

ANNUAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS
KERN COUNTY 1934

By Lewis A. Burtch, Agricultural Commissioner

The condition of agriculture in Kern County at the close of the 1934 season presents a more optimistic picture than has been experienced since 1929.

The total value of all agriculture crops was \$16,115,442, exclusive of livestock and livestock products. This is an increase of approximately five million dollars over last year's total.

Prices quoted are f.o.b. car at shipping point, and are arrived at by a study of market reports and reports from individual growers.

In addition to the value of crops, I have estimated the amount paid out for labor in producing and harvesting these crops at \$3,949,675. This money that was put in circulation for labor, as well as the money for other expenses of farming, has added greatly to the prosperity of the merchants and business men of the county.

Cotton continues to lead all other crops in value. We produced 68,000 bales from 52,000 acres and the value of cotton lint and seed was \$5,360,700. We had an unusually favorable year for cotton and harvested practically all of the crop before bad weather set in. The cotton season was about a month earlier than usual and this was one of the contributing factors to the production of an all time record of 650 pounds per acre. The main factor in our production of large yields and fine quality cotton is due to the efforts of the Pure Seed Committee of the Kern County Farm Bureau. For the past ten years they have been constantly improving and building up a source of pure planting seed and approximately 90 per cent of our acreage was planted with this seed. Our growers paid a good price for labor and we suffered no inconvenience such as was caused last year in labor troubles. The prices paid for cotton picking in Kern County were more than any other cotton growing country. The total amount paid out in labor for producing and harvesting the cotton crop was \$1,778,000.

Grapes are second in the value of county crops. A total of 68,962 tons brought \$4,286,480. This represents an increase of 28,000 tons over last year's crop, and prices were better than for any time during the past five years. This is due to the fact that we had grapes on the market earlier than other grape producing sections and produced an exceptionally good quality.

The growers in Kern County suffered very little damage from leafhoppers and there were no serious diseases such as affect vines in other areas.

I look for an increase in the planting of table grapes in the next few years, as Kern County has demonstrated the fact that grapes can be grown more profitable here than in any other section of California.

Alfalfa is next in value, although our tonnage was not increased over last year, prices were considerable better and growers received \$2,309,424 for their hay crops. There will be an increase of 5000 acres in alfalfa planting for 1935.

Potatoes were next in value and Kern County is recognized as one of the leading producing sections of the west. Prices were not as good as we received last year but our production was exceptionally large and we had quite an increase in acreage. This year we had 7,271 acres and produced 1,454,100 sacks valued at \$1,090,575.

Deciduous fruits showed considerable increase both in production and value. Our growers are fortunate in finding markets for a large portion of this production in Los Angeles, where the cost of transportation is considerable less than the eastern markets. Due to the fact that our fruits mature earlier and that careful inspection provided for a good quality and grade on the market, we have exceeded the average price received throughout the state.

The outlook for agriculture in Kern County is much more optimistic than it has been in many years past. We have had more rainfall up to this time than we received for all of last year. Feed is growing rapidly and livestock producers are in a very optimistic frame of mind, and apparently, the depression is over in the agriculture industry in Kern County.

The attached sheets give details of the acreage, production and value of crops produced in Kern County, also, an estimate of the money expended in labor to produce and harvest these crops.

