

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

1956

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 livestock and livestock products. Acreage of permanent crops is reported in actual bearing acres only.

Conditions can never be absolutely perfect for all crops throughout our long growing season, but 1956 should go down in the records as a year when Mother Nature cooperated to her fullest extent. Other than one storm early in the fall which lowered the grade of alfalfa seed remaining to be harvested, the overall conditions for agriculture were favorable. As a result our leading crop, cotton, had another record yield of 1106 pounds lint per acre. This compares to 943 pounds lint in 1955, 913 in 1954, 738 in 1953 and 698 pounds lint per acre in 1952. From an only slightly increased acreage Kern County farmers produced 21 per cent more cotton than a year ago. It is certainly a tribute to our growers and the cotton industry as a whole.

Farmers with early potatoes had a banner year and one that will long be remembered. The planted acreage was considered just about right for this district, the crop was excellent, and prices were what the growers had been looking forward to for several seasons. From an acreage only 2 per cent higher than a year ago the gross returns were increased by 52 per cent.

Grapes remained the third largest money making crop in the county. Returns were less than the previous year because of a reduction in acreage and a lighter yield per acre.

Alfalfa acreage increased 16 per cent, but gross returns were less than last year because of lower prices. Net returns to growers will be reduced to an even greater extent because of the additional expense for control measures on spotted alfalfa aphid.

Livestock production was decreased from a year ago and total returns indicate a gross return of 10 per cent less than last year.

From 665,970 planted acres the return to agriculture amounted to \$233,263,728, an increase of 13 per cent above 1955 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 are extended to each person who cooperated by making records and data available to us for this annual crop report.

Respectfully submitted,

  
C. SELDON MORLEY  
Agricultural Commissioner

Cover photo courtesy California Fruit Exchange

## 1956 ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR KERN COUNTY

## CROP ACREAGE - PRODUCTION - VALUE

C. Seldon Morley, Agricultural Commissioner

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Deciduous Fruits and Nuts</u>			
Apples	24	2,319 bx.	4,638
Apricots	112	2,150 lugs	5,375
Apricots, processed		191 tons	17,190
Berries	43	2,654 cr.	7,564
Berries		1,911 cans	12,708
Figs	9	720 flats	1,620
Nectarines	1	1,361 lugs	6,805
Olives	228	549 tons	98,820
Peaches	137	56,470 lugs	217,410
Pears	89	64,266 bx.	231,358
Pears, processed		3,412 bx.	5,118
Persimmons	13	9,324 lugs	23,310
Plums	1,529	649,052 lugs	2,271,682
Pomegranates	17	1,365 lugs	1,229
Prunes	8	2,782 lugs	5,703
Almonds	92	17 tons	10,200
Pecans	11	5 tons	3,500
Walnuts	3	2 tons	1,100
Total	2,316		2,925,330
<u>Citrus Fruit</u>			
Grapefruit	6	2,100 fld. bx.	2,625
Oranges, Navel	1,056	54,065 ctn.	135,163
Oranges, Navel		377,908 fld. bx.	680,234
Oranges, Valencia	43	22,450 fld. bx.	39,288
Tangerines	28	15,187 lugs	37,968
Lemons	8	1,000 fld. bx.	4,000
Total	1,141		899,278
<u>Grapes</u>			
Table	19,489	5,273,172 lugs	14,237,564
Wine	3,205	79,182 tons	2,771,370
Raisin		2,485 tons	472,150
Zante Currants	10	18 tons	5,220
Grapes, cannery		12,714 tons	762,840
Total	22,704		18,249,144
<u>Melons</u>			
Cantaloupes	1,892	300,471 cr.	1,006,578
Crenshaw	53	6,916 cr.	25,935
Honeydew	298	114,140 cr.	222,573
Persian	31	15,979 cr.	47,937
Watermelons	237	2,362 tons	96,842
Total	2,511		1,399,865

