

C O U N T Y O F K E R N

- 1938 ANNUAL REPORT -
CROP ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Compiled by Lewis A. Burtch, Agricultural Commissioner

In contrast to last year's production and value, which was the greatest in the history of the county, we find a considerable loss in the total value of all agricultural crops and a reduction in the total acreage of cultivated crops.

The total value of all crops for 1938 was \$24,995,944. This is a reduction of \$5,258,840 over the returns for 1937. The total acreage of cultivated crops was 270,169 which was 6,817 acres less than last year.

These 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.

L I V E S T O C K

Livestock was the only group that showed an increase in value over last year. This was due largely to the greater production and has moved up to first place in the agricultural production of Kern County. The total value of all livestock including poultry and dairy products was \$8,436,814.

C O T T O N

Cotton moved back to second place with a greatly reduced acreage and yield which was the result of the AAA program and in addition to this reduction in acreage and yield the prices obtained were less than last year. The total value of cotton and cotton seed for this year was \$5,101,025.

P O T A T O E S

Potatoes were third in value of all crops, though prices were considerably less than last year. The acreage and yield were increased. We had 26,069 acres and produced 4,834,012 sacks valued at \$2,900,407.

G R A P E S

Grapes were fourth in value. The yield was approximately the same as last year, however, prices were considerably less. The total value of the grape crop including raisins was \$2,533,298.

A L F A L F A

There was an increase in the alfalfa acreage this year. We produced 200,000 tons of hay from 40,000 acres which was valued at \$1,700,000. This was quite a reduction in value from last year's sales.

These are the major crops of Kern County and it is the opinion of most of the growers that the prices are now at the bottom and they are looking forward to better prices for 1939. Although prices received this year were very discouraging, Kern County growers fared better than growers in many other districts and our growers have demonstrated that they can produce a larger volume per acre of good quality products and put them out on the market earlier than many other districts. With this advantage, agriculture will continue to progress and be the major industry of Kern County.

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<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
<u>DECIDUOUS FRUITS</u>			<u>Dollars only</u>
Apples	229	1,500 boxes	1,875
Apricots	504	1,080 tons	64,800
Apricots (dried)		32 tons	3,200
Berries	60	4,000 crates	4,000
Cherries	14	117 lugs	351
Figs	21	550 lugs	550
Figs (dried)		4 tons	240
Nectarines	62	60 tons	3,600
Olives	420	370 tons	11,100
Peaches	836	1,755 tons	87,750
Peaches (dried)		174 tons	10,440
Pears	479	885 tons	44,250
Persimmons	24	105 tons	4,200
Plums	1,763	5,865 tons	234,600
Pomegranates	62	65 tons	2,600
Quinces	10	40 tons	1,600
Almonds	88	20 tons	2,000
Walnuts	46	30 tons	3,600
Family Orchard	135	400 tons	12,000
Total	<u>4,753</u>		Total <u>492,756</u>
<u>CITRUS</u>			
Grapefruit	37	5,170 boxes	3,877
Oranges	1,365	111,288 boxes	155,803
Tangerines	87	15,650 lugs	7,825
Total	<u>1,489</u>		Total <u>167,505</u>
<u>GRAPES</u>			
Table	15,739	63,991 tons	1,919,730
Wine	1,713	27,288 tons	300,168
Raisins		6,268 tons	313,400
Total	<u>17,452</u>		Total <u>2,533,298</u>
<u>MELONS</u>			
Watermelons	549	15,870 tons	206,310
Cantaloupes	384	98,800 crates	98,800
Other Melons	101	16,200 crates	18,630
Total	<u>1,034</u>		Total <u>323,740</u>

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
<u>VEGETABLES</u>			
			<u>Dollars only</u>
Potatoes	26,069	4,834,012 sacks	2,900,407
Onions	820	141,600 sacks	84,960
Sweet Potatoes	440	118,314 lugs	70,988
Peas	328	3 ¹ / ₂ ,938 crates	83,851
Lettuce	553	185,949 crates	278,924
Cabbage	20	2,088 crates	2,088
Tomatoes	46	849 lugs	637
Cucumbers	4	2,415 lugs	4,830
Squash	5	1,000 lugs	750
Beans	8	1,020 crates	1,530
Garlic	4	700 sacks	1,400
Other Vegetables	6 ¹ / ₂	1,000 crates	750
Sweet Corn	85	11,677 lugs	8,758
Carrots	90	3,500 crates	1,750
Total	<u>28,478¹/₂</u>		Total <u>3,441,623</u>

FIELD CROPS

Cotton	78,000	95,000 bales	4,275,000
Cotton seed		35,150 tons	826,025
Alfalfa	40,000	200,000 tons	1,700,000
Alfalfa seed		57,000 pounds	9,975
Onion seed	62	4,000 pounds	3,000
Silage	1,000	2,000 tons	20,000
Nursery Stock			60,000
Honey and Products			49,240
Sugar Beets	1,225	18,375 tons	128,625
Total	<u>120,287</u>		Total <u>7,071,865</u>

GRAIN

Barley	16,000	8,400 tons	147,000
Millo Maize	9,331	22,394 tons	391,895
Wheat	68,400	30,780 tons	615,600
Grain Hay	2,500	2,500 tons	37,500
Flax	445	6,675 bushels	11,348
Total	<u>96,676</u>		Total <u>1,203,343</u>

Government Payments	Parity	725,000
Government Payments	Benefit	600,000
Total		<u>1,325,000</u>

L I V E S T O C K S O L D

	<u>Number of head</u>	<u>Value</u>
		<u>Dollars only</u>
Steers	39,961	3,216,860
Cows and heifers	35,964	1,852,146
Calves	12,036	240,720
Sheep and lambs	169,000	1,014,000
Wool	2,250,000 pounds	360,000
Hogs	22,000	352,000
Poultry	125,000 dozen	62,500
Eggs	210,000 dozen	67,200
Milk and butterfat	2,200,000 pounds	1,110,000
Hides	25,784	116,028
Bulls and stags	1,296	45,360
	Total	<u>8,436,814</u>

TOTAL ACREAGE OF ALL CROPS -- - 270,169½

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CROPS
INCLUDING LIVESTOCK - - - \$24,995,944