



PINAL COUNTY AGRICULTURE

When the River Runs Dry:
The Impacts of Colorado River Shortage on
Farming in Central Arizona



Pinal County Agriculture: A Snapshot



45% of Arizona's
cattle and calf sales



42% of Arizona's
cotton and
cottonseed sales



39% of Arizona's milk
sales



22% of Arizona's other
crops and hay sales

**Sales by
Commodity
(in \$1,000s)**

- Cattle & Calves: \$283,233
- Dairy: \$268,170
- Cotton & Cottonseed: \$92,040
- Hay Crops: \$79,099
- Grains: \$50,232
- Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes: \$49,257



Economic Contribution of Pinal County Agriculture

\$2.3 billion in sales

\$611.1 million in value added

7,500 jobs



Impact of Colorado River Shortage

Under the DCP, a Tier 1 Shortage will eliminate the entire CAP Ag Pool (~300,000 acre feet)

Rather than transitioning to groundwater gradually by 2030, agricultural users will now rely exclusively on groundwater pumped pursuant to grandfathered irrigation rights

Constraints on pumping capacity and delivery systems could take 50 percent or more of current farmland out of production immediately

Economic Impact of Colorado River Shortage

\$63.5-\$66.7 million loss in gross farm-gate sales

\$94-\$104 million loss in total county sales

\$31.7-\$35 million loss in county value added

270-480 full and part-time jobs lost



Mitigating Shortage Impacts

Mitigation (through 2022)

Groundwater Infrastructure Improvements

Changes to Cropping Patterns

Fallow Fields