1956 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Vegetables</u>			
Asparagus	107	3,586 cr.	21,337
Asparagus, processed		213 tons	76,680
Beans, Blackeye	1,649	19,724 sks.	149,902
Beans, Fava	180	1,800 sks.	16,200
Beans, Lima	216	4,405 sks.	44,050
Beans, Pink	37	580 sks.	5,220
Beans, Red	12	120 sks.	1,020
Beans, Soy	69	834 sks.	6,672
Cabbage	213	18,781 cr.	28,172
Carrots	44	528 tons	14,520
Corn, Hominy	20	60,757 lbs.	2,430
Corn, Sweet	3,046	607,934 cr.	1,337,455
Cucumbers	150	811 tons	48,660
Garlic	2	129 sks.	1,226
Garlic, dehydrator	185	1,018 tons	184,258
Lettuce	1,034	32,557 cr.	102,555
Lettuce		154,341 ctn.	501,608
Okra	60	200 tons	54,000
Onions	687	411,178 sks.	1,110,181
Onions, dehydrator	1,395	23,018 tons	698,596
Peas	1,907	182,517 hamps.	574,929
Peas, processed		40 tons	8,000
Potatoes	52,216	11,308,945 sks.	46,366,675
Potatoes, processed		641,036 sks.	2,339,781
Potatoes, processed		147,710 sks.	118,168
Potatoes, seed		162,983 sks.	562,291
Potatoes, cull		54,436 tons	136,090
Potatoes, Sweet	305	99,172 lugs	183,468
Pumpkin	2	10 tons	600
Radishes	25	2,648 lugs	5,958
Squash, Banana	5	50 tons	2,000
Squash, Summer	85	8,757 lugs	13,136
Tomatoes	68	73,246 lugs	142,830
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,719</b>		<b>54,858,668</b>
<u>Field and Forage Crops</u>			
Beans, Castor	693	870 tons	130,500
Beets, Sugar	10,771	256,986 tons	2,955,339
Cotton	180,046	417,948 bales	68,597,805
Cotton seed, (not planting)		155,085 tons	9,844,796
Flax	300	11,100 bu.	41,070
Hay, Alfalfa	114,023	731,273 tons	14,698,587
Hay, Grain	12,430	28,933 tons	766,725
Nursery stock	210		517,494
Pasture, Permanent	22,043		2,204,300
Peanuts	439	241 tons	91,580
Safflower	220	220 tons	16,500
Silage	2,181	35,019 tons	175,095
Stubble, grazing	12,865		32,163
Sunflower seed	36	63 tons	13,860
<b>Total</b>	<b>356,257</b>		<b>100,085,814</b>

1956

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Seed, Certified</u>			
Alfalfa, Atlantic	1,561	604,763 lbs.	214,691
Alfalfa, Buffalo	1,544	877,093 lbs.	324,524
Alfalfa, Caliverde	220	116,259 lbs.	32,553
Alfalfa, DuPuits	1,189	509,794 lbs.	191,173
Alfalfa, Lahontan	772	307,785 lbs.	153,893
Alfalfa, Narragansett	1,248	464,920 lbs.	227,811
Alfalfa, Ranger	37,680	19,180,037 lbs.	6,521,213
Alfalfa, Vernal	2,178	727,929 lbs.	349,406
Alfalfa, Williamsburg	475	335,442 lbs.	117,405
Barley, Arivat	50	80,900 lbs.	4,045
Barley, Mariout	20	88,000 lbs.	2,332
Beans, Blackeye No. 5	210	164,220 lbs.	16,422
Birdsfoot trefoil, Viking	14	10,324 lbs.	10,324
Bluegrass, Merion	65	38,285 lbs.	86,141
Clover, Kenland Red	523	125,569 lbs.	47,716
Clover, Pennscott Red	336	192,058 lbs.	76,823
Fescue, Goars Tall	87	59,478 lbs.	13,680
Milo, DD 38	359	494,228 lbs.	34,596
Oats, Kanota	13	14,200 lbs.	710
Orchard Grass, Potomac	20	11,560 lbs.	6,936
Sudan, Piper	160	329,429 lbs.	19,766
Sudan, 23	160	69,200 lbs.	4,844
Rice, Caloro	16	70,850 lbs.	3,543
Wheat, Ramona 50	40	86,681 lbs.	4,767
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,940</b>		<b>8,465,314</b>
<u>Seed, Uncertified</u>			
Alfalfa, Caliverde		71,440 lbs.	18,574
Alfalfa, DuPuits		70,465 lbs.	21,140
Alfalfa, Lahontan		46,792 lbs.	16,377
Alfalfa, Narragansett		10,507 lbs.	3,677
Alfalfa, Ranger		450,532 lbs.	126,149
Alfalfa, Vernal		52,570 lbs.	22,079
Alfalfa, California Common	5,850	1,754,187 lbs.	438,547
Alfalfa, No. 2		1,588,663 lbs.	111,206
Alfalfa, screenings		2,036 tons	61,854
Barley	68	102,681 lbs.	4,107
Beans, Fava	10	10,228 lbs.	511
Beans, Mackie Lima	55	74,500 lbs.	7,450
Beans, Soy	11	37,582 lbs.	3,758
Beet, Sugar	302	1,064,875 lbs.	128,850
Bluegