

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CROP ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

KERN COUNTY - FOR THE YEAR 1931

Compiled by Lewis A. Burtch, Agricultural Commissioner

The total value of all agricultural crops in Kern County for the year 1931 is \$11,314,731. This is a decrease in valuation of approximately \$2,000,000 which is due solely to the low prices to which all commodities have fallen during this period. The most encouraging feature of this summarization is that our acreage and production of crops are up to normal.

Grapes continue to be the leading crop in Kern County, and our reports show that in spite of adverse weather conditions during the growing season and some damage by grape leaf hoppers that we produced a larger crop of grapes than we had the preceeding year. This is all the more encouraging when we look at the state wide conditions of the grape industry when the year 1931 showed a shipment of about 50 per cent of a normal crop, the lowest production in 10 years.

We have suffered a loss in acreage during the past three years amounting to about 5,000 acres. Our total acreage in vines at the present time is 17,545 and the value of our grape production, including raisins, was \$2,739,812. For the most part our reduction in acreage was of marginal vineyards which never should have been planted, and this year emphasizes more than ever that Kern County is the best grape producing county in the state of California from a standpoint of yield, quality and value. This is being recognized by our own growers here, many of whom are contemplating increasing their acreage of vines.

In spite of the discouraging condition in most agricultural

lines there are many of our grape growers who showed a profit on their operations for the year 1931, and I look for a considerable increase in grape production in this county during the next few years.

Cotton was our next largest crop in point of valuation. We produced 50,000 bales, the value of which, including the seed, amounts to \$2,225,000. Although the cotton growers have made no money due to the low prices received and many of them suffered a loss, we still have produced over a bale to the acre of a good quality of cotton, and I believe that cotton will always be a major crop in this county because of the fact that we can produce more bales per acre than can be done in any other cotton growing section.

Alfalfa was our next most valuable crop producing 117,684 tons from 29,614 acres. Alfalfa production remains quite constant in this county and most of the crop is fed here, the shipments out of the county representing the smaller portion of our crop.

Although the prices obtained were not sufficient to show a profit in most cases, there are a few outstanding cases where growers who are in the alfalfa growing business commercially and have developed their own markets did make a profit on their operations. One outstanding case where the grower put in a grinding mill and reduced his entire crop of some 10,000 tons to alfalfa meal which he sold at a profit over the cost of growing and grinding.

Potatoes were next in valuation producing a little over \$1,105,000 from 4,932 acres. There were very few growers who made anything on their operations in the potato deal this year, but like many other commodities prices change from year to year and they are expecting a much better return next year. This is evidenced by the fact that

we will plant as large an acreage in 1932 as we did the past year.

These are the four major crops in point of valuation.

In acreage planted cotton was the major crop with 42,660 acres, wheat was second with 39,705 acres, alfalfa third with 29,614 acres, and grapes fourth with 17,545 acres.

Attached hereto you will find the complete summarization of acres, production, and value of all crops produced in Kern County for the year 1931.

Although agriculture is at a low ebb, when we compare the condition of this industry with that of all other industries we find that the farmer is not so bad off. At least he has a job and he is making a living for his family, and I expect the year 1932 to be a more prosperous year than the one just past.

- ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS FOR YEAR 1931 -

| <u>Crop</u>   | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Production</u> | <u>Total</u>     |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <u>FRUITS</u> |              |                   |                  |
| Apples        | 577          | 10 cars           | 8,000            |
| Apricots      | 1030½        | 186½ "            | 193,960          |
| Dry Apricots  |              | 100 tons          | 8,000            |
| Berries       | 38           | 3800 trays        | 3,800            |
| Cherries      | 48           | 50 tons           | 5,000            |
| Figs          | 135          | 4 cars            | 4,160            |
| Dry Figs      |              | 60 tons           | 6,000            |
| Olives        | 741½         | 20 cars           | 13,000           |
| Peaches       | 1053½        | 186 cars          | 158,100          |
| Dry Peaches   |              | 4 cars            | 2,080            |
| Pears         | 737          | 126½ cars         | 115,115          |
| Persimmons    | 31           | 2 cars            | 1,500            |
| Plums         | 1494½        | 240 cars          | 218,400          |
| Pomegranates  | 79           | 24½ cars          | 12,250           |
| Prunes        | 194½         | 100 tons          | 5,000            |
| Walnuts       | 71           | 17 ¾ tons         | 4,260            |
| Almonds       | 68           | 22½ tons          | 5,400            |
|               | <u>6298½</u> |                   | <u>\$764,025</u> |

