



Counties of Inyo and Mono Agriculture Department



2008 Crop and Livestock Report

Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office:

Agriculture and Weights and Measures Departments

Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area, a joint powers program

Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program

Staff

George L. Milovich - Agricultural Commissioner / Director of Weights and Measures

John Schrader - Deputy Agricultural Commissioner / Deputy Director of Weights and Measures

Robin Conklin - Executive Secretary

Jennifer Sarten - Account Technician I

Nathan Reade - Program Coordinator / Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area

Carlos Paz - Field Technician II

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Bruce Mack - Field Technician I

Casey Freeman - Field Technician I

David Miller - Mosquito Helper

Walter Davison – Mosquito Helper

Scott Gadea – Field Assistant

Joshua Tyerman – Field Assistant

This and previous year's crop reports can also be viewed online at:

<http://www.inyomonoagriculture.com/page5.html>

Cover Photo: Sheep in Little Round Valley, Mono County
Inside Photo: Sunflowers in "Farmer's Ponds", near Bishop, Inyo County



Counties of Inyo & Mono



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May 21, 2009

TO: A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
And The Honorable Boards of Supervisors:

County of Inyo

Linda Arcularius
Beverly Brown
Susan Cash
Richard Cervantes
Marty Fortney

County of Mono

Tom Farnetti
D. "Hap" Hazard
Byng Hunt
Vikki Magee-Bauer
Bill Reid

It is my pleasure to present the 2008 Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report. This report is a compilation of crop production and estimated values of commodities grown in Inyo and Mono Counties.

The combined Counties' agricultural production for 2008 totaled \$62,608,000.00, which represents an approximate 10% increase from 2007.

Some of the most drastic swings in crop values throughout California have affected many field crops such as Inyo/Mono Counties' alfalfa. Livestock values have moved, but are maintaining a more stable price.

Agriculture continues as one of the integral parts of Inyo and Mono Counties' economy. Values represented here are gross agricultural values only and are submitted in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code.

My appreciation goes out to the growers, ranchers and agencies that provided data and to Nathan, Robin and Jennifer for their help and vigilance in putting this report together.

Sincerely,

George L. Milovich
Agricultural Commissioner

/jfs

The Evolution of Agriculture and Weights and Measures

The California Agricultural Commissioners trace their origins back 125 years; their goal is protection of the State's crops from the ravages of pests both domestic and imported. Then, as now, one of the principle weapons employed was a legal device called a "quarantine", which derives from the French word "quarante", meaning "forty". The quarantine came about as a detention device, its first use being in the year 1340 when passengers on ships bound for Venice, Italy, were detained on board ship for 40 days. This was considered a long enough period to determine whether or not those passengers carried with them the Black Plague, which was killing many people in Europe in the mid-14th century.

California's first statewide program, which was the start of the present Department of Food and Agriculture, began with "An Act For the Promotion of Viticultural Industries of the State" on April 5, 1880. It provides for the appointment of a Board of State Viticultural Commissioners whose duties included the study of the grape root rot disease, *Phylloxera*. The Act specified that the University of California was responsible for instruction and experiments - a concept still existing today - giving the University the authority for research and the Department the regulatory functions. The Act provided for seven viticultural districts.

Until the year 1911, the duties of the State Board of Horticulture, the State Commissioner of Horticulture, county boards of horticulture commissioners and the county horticulture commissioners were limited to just a few obligations. They had to do with preventing the introduction into the state of the pests from outside its boundaries, prevention of spread of insect pests and plant diseases through the media of nursery stock, fruit boxes, and other containers, and the inspection of nurseries. The years that followed would find the duties not only intensified in the same areas, but expanded into many other aspects of agriculture.

In the beginning the regulatory concern was to protect the California farmer from the depredations of exotic pests. After 1911, these duties were to be expanded to include concerns of the market place (standardization), and such cultural aids as assistance to the farmer in weed control and control of rodents and other damaging creatures. Later, they would enlarge to assure the farmer honest weights and measures, and protection from unscrupulous middlemen. Finally, the regulations would blossom into the full relationship of the farmer and the consumer.

Today, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and County Agricultural Commissioners are as busy helping the consumer as they are the farmer. They keep exotic pests away from the farmer's fields by fighting them in city gardens, where they nearly always are found first in the State. By so doing, they are affording city people as much protection as farmers, for these pests generally can wreak as much havoc in the city as in the country. They provide for, and oversee, standardization practices, thus insuring the farmers good markets for their products and insuring quality for consumers. They promote marketing of goods in a variety of ways, also assuring quality and quantity to consumers. They look after the health of livestock and plants, and the same benefits accrue to the consumer. They insist on measurement standards that also have dual blessings; and they assure the consumer and the farmer protection against the careless use of pesticides, thus affording protection to both people and the environment.

2005 was the 125th anniversary of the California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer Association.

Photo: Rangeland surrounding Crowley Lake, Mono County

**INYO and MONO COUNTIES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

The mission of the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office is to promote and protect the agricultural industry of the Counties, its environment, and to ensure the health and safety of all of its citizens. The department is also responsible for fostering confidence and equity in the marketplace.

