



# The Kiwi Vine

Newsletter of the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee

July 1, 2024

## 2023/2024 SEASON OVERVIEW

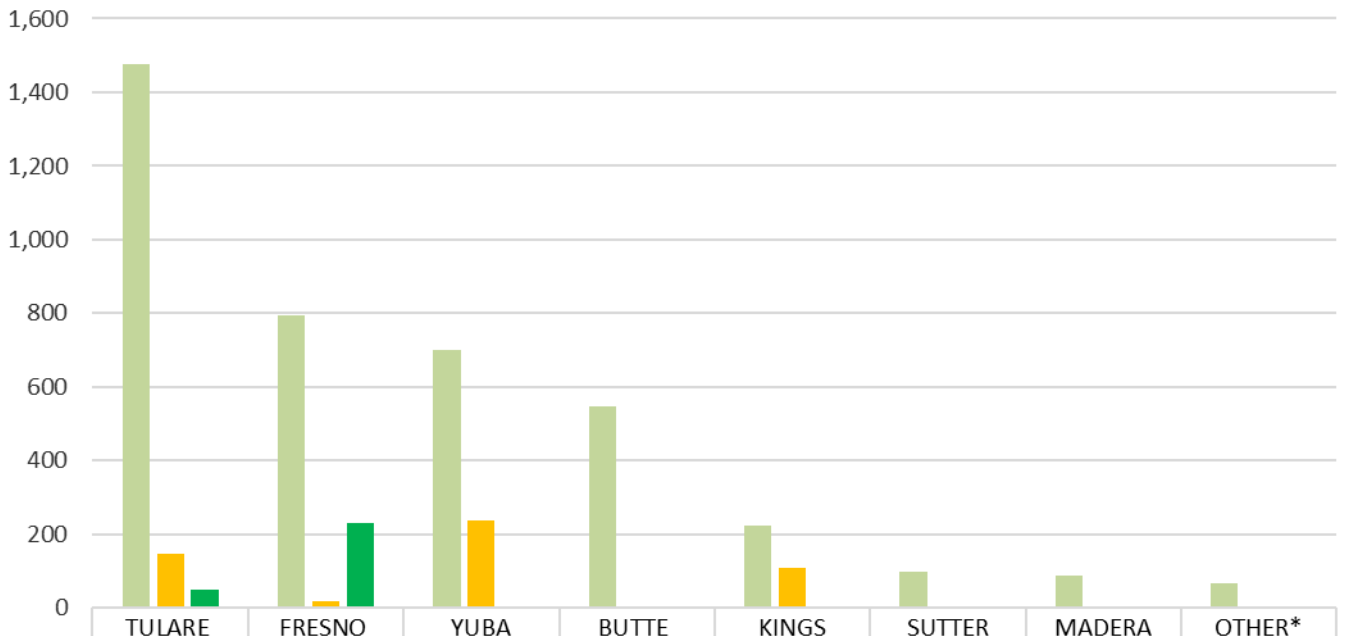
Hayward shipments are anticipated to continue for a few more weeks. The estimated Hayward crop for the 2023/24 crop year is 8.7 million tray equivalents. The marketed crop of non-Hayward varieties in 2023/24 is estimated to be 1.2 million tray equivalents. This includes multiple gold and red varieties of the *Actinidia chinensis* species and one green variety named Mega Kiwi.

Tray equivalents (te) is based on 7 pounds of fruit and is the traditional measurement for kiwifruit used for crop estimates and production information.

Once all handlers have submitted their Year End Reports the 2023/24 Annual Report will be assembled with all of the production, acreage, shipment and pricing information for the 23/24 crop year. This report is available to all industry members.

This chart shows the breakdown of kiwifruit acreage by county.

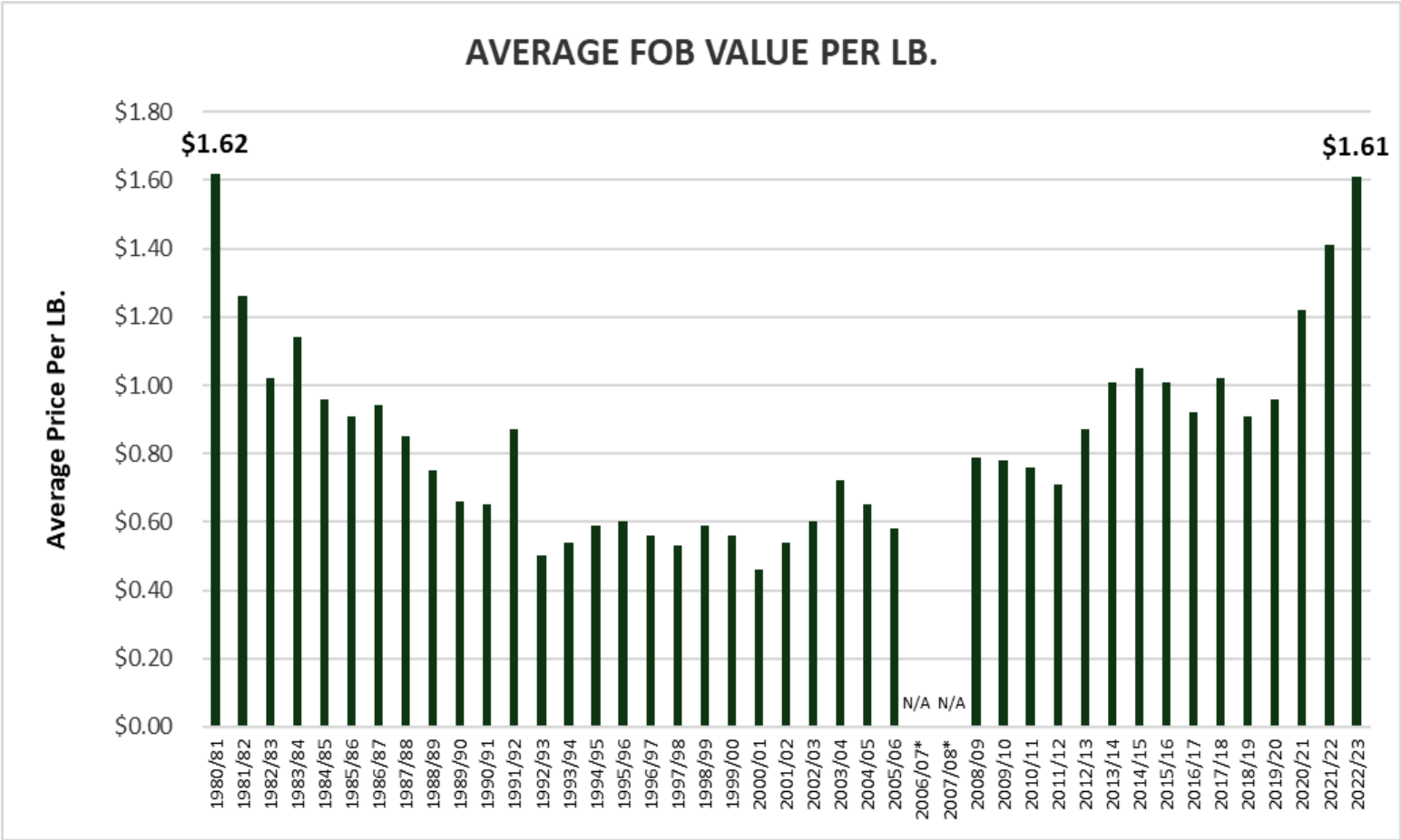
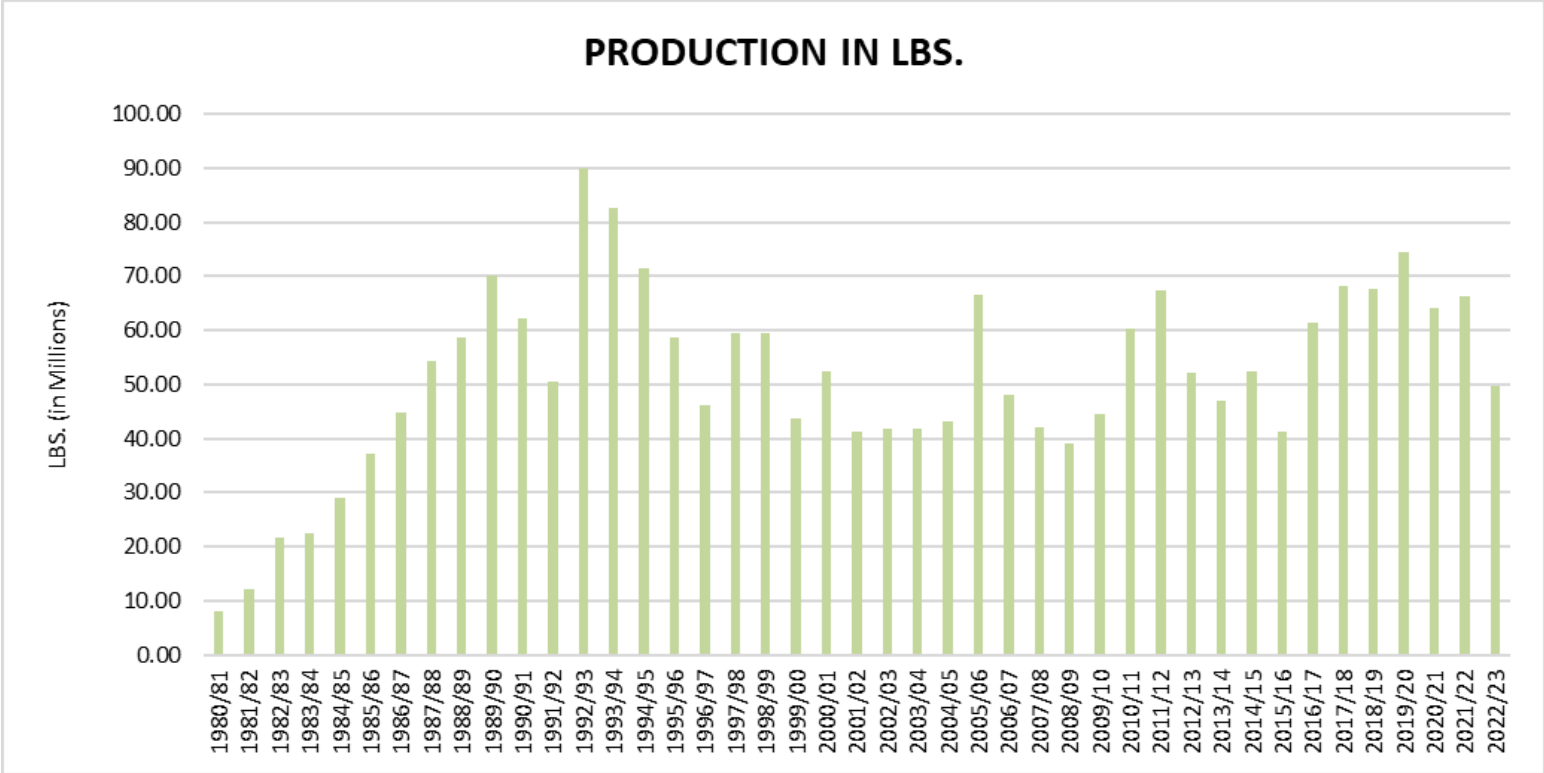
**2022/23 ACREAGE BY COUNTY (ALL VARIETIES)**



■ Hayward Acres	1,476	793	701	546	222	98	86	67
■ Chinensis Acres	145	17	237	0	109	0	0	0
■ Mega Acres	50	229						

■ Hayward Acres    ■ Chinensis Acres    ■ Mega Acres

These charts are for the Hayward variety only and show the production in pounds and the average FOB value per pound going back to the 1980/81 crop year.



## GROWER SURVEY RESULTS

Here are a few highlights of the 2023/24 California Kiwifruit Industry Needs Survey:

- 1) The continuance of marketing order regulations (maturity, grade, and size) was supported. There were comments regarding minimum size that were reviewed in recent months by an Ad Hoc Subcommittee and addressed by the full Committee during their April meeting.
- 2) All survey respondents believe that **import regulations** (maturity, grade, and size) are highly beneficial to the California kiwifruit industry.
- 3) Respondents believe that providing crop information such as estimates, inventory and shipment data is an important function of KAC.
- 4) Respondents expressed a desire for an industry website and for distribution of printed materials (newsletters) in addition to online distributions.

## ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE SIZE DESIGNATION CHART

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the KAC voted to make the following changes to the size designation chart:

Adding Size 12 – defined as maximum of 19 pieces of fruit per 8 -pound sample, and Size 15 – defined as maximum of 22 pieces of fruit per 8-pound sample, each with a 1-inch size variation allowance, increasing the size variation allowance for size 18 to 1-inch, increasing the size variation allowance for size 45 to 3/8-inch, and increasing the maximum number of fruit in an 8-pound sample for size 45 from 55 to 56 pieces.

Below is the size designation chart with the proposed changes shown in **red**:

Size Designation	Maximum Number of Kiwifruit in a 8-Pound Sample	Size Variation tolerance (diameter) <sup>1</sup>
<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1”</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1”</b>
<del>18 or larger</del>	25	<del>1/2”</del> <b>1”</b>
20	27	1/2”
23	30	1/2”
25	32	1/2”
27/28	35	1/2”
30	39	1/2”
33	43	3/8”
36	46	3/8”
39	49	3/8”
42	53	3/8”
45	<del>55</del> <b>56</b>	<del>1/4”</del> <b>3/8”</b>
49 <sup>2</sup>	64	Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Not applicable to *Actinidia chinensis* species varieties

<sup>2</sup> Applicable **only** to *Actinidia chinensis* species varieties

KAC submitted a 10-point justification to the USDA for review on June 14<sup>th</sup>. These changes are anticipated to take up to 12 months or more for USDA approval and will hopefully be in place for the 2025/26 crop.

## CALIFORNIA KIWIFRUIT WEBSITE

Based on the results of the grower survey, 74% of the respondents were in favor of a user-friendly website. Please visit and explore this new website at: [www.californiakiwifruit.org](http://www.californiakiwifruit.org)

Along with information for consumers about California kiwifruit, the website includes key features for the industry such as crop estimates, shipment and price reports, crop insurance information, and international kiwifruit crop statistics. The industry section of the website is password protected. To receive the password, please contact Jeremy Toews via email at [jeremy@agamsi.com](mailto:jeremy@agamsi.com) or call 916-621-9799.

## KAC GROWER NOMINATIONS

Grower nominations are currently taking place in District 2 – Tulare County, and District 3 – Fresno, Madera, Kings, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus counties. Ballots were mailed to eligible growers on June 26<sup>th</sup> and must be returned post marked no later than July 15, 2024. If you are in District 2 or 3, believe you are eligible to vote and did not receive a ballot, please contact Jeremy Toews via email at [jeremy@agamsi.com](mailto:jeremy@agamsi.com) or call 916-621-9799.

## SUBMISSION OF SECTION 18 APPLICATION TO CONTROL NEMATODES ON KIWIFRUIT

A Section 18 Emergency Exemption has been filed with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for the use of the nematicide Velum™ One (fluopyram), to control root knot nematodes on kiwifruit. Under a Section 18, the U.S. EPA can allow a federal or state agency to grant the use of a pesticide product without registration, if an emergency condition exists.

The review process is expected to take several months. If all goes smoothly the emergency exemption could be granted in time for a fall application.

## KIWIFRUIT CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

A Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP), administered by the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has been **approved** for California kiwifruit.

Features of the program:

- Actual Production History (APH) coverage for irrigated fresh varieties of commercially grown kiwifruit in 12 counties in California: Butte, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, and Yuba
- Coverage for adverse weather, fire, earthquake, volcanic eruption, failure of irrigation water supply, insects, plant diseases, and insufficient number of chilling hours.
- Coverage levels between 50 and 85 percent, and catastrophic (CAT) coverage are available.
- The sales closing date for the 2025 crop year is November 20, 2024.

The following documents are now available on the Risk Management Agency (RMA) website at: [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)

- Kiwifruit Crop Provisions
- Kiwifruit Insurance Standards Handbook
- Kiwifruit Loss Adjustment Standards Handbook

Interested producers should contact a crop insurance agent for further information. A list of agents can be found on the RMA website at:

<https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator>

If you would like to receive an email providing the links to these documents, or have any questions, please contact Jeremy Toews at [jeremy@agamsi.com](mailto:jeremy@agamsi.com) or by phone at 916-621-9799.

## KAC BOARD MEMBERS

The Kiwifruit Administrative Committee consists of 12 members and alternates, representing each of the 3 districts. There is also one public member and alternate public member.

The three districts are:

- District 1 - Butte, Sutter and Yuba Counties
- District 2 - Tulare County
- District 3 - Fresno, Madera, Kings, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties

The current Board consists of the following:

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ALTERNATE MEMBER</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Desta Bechtol</b>	<b>Jeff Fox</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Dave Dulai</b>	<b>Mike Noland</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Jatinder Kullar</b>	<b>Luke Wilson</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Doug Phillips</b>	<b>Melissa Heinrich</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Willie Paramo</b>	<b>Scott Boyajian</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Norman Evans</b>	<b>Adam Smith</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Gary Romoff</b>	<b>Al Bates</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Jerin Kliewer</b>	<b>Martin Guzman</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>John Fagundes, IV</b>	<b>Mike Jackson</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Kyle Jackson</b>	<b>John Warmerdam</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Kurt Cappelluti</b>	<b>Ben Povey</b>
<b>Public Members</b>	<b>Jill Apok</b>	<b>Jon Phillips</b>