

2014 California Avocado Acreage Inventory Survey Results

The California Avocado Commission's (CAC's) crop estimating team, in conjunction with GeoSpatial Partners, LLC, uses the latest remote sensing techniques to annually assess California's avocado acreage. In order to delineate avocado acreage into producing versus non-producing acreage remote sensing techniques are applied to satellite imagery collected during spring and summer months. The imagery processing techniques include segmentation of avocado polygons, change analysis from previous acreage surveys and classification of groves into categories including producing, topped/stumped, and new/young.

Aerial imagery (for a real-world view) and satellite imagery (for spectral and temporal data) are integrated into previously classified avocado acreage and analyzed for current condition in five primary avocado growing counties: San Diego, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo. In addition, when available, the Commission utilizes high resolution aerial imagery collected through the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) in order to delineate new avocado plantings not identified in previous acreage surveys. Other minor counties' acreage is estimated based on ancillary data from county agricultural commissioners and our grower community.

The results of the 2014 avocado acreage inventory survey show California's bearing acres coming in at 51,478 acres, which reflects a decrease of more than 10 percent, near-

County	Producing Acres	Topped/Stumped Acres	New/Young Acres	Total Planted Acres	CAC Bearing Acres (Pro+Top)
San Diego	17,406	1,033	441	18,880	18,439
Riverside	5,235	261	481	5,977	5,496
Ventura	16,437	488	1,281	18,206	16,925
Santa Barbara	4,651	188	440	5,279	4,839
San Luis Obispo	3,567	254	187	4,008	3,821
Total 5 Counties	47,296	2,224	2,830	52,350	49,520
Total Minor Counties*				1,958	1,958
Grand Total				54,308	51,478

* Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Joaquin Valley, Monterey

ly 6,000 acres, from 2013. While San Diego County represents the growing region with the largest decrease in bearing acres, with a decrease of over 2,600 acres, each of the five counties contributed to the overall reduction in bearing acres. Includ-

ed in this article are a summary of the 2014 Acreage Inventory Survey, along with an in depth look at how acreage classifications have changed from 2013 to 2014 for each of the five counties surveyed. 🥑

County	Year	Producing Acres	Top/Stump Acres	New/Young Acres	Planted Acres	Bearing Acres
San Diego	2014	17,405.9	1,032.8	440.6	18,879.3	18,438.7
	2013	20,643.6	438.8	985.5	22,067.9	21,082.4
	Change (+/-)	-3,237.7	594.0	-544.9	-3,188.6	-2,643.7
Riverside	2014	5,234.7	261.4	481.3	5,977.5	5,496.2
	2013	6,127.4	374.3	137.4	6,639.1	6,501.7
	Change (+/-)	-892.7	-112.9	343.9	-661.6	-1,005.5
Ventura	2014	16,436.5	488.1	1,281.0	18,205.6	16,924.6
	2013	17,089.2	138.4	87.1	18,070.4	17,692.5
	Change (+/-)	-652.7	349.7	1,193.9	135.2	-767.9
Santa Barbara	2014	4,651.5	187.9	439.7	5,279.1	4,839.4
	2013	5,707.7	185.9	306.8	6,200.4	5,893.6
	Change (+/-)	-1,056.2	2.0	132.9	-921.3	-1,054.2
San Luis Obispo	2014	3,567.4	253.5	187.1	4,008.0	3,820.9
	2013	4,213.9	116.0	88.7	4,418.6	4,329.9
	Change (+/-)	-646.5	137.5	98.4	-410.6	-509.0
Five County Total	2014	47,296.0	2,223.8	2,829.7	52,349.4	49,519.7
	2013	53,781.8	1,253.4	1,605.5	57,396.4	55,500.1
	Change (+/-)	-6,485.8	970.4	1,224.2	-5,047.0	-5,980.4