The following are the main program areas:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

We protect the health and safety of all Inyo/Mono residents, its agricultural industries and its environment with a series of comprehensive regulatory programs designed to prevent the introduction of exotic pests and to ensure the safe use of pesticides. The five programs utilized to achieve these goals include:

* Pest Exclusion * Pest Detection * Pest Eradication * Pest Management * Pesticide Enforcement *

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PRODUCT QUALITY

Product quality programs are designed to ensure the production and sales of quality eggs, honey, fruits, vegetables, and nursery and seed products. The six programs include:

* Fruit and Vegetable Quality Control * Organic Food Production *
* Egg Quality Control * Certified Farmers' Markets * Nursery Inspection * Seed Inspection *

SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Other special, mandated services acted upon by our department include:

* Apiary Inspection * Crop Statistics * Sustainable Agriculture *

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Equity and fairness is the name of the game. Gasoline, firewood, a loaf of bread, or fruits and vegetables... Any item purchased is sold by weight, measure, or count. We protect the public from purchasing goods that are short weight or measure, and we protect businesses from giving their products and profits away when they use devices that could be inaccurate. We also verify that prices are correctly scanned at the counter, petroleum products meet quality standards, and weighmasters provide their customers accurate weighing devices. The eight programs in this category include:

* Weight Verification * Measurement Verification * Petroleum * Transaction Verification *
* Electronic Meters * Compressed Gas Meters * Weighmaster * Device Repairmen Regulation *

EASTERN SIERRA WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

This division consists of federal, state, county, and local agencies and entities of which the Agricultural Commissioner is the administrator. The Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area is dedicated to range management of the Eastern Sierras and the detection, eradication, and management of noxious, non-native weed species.

OWENS VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

The overall purpose of this program is to provide the public with a consistent level of mosquito control that directly reduces the threat of disease transmission and the spread of large nuisance populations of mosquitoes.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATION OUTREACH

The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures is responsible for the administration of these programs. Staff also participates in a wide range of special projects intended to benefit Inyo/Mono citizens such as legislative process, public information, education outreach efforts, joint multi-agencies cooperation and inter-county agencies activities.

Inyo County—General Information

County Seat	Independence
County Population (2000 census)	17,945
Land Area (square miles)	10,142
Persons per Square Mile	1.77
Highest Elevation (Mount Whitney)	14,492 feet
Lowest Elevation (Badwater, Death Valley National Park)	282 feet below sea level
Land in Federal Ownership	92.0%
Land in State Ownership	2.4%
Land in City of Los Angeles Ownership	3.9%
Land in Private Ownership	1.7%

Incorporated Cities/Towns:

Bishop

Average Climate:

Bishop:

Summer High—98°

Winter Low—22°

Death Valley:

Summer High—115°

Winter Low—37°



Unincorporated Areas:

Big Pine
 Cartago
 Independence
 Lone Pine
 Olancha
 Pearsonville
 Shoshone
 Tecopa

Mono County—General Information

County Seat	Bridgeport
County Population (2000 census)	12,853
Land Area (square miles)	3,044
Persons per Square Mile	4.22
Highest Elevation (White Mountain)	14,242 feet
Land in Federal Ownership	84.7%
Land in State Ownership	3.6%
Land in City of Los Angeles Ownership	3.2%
Land in Private Ownership	7.8%

Incorporated Cities/Towns:

Mammoth Lakes

Average Climate:

Bridgeport:

Summer High—81°

Winter Low—8°

Chalfant Valley:

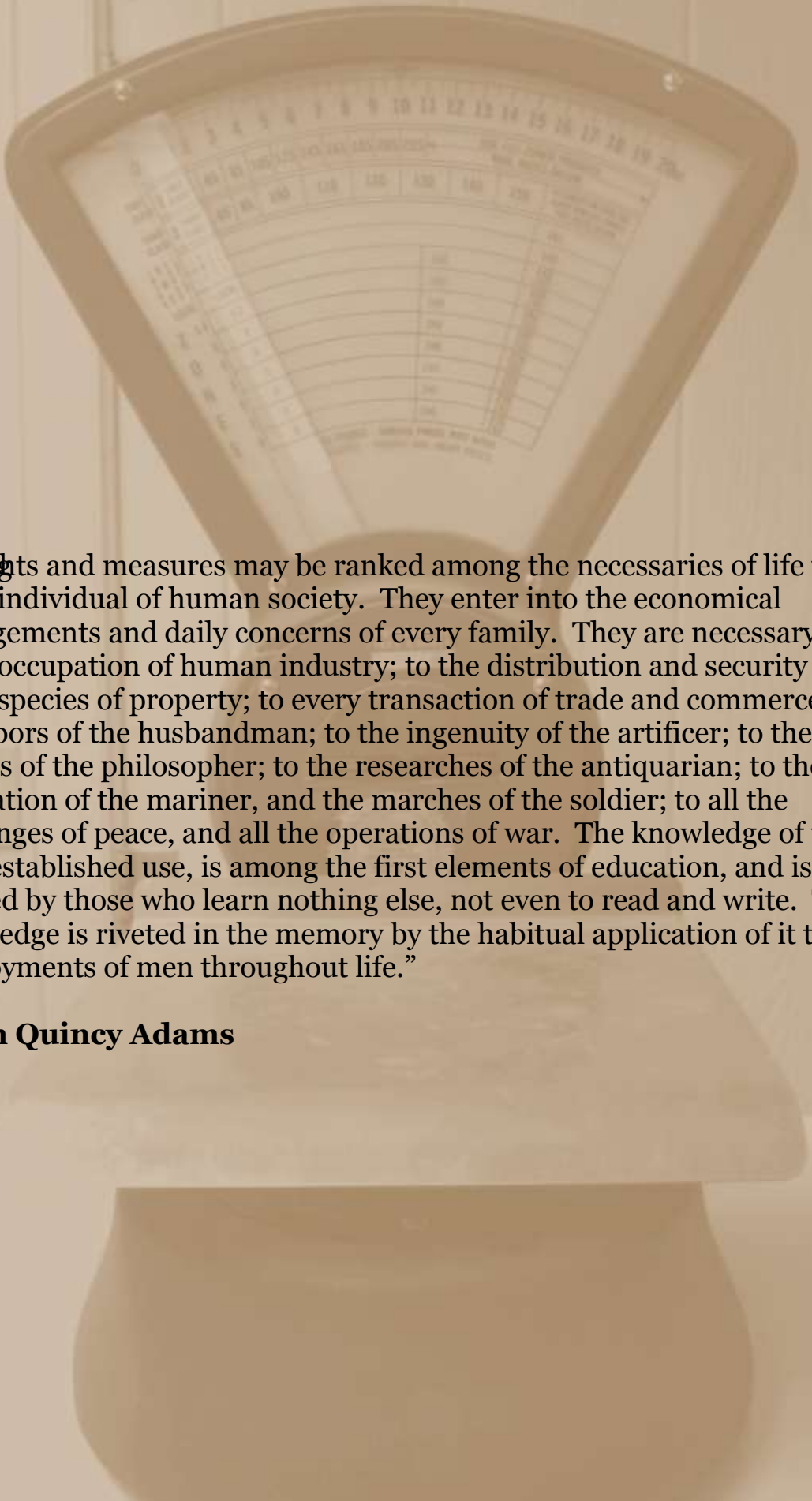
Summer High—98°

Winter Low—22°



Unincorporated Areas:

Benton
 Bridgeport
 Chalfant Valley
 Coleville
 Hammil Valley
 June Lake
 Lee Vining
 Tom's Place
 Walker



– Weights and measures may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society. They enter into the economical arrangements and daily concerns of every family. They are necessary to every occupation of human industry; to the distribution and security of every species of property; to every transaction of trade and commerce; to the labors of the husbandman; to the ingenuity of the artificer; to the studies of the philosopher; to the researches of the antiquarian; to the navigation of the mariner, and the marches of the soldier; to all the exchanges of peace, and all the operations of war. The knowledge of them, as in established use, is among the first elements of education, and is often learned by those who learn nothing else, not even to read and write. This knowledge is riveted in the memory by the habitual application of it to the employments of men throughout life.”

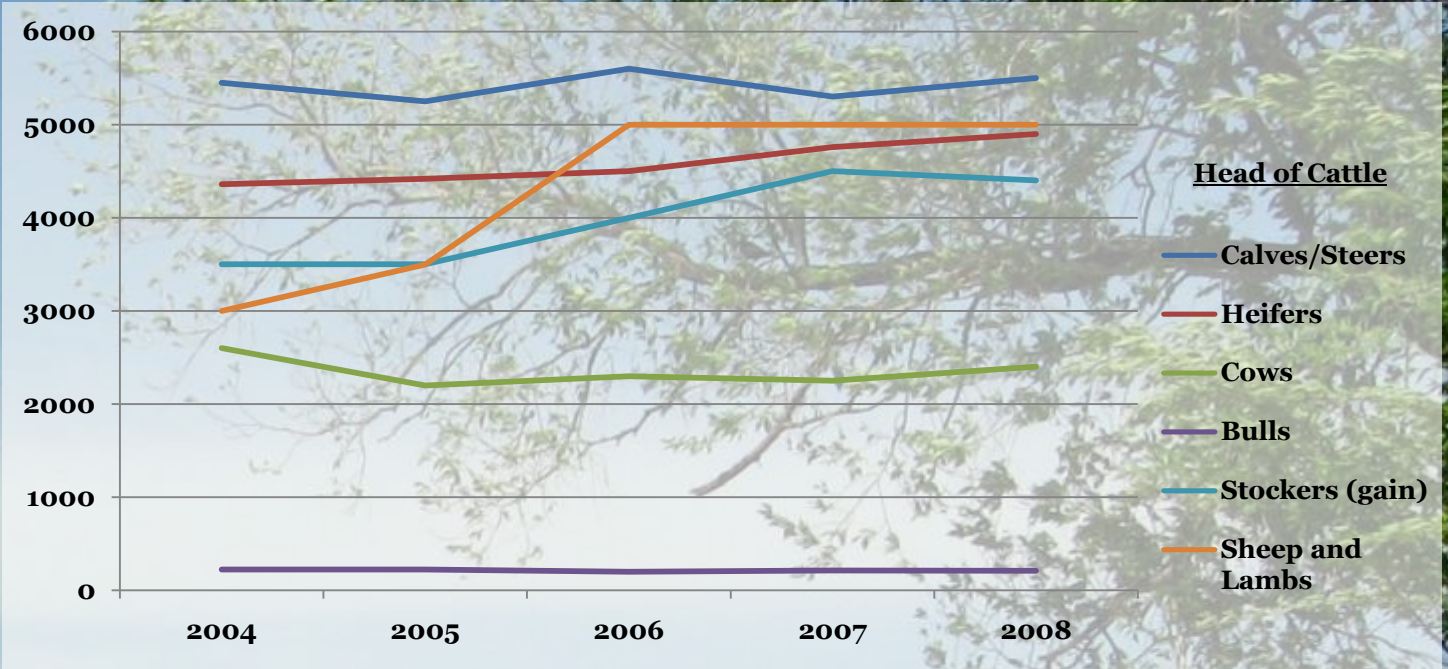
-John Quincy Adams

COUNTY OF INYO

LIVESTOCK

ITEM	YEAR	HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	PRICE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Calves/Steers	2008	5,500	33,000	Cwt.	\$108.00	\$3,564,000
	2007	5,300	30,500	Cwt.	\$114.00	\$3,477,000
Heifers	2008	4,900	28,175	Cwt.	\$104.00	\$2,930,200
	2007	4,500	23,625	Cwt.	\$110.00	\$2,598,750
Cows	2008	2,400	26,400	Cwt.	\$78.00	\$2,059,200
	2007	2,250	24,750	Cwt.	\$74.00	\$1,831,500
Bulls	2008	210	2,835	Cwt.	\$68.00	\$192,780
	2007	215	2,900	Cwt.	\$70.00	\$203,000
Stockers (gain)	2008	4,400	~	~	~	\$1,540,000
	2007	4,500	~	~	~	\$1,800,000
Sheep and Lambs	2008	5,000	4,500	Cwt.	\$91.00	\$409,500
	2007	5,000	4,500	Cwt.	\$78.00	\$351,000
TOTAL LIVESTOCK			2008	\$10,508,480		
			2007	\$10,261,250		

