

Overview of California Animal Agriculture

California State Board of Food and Agriculture
July 27, 2011



Annette Whiteford, DVM

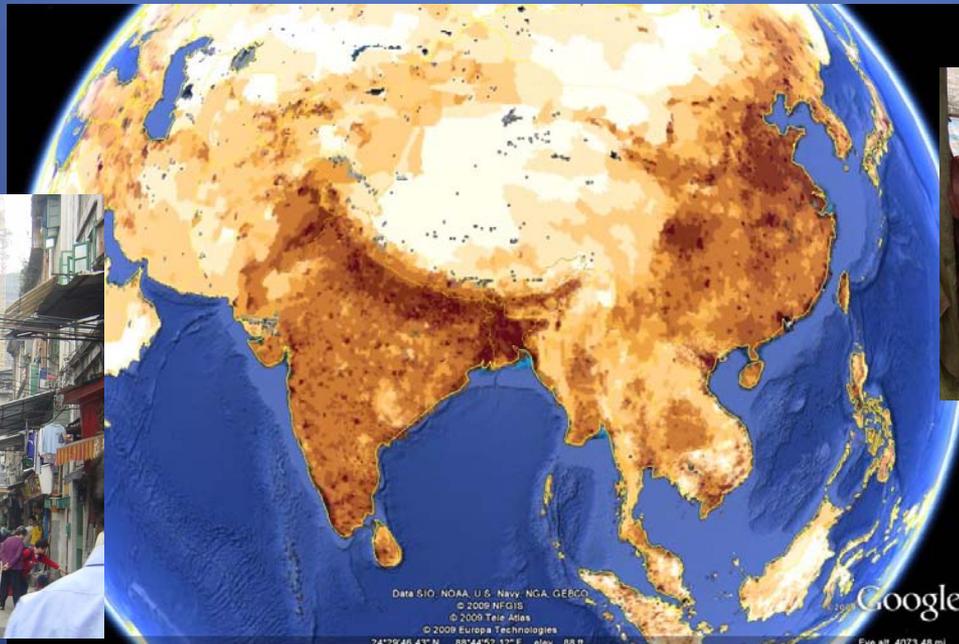
State Veterinarian

Director, Animal Health and Food Safety Services

California Department of Food and Agriculture

The World Demand

- Currently about 7 billion people
- 2050 projection: 9 billion
- 52% growth in demand for food



California Feeds the World

- Most abundant supply of crops and livestock in the country
- DIVERSE farms and ranches
- Most valuable product: **Milk**
 - ❖ 21% of national supply; 1,700 farms
- Other major types of ranchers:
 - ❖ **Cattle, poultry**, aquaculture, sheep, swine



Dairy



- U.S. Rank: 1 (21%)
- 1,700 farms in 34 counties
 - ❖ Average: 1,000 milking cows
 - ❖ Range: 10 to 9,000 milking cows
 - ❖ Also goat (62) and sheep (5)
- Tulare, Merced, Stanislaus, Kern, Kings



Cattle



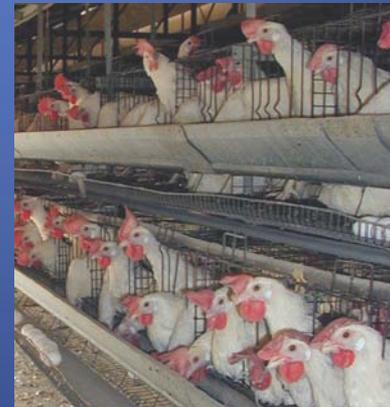
- U.S. Rank: 7 (5%)
- 12,000 commercial cattle ranches
 - 10,000 have less than 100 cattle
- Tulare, Fresno, Imperial, Merced, Kern



Poultry



- U.S. Rank: top 10, varies by commodity
- 800+ large ranches; Uncounted backyard to medium size
- Fresno, Merced, Stanislaus, Kings, San Joaquin, San Bernardino, Kern, Riverside (eggs), San Diego (eggs)



Sheep

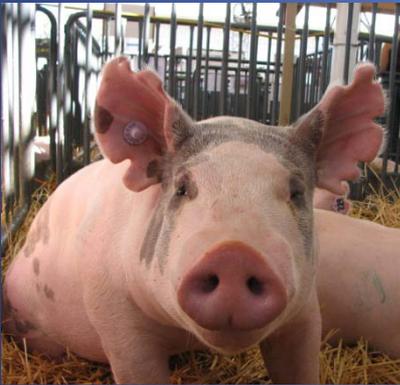


- U.S Rank: 2 (10%)
- Fresno, Solano, Kern, Imperial, Merced
- Lambs, wool and vegetation control
 - ❖ Inch-wide, self-propelled lawnmowers → controlled vegetation without the use of costly herbicides and gas powered machinery, better control of invasive weeds that are rapidly engulfing millions of acres and reduced fuel for wildfires



Swine

- U.S Rank: 29 – Very few pig farmers in CA
- Fresno, Tulare, Stanislaus, San Bernardino, Sutter



Diversity Defines California



“Animal Welfare”

- Animal welfare is the physical and psychological well-being of animals.
- Welfare is measured by indicators including behavior, physiology, longevity, reproduction and *attitudes* towards different types of animal uses.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_welfare



Animal Welfare

- HUGE topic with many issues to balance
- **Easy part:** Animals should be cared for properly
- **Harder part:** What exactly does that mean and how do we know that it is happening?
 - ❖ “One size does not fit all”
 - ❖ Balance well-being, attitudes, practicality, safety
 - ❖ Verify and communicate
 - ❖ ALWAYS room to improve but value experience

What do the Animals Need?

We have an obligation to care for the animals so they are:

- Comfortable
- Healthy
- Have relatively normal social interaction

Jim Reynolds DVM, MPVM
U.C. Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching and
Research Center, Tulare, CA

Animal Husbandry

- 1) **Nutrition**: feed and water
- 2) **Housing**: clean, protective, comfortable
- 3) **Health**: disease prevention, recognition and treatment
- 4) **Animal behavior and social interaction**:
Please, no anthropomorphism
- 5) **Minimal stress**: calm handling and secure housing

Thanks!



Annette Whiteford, DVM

State Veterinarian

Director, Animal Health and Food Safety Services

California Department of Food and Agriculture

(916) 654-0883

awhiteford@cdfa.ca.gov