

KERN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1948

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

I herewith submit the Annual Crop Report for Kern County 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. The total value for all crops produced during the year 1948 was \$166,628,754. This is an increase of \$6,271,892 over the 1947 production. It is amazing to us who are doing this work year after year to note that Kern County has been continually growing for the past twenty-nine years.

It was a trying year for stockmen. This group suffered losses due to the drought, which was more severe than it had been the previous year. A great many cattle were shipped from the County to areas where feed conditions were better, and a considerable number were sold at a lighter weight than usual because of a shortage of feed.

Cotton continued to lead all of our cultivated crops in production and value. There was an increase of 73,000 acres over 1947, and the total production amounted to 275,809 bales. The price of cotton was \$11 less per bale and the price of cotton seed \$30 less per ton than was received in 1947. The weather was not as favorable for cotton because of cool weather during July and August when this crop makes its best growth and as a result the yield per acre was below that of 1947.

Potatoes were second in value of cultivated crops. We had an increase of 13,991 acres over that of 1947 and prices were a little higher, which brought a total return to potato growers of \$38,868,135. The average yield per acre was 230 sacks which is a little less than the 1947 crop but still the highest yield per acre of any major potato producing area.

Grapes were third in value of all crops. Approximately 4,000 acres of young vines came into bearing for the first time in 1948. Prices were exceptionally good at the starting of the season but declined rapidly towards the end. This produced a very favorable appearing average although some growers received very small returns on the later shipments. This crop also had some difficulty in meeting maturity standards due to the continued cool weather.

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 preparation for market. These production costs have remained high regardless of the reduction in gross receipts, indicating a smaller net return to the growers of many of the leading crops.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis A. Burtch

Lewis A. Burtch
Agricultural Commissioner
Kern County

1948 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	4,816 bx.	12,281
Apricots	297	31,927 lugs	63,854
Apricots		693 tons	31,185
Berries	85	8,500 cr.	10,625
Berries, processed		36 tons	5,760
Figs	5	1,373 lugs	2,060
Olives	367	1,845½ tons	244,160
Peaches	327	34,288 lugs	68,576
Peaches		440 tons	24,200
Pears	80	22,622 bx.	76,915
Persimmons	34	3,736 lugs	6,725
Plums	1,336	247,676 lugs	1,139,360
Plums		173 tons	11,418
Pomegranates	6	8,708 lugs	11,320
Prunes	52	9,879 lugs	29,637
Almonds	168	32½ tons	22,750
Pecans	46	5¾ tons	3,850
Walnuts	12	4½ tons	2,475
Family Orchard	200	1,000 tons	100,000
Total	3,039		1,867,151
<u>Citrus Fruit</u>			
Grapefruit	27	10,800 bx.	13,500
Oranges, Navel	1,354	145,521 bx.	545,704
Oranges, Valencia	54	18,900 bx.	42,525
Tangerines	48	7,000 bx.	15,750
Lemons	8	2,520 bx.	10,080
Total	1,491		627,559
<u>Grapes</u>			
Table	19,931	5,019,110 lugs	12,547,775
Wine	3,111	106,331½ tons	2,658,288
Raisin		3,426 tons	459,084
Zante Currants	9	24 tons	5,280
Grapes, canned		2,133½ tons	117,343
Total	23,051		15,787,770

1948 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Melons</u>			
Watermelons	490	3,225½ tons	96,765
Cantaloupes	1,403	219,362 cr.	603,246
Honey Dews	495	89,546 cr.	156,706
Total	2,388		856,717
<u>Vegetables</u>			
Asparagus	442	43,149 cr.	215,745
Beans, Blackeye	1,381	7,133 sks.	42,798
Beans, Pink	10	156 sks.	1,513
Broccoli	160	10,698 cr.	45,467
Carrots	625	51,701 cr.	116,327
Carrots, processed		570 tons	6,270
Cauliflower	80	25,039 cr.	37,559
Celery	20	12,666 cr.	34,832
Corn, Sweet	2,372	336,909 cr.	791,736
Cucumbers	4½	3,128 lugs	5,474
Lettuce	897	157,876 cr.	473,628
Onions	1,392	816,478 sks	1,428,837
Onions, processed		50,918 sks	38,139
Onions, processed		225 tons	6,300
Peas	2,111	341,022 hamp.	1,023,066
Peppers, Bell	10	5,416 cr.	13,540
Potatoes	64,782	14,351,109 sks.	38,747,994
Potatoes, processed		99,776 sks.	49,888
Potato culls, stock feed		23,417½ tons	70,253
Potatoes, Sweet	273	78,742 lugs	216,541
Squash, Summer	3½	680 lugs	3,060
Tomatoes	2,103	335,799 lugs	755,548
Tomatoes, processed		544½ tons	13,613
Vegetables, Misc.	300	300 tons	90,000
Total	76,966		44,228,178

1948 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Field Crops</u>			
Alfalfa	57,729	404,103 tons	12,123,090
Alfalfa Seed	37	214 sks	7,490
Beets, Sugar	7,394	134,699 tons	1,540,181
Beet Seed, Sugar	380	1,218,700 lbs.	159,650
Cotton	216,000	275,809 bales	44,730,704
Cotton Seed		110,324 tons	7,722,680
Flower Seed	65	8,000 lbs.	6,800
Mint	60		15,000
Nursery Stock	175		226,869
Permanent Pasture	5,000		1,000,000
Vegetable Seed	30		6,308
Silage	645	3,225 tons	61,275
Total	287,515		67,600,047
<u>Apiary Products</u>			
Beeswax		12,000 lbs.	5,100
Honey		384,000 lbs.	32,640
Queen Bees		6,000 ea.	5,400
Total			43,140
<u>Grain, Dry Farm</u>			
Barley	18,000	108,000 sks.	308,880
Oats	2,000	12,000 sks.	39,000
Wheat	26,500	159,000 sks.	723,450
Total	46,500		1,071,330
<u>Grain, Irrigated</u>			
Barley	34,982	561,960 sks.	1,607,206
Flax	2,501	49,888 bu.	306,811
Grain Hay	2,000	3,000 tons	60,000
Millet	300	70 tons	10,500
Milo	15,827	31,127 tons	1,556,350
Oats	3,450	51,750 sks.	168,188
Rye	1,000	15,000 sks.	63,000
Sudan	440	880 tons	17,600
Wheat	30,445	552,600 sks.	2,514,330
Total	90,945		6,303,985

LIVESTOCK SOLD

	<u>NUMBER OF HEAD</u>	<u>Dollars Only</u> <u>TOTAL VALUE</u>
Purebroods	1,650	499,950
Steers	47,347	10,155,932
Cows and Heifers	33,804	4,817,070
Calves	17,445	815,554
Bulls	1,675	376,875
Hides-Cow	23,642	176,133
Hides-Calf	8,223	40,704
<hr/>		
Total		16,882,218
Sheep	29,280	307,440
Lambs	109,960	2,335,550
Wool	1,348,462 lbs.	512,416
Pelts	12,800	28,300
<hr/>		
Total		3,184,206
Hogs	12,337	832,748
<hr/>		
Total	12,337	832,748
Rabbits	275,000	247,500
<hr/>		
Total	275,000	247,500
Chickens	923,018	1,615,282
Ducks	10,427	15,641
Geese	1,450	5,800
Turkeys	31,500	478,800
Eggs	1,500,000 doz.	900,000
<hr/>		
Total		3,015,523
*Dairy Products - pounds milk fat	3,392,000 lbs.	4,036,480
<hr/>		
Total	3,392,000	<u>4,036,480</u>
Grand Total of all Livestock		28,198,675
Total acreage of all crops	531,895	
Total tonnage of all crops and livestock	1,903,540	
Total value of all crops including livestock		166,584,552
Agricultural Conservation Program and Practices		<u>44,202</u>
Total Returns to Agriculture		166,628,754
*1947 production		