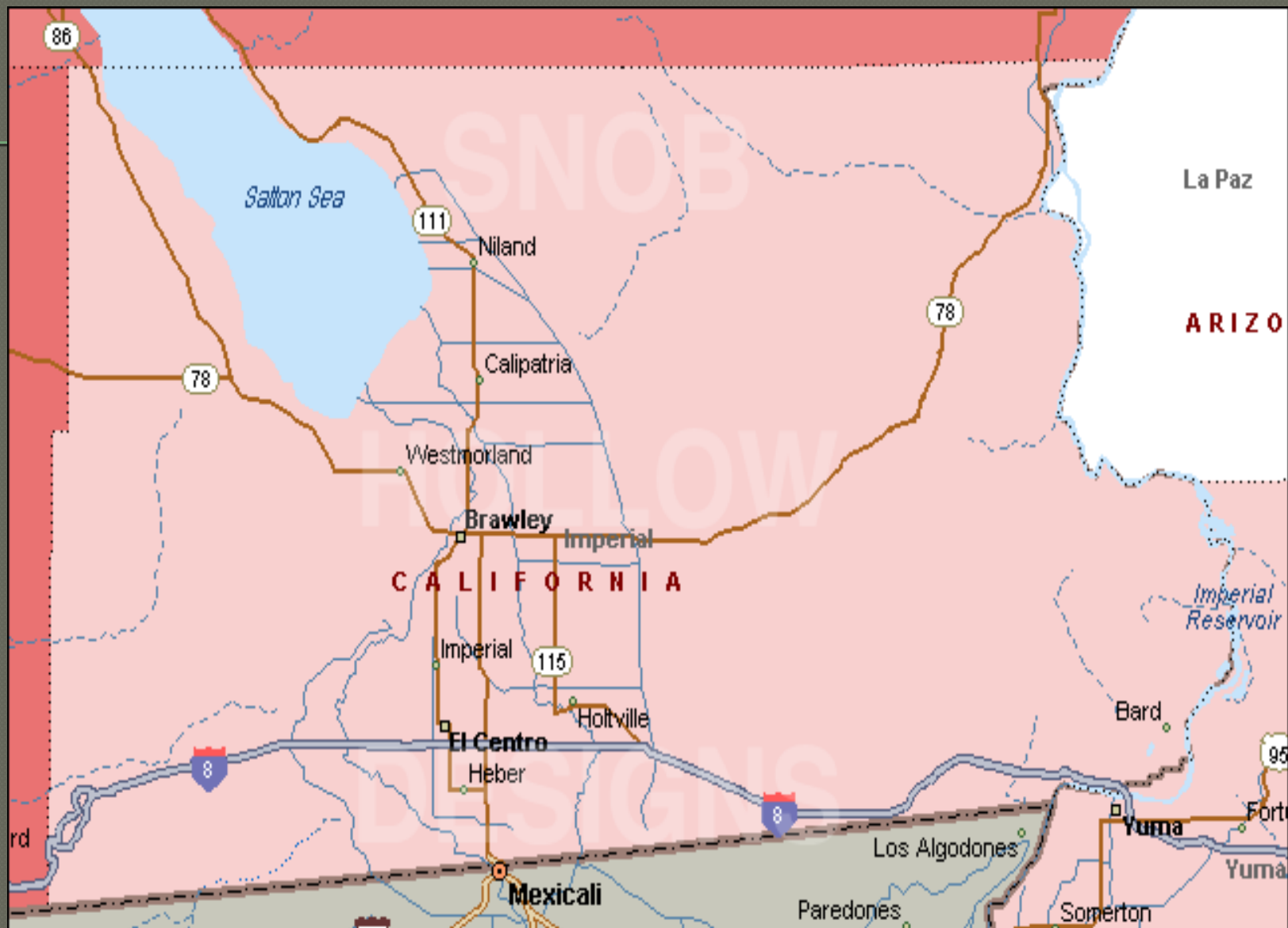


IMPERIAL COUNTY

- *2008 Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report*

Jose F. De Soto
UC – Hansen Ag Center



A few facts:

- <4,600 square miles
- > 150,000 people
- 235 ft below sea level to 4,568 ft asl
- 2-3 inches average rainfall
- 24% average relative humidity
- +/- 30° F in January to > 115° F in July/August

1: Cattle



\$315'151,000

WHERE's the BEEF?

- 375,400 head on 15 feed yards
- Arrive at 250 lbs and leave ~ 1 year later at 1200 lbs
- 90% of Valley's cattle and cows are Holstein.
- Most beef sold to National Beef Company in Brawley

#2: Alfalfa



\$149'146,000

- Largest field crop in terms of acreage –
~119,200 acres,
- Sold for \$60-\$160/ton, depending on market
(av. \$200 in 2008)
- 7 - 9 cuts per year; yields 6.7 tons/acre/year
- Alfalfa bale weighs ~ 125 lbs or 1 ton
- Field lasts 3-4 years with good management


- Crop rotations every 4 years – Usually replaced with produce but anything could grow
- Requires 6 acre/feet of water/acre/year
- Most baled alfalfa goes to dairies in Chino; rest to local markets and Japan
- CUF101- Drought & heat tolerant
- IMPALO & HIGHLINE - Whitefly-resistant

Developed at DREC

3: Wheat



\$ 128'793,000



An incredible 116,650 Acres !
2.5 times previous year's acreage
(47,245 Ac)

Average yield: 3.57 ton/acre

Average price: \$309.27/ton
up from \$ 180.92/ton

4: Head Lettuce



\$121'069,000

5: Leaf Lettuce



\$105'672,000

- Planted in early September
- Harvest begins around Thanksgiving
- Planted in “blocks” to be harvested weekly
- Very labor intensive
- 8 – 10,000 people cross the border daily to harvest
- Most is packed in the field, then sent to the cooler
- Pre-packaged salads are packed and prepared in packing sheds; washed several times, then cut

FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

- Most produce companies have their own food safety inspectors
- Detailed records kept daily
- Supervisors, harvesters, packers, field labor crews, receive regular training on hygiene and proper food safety protocol
- At least once per year an outside certifying agency inspects all aspects of the crop:
 - Water contamination
 - Pesticide residues
 - Microbial contamination
 - Human contamination

This process takes place at every level of the handling of the crop from seed to consumer: field, transportation, packing shed, cooler, shipping to supermarkets.

6: Broccoli



\$61,283,000

- Planted starting early Sep to early Dec
- 12,000 acres planted
- Direct seeded or transplanted
- 14 varieties grown here
- Harvested starting early Dec to mid-March
- Field-packed
- Yields ~ 660 26-lb cartons per acre

7: Sudan grass



\$49,065,000

- Sudan grass is baled and then compressed again
- It is used to feed horses and cattle
- Majority of Valley's Sudan grass is sold to Japan for Kobi beef
- It can also be used for pasture
- It is a 6-month crop, planted in late Feb and cut 3 times by Aug
- Yield is 5.75 tons per acre
- Sold for \$120 per ton

8: Carrots



\$49,658,000

- Carrot Festival held annually in Holtville, also known as the “Carrot Capital of the World”.
- Carrots are grown in 6 colors: white, gold, green, blue, purple, and of course orange.
- Carrots are planted Aug - Feb and harvested Dec – Jun.
- Of 14,504 acres, 40% is “market” carrots, 60% is “processing” carrots.
- Market carrots yield ~ 19.5 tons per acre.
- Processing carrots yield ~32 tons per acre.

9: Bermuda Grass



\$ 47'107,000



54,442 acres planted

5.26 tons/acre

\$164.50/ton

10: Cantaloupes



\$ 42'613,000



- 11,960 acres, including honeydew, misc melons and watermelon acreage

- About 13.7 tons/acre in melons and 35 in watermelons.

- \$6.81/40 lb ctn and \$320/ton

- \$6.81/40 lb ctn and \$320/ton

2008 Summary

Commodity	Acreage	Value
Vegetable & Melon Crops	116,583	675'242,000
Field Crops	412,335	482'588,000
Livestock	-----	398'789,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	5,665	37'342,000
Seed & Nursery Crops	64,457	86'789,000
Apiary Products	-----	3'772,000
TOTAL	599.040	1,684'522,000



And by the way....

Water costs \$18 an acre/foot for
agriculture

