

KERN COUNTY'S ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942
TO THE STATE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND
THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

In compliance with Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code, State of California, I herewith submit the annual crop report of Kern County for the year 1942.

Acreages are calculated as net planted acres, yields in terms of commercial packages or units established by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The values are f.o.b. prices. The returns thus include cost of growing, harvesting, hauling, packing etc.

We are indebted to many individuals and organizations for their splendid response given to the agricultural inspectors and deputies who have helped compile this report.

The total value of all crops, including live stock, was \$67,282,688. This was far in excess of our most optimistic estimates and exceeded the 1941 income by \$23,000,000. Net profits to growers in most cases were no greater than last year as cost of labor had increased almost 100%, and fertilizer, machinery, transportation and other costs were much higher. Total production of all commodities was 1,270,923 tons, an increase of 208,570 tons over 1941. This is a remarkable record considering all of the handicaps which the growers had to overcome. If we continue to lose our trained agricultural workers to the army and defense industries production for 1943 is bound to show a big decrease. Growers, particularly during the later part of 1942, were forced to use students, women and older men inexperienced in farm work and harvesting in order to get their crops in and are very hesitant to plant any crop requiring a large amount of hand labor.

Potatoes brought more money than any other plant crop with a production of 6,664,417 sacks valued at \$13,328,814. This is one of the most vitally needed war crops and the government has asked for an increase of 20% of potatoes for 1943.

Cotton, which has been the number one crop for many years, was second with 94,500 bales and 38,400 tons of seed valued at \$11,018,550. Cotton made a fine growth with very little damage from insects or weather and we had an ideal fall for harvest, but due to the shortage of labor there were about 10,000 bales abandoned in the fields.

Grapes and raisins were next in value with a production of 86,146 tons valued at \$7,730,496. The present plans of the War Production Board are to force all growers to make raisins of all their Thompsons and Muscats, and as over one half of our acreage is Thompsons it will mean a much reduced income to the grape growers next year.

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Alfalfa has been one of our stable crops for many years. We had an increase of about 7,000 acres, making a total of 69,948 acres of alfalfa valued at \$5,940,055. We expect an increase of from 10,000 to 15,000 next year. This is one crop that can be handled largely with machinery and a crop that is badly needed. Prices of hay advanced to such a point that it was necessary for the government to establish ceiling prices in order to protect the dairy feeders in the milk shed areas as their ceiling prices had been set and their costs were getting out of line.

Live stock production showed an increase of 5,380 tons over the 1941 production. The total value of all live stock including poultry and dairy products for 1942 was \$17,762,289. All products and much needed war crops at this time and the government has asked growers to increase their production of these commodities. Kern County growers will undoubtedly attempt to do this as the labor problem is not so great as it is in the vegetable crops. Kern County has always been an important stock producing county and will continue to increase in this line.

Kern County growers feel their responsibility in the war effort to produce food and fiber for our army and civilians in this country, as well as for our allies and are making a supreme effort in the face of great difficulties to meet the goals set for them. They are not quibbling over a 40 hour or 48 hour week, but theirs is often a 72 hour week.

The following is the detailed report of the acreage, production and value of all commercial crops produced in Kern County during the year 1942.

1942 ANNUAL REPORT - CROP ACREAGE - PRODUCTION AND VALUE
FOR KERN COUNTY

Compiled by Lewis A. Burtch, Agricultural Commissioner

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	TOTAL VALUE
<u>Deciduous Fruits</u>			<u>Dollars Only</u>
Apples	26	2700 boxes	\$ 6,480
Apricots	459	81177 lugs	93,354
Apricots, dried		600 tons	240,000
Berries	60	6130 crt.	7,663
Figs	5	4000 flts.	4,400
Figs, dried		5 tons	1,750
Nectarines	116	17940 lugs	22,425
Olives	473	1190 tons	190,400
Peaches	978	84409 lugs	105,511
Peaches, cannery		4000 tons	100,000
Peaches, dried		1200 tons	336,000
Pears	104	566 tons	44,148
Persimmons	49	5000 lugs	4,400
Plums	1492	380324 lugs	524,847
Pomegranates	22	5580 lugs	5,859
Quinces	10	3669 lugs	4,403
Almonds	88	21 tons	8,820
Pecans	22	1 ton	420
Walnuts	20	5 tons	1,750
Family Orchard	150	650 tons	26,000
Total	4074		\$ 1,512,630
<u>Citrus Fruit</u>			
Grapefruit	35	7284 boxes	11,654
Oranges, navel	1450	124464 boxes	323,606
Oranges, valencia	40	4000 boxes	8,400
Tangerines	83	17358 lugs	44,262
Lemons	8	1099 boxes	3,846
Total	1616		391,768
<u>Grapes</u>			
Table	15365	64068 tons	6,406,800
Wine	2020	13788 tons	441,216
Raisins		8110 tons	851,550
Raisins, Zante	113	180 tons	31,500
<u>Currents</u>			
Total	17498		7,731,066
<u>Melons</u>			
Watermelons	305	4948 tons	148,440
Cantaloupes	202	92520 crates	240,552
Honey Dews	755	133022 crates	199,533
Total	1262		588,525

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	TOTAL VALUE
<u>Vegetables</u>			<u>Bobbars Only</u>
Endive	5	640 crates	1,280
Potatoes	32961	6,664,407 sacks	13,328,814
Potato culls stock feed		25,000 tons	50,000
Peas	2738	233,798 hamp.	490,976
Onions (com'l.)	752	58,096 sacks	17,429
Onion Seed	183	12,000 lb.	24,000
Onions, Salt	257	3,855 tons	231,300
Swt. Potatoes	365	146,000 lugs	292,000
Lettuce	1364	233,706 crt.	549,209
Sweet Corn	580	16,424 crt.	24,636
Carrots	398	114,608 crt.	171,912
Tomatoes, canning	1067	7,042 tons	130,277
Tomatoes, shipping	3000	723,771 lugs	1,447,542
Garlic	21	616 sacks	2,587
Squash	15	25 tons	1,250
Beans, Fava	50	10,000 hamp.	20,000
Broccoli	105	20,572 crt.	37,029
Spinach	132	14,000 crt.	28,000
Asparagus	900	59,760 crt.	119,520
Cabbage	62	228 tons	3,557
Okra	7	3,300 lugs	6,600
Rutabaga	45	900 tons	18,000
Total	45007		17,049,918

Field Crops

Cotton	73380	94,500 bales	9,213,750
Cotton seed		38,400 tons	1,804,800
Alfalfa	69984	349,415	5,940,055
Alfalfa seed		23,900 lbs.	6,720
Silage	1725	34,500 tons	345,000
Nursery Stock	50		50,000
Honey		690,000 lbs.	62,100
Beeswax		14,000 lbs.	5,740
Queen Bees		10,000	5,000
Sugar Beets	9714	158,040 tons	1,264,320
Total	154,853		18,697,485

Grain

Barley	50000	25,000 tons	725,000
Milo	20000	20,000 tons	500,000
Wheat	53685	16,896 tons	642,048
Grain Hay	8245	12,400 tons	223,200
Flax	10500	10,500 bu.	288,750
Oats (Hay)	2540	5,000 tons	95,000
Sudan	1200	6,000 tons	90,000
Total	146170		2,563,998

LIVE STOCK SOLD

	Number of Head	Total Value
Steers	46,026	6,075,432
Cows & heifers	38,302	3,447,180
Calves	15,377	480,531
Bulls	1,844	248,940
Hides - Cow	32,497	211,230
Hides - Calf	15,377	46,131
Total		10,509,444
Sheep	15,000	94,875
Lambs	212,000	2,385,000
Wool	1,908,000 lbs.	648,720
Total		3,128,595
Hogs	23,750	774,843
Total		774,843
Turkeys	33,000	115,500
Poultry	440,000	440,000
Eggs	1,050,000 doz.	420,000
Dicks	2,000	4,000
Geese	1,000	3,000
Total		982,500
Milk & Butterfat	3,198,536	2,366,916
Grand total of all livestock		17,762,298
Total acreage of all crops	370,480	
Total tonnage of all crops	1,270,547	including live stock
Total value of all crops including livestock		66,297,688
Total money received on all Government payments to the AAA program		985,000
Total returns to agriculture		67,282,688