

Foothills Hub

Amador RCD, Calaveras RCD, and Tuolumne RCD

Agricultural Summary

Source: 2018 County Crop Reports

Rangeland/Field Crops **386,385 acres**

Fruit & Nut Crops **7,653 acres**

Truck Crops **384 acres**



Agricultural Demographics – 2017 Census of Agriculture

White 90%	Latinx 6%	American Indian 1%	Asian 1%	Multi-Race 2%
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Other Information on Hub Diversity—42% Women Farmers, 35% Beginning Farmers, 13% Military Veteran Farmers

The demographics of the agricultural community in the Foothills Hub is in a process of change and renewal. The beauty of the landscape and quality of life in the region has sustained generations of established family farms/ranches, it is also a powerful draw to a new generation of agriculturalists. According to the 2017 Agricultural Census, over a third of the farmers/ranchers in the regions are new to farming. This juxtaposition of old and new creates a wonderful balance in the region and opens the way for innovation and the exchange of knowledge and ideas across generations and cultures.

Important Characteristics of the Hub

- Over 96% of the agricultural operations in the region are family-owned and operated.
- The average farm size is less than 300 acres with many farms under 50 acres.
- Agricultural viability for small-scale family farms is a holistic goal that includes long-term sustainability of production, soil health, and preserving a rural way of life.

Ag Sector Partnerships

Rangeland and vineyards are the dominant land uses in the region. The three RCDs in the Hub have strong ties with the agricultural community, including commodity groups and agricultural organizations, county Agricultural Commissioners, University Cooperative Extension, Farm Guilds, Vintners and Wine Grape Growers Associations, and the Cattleman’s Association.

Carbon Farming Success Stories

There are currently two (2) newly trained RCD carbon planners in the Foothills Hub, with three (3) carbon farm plans completed or in progress encompassing 912 acres of agricultural land.

Amador RCD has worked with **PT Ranch** to develop the first carbon farm plan in the county. The Taylors, owners of PT Ranch, moved back to the family farm and have dedicated themselves to learning about the land with an ambitious goal to provide pasture raised meats that are raised sustainably.

The family has adopted a system mixing old farming traditions with new land management strategies. The carbon farm plan helped the Taylors apply for and receive funding to plant 6,000 trees on the ranch.