CITRUS

|            |              |           |                  |
|------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| Grapefruit | 46½          | 9 cars    | 14,616           |
| Lemons     | 7½           | 100 boxes | 400              |
| Oranges    | 1328         | 242 cars  | 336,864          |
| Tangerines | 80½          | 6000 lugs | 9,000            |
|            | <u>1462½</u> |           | <u>\$360,880</u> |

GRAPES

|             |              |            |                    |
|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| Table       | 6849         | 1587½ cars | 31,233,250         |
| Wine        | 2763½        | 581½ "     | 183,987            |
| Raisin      | 7932½        | 910½ "     | 473,460            |
| Dry Raisins |              | 9323½ tons | 339,115            |
|             | <u>17545</u> |            | <u>\$2,759,812</u> |

MELONS

|              |             |          |                |
|--------------|-------------|----------|----------------|
| Cantaloupes  | 449         | 400 cars | 135,000        |
| Watermelons  | 1638        | 1114 "   | 334,200        |
| Other melons | 229         | 130½     | 54,810         |
|              | <u>2316</u> |          | <u>524,010</u> |

VEGETABLES

|                |      |                 |           |
|----------------|------|-----------------|-----------|
| Potatoes       | 4932 | 1,105,800 sacks | 1,105,800 |
| Cabbage        | 56   | 129 cars        | 51,600    |
| Carrots        | 292  | 46 cars         | 15,180    |
| Cucumbers      | 3    | 10,000 lugs     | 7,500     |
| Lettuce        | 331  | 66,200 crates   | 82,750    |
| Onions         | 972  | 159 cars        | 66,780    |
| Sweet Potatoes | 518½ | 100 cars        | 100,000   |
| String Beans   | 10   | 7 tons          | 930       |

| CROP              | ACREAGE                         | PRODUCTION    | TOTAL            |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>VEGETABLES</b> |                                 |               |                  |
| Tomatoes          | 45                              | 12,248 lugs   | \$ 9,186         |
| Cauliflower       | 167 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | 67,000 crates | 83,750           |
| Egg Plant         | 14 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>  | 1,050 crates  | 1,575            |
| Peppers           | 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>  | 800 crates    | 2,400            |
| Peas              | 130                             | 2,030 crates  | 3,045            |
| Beans             | 145                             | 1,740 bags    | 5,220            |
| Other Vegetables  | 156                             |               | 1,565            |
|                   | <u>7,784</u>                    |               | <u>1,537,331</u> |

|                    |               |              |                  |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>FIELD CROPS</b> |               |              |                  |
| Cotton             | 42,660        | 50,000 bales | 1,875,000        |
| Cotton Seed        |               | 25,000 tons  | 350,000          |
| Grain Hay          | 1,630         | 3,226 tons   | 25,803           |
| Alfalfa            | 29,614        | 177,684 tons | 1,776,840        |
| Rice               | 10            | 200 bags     | 500              |
| Rice straw         |               | 15 tons      | 75               |
| Silage             | 2,000         | 3,000 tons   | 30,000           |
| Nursery Stock      | 40            |              | 40,000           |
| Mint               | 150           | 15,500 lbs   | 37,200           |
| Honey              |               | 585,000 lbs. | 17,550           |
|                    | <u>76,104</u> |              | <u>4,152,973</u> |
| Barley             | 13,266        | 7,100 tons   | 177,500          |
| Milo               | 7,168         | 7,168 tons   | 179,200          |
| Wheat              | 39,705        | 29,300 tons  | 879,000          |
|                    | <u>60,139</u> |              | <u>1,235,700</u> |

Total acreage all crops - 171,649

Total value of all crops \$11,314,731