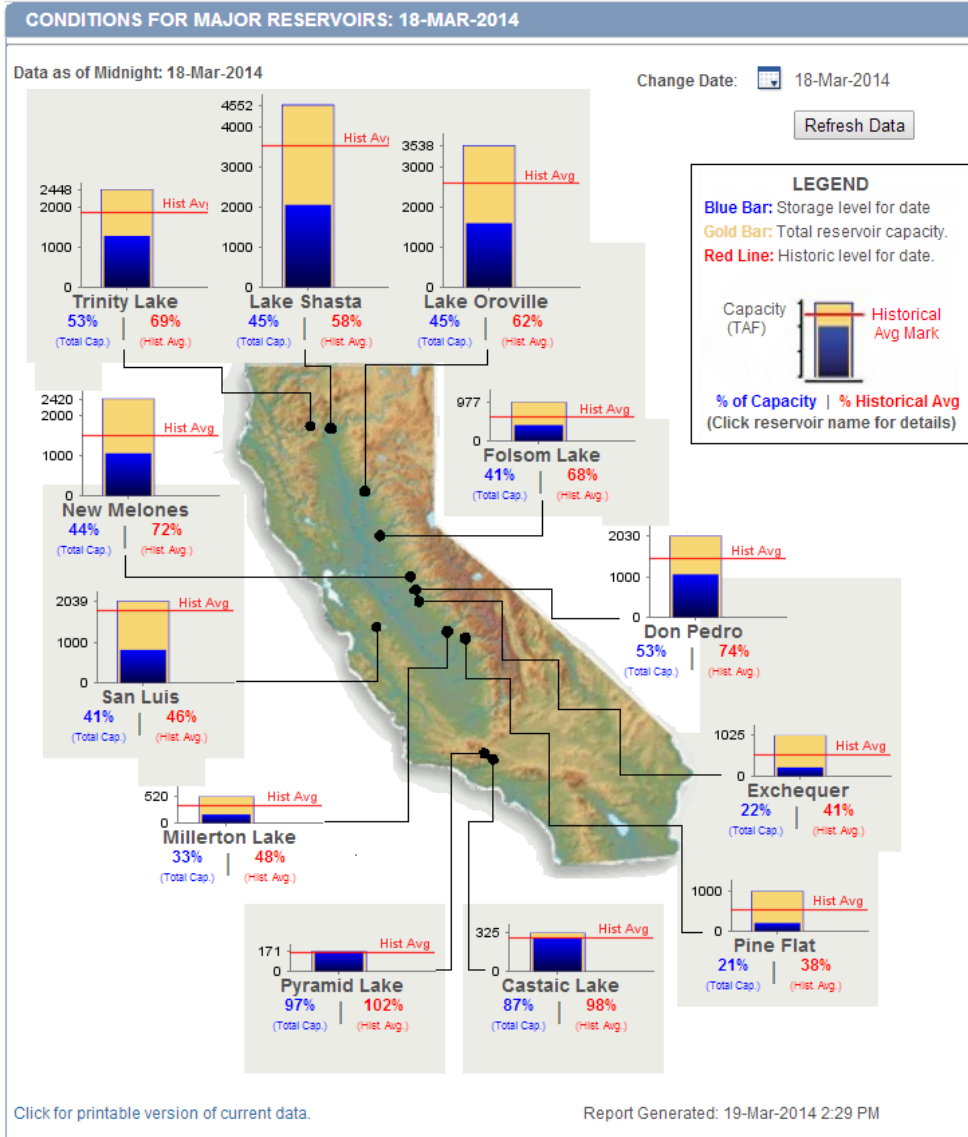
	1967	2007	Percentage
Applied Ag Water (ref. DWR)	31.2 maf	26.66 maf	-14.50%
Volume of Farm Production (Excludes Beef, dairy, etc.) (ref. NASS)	35.8 million tons	56.73 million tons	58.50%
Production per acre-ft.	1.15 tons per acre-foot	2.13 tons per acre-foot	85.40%
Crop Value (Inflation adjusted) (ref. Center for Irrigation Technology)	\$3.97 billion	\$24.6 billion (Actual \$36.6 billion)	

*maf = Million Acre-Feet
1 Acre Foot = 325,851 gallons

U.S. Consumers spend 6.2% of disposable income on food and non-alcoholic beverages. Twenty-eight other high-income countries spend 10.2% which equates to \$3,820 more per year (2010 numbers).

Reservoir Capacity

California Data Exchange Center - Reservoirs



Reservoir	Capacity	Historical Average	Current %
Exchequer	1025 TAF	41%	22%
Don Pedro	2030 TAF	74%	53%
San Luis	2041 TAF	47%	41%
Millerton Lake	520 TAF	48%	33%
Folsom Lake	977 TAF	68%	41%
New Melones	2420 TAF	58%	45%

TAF = Total Acre Feet

1 Acre Foot = 325,851 gallons

Long-term Solutions

- Expand Spillway of Lake McClure (HR 3964)
 - ▣ Increase of 10 feet equates to 70,000 acre-feet of additional water storage
 - ▣ Available for groundwater re-charge, irrigation or other beneficial uses
 - ▣ Saved water could serve 160,000 households
 - ▣ Project would generate 10,000 megawatt-hours of clean hydroelectricity which could power 1,700 homes

Long-term Options

- Temperance Flat – Upper San Joaquin River Basin Project (Authorized by Congress 2003)
 - ▣ Capacity for 500,000 acre-feet
 - ▣ Beneficial to Madera, Merced, Fresno, Kings & Kern
 - ▣ Over 6 million acres of irrigated ag land & over 1 million people
 - ▣ Bureau of Reclamation's January 2014 Feasibility Report found the project would positively affect water temperatures to the benefit of the Chinook salmon

Questions?

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