

KERN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2610 M. Street, Bakersfield, California

1954

Mr. W. C. Jacobsen
Director
State Department of Agriculture

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kern

In accordance with section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the Annual Crop Report for Kern County. This report covers the acreage, production and value of all crops produced in the county, including live-stock and livestock products. Acreage of permanent crops is reported in actual bearing acres only.

Farming and marketing conditions were favorable throughout the year, and in most cases farmers were rewarded with fair returns. There is a definite tendency toward greater diversification in farming practices, and substantial increases have been recorded in grains, seed crops, alfalfa hay, sugar beets, rice and field corn.

This is the ninth year that cotton has lead all other crops in gross income. Allotments reduced the planted acreage from 319,954 of a year ago to 205,341. As a result growers were inclined to plant only their most productive land to this crop and carry on the best farming practices. This plan paid off with the highest yield per acre ever recorded in the county and no doubt within the state----913 pounds lint. An interesting comparison and food for thought is the fact that in spite of a 36% reduction in acreage, the gross income was reduced by only 13 per cent.

Potatoes were our next most important crop from the standpoint of farm income. After the experience of overproduction in 1953 growers voluntarily reduced their acreage by 22% from 55,729 to 43,273. A marketing order was invoked during the season, better prices prevailed, and gross income from this source was 39% above that received in 1953.

A severe heat wave during the latter part of June damaged some crops, particularly grapes, and gross returns from this crop were not as high as a year ago. Field corn also suffered from the vagaries of Mother Nature. This is a comparatively new crop and it is felt that yields can be considerably improved under more favorable circumstances.

The livestock picture is about the same as last year. This is an exceedingly important industry and represents a substantial portion of our agricultural income.

From 666,668planted acres the return to agriculture amounted to \$224,529,969, which is an increase of \$16,668,728 or 8% above 1953 totals. All prices in our crop report are based on f.o.b. market values and do not represent the net amount received by growers. From this income must be deducted the costs of production and preparation for market.

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to each person who cooperated by making records and data available to us for this annual crop report.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Grimm
Agricultural Commissioner

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1954 ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR KERN COUNTY

CROP ACREAGE - PRODUCTION - VALUE

Compiled by Charles W. Grimm, Agricultural Commissioner

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Deciduous Fruits and Nuts</u>			
Apples	32	4,918 bx.	14,262
Apples		33 1/2 tons	1,089
Apricots	126	1,956 lugs	4,890
Apricots, processed		222 tons	21,090
Berries	40	4,724 cans	22,675
Berries		450 cr.	1,013
Figs	5	2,569 lugs	6,037
Olives	236	187 tons	37,400
Peaches	117	29,029 lugs	129,179
Pears	93	50,830 bx.	109,285
Pears, processed		1,500 bx.	1,200
Persimmons	20	11,554 lugs	26,574
Plums	1,790	534,522 lugs	2,138,088
Pomegranates	20	5,964 lugs	10,139
Prunes	6	821 lugs	2,874
Almonds	47	20 tons	8,000
Pecans	20	14 tons	9,800
Walnuts	7	5 tons	2,875
Total	2,559		2,546,470
<u>Citrus Fruit</u>			
Grapefruit	14	6,119 bx.	5,201
Oranges, Navel	1,093	341,738 bx.	1,418,213
Oranges, Valencia	47	7,526 bx.	15,805
Tangerines	68	20,712 bx.	74,563
Lemons	7	3,000 bx.	3,000
Total	1,229		1,516,782
<u>Grapes</u>			
Table	22,314	4,810,235 lugs	16,835,823
Wine	3,795	72,624 tons	2,904,960
Raisin		1,709 tons	307,620
Zante Currants	10	27 tons	5,670
Grapes, Cannery		7,988 tons	519,220
Total	26,119		20,573,293
<u>Melons</u>			
Watermelons	258	1,148 tons	30,135
Cantaloupes	561	79,439 cr.	242,289
Total	819		272,424