Photo: Livestock near Big Pine, Inyo County



MISCELLANEOUS CROP PRODUCTION

ITEM	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL YIELD	TOTAL
Turf	2008	375	~	\$3,200,000
	2007	375	~	\$3,200,000
Dates (Misc. Fruits)	2008	30	35,000	\$140,000
	2007	30	30,000	\$127,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CROP PRODUCTION			2008	\$3,340,000
			2007	\$3,327,000

APIARY

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PRICE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	2008	700,000	Lbs.	\$1.50	\$1,050,000
	2007	550,000	Lbs.	\$1.35	\$742,500
TOTAL APIARY				2008	\$1,050,000
				2007	\$742,500

COUNTY OF INYO

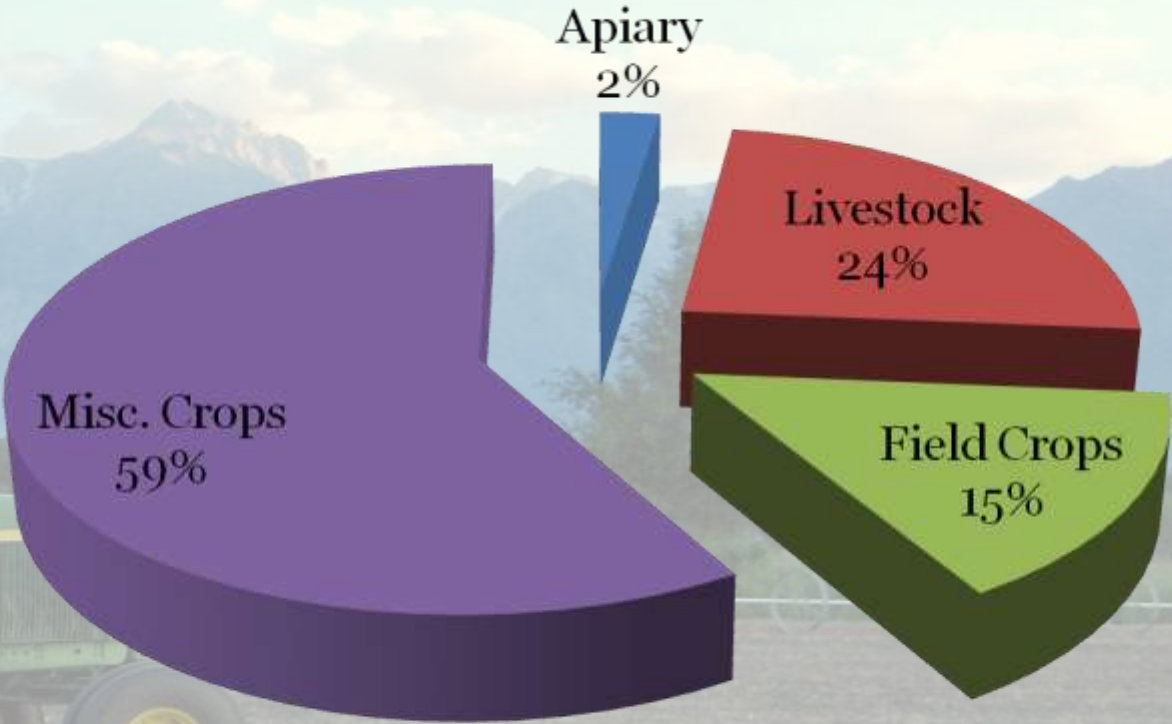
2008 AGRICULTURAL VALUES

	2007	2008
LIVESTOCK	\$10,261,250	\$10,508,480
FIELD CROPS	\$5,648,800	\$6,561,500
MISCELLANEOUS CROP PRODUCTION	\$3,327,000	\$3,340,000
APIARY	\$742,500	\$1,050,000
TOTALS	2008	\$21,459,980
	2007	\$19,979,550

