

**KERN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1949

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

I hereby 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 1949 was \$153,226,253. This is a decrease of \$13,402,501 from the 1948 total, or about nine per cent on the overall picture. It is the first time in several years that total gross returns to agriculture have decreased from the previous year, and is due principally to lower prices for farm products. Total acreage under cultivation increased 32,101 over the 1948 figure and many crops showed an increase in production but a decrease in market value.

Cotton has been the number one crop since 1946, although this is the first year that all growers have planted the new strain of Acala, A 4-42. It appeared a little disappointing to most growers during the forepart of the season, but when harvest time arrived the production was much greater than had been anticipated. From 247,000 acres we produced 365,550 bales. This is an average of 750 pounds lint per acre and an increase of 130 pounds lint per acre over last year.

Potatoes continued to hold second place in Kern County's production although the acreage was reduced by 8,543 from the previous year. Prices received were also lower. The total value of the 1949 crop was \$31,081,326, which is about eight million dollars less than the 1948 crop.

Grapes took the greatest individual loss regardless of a slight increase in bearing acreage. Total money received was \$9,765,050, which is six million dollars less than the 1948 crop. Many growers did not receive much more than their costs of production.

Some acreage was taken out of alfalfa and put into cotton during 1949. This condition will be reversed again in 1950 as growers have voted a cotton control measure and there will be an estimated reduction of 80,000 acres in this crop. The major headache for most farmers will be to find substitute crops for this acreage.

It must be kept in mind that prices quoted in this report are gross receipts for the harvested crops loaded on cars ready for shipment. From these prices must be deducted the costs of production, harvesting, packing and preparation for market. These production costs still remain high regardless of the reduction in gross receipts, and this means a small net return to growers for many of the leading crops.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lewis A. Burtch*

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Agricultural Commissioner  
County of Kern

1949 ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR KERN COUNTY

CROP ACREAGE - PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Compiled by Lewis A. Burch, Agricultural Commissioner

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Deciduous Fruits and Nuts</u>			
Apples	53	2,538 bx.	6,980
Apricots	256	23,219 lugs	51,082
Apricots, canning		150 tons	3,500
Berries, processed	10	18½ tons	3,700
Figs	5	898 flats	1,078
Figs, dried		3 tons	300
Olives	344	944 tons	200,713
Peaches	236	56,927 lugs	99,622
Pears	90	49,259 bx.	122,143
Persimmons	34	5,000 lugs	10,000
Plums	1,507	484,241 lugs	1,501,147
Plums, canning		76 tons	6,840
Pomegranates	5	14,140 lugs	21,917
Prunes	52	8,006 lugs	15,612
Almonds	124	70 tons	21,500
Pecans	22	2,125 lbs.	914
Walnuts	12	6,265 lbs.	1,064
Family Orchard	250	1,250 tons	125,000
Total	3,006		2,204,613
<u>Citrus Fruit</u>			
Grapefruit	31	12,400 bx.	15,500
Oranges, Navel	1,232	163,968 bx.	191,904
Tangerines	48	17,003 bx.	25,505
Lemons	8	32 bx.	192
Total	1,319		533,101
<u>Grapes</u>			
Table	20,991	4,753,308 lugs	7,342,958
Wine	3,557	71,018 tons	272,947
Raisin		4,336 tons	542,000
Zante Currants	9	25 tons	4,125
Grapes, canning		6,717 tons	403,020
Total	24,557		9,765,050

1949 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Melons</u>			
Watermelons	455	1,734 tons	42,483
Cantaloupes	1,585½	244,867 cr.	759,088
Honey Dews	683	120,846 cr.	259,819
Persians	20	317 tons	14,899
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,743½</b>		<b>1,076,289</b>
<u>Vegetables</u>			
Asparagus	450	42,387 cr.	222,532
Beans, Castor	9	9 tons	1,350
Carrots	150	9,160 cr.	19,236
Carrots, culls		30½ tons	763
Celery	80	40,904 cr.	96,124
Corn, Sweet	3,134	444,140 cr.	888,280
Cucumbers	7½	2,866 lugs	7,595
Lettuce	1,038	127,753 cr.	447,136
Onions	1,978	1,038,623 sks.	2,025,315
Onions, dehydrated		209,840 sks.	188,856
Peas	2,823	218,804 hamp.	601,711
Peppers, Bell	25	393 cr.	1,376
Potatoes	56,239½	13,764,052 sks.	30,969,117
Potatoes, processed		125,089 sks.	62,545
Potatoes, culls		24,832 tons	49,664
Potatoes, Sweet	516	93,755 lugs	229,700
Spinach	5	1,007 cr.	1,420
Squash, Summer	13½	4,266 lugs	7,466
Tomatoes	765	294,631 lugs	633,457
Tomatoes, processed		440 tons	11,880
Vegetables, misc.	350	350 tons	91,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,583½</b>		<b>36,556,523</b>