CROP ACREAGE, SHIPMENT AND VALUE

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| <u>Crop</u> | <u>Acreeage</u> | <u>Production</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Labor Cost</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <u>Deciduous Fruit</u> | | | | |
| Apples | 575 | 3,000 boxes | \$ 3,750 | |
| Apricots | 939 | 2,609 tons | 208,720 | |
| Dried Apricots | | 40 tons | 12,800 | |
| Berries | 60 | 4,105 crates | 5,131 | |
| Cherries | 48 | 20 tons | 2,500 | |
| Figs | 123 | 2,000 flats | 1,800 | |
| Dry Figs | | 100 tons | 8,000 | |
| Olives | 641 | 400 tons | 32,000 | |
| Peaches | 983 | 3,083 tons | 215,810 | |
| Pears | 600 | 530 tons | 37,100 | |
| Persimmons | 31 | 5,800 lugs | 2,900 | |
| Pistons | 1622 | 4,118 tons | 370,620 | |
| Pomegranates | 73 | 7,040 lugs | 3,168 | |
| Prunes | 195 | 16 tons | 1,280 | |
| Walnuts | 71 | 38 tons | 8,360 | |
| Almonds | 68 | 15 tons | 3,300 | |
| Other Fruits | 185 | 500 tons | 30,000 | |
| Total | 6214 | | \$947,239 | \$267,232 |
| <u>Citrus</u> | | | | |
| Grapefruit | 47 | 4,881 boxes | \$ 14,643 | |
| Lemons | 7 | 2,550 boxes | 10,200 | |
| Oranges | 1338 | 197,043 boxes | 443,347 | |
| Tangerines | 71 | 12,000 lugs | 18,000 | |
| Total | 1463 | | \$486,190 | \$172,440 |
| <u>Grapes</u> | | | | |
| Table | 14322 | 48,454 tons | 3,876,320 | |
| Wine | 2734 | 20,508 tons | 410,160 | |
| Raisins | | 5,009 tons | 420,630 | |
| Total | 17056 | | \$4,707,110 | \$938,630 |
| <u>Vegetables</u> | | | | |
| Potatoes | 7271 | 1,454,100 sacks | 1,090,575 | \$ 305,360 |
| Onions | 1065 | 182,400 sacks | 91,200 | 25,690 |
| Sweet Potatoes | 516 | 89,760 lugs | 44,880 | 17,400 |
| Peas | 134 | 23,700 crates | 71,100 | 6,700 |
| Lettuce | 315 | 44,897 crates | 53,876 | 29,653 |
| Cabbage | 11 | 95 tons | 1,140) | |
| Carrots | 10 | 2,000 crates | 900) | |
| Tomatoes | 17 | 4,500 lugs | 3,375) | |
| Asparagus | 40 | 4,669 crates | 11,673) | 10,000 |
| Cucumbers | 4 | 4,000 lugs | 4,000) | |
| Others | 104 | | 10,749) | |
| Total | 9487 | | \$ 1,383,468 | \$394,803 |

| <u>Crop</u> | <u>Acreage</u> | <u>Production</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Labor Cost</u> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <u>Melons</u> | | | | |
| Watermelons | 695 | 5,565 tons | \$ 89,040 | |
| Cantaloupes | 314 | 75,900 crates | 68,310 | |
| Others | 204 | 15,900 crates | 11,130 | |
| Total | <u>1213</u> | | <u>168,480</u> | <u>\$24,852</u> |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Field Crops</u> | | | | |
| Cotton | 52000 | 68,000 bales | 4,483,500) | 1,778,000 |
| Cotton Seed | | 27,200 tons | 877,200) | |
| Alfalfa | 29614 | 177,648 tons | 2,309,424 | 293,119 |
| Grain Hay | 650 | 950 tons | 9,500 | 2,050 |
| Silage | 2000 | 3,000 tons | 24,000 | 12,000 |
| Nursery Stock | 40 | | 20,000 | 4,000 |
| Honey & Etc., | | | 61,090 | 6,000 |
| Sudan Grass Seed | 270 | 163 tons | 21,190 | 650 |
| Total | <u>84574</u> | | <u>\$ 7,805,904</u> | <u>\$2,095,819</u> |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Grain</u> | | | | |
| Barley | 3190 | 3,632 tons | 90,800 | |
| Milo | 4643 | 8,871 tons | 252,823 | |
| Wheat | 10801 | 8,651 tons | 242,220 | |
| Acreage rented to government | | | 31,208 | |
| Total | <u>18634</u> | | <u>617,051</u> | <u>\$55,899</u> |

Total acres of all crops - - - 138,641

Total value of all crops - - - - - \$16,115,442

Total amount of money expended for labor - - - - - \$3,949,675