

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CROP ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE
KERN COUNTY -FOR THE YEAR 1936

Compiled by Lewis A. Burtch, Agricultural Commissioner

The past year showed the largest production and the greatest value of agricultural crops in the history of the county. The total value of all crops was \$29,736,899. Last year the total was \$17,583,216, which shows an increase of 67 per cent over 1935.

The values are based on average prices obtained for the products packed and loaded on cars and not the net returns to growers. Prices were obtained by a study of the market reports for the year and interviews with the leading shippers.

This figure represents the money brought to Kern County from the sale of crops and includes the money spent for labor and other expenses in growing and harvesting the crops.

The farmer's dollar is more quickly placed in general circulation than money from any other source and this adds much to the general prosperity of the county.

C O T T O N

Cotton maintained its place as the most valuable single crop, producing 100,000 bales and 400,000 tons of seed valued at \$7,440,000. With the compulsory acreage reduction of the A.A.A. removed, the growers increased their plantings 65 per cent over last year. We had ideal growing weather throughout the season, and by continuing the use of pure seed we have produced a grade and staple that pays us about \$5.00 per bale premium over ordinary cotton.

The production averaged 637 pounds of lint per acre which is a world's record and is due to our superb climate and soil conditions, also the fact that we are free from cotton boll weevil and most of the serious diseases of cotton.

P O T A T O E S

Potatoes were second in value, producing 3,050,240 sacks from 11,292 acres and bringing \$6,963,040.

This was the largest acreage and production that the county has ever had, and, in addition to this, we found the best market ever experienced. This is a combination of circumstances that happens once in a lifetime and we cannot expect to repeat on this season's crop and market conditions. Our production comes in the early summer when we have competition only from Florida, Alabama and Texas and these districts suffered from drought and light crops. In addition to this,

the storage of old potatoes was about exhausted at the time we started shipping, sending the prices to unusual highs and giving us markets that we had not been able to reach before.

L I V E S T O C K

This year's livestock sales were considerable more than last year although prices received on cattle were not as high. Sheep were about the same as last year, but wool was considerable higher. Hogs showed quite an increase in both production and prices received. Poultry and eggs were a little higher and milk and butterfat showed quite an improvement.

The increase in cattle was probably due to a more thorough canvassing of the sources of information and getting a better check on the number of cattle sold.

G R A P E S

Our grape crop showed a marked improvement over last year, both in quality and tonnage, and the markets were much more favorable. The production showed an increase of 11 per cent and an increase in value of approximately 85 per cent. The total of \$4,480,315 puts grapes as fourth in the value of all crops.

The fact that we are earlier than any major grape growing area in California gives us quite an advantage in the markets and our prices received are considerable higher than the state average.

We are free from most of the serious insects and diseases of grapes, which helps a lot in the production of fine quality table grapes.

G R A I N

The total value of the grain crops was \$1,447,033, which is about 18 per cent more than was produced in 1935. This is one of our staple crops and the plantings do not vary much from year to year.

A L F A L F A

Alfalfa is sixth in value and we produced 174,240 tons from 34,848 acres. This is an increase of about 18 per cent in acreage over the past few years.

Alfalfa, like grain, is a staple crop and is one of the most sure crops that we have. Many growers take advantage of this crop as a soil builder which pays dividends while it enriches the soil for other crops.

1936

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
<u>Deciduous Fruits</u>			
Apples	225	1,517 boxes	\$ 2,276.00
Apricots	755	1,708 tons	76,860.00
Apricots (dried)		90 tons	9,450.00
Berries	60	4,000 crates	4,000.00
Cherries	40	2 cars	2,100.00
Figs	23	2,164 flats	865.00
Figs (dried)		20 tons	1,200.00
Nectarines	47	1 car	650.00
Olives	512	405 tons	14,175.00
Peaches	1,047	2,646 tons	105,840.00
Peaches (dried)		88 tons	12,320.00
Pears	480	840 tons	33,600.00
Persimmons	24	45 tons	4,500.00
Plums	1,792	3,995 tons	159,800.00
Pomegranates	51	225 tons	10,125.00
Quinces	10	3 cars	1,350.00
Almonds	82	25 tons	5,000.00
Walnuts	60	20 tons	1,200.00
Family Orchards	135	405 tons	16,200.00
Total	<u>5,343</u>		Total <u>\$461,511.00</u>

Citrus

Grapefruit	36	6,325 boxes	11,068.00
Lemons	11	1,310 boxes	3,930.00
Oranges	1,307	179,686 boxes	359,372.00
Tangerines	38	20,000 boxes	15,000.00
Total	<u>1,392</u>		Total <u>\$389,370.00</u>

Grapes

Table	15,055	65,361 tons	3,921,660.00
Wine	1,745	12,227 tons	183,405.00
Raisins	7,505 tons		375,250.00
Total	<u>16,800</u>		Total <u>4,480,315.00</u>

Melons

Watermelons	447	8,070 tons	137,190.00
Cantaloupes	299	130,800 crates	98,100.00
Other Melons	15	6,817 crates	3,408.00
Total	<u>761</u>		Total <u>\$238,698.00</u>

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
<u>Vegetables</u>			
Potatoes	11,292	3,050,240 sacks	\$ 6,863,040.00
Onions	1,638	284,400 sacks	142,200.00
Sweet Potatoes	554	115,146 lugs	86,359.00
Peas	118	70,402 crates	253,447.00
Lettuce	242	73,260 crates	73,260.00
Cabbage	17	100 tons	1,200.00
Carrots	5	2,014 crates	1,510.00
Tomatoes	69	20,000 lugs	10,000.00
Asparagus	40	3,585 crates	7,170.00
Cucumbers	2	4,405 lugs	6,607.00
Squash	44	574 lugs	344.00
Others	100	15,030 lugs	7,515.00
Total	<u>14,121</u>		Total <u>\$7,452,652.00</u>

<u>Field Crops</u>			
Cotton	78,500	100,000 bales	\$6,000,000.00
Cotton seed		400,000 tons	1,440,000.00
Alfalfa	34,848	174,240 tons	1,393,920.00
Grain Hay	5,000	5,000 tons	50,000.00
Silage	1,000	1,500 tons	12,000.00
Nursery Stock	60		48,000.00
Honey and Products			93,500.00
Sugar Beets	335	6,700 tons	40,200.00
Total	<u>119,743</u>		Total <u>\$9,077,620.00</u>

<u>Grain</u>			
Barley	11,071	6,600 tons	158,400.00
Milo	17,200	26,806 tons	750,568.00
Wheat	45,420	19,641 tons	491,025.00
Flax	1,176	23,520 bushels	47,040.00
Total	<u>74,867</u>		Total <u>\$1,447,033.00</u>

LIVE STOCK SOLD

Steers	40,000		\$2,000,000.00
Cows	40,000		1,400,000.00
Calves	20,000		360,000.00
Sheep	100,000		600,000.00
Wool	2,000,000 lbs.		440,000.00
Hogs	8,000		160,000.00
Poultry	125,000		62,500.00
Eggs	210,000 dozen		67,200.00
Milk & Butterfat	2,200,000 lbs.		1,100,000.00
Total			Total <u>\$6,189,700.00</u>

Total acreage of all crops - 233,027

Total value of all crops - \$29,736,899.00