

KERN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947

To The Honorable Board of Supervisors and the
Director of the State Department of Agriculture

I herewith submit the Annual Crop Report as required by Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code.

This report covers the acreage, production and value of all crops produced in Kern County, including livestock and livestock products. Total value for all crops produced during the year 1947 was \$160,356,862. This is quite an increase over the crop returns for 1946, and is due to increased production and increased acreage under cultivation. However, many crops showed a loss in money received with little or no loss in production. Weather conditions during the growing season as well as the harvest season were very good throughout the whole of 1947, although lack of rain during the latter part of the year brought disaster to the livestock interests and growers of grain in unirrigated sections.

Cotton is the number one crop of 1947. It exceeded all other crops in production and value. We had 143,000 acres which produced 230,186 bales of cotton, 92,074 tons of cotton seed, and brought a gross return of \$49,121,652. Prices were very good all season, and yield per acre and grade were well above average.

Potatoes were the next most important crop. The acreage was reduced from 65,405 $\frac{1}{2}$ in 1946 to 50,791 in 1947. These figures include the early as well as the fall crop. Yield per acre was higher than it has been in many years and prices were a little higher than the previous year. The outstanding feature of potato production this year was the fact that practically all of the crop was sold on the consuming market. Government purchases amounted to only 217 cars out of the entire crop. This was a contrast to 1946 when over three million sacks went to the government on the support program.

Grapes still hold third place although gross returns were much less than a year ago. There was a slight reduction in total cars produced, but the big reduction was on the market price where a decline of approximately 50 per cent was suffered by the grape industry.

Loss in price received was also felt by the citrus industry where a reduction of approximately 50 per cent was experienced. Deciduous fruits and melons also took a considerable decline in price, along with alfalfa hay which showed a decrease of about 30 per cent.

The increase of approximately five million dollars in returns on beef cattle was due to a greater number of animals having been sold and an increase in average weight. The average price per pound remained the same as a year ago. Figures on beef cattle are based on the calendar year preceding the publication of this report for information on total number of animals sold is obtained from the annual

report of the hide and brand inspector which is not available until after the first of July.

The interesting thing we see from year to year is that regardless of prices our development and production continue to expand. Although we have predicted that a limit has been reached in our expansion without bringing in more water, each year seems to defy nature in that regard.

It must be kept in mind that the prices quoted in this report are gross receipts for the harvested crop loaded on cars ready for shipment. From these prices must be deducted the cost of production, harvesting, packing and preparing for market. These production costs have remained high regardless of the reduction in gross receipts, indicating a smaller net return to the growers on many of the leading crops.

Respectfully submitted,



Lewis A. Burtch
Agricultural Commissioner
Kern County

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1947 ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR KERN COUNTY

CROP ACREAGE - PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Compiled by Lewis A. Burtch, Agricultural Commissioner

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Deciduous Fruits</u>			
Apples	24	4,050 bx.	10,935
Apricots	397	8,343 lugs	12,515
Apricots, processed		519½ tons	18,183
Apricots, dried		34½ tons	12,420
Berries	85	12,223 cr.	18,335
Figs	5	300 lugs	420
Figs, dried		5 tons	350
Nectarines	23	9,138 lugs	20,561
Olives	414	364 tons	40,040
Peaches	434	109,236 lugs	163,854
Peaches, processed		1,281 tons	54,443
Peaches, dried		67 tons	13,400
Pears	80	46,633 bx.	151,557
Persimmons	39	11,000 lugs	22,000
Plums	1,231	448,105 lugs	1,456,341
Plums, processed		101 tons	4,545
Pomegranates	6	15,351 lugs	23,027
Prunes	27	12,860 lugs	32,150
Almonds	168	64 tons	44,800
Pecans	52	5 tons	3,700
Walnuts	12	6 tons	3,120
Family Orchard	200	1,000 tons	100,000
Total	3,197		2,206,696
<u>Citrus Fruit</u>			
Grapefruit	33	19,550 bx.	34,213
Oranges, Navel	1,366	196,763 bx.	393,526
Oranges, Valencia	54	20,700 bx.	31,050
Tangerines	48	10,800 bx.	32,400
Lemons	8	1,000 bx.	2,700
Total	1,509		493,889
<u>Grapes</u>			
Table	16,920	4,899,763 lugs	11,514,443
Wine	2,434	64,288 tons	1,735,776
Raisin		6,351 tons	825,630
Zante Currants	134	198 tons	39,600
Total	19,488		14,115,449

