

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS FOR KERN COUNTY
FOR THE YEAR 1933

By: Lewis A. Burton, Agricultural Commissioner

The condition of agriculture in Kern County presents a much more optimistic picture at the close of the 1933 shipping season than was experienced last year.

The value of all crops produced was a little less than 40 per cent greater than for 1932. This is due to the fact that better prices were obtained on most commodities and bigger crops and better quality accounted for much of this increase in value. As shown by the accompanying report the total value of all crops produced in the county outside of livestock and livestock products, is \$11,128,503. This represents the average price on board the cars ready for shipment but does not include freight and selling charges.

Cotton has taken first place in value for crops in Kern County. This is the first time in the history of cotton production that the value of this crop exceeded that of any one commodity. We produced 62,000 bales valued at \$3,007,000 and 31,000 tons of cotton seed valued at \$403,000 making a total of \$3,410,000 for our cotton crop. This year's crop was outstanding and definitely confirms Kern County's position as the greatest cotton producing county in California. The conditions at planting time looked very unfavorable owing to cold weather late in the spring, many fields having to be replanted a number of times. Although the prospects looked poor by early summer, we were favored with the best fall weather that the county has experienced in many years which accounted for our exceptionally good yields. In spite of the fact that a cotton

picker's strike was started as soon as harvest began and picking was delayed for over a month, we were able to get over 90 per cent of the crop harvested before any bad weather set in and the records show that the crop was of the best quality that has ever been produced here with a much smaller percentage of low grade cotton than ever before, the staple running from $1 \frac{3}{32}$ to $1 \frac{1}{8}$ with a more uniform grade than usual.

Grapes have taken second place for the first time in many years in point of value. A total of 40,556 tons of fresh grapes and 4,514 tons of raisins were shipped with a total value of \$2,650,065. Kern County has demonstrated that we are the best grape producing county in the state. Our table grapes are on the market before any of the major grape producing districts and our growing conditions are exceptionally good.

The growers in Kern County suffered very little damage from leaf hoppers and no serious diseases such as affect vines in other areas exist in Kern County.

The total production was slightly less than last year but prices were considerably better. This is due partly to the fact that California wineries took a large tonnage of grapes that are normally shipped onto the eastern markets and helped to demoralize the prices on table grapes. This year's shipments of table grapes for California were lighter than at any time during the past 10 years which accounted in a large measure for the higher prices obtained.

Potatoes were next in value. From 5,419 acres we harvested 1,060,371 sacks with a total valuation of \$1,346,671. The

yield was greater than last year and the prices considerably better. From the time of the first harvest the prices gradually increased and unusually good prices were obtained for the later shipments. This was due largely to the fact that in competing districts there was almost a crop failure and we cannot expect such a market to be repeated. However, due to the fact that most potato growers made a nice profit on their operations an increase in potato acreage is anticipated for another year.

Deciduous fruits showed a considerable increase both in production and value and our growers are fortunate in finding markets for a large portion of this production in the Los Angeles market where cost of transportation and selling is considerably less than on eastern shipments.

The Agricultural Commissioner's office is charged with the enforcement of the Fruit and Vegetable Standardization Law of California and make inspections for grade and quality on all shipments of fruits and vegetables. The inspectors from this department report that fewer rejections have been made on account of poor quality during the 1933 season than in any previous year.

The outlook is much more optimistic for the coming season than was visioned a year ago. The value to the county of production of farm crops means more than any other thing to the prosperity of the county as the farmers dollars are all spent in the county.

The net profit to the grower is oftentimes very small as the production and labor costs take a good share of the returns of the crop.

CROP ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE FOR THE YEAR 1933

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>DECIDUOUS FRUIT</u>			
Apples	577	4,000 boxes	\$ 10,000
Apricots	936	2,535 tons	164,775
Apricots - dried		200 tons	40,000
Berries	60	4,257 crates	8,514
Cherries	48	42 tons	5,880
Figs	135½	3,336 flats	2,202
Figs - dried		200 tons	20,000
Olives	741½	450 tons	15,750
Peaches	1,018	1,586 tons	118,950
Pears	737	312 tons	18,720
Persimmons	31	3,087 lugs	1,204
Plums	1,494½	3,107 tons	217,490
Pomegranates	73	6,809 lugs	2,451
Prunes	194½	100 tons	7,000
Walnuts	71	17 tons	3,910
Almonds	68	20 tons	4,800
Other Fruits	187½	860 tons	38,700
Total	6,372½		\$ 680,346
<u>CITRUS</u>			
Grapefruit	46½	4,350 boxes	9,788
Lemons	7½	1,164 boxes	5,238
Oranges	1,328	112,804 boxes	315,851
Tangerines	80½	5,000 lugs	7,900
Total	1,462½		\$ 338,777
<u>GRAPES</u>			
Table	6,244	18,144 tons	\$1,505,952
Wine	2,638	12,297 tons	418,098
Raisin	7,759	10,115 tons	455,175
Dry Raisins		4,514 tons	270,840
Total	16,641		\$2,650,065
<u>MELONS</u>			
Cantaloupes	233	39,240 crates	\$ 23,544
Watermelons	490	4,137 tons	82,740
Other Melons	22	103 tons	2,060
Total	745	Total	\$ 108,344

CROP ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE FOR THE YEAR 1933

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
<u>VEGETABLES</u>			
Potatoes	5,419	1,060,371 sacks	\$1,346,671
Cabbage	7	55 tons	660
Carrots	82	9,000 crates	9,000
Cucumbers	7	7,500 lugs	7,125
Lettuce	333	23,950 crates	36,404
Onions	608	108,945 sacks	87,156
Sweet Potatoes	225	38,591 lugs	28,943
String Beans	5	359 lugs	233
Tomatoes	15	3,200 lugs	2,560
Cauliflower	34	5,250 crates	2,783
Peas	102	9,529 crates	14,294
Asparagus	53	4,960 crates	18,600
Other vegetables	300	100 acres	30,000
Total	7,190		\$ 1,584,429
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>			
Cotton	57,000	62,000 bales	\$ 3,007,000
Cotton seed		31,000 tons	403,000
Grain Hay	1,650	2,500 tons	20,000
Alfalfa	29,614	177,684 tons	1,510,314
Silage crops	2,000	3,000 tons	24,000
Nursery stock	40		20,000
Mint	42		4,200
Honey		960,000 lbs.,	33,600
Bees wax and queen bees			3,800
Total	90,346		\$5, 025,914
Barley	12,475	124,750 sacks	106,038
Milo, etc.,	9,055	181,100 sacks	191,966
Wheat	33,280	332,800 sacks	442,624
Total	54,810		\$ 740,628
Total acreage all crops	177,567	Total value all crops	\$11,128,503

SUMMARY OF SHIPMENTS FOR 1935

Railway Cars Grapes	1,686
Railway Cars Other Products	3,879
Estimated Cars Grapes by Truck	1,715
Estimated Cars Other Products by Truck ..	1,732
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Total	9,012 cars