

ANNUAL REPORT

1935

By: Lewis A. Burton, Agricultural Commissioner

The total value of all agricultural crops produced in Kern County for the year 1935 was \$17,499,516. This is about two million dollars less than 1934 and was due largely to the reduced production caused by unfavorable weather conditions for many crops. Unusually cool weather and rain at blooming time caused considerable loss in many crops, however this loss was somewhat offset by an increase in range feed resulting in an increase of livestock production.

Cotton continues to lead all other crops in value. There was a reduction of about 3,000 acres over last year's planting. From 47,800 acres this year, we produced 59,347 bales which makes an average of 620 pounds per acre. In addition to this, we produced 23,238 tons of cotton seed. The value of this crop, including the benefit payments is \$4,894,598. This figure will surprise most everyone in the cotton business as there had existed throughout the growing season the opinion that this was the most unfavorable year we have ever had for cotton growing. A cold late spring, followed by a large infestation of plant bugs and an early frost, had indicated a much greater reduction in pounds of cotton per acre than is indicated by this report, however the exceptionally dry weather following the early frost has permitted the harvest of a much greater percentage of the late cotton than is normally harvested. Another factor in the production that might have some bearing on the volume per acre is the fact that the acreage was measured by representatives of the AAA in the control program this year, when heretofore it was

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estimates of growers and other companies and probably was much less than indicated.

The final figures may be subject to slight changes but will not be very far from the above quotations, as more than 90 per cent of the cotton crop is already harvested, leaving an estimate of less than 10 per cent to be harvested.

Livestock takes second place with a total production of \$4,300,000. This is about one million dollars more than last year's production and was due to an abundance of feed here and the fact that many thousand head of stock were brought in here from other states to be fattened and sold.

Grapes were third, with a valuation of \$2,267,410 (including raisins). The production from a standpoint of tonnage was as great as the previous year but the quality was lower and the prices received were considerable lower. Our vineyards were noticeably free from insect damage and fungus disease which have sometimes been responsible for production losses. We will have to blame the weather for our lower quality of fruit this year. The late varieties were damaged by frost but the crop was not a total loss, as most all of the table varieties that could not be marketed as fresh fruit were sold to the wineries.

Alfalfa is fourth in value and continues to be one of our leading crops. We produced 150,000 tons valued at \$1,575,000 this year. We are free from any insect pests that could cause a loss in our alfalfa production and this crop is hardy enough to thrive well under any climatic condition that could possibly exist in Kern County. The production is not subject to the fluctuations caused by weather conditions, as in other crops.

Potatoes are next in value. This crop has been increasing in importance for the past several years and reached a peak of production in 1935 with the planting of 10,000 acres. We produced 2,361,000 sacks, valued at \$1,416,600. There is practically no profit for the grower at such prices as we received this year and we will, no doubt, see some acreage reduction during the coming year.

Our deciduous fruit shows a much smaller production and lower prices than in 1934 and our citrus crop was considerable less than last year, also of poorer quality. Most growers attribute this condition to a cold, rainy spring, followed by quite warm weather, causing a poor set in some cases and a heavy June drop in other cases.

We had a very large increase in the acreage of grain, producing one of the largest grain crops in years, which offset some of the disadvantages on fruit crops.

The attached report shows the acreage, production and value of all crops produced in Kern County. The prices quoted are f.o.b., shipping point and are arrived at by a study of market reports and reports from individual growers. We have also shown benefit payments made by the government on the Agriculture Adjustment Program.

Total
Value

Dollars Only

DRY FRUITS

Apples	575	200 tons	\$ 7,600
Apricots	939	1,245 tons	54,780
Apricots (dried)		100 tons	20,000
Berries	60	4,000 crates	4,000
Cherries	48	30 tons	2,100
Figs	123	30 tons	1,500
Figs (dried)		100 tons	6,000
Olives	381	400 tons	28,000
Peaches	1,018	1,500 tons	67,500
Peaches (dried)		115 tons	13,800
Pears	600	330 tons	14,850
Persimmons	31	90 tons	3,600
Plums	1,677	2,600 tons	260,000
Pomegranates	73	180 tons	5,040
Prunes	195	155 tons	9,300
Walnuts	71	35 tons	8,750
Almonds	68	14 tons	3,500
Other Fruits	185	600 tons	36,000
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Total	6,044		546,320

CITRUS

Grapefruit	47	5,082 boxes	12,705
Lemons	7	2,400 boxes	7,200
Oranges	1,338	85,128 boxes	170,256
Tangerines	71	7,000 lugs	10,500
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Total	1,463		200,661

GRAPES

Table	17,322	53,302 tons	1,865,570
Wine	2,734	15,855 tons	126,840
Raisins		5,000 tons	275,000
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Total	17,056		\$ 2,267,410

MELONS

Watermelons	925	11,010 tons	165,150
Cantaloupes		10,500 crates	82,125
Others		1,000 crates	9,000
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Total			\$ 256,275

<u>VEGETABLES</u>				<u>TOTAL VALUE</u>
Potatoes	10,000	2,361,000	sacks	\$ 1,416,600
Onions	1,363	206,400	sacks	206,400
Sweet Potatoes	554	725,000	lugs	33,750
Peas	112	16,250	crates	7,500
Lettuce	240	28,800	crates	38,880
Cabbage	17	125	tons	1,500
Carrots	5	1,000	crates	750
Tomatoes	69	20,000	lugs	20,000
Asparagus	10	4,130	crates	8,260
Cucumbers	10	8,000	lugs	12,000
Squash	4	12,723	lugs	6,362
Others	100			10,000
Total	12,777			\$ 1,912,002

<u>FIELD CROPS</u>				
Cotton	47,800	59,357	bales	3,709,187
Cotton seed		23,238	tons	743,616
Alfalfa	30,000	150,000	tons	1,575,000
Gray Hay	6,600	6,000	tons	60,000
Silage	2,000	3,000	tons	24,000
Nursery stock	40	3,000	tons	40,000
Honey and Products				65,060
Total	86,440			\$ 6,216,863

<u>GRAIN</u>				
Barley	12,305	12,274	tons	208,658
Milo	12,765	26,115	tons	496,185
Wheat	35,337	21,503	tons	559,078
Sudan Grass	270	202	tons	26,260
Flax	220	3,740	bushels	5,984
Total	64,957			\$ 1,296,165

<u>LIVESTOCK SOLD</u>				<u>Total Value</u>
sheep	10,000			630,000
Cattle - steers	40,000			2,400,000
Hogs	5,000			80,000
Dairy Cows and Calves	1,000			30,000
Poultry	100,000			50,000
Wool	2,000,000	lbs		340,000
EGGS	10,000	doz		50,000
Milk and Butterfat	10,000,000	lbs		720,000
				\$ 4,300,000

Government benefits paid

\$ 51,000
441,795
11,025

Government benefits \$ 503,820

Total acres of all crops - 189,861

Total crops - 17,499,516

Total Cans

			4
Apricots	124	70	824
Berries		2	2
Cantaloupes	296	69	365
Casabag	1	3	4
Figs			2
	2,722	6,256 1/2	4,985 1/2
		5 1/2	5 1/2
Honey Ball Melons			3
Honey Dew Melons	17	28	124
Lettuce		54	128
Nectarines		1	1
Olives		36	36
Onions	215	129	344
Oranges	170 1/2	20	190 1/2
Peaches		92	96
Pears		6	20
Persian Melons		13	13
Persimmons	4 1/2	1	5 1/2
Plums	117 1/2	7 1/2	165
Pomegranates			11 1/2
Potatoes		1,654	7,662
Sweet Potatoes		138	141
Prunes		12	12
Quinces		3	3
Tangerines		7	7
Walnuts		3	3

CAR SHIPMENTS CONTINUED

<u>Produce</u>	<u>Railway Cars</u>	<u>Estimated Cars Via Truck</u>	<u>Total Cars</u>
Watermelons	417	317	734
Asparagus		14	14
Carrots		1	1
Cucumbers		4	4
Peas	53	7	60
Squash		144	144
Tomatoes			2
Miscellaneous Vegetables		3	3
Totals -	9,900½	5,243½	15,144