1947 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Melons</u>			
Watermelons	1,093	7,141 tons	282,070
Cantaloupes	1,372	238,848 cr.	895,680
Honey Dews	70	30,588 cr.	68,823
Others	10	436 cr.	981
Total	2,545		1,247,554
<u>Vegetables</u>			
Asparagus	442	37,880 cr.	217,810
Peas, Blackeye	854	6,641 bags	124,519
Beans, Fava	100	12,350 hamp.	21,613
Beans, Pinto	200	580 bags	9,425
Beans, String	143	6,744 hamp.	11,802
Broccoli	160	31,171 cr.	101,306
Broccoli, processed		14,434 cr.	33,343
Cabbage	2	800 cr.	2,000
Carrots	165	33,224 cr.	83,060
Carrots, processed		7 tons	91
Cauliflower	80	50,512 cr.	80,819
Corn, Sweet	3,132	350,832 cr.	912,163
Cucumbers	25	3,410 lugs	4,263
Egg Plant	3	1,000 lugs	1,750
Garlic	118	3,100 sks.	15,500
Lettuce	1,277	157,067 cr.	471,201
Lettuce Seed	59	35,446 lbs.	33,674
Onions	1,626	543,678 sks.	951,437
Onion Seed	54	13,485 lbs.	20,228
Peas	2,592	223,591 hamp.	894,364
Peppers, Bell	40	6,145 cr.	22,429
Peppers, Chili	1	200 lugs	1,250
Potatoes	50,791	13,016,019 sks	32,540,048
Potato culls, stock feed		3,242 tons	3,242
Potatoes, Sweet	584½	146,204 lugs	365,510
Squash, Summer	17	1,121 lugs	4,204
Tomatoes	1,072	314,590 lugs	865,123
Vegetables, Misc.	300	300 tons	90,000
Total	63,837½		37,882,174

1947 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Field Crops</u>			
Alfalfa	83,017	581,119 tons	13,075,178
Alfalfa Seed	185	58 tons	25,520
Beets, Sugar	9,016	198,012 tons	2,687,023
Beet Seed, Sugar	105	215,010 lbs.	26,661
Cotton	143,000	230,186 bales	39,914,252
Cotton Seed		92,074 tons	9,207,400
Flower Seed	85	10,625 lbs.	14,875
Mint	27		25,000
Nursery Stock	250		335,000
Permanent Pasture	4,000		800,000
Silage	575	2,875 tons	57,500
Total	240,260		66,168,409
<u>Apiary Products</u>			
Beeswax		10,000 lbs.	4,200
Honey		360,000 lbs.	50,400
Queen Bees		6,000 ea.	6,000
Total			60,600
<u>Grain, Dry Farm</u>			
Barley	19,350	135,540 sks.	446,985
Oats	560	3,920 sks.	14,700
Wheat	26,925	161,550 sks.	798,057
Total	46,835		1,259,742
<u>Grain, Irrigated</u>			
Barley	27,500	575,000 sks.	1,897,500
Flax	610	10,980 bu.	71,370
Grain Hay	4,000	6,000 tons	120,000
Milo	8,649	256,980 sks.	1,310,598
Oats	1,900	38,000 sks.	142,500
Rye	500	4,000 sks.	23,040
Sudan	500	1,000 tons	20,000
Wheat	27,300	529,500 sks.	2,615,730
Total	70,959		6,200,738

LIVESTOCK SOLD*

	<u>NUMBER OF HEAD</u>	<u>Dollars Only</u> <u>TOTAL VALUE</u>
Steers	51,878	8,987,864
Cows	28,170	3,802,950
Heifers	28,171	3,929,855
Calves	29,076	1,199,385
Bulls	2,393	353,950
Hides-Cow	26,796	199,630
Hides-Calf	10,323	51,099
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Total		18,529,733
Sheep	25,000	200,000
Lambs	115,000	2,827,500
Wool	1,610,000 lbs.	644,000
Polts	16,800	29,400
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Total		3,700,900
Hogs	10,400	410,800
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Total	10,400	410,800
Chickens	622,918	981,240
Ducks	9,555	14,332
Geese	1,500	5,250
Turkeys	49,005	573,359
Eggs	1,104,199 doz.	662,519
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Total		2,236,700
Milk	10,433,942 gal.	4,121,407
Ice Cream	966,000 gal.	1,255,800
Ice Milk	224,000 gal.	207,200
Cottage Cheese	1,007,863 lbs.	181,415
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Total		5,765,822
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Grand Total of all livestock		30,643,955
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Total acreage of all crops	448,630 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Total tonnage of all crops and livestock	2,033,903	
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Total value of all crops including livestock		160,279,206
Agricultural Conservation Program and Practices		77,656
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Total returns to Agriculture		160,356,862

*Statistics on beef for calendar year of 1946.
1947 not available until after July.