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CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Vegetables</u>			
Asparagus	200	13,345 cr.	78,068
Asparagus, processed		110,927 lbs.	11,093
Beans, Blackeye	1,200	1,469,697 lbs.	139,621
Beans, Fava	20	1,200 hamp.	3,600
Beans, Pink	20	81,982 lbs.	6,149
Beans, String	30	1,500 hamp.	3,375
Carrots	230	2,617 tons	82,566
Celery	34	27,667 cr.	69,168
Celery		385 ton	4,620
Corn, Sweet	3,631	753,884 cr.	1,545,462
Cucumbers	12	2,318 lugs	4,752
Garlic	13	46 tons	8,280
Lettuce	578	75,628 cr.	238,228
Okra	55	200,000 lbs.	27,000
Onions	581	418,338 sks.	502,006
Onions, dehydrator	1,258	20,131 tons	603,930
Peas	3,011	272,742 hamp.	681,855
Potatoes	43,273	9,879,225 sks.	28,155,791
Potatoes, lugs		33,701 lugs.	42,126
Potatoes, processed		223,959 sks.	291,147
Potatoes, seed		105,635 sks.	390,850
Potatoes, culls		89,116 tons	178,232
Potatoes, Sweet	396	138,392 lugs.	325,221
Spinach	80	159 tons	3,180
Squash	18	7,158 lugs	14,316
Tomatoes	378	153,583 lugs	322,524
Total	55,018		33,733,160
<u>Field Crops</u>			
Beans, Castor	349	355 tons	42,600
Beets, Sugar	16,135	385,832 tons	5,015,816
Corn, Broom	107	34 tons	16,320
Cotton	205,341	398,241 bales	66,813,689
Cotton seed, (not planting)		149,796 tons	8,987,760
Flax	250	7,500 bu.	25,125
Hay, Alfalfa	89,224	624,568 tons	14,052,780
Hay, Grain	4,371	12,488 tons	349,664
Nursery Stock	142		355,178
Pasture, Permanent	28,822		3,602,750
Peanuts	373	106 tons	25,016
Popcorn	20	11,500 lbs.	690
Sesame Seed	75	67,132 lbs.	8,056
Silage	2,665	11,280 tons	112,800
Sunflower Seed	160	240,339 lbs.	19,227
Total	348,034		99,427,471

1954 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Seed, Certified</u>			
Alfalfa, Atlantic	1,481	554,969 lbs.	227,537
Alfalfa, Buffalo	2,675	1,086,852 lbs.	423,872
Alfalfa, Caliverde	1,710	636,489 lbs.	216,406
Alfalfa, Narragansett	1,303	379,488 lbs.	178,359
Alfalfa, Ranger	24,025	12,453,599 lbs.	4,981,440
Alfalfa, Vernal	1,292	668,807 lbs.	394,596
Alfalfa, Williamsburg	461	492,489 lbs.	201,920
Barley	165	400,700 lbs.	16,028
Beans, Blackeye	60	81,900 lbs.	11,466
Beans, Mung	16	18,700 lbs.	2,057
Birdsfoot trefoil, Viking	7	1,866 lbs.	1,866
Clover, Kenland Red	160	28,980 lbs.	17,388
Fescue, Goars Tall	50	17,193 lbs.	12,207
Milo, DD 38	95	485,300 lbs.	48,530
Oats	315	279,365 lbs.	19,556
Orchard Grass, Akaroa	28	8,821 lbs.	2,470
Sudan, Piper	617	777,244 lbs.	93,269
Sudan, 23	90	68,200 lbs.	7,502
Wheat	40	86,063 lbs.	4,303
Total	34,590		6,860,772
<u>Seed, Uncertified</u>			
Alfalfa, Buffalo	190	86,012 lbs.	26,664
Alfalfa, Caliverde	306	94,801 lbs.	23,700
Alfalfa, Calif. Common	490	193,462 lbs.	44,496
Alfalfa, DePuits	260	133,893 lbs.	56,905
Alfalfa, Ranger	30	18,144 lbs.	5,806
Alfalfa, Offgrade No. 2		271,554 lbs.	48,880
Barley	180	418,900 lbs.	14,662
Beans, Mung	6	6,080 lbs.	608
Beet, Sugar	334	1,507,924 lbs.	182,459
Blue Grass, Merion	50	15,940 lbs.	44,632
Cotton seed, planting		9,500 tons	1,254,000
Milo DD 38	160	713,793 lbs.	42,828
Oats	10	8,820 lbs.	441
Orchard Grass, Akaroa	23	7,290 lbs.	1,823
Peas, English	30	17,175 lbs.	2,576
Sudan, Piper	70	69,454 lbs.	6,945
Sudan, Sweet	320	391,925 lbs.	39,193
Wheat, Ramona 44	20	37,600 lbs.	1,880
Total	2,479		1,798,498
<u>Grain</u>			
Barley	87,643	95,661 tons	4,304,745
Corn, Field	26,018	52,579 tons	3,417,635
Milo	28,808	59,728 tons	3,046,128
Oats	165	126 tons	7,182
Rice	8,078	12,990 tons	1,221,060
Wheat	45,109	24,610 tons	1,722,700
Total	195,821		13,719,450