Photo: Alfalfa planting near Independence, Inyo County

INYO COUNTY TOTALS

Agricultural Values

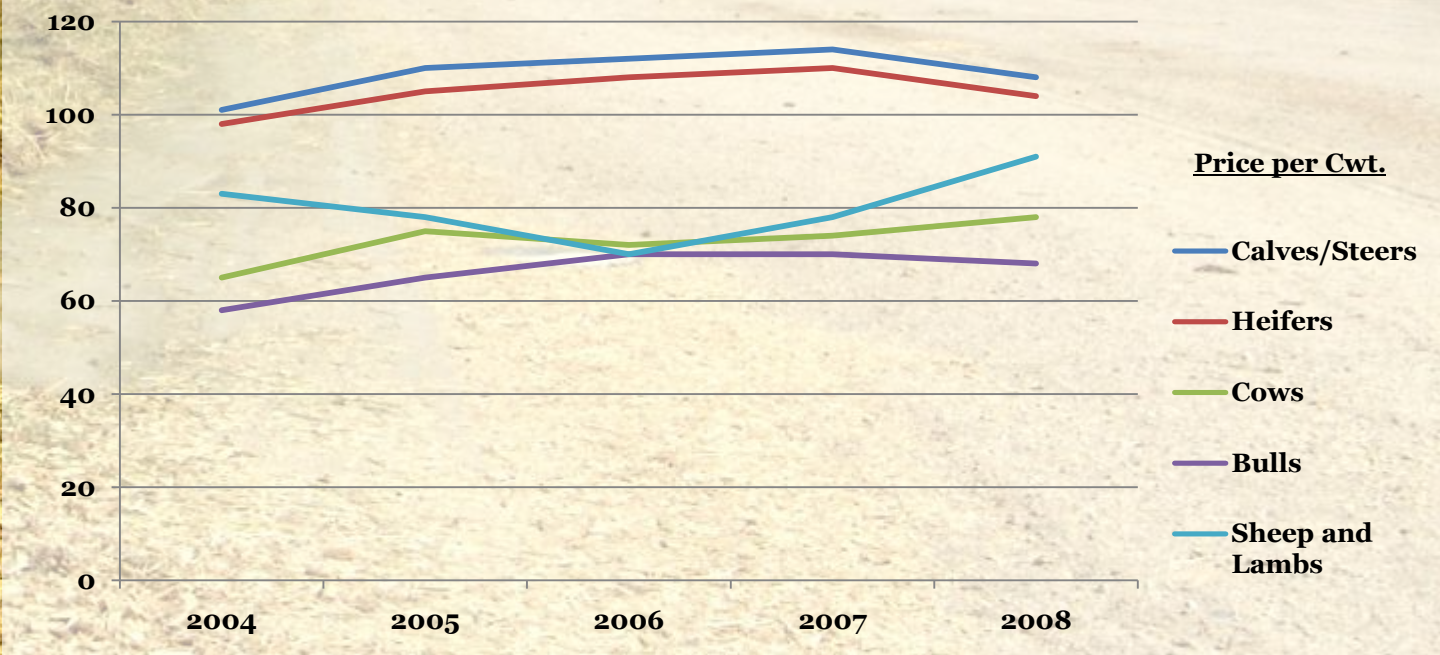
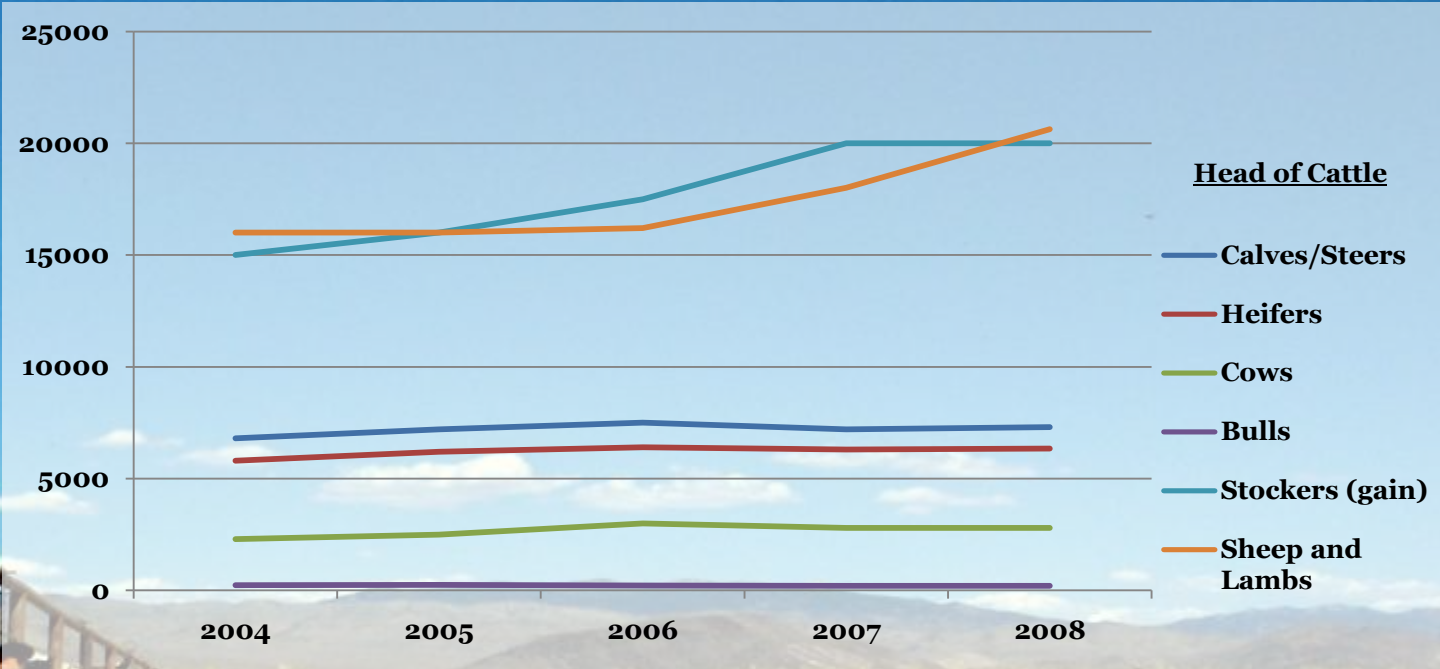


COUNTY OF MONO

LIVESTOCK

ITEM	YEAR	HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	PRICE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Calves/Steers	2008	7,300	43,800	Cwt.	\$108.00	\$4,730,400
	2007	7,200	41,400	Cwt.	\$114.00	\$4,719,600
Heifers	2008	6,350	37,548	Cwt.	\$104.00	\$3,904,992
	2007	6,300	33,075	Cwt.	\$110.00	\$3,638,250
Cows	2008	2,800	30,800	Cwt.	\$78.00	\$2,402,400
	2007	2,800	28,000	Cwt.	\$74.00	\$2,072,000
Bulls	2008	200	2,700	Cwt.	\$68.00	\$183,600
	2007	200	2,700	Cwt.	\$70.00	\$189,000
Stockers (gain)	2008	20,000	~	~	~	\$8,000,000
	2007	20,000	~	~	~	\$8,000,000
Sheep and Lambs	2008	16,500	20,625	Cwt.	\$91.00	\$1,876,875
	2007	16,500	20,625	Cwt.	\$78.00	\$1,608,750
TOTAL LIVESTOCK				2008	\$21,098,267	
				2007	\$20,227,600	

Photo: Holstein cattle, Fish Lake Valley, Mono County



COUNTY OF MONO

FIELD CROPS

ITEM	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	YIELD PER ACRE	TOTAL YIELD	UNIT	PRICE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa Hay	2008	10,500	6.00	63,000	Ton	\$215.00	\$13,545,000
	2007	11,000	6.25	68,750	Ton	\$165.00	\$11,343,750
Miscellaneous Hay	2008	5,500	3.75	20,625	Ton	\$210.00	\$4,331,250
	2007	5,000	4.00	20,000	Ton	\$165.00	\$3,300,000
Irrigated Pasture	2008	55,000	~	~	Acre	\$26.00	\$1,430,000
	2007	55,000	~	~	Acre	\$27.00	\$1,485,000
Dry Grazing	2008	80,000	~	~	Acre	\$5.50	\$440,000
	2007	80,000	~	~	Acre	\$5.50	\$440,000
TOTAL FIELD CROPS				2008		\$19,746,250	
				2007		\$16,568,750	

New garlic in tents, Hammil Valley, Mono County

ROW CROP PRODUCTION

ITEM	YEAR	ACREAGE	TOTAL YIELD	TOTAL
Garlic	2008	65	~	\$280,000
	2007	63	~	\$90,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CROP PRODUCTION			2008	\$280,000
			2007	\$90,000

TIMBER

ITEM	YEAR	TOTAL
Timber/Firewood	2008	\$24,000
	2007	\$38,000
TOTAL TIMBER		2008
		2007
		\$24,000
		\$38,000

COUNTY OF MONO

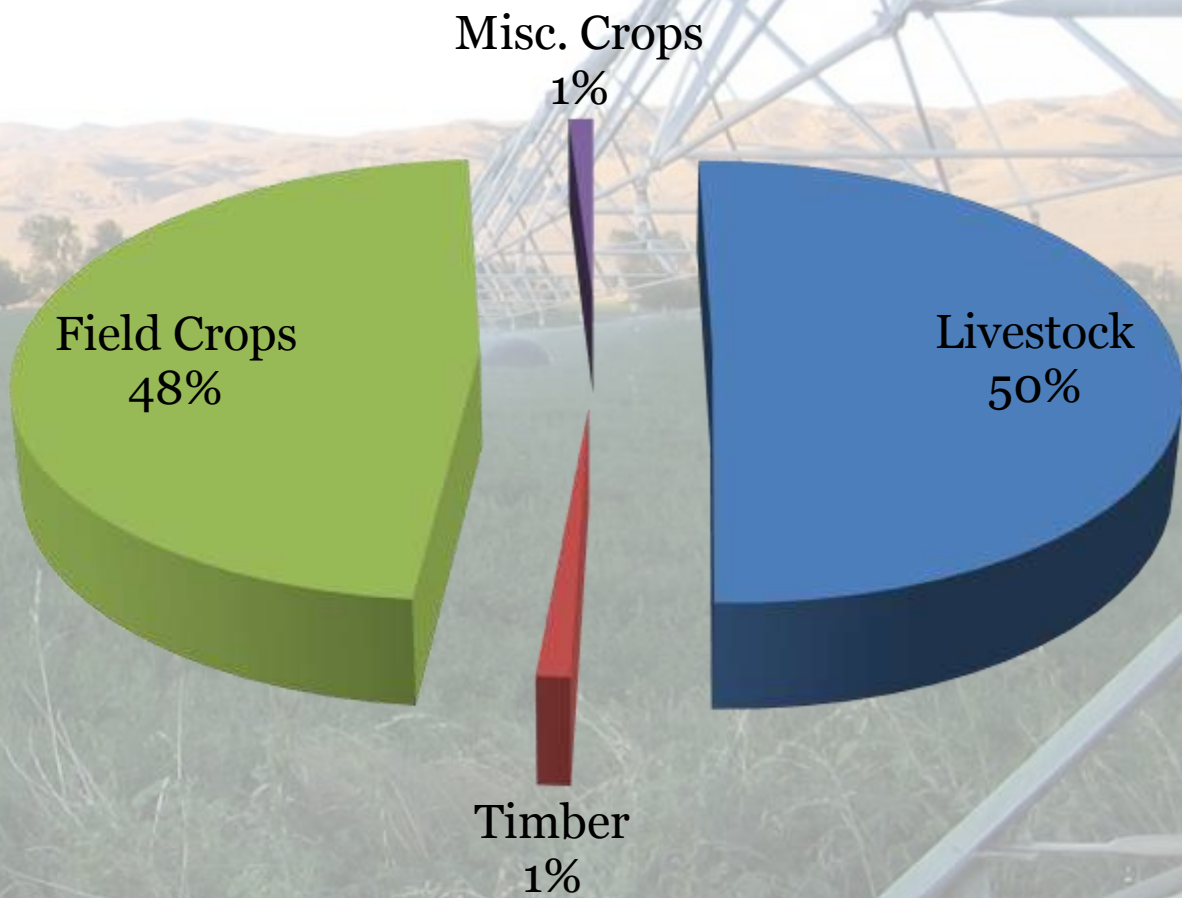
2008 AGRICULTURAL VALUES

	2007	2008
LIVESTOCK	\$20,227,600	\$21,098,267
FIELD CROPS	\$16,568,750	\$19,746,250
MISCELLANEOUS CROP PRODUCTION	\$90,000	\$280,000
TIMBER	\$38,000	\$24,000
TOTALS	2008	\$41,148,517
	2007	\$36,924,350