1949 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Field Crops</u>			
Alfalfa	55,029	385,203 tons	7,318,857
Alfalfa Seed	139	59,860 lbs.	30,050
Beets, Sugar	3,185	54,757 tons	654,346
Beet Seed, Sugar	455	1,768,423 lbs.	231,663
Cotton	247,000	365,550 bales	54,284,175
Cotton Seed		146,220 tons	6,799,230
Nursery Stock	826		199,274
Permanent Pasture	5,500		962,500
Safflower	20	10 tons	2,000
Silage	645	3,225 tons	48,375
Vegetable Seed	97	61,070 lbs.	54,963
Total	312,896		70,585,433
<u>Apiary Products</u>			
Beeswax		12,000 lbs.	5,100
Honey		370,000 lbs.	29,600
Queen Bees		6,000 ea.	5,400
Total			40,100
<u>Grain, Dry Farm</u>			
Barley	22,495	89,980 sks.	215,952
Oats	2,000	8,000 sks.	26,000
Wheat	35,500	142,000 sks.	497,000
Total	59,995		738,952
<u>Grain, Irrigated</u>			
Barley	39,487	592,305 sks.	1,421,532
Flax	1,540	13,697 sks.	109,576
Grain Hay	2,000	3,000 tons	60,000
Millet	200	1,215 sks.	20,655
Milo	7,734	13,355 tons	667,750
Oats	3,405	51,750 sks.	168,188
Rye	1,000	15,000 sks.	52,500
Sudan	440	880 tons	17,600
Wheat	36,045	540,675 sks.	1,892,363
	91,896		4,410,164

## LIVESTOCK SOLD

	<u>NUMBER OF HEAD</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Purebreds	1,743	528,129
Steers	49,714	9,433,232
Cows and Heifers	35,494	5,057,895
Calves	18,317	1,007,435
Bulls	1,759	395,775
Hides-Cow	24,824	184,939
Hides-Calf	8,634	42,738
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Total		16,650,143
Sheep	12,548	125,480
Lambs	111,000	2,697,300
Wool	1,129,990 lbs.	519,795
Pelts	12,500	18,750
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Total		3,361,325
Hogs	14,804	740,200
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Total	14,804	740,200
Rabbits	330,000	402,600
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Total	330,000	402,600
Chickens	992,244	1,389,142
Ducks	5,150	7,468
Geese	1,500	5,625
Squab	11,200	8,400
Turkeys	91,500	556,320
Eggs	1,620,000 doz.	939,600
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Total		2,906,555
Milk, Market - pounds milk fat	2,861,000 lbs.	3,147,000
Milk, Manufacturing - pounds milk fat	39,000 lbs.	31,200
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Total	2,900,000	<u>3,178,200</u>
Grand Total of all Livestock		27,239,023
Total Acreage of all Crops	563,996	
Total Tonnage of all crops and livestock	1,798,883	
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CROPS INCLUDING LIVESTOCK		153,149,253
Agricultural Conservation Payments		77,000
TOTAL RETURNS TO AGRICULTURE		153,226,253

S U M M A R Y

Acreage

	1948	1949
Fruit and Nut Crops	3,039	3,006
Citrus Fruit	1,491	1,319
Grapes	23,051	24,557
Melons	2,338	2,743 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vegetables	76,966	67,583 $\frac{1}{2}$
Field Crops	287,515	312,896
Grain, Dry Farm	46,500	59,995
Grain, Irrigated	90,945	91,896
	531,895	563,996
Total		

Value

Fruit and Nut Crops	\$ 1,867,151	\$ 2,204,618
Citrus Fruit	627,559	533,101
Grapes	15,787,770	9,765,050
Melons	856,717	1,076,289
Vegetables	44,228,178	36,556,523
Field Crops	67,600,047	70,585,433
Apiculture	43,140	40,100
Grain Dry Farm	1,071,330	738,952
Grain, Irrigated	6,303,985	4,410,164
Beef Cattle	16,882,218	16,650,143
Sheep	3,184,206	3,361,325
Hogs	832,748	740,200
Rabbits	247,500	402,600
Poultry	3,015,523	2,906,555
Dairy Products	4,036,480	3,178,200
	\$ 166,584,552	\$ 153,149,253
Agricultural Conservation Payments	44,202	77,000
TOTAL RETURNS TO AGRICULTURE	\$ 166,628,754	\$ 153,226,253
Total Carlot Shipments	62,185 $\frac{1}{2}$	57,314