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LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

	<u>NUMBER OF HEAD</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Purebreds	1,215	380,000
Steers	131,841	21,484,809
Cows and Heifers	72,553	8,325,457
Calves	8,648	492,936
Bulls	2,257	363,535
Hides-Cow	86,059	193,633
Hides-Calf	9,615	9,615
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Total		31,249,985
Sheep	7,500	60,000
Lambs	158,000	3,270,600
Wool	1,662,000 lbs.	897,480
Pelts	9,200	19,320
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Total		4,247,400
Hogs	9,965	515,191
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Total	9,965	515,191
Rabbits	96,000	76,800
Pelts	33,600	2,520
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Total		79,320
Chickens	345,000	431,250
Fryers	378,000	302,400
Ducks	5,000	7,500
Geese	2,520	6,300
Squab	11,000	8,800
Turkeys	61,320	380,184
Eggs	6,900,000 doz.	2,967,000
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Total		4,103,434
Milk, Market - pounds milk fat	3,068,000 lbs.	3,445,364
Milk, Manufacturing - pounds milk fat	43,000 lbs.	36,507
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Total		3,481,871
Grand Total of All Livestock		43,677,201
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<u>Apiary Products</u>		
Beeswax	22,681 lbs.	10,206
Honey	3,402,200 lbs.	374,242
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Total		384,448

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SUMMARY

Acreage

	1953	1954
Deciduous Fruits and Nuts	2,604	2,559
Citrus Fruits	1,264	1,229
Grapes	25,801	26,119
Melons	566	819
Vegetables	63,828	55,018
Field Crops	429,991	348,034
Seed, Certified	27,582	34,590
Seed, Uncertified	751	2,479
Grain	106,888	195,821
Total	659,275	666,668

Value

Deciduous Fruits and Nuts	\$ 2,695,336	\$ 2,546,470
Citrus Fruits	836,792	1,516,782
Grapes	22,996,820	20,573,293
Melons	431,593	272,424
Vegetables	24,949,725	33,733,160
Field Crops	102,599,707	99,427,471
Seed, Certified	4,258,709	6,860,772
Seed, Uncertified	1,782,942	1,798,498
Grain	4,670,070	13,719,450
Beef Cattle	28,938,016	31,249,985
Sheep	3,659,535	4,247,400
Hogs	522,548	515,191
Rabbits	123,360	79,320
Poultry	5,482,426	4,103,434
Dairy Products	3,621,470	3,481,871
Apiary Products	206,192	384,448
Total	\$207,775,241	\$ 224,509,969
Agricultural Conservation Payments	86,000	20,000
TOTAL RETURNS TO AGRICULTURE	\$207,861,241	\$ 224,529,969
Total Carlot Shipments	55,436	65,178