Photo: Alfalfa field, Fish lake Valley, Mono County

MONO COUNTY TOTALS

Agricultural Values



COUNTIES OF INYO AND MONO

COMPARISON SUMMARY

COMPARISON SUMMARY

2004—2008


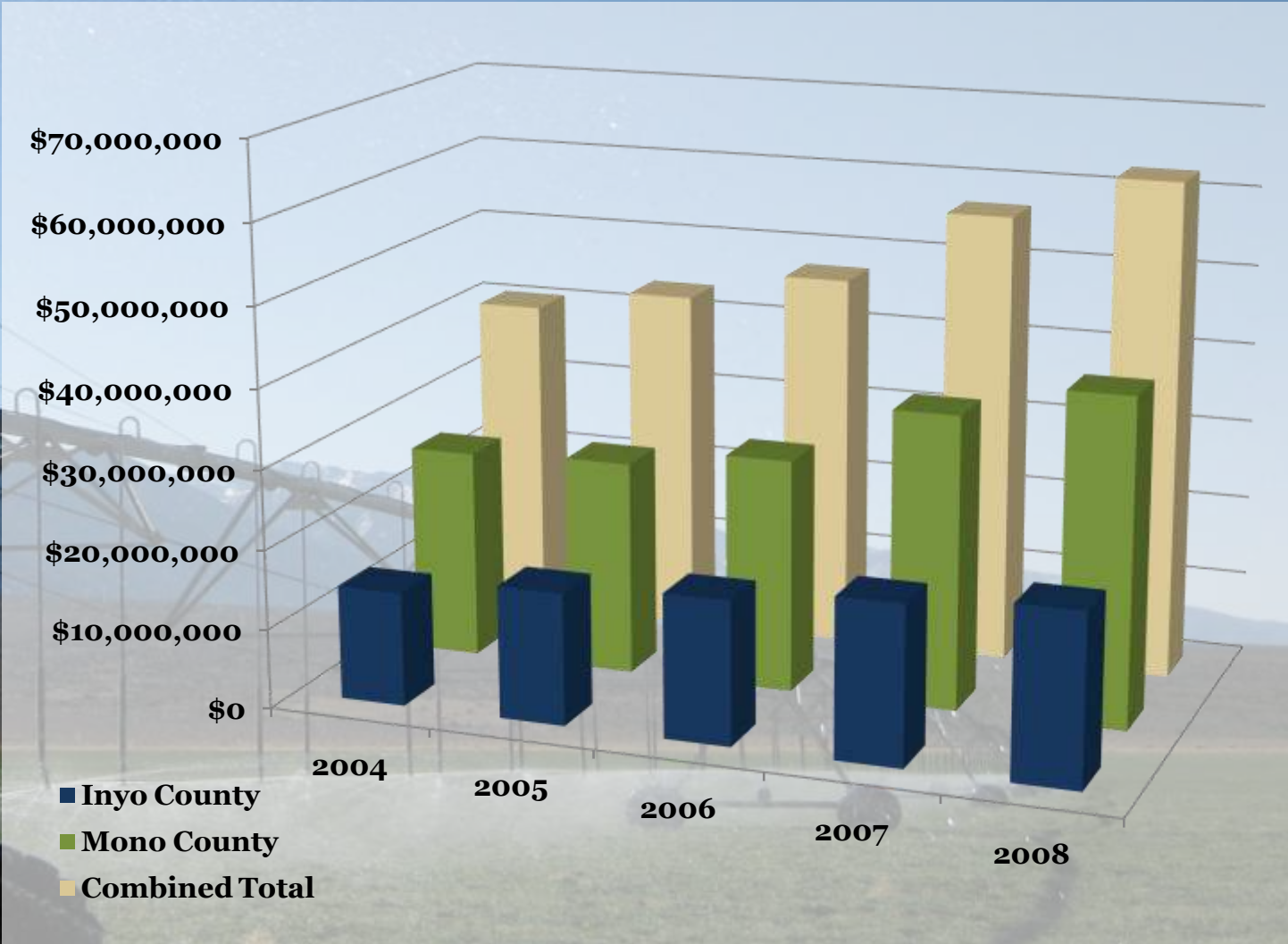
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
 INYO COUNTY TOTALS	\$14,341,188	\$16,614,350	\$18,025,920	\$19,979,550	\$21,459,980
 MONO COUNTY TOTALS	\$26,308,780	\$26,973,450	\$29,336,050	\$36,924,350	\$41,148,517
COMBINED TOTALS	\$40,649,968	\$43,587,800	\$47,361,970	\$56,903,900	\$62,608,497

Photo: Organic alfalfa in early spring, Benton, Mono County



COUNTIES OF INYO AND MONO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

PEST ERADICATION

PEST	AGENT/MECHANISM	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Puncturevine	Biological Control	25 sites
Dalmatian Toadflax	Mechanical	1 site
Yellow Starthistle	Mechanical	1 site
Russian Knapweed	Herbicide	9 sites
Hoary Cress	Herbicide	2 sites
Canada Thistle	Herbicide	20 sites
Spotted Knapweed	Herbicide	2 sites
Halogeton	Mechanical	12 sites
Scotch Thistle	Herbicide	5 sites
Camelthorn	Herbicide	1 site
Saltcedar	Biological Control	3 sites
Saltcedar	Herbicide	100 sites
Perennial Pepperweed	Herbicide	96 sites

PEST EXCLUSION

IMPORTED PLANT MATERIAL

Exotic and/or target pests in incoming plant material via UPS, FedEx, US Mail

12,750 shipments inspected

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

4 organic farms registered in 2008

EASTERN SIERRA CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET

7 growers participated in the 2008 Farmers Markets. Commodities sold included: apples, peaches, pears, grapes, berries, plums, cherries, apricots, nectarines, pumpkins, cabbage, cilantro, lettuce, squash, onions, eggplant, tomatoes, beets, peppers, carrots, spinach, corn, cucumbers, tomatillos, beans, cantaloupe, and herbs.

During 2008, the Inyo/Mono Counties' Agriculture Department sponsored:

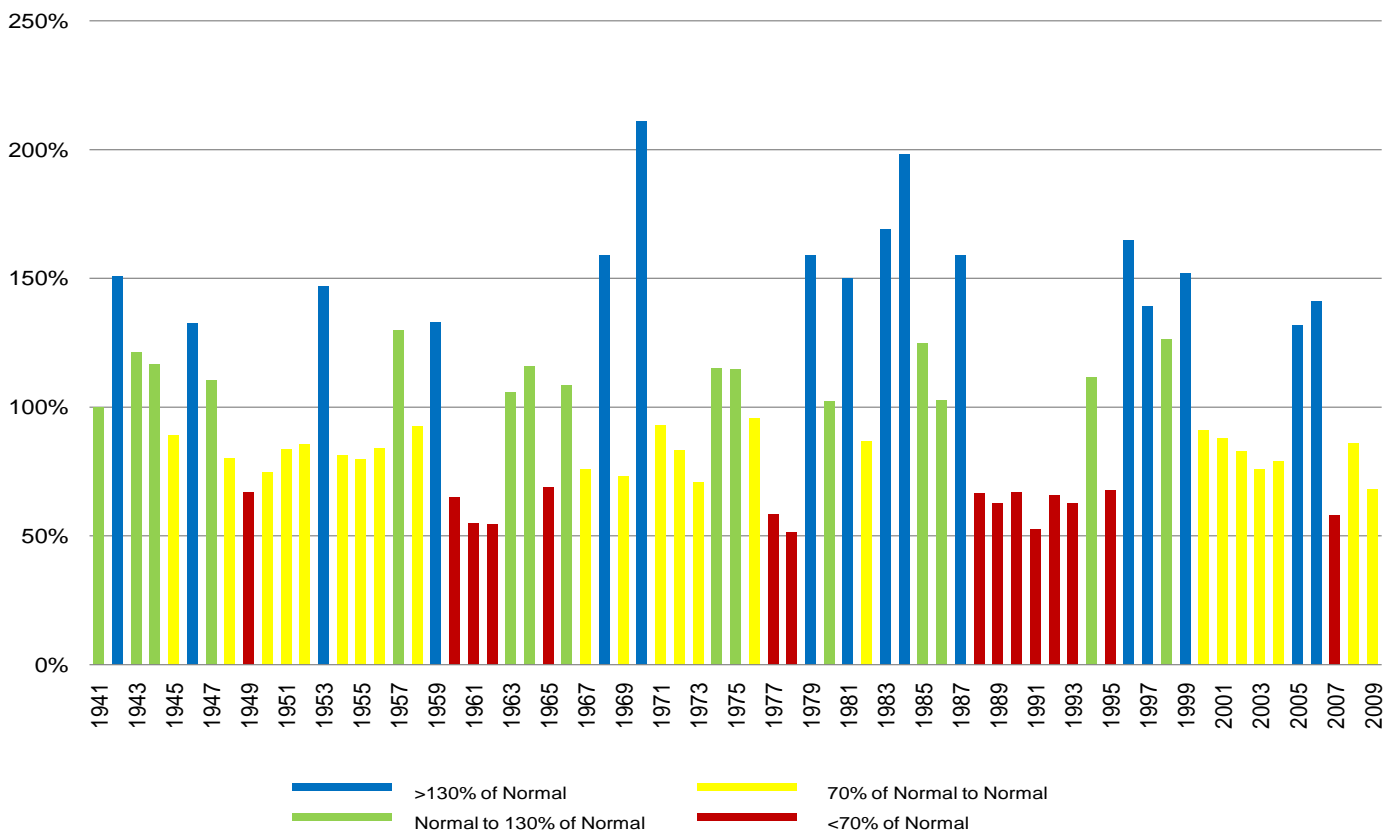
- ⇒ 3 pesticide safety seminars, with 110 professional card holders and private applicators attending, to meet state continuing education requirements;
- ⇒ Meetings were held on the feasibility of a local natural beef market with about 60 industry people attending;
- ⇒ Six educational workshops for local groups.

The Department's inspection surveillance area, which encompasses over 10,000 square miles, provided outreach from northern Mono County, including several California and Nevada field crop growers located in the Antelope Valley area, to the southern tip of Inyo County, including a large commercial turf grass farm in the Sandy Valley, near Las Vegas, Nevada. The Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's office is tasked with the surveillance of 50% of the California/Nevada border for pests that could endanger the agricultural industry of California.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ENFORCEMENT

Over 1,200 devices were inspected in 2008 to ensure accuracy within state tolerances which included: 936 retail fuel meters, 161 small retail scales, 42 livestock scales, 24 vehicle scales, 11 hopper scales, and numerous vapor and electric meters. During 2008, there were 42 consumer complaints received by the Inyo/Mono Counties' Weights and Measures Department, which resulted in 9 Notice of Violations issued. The Weights and Measures department also conducted several scanner audits to ensure accuracy of price scanners in stores, and labeling audits to ensure the accuracy of the labeled contents of pre-packaged goods. Regular inspections protect consumers from misrepresentation and maintain fair competition between sellers.

Eastern Sierra Nevada Runoff (Mono Basin & Owens Valley)





Counties of Inyo and Mono
Department of Agriculture and Weights & Measures
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Bishop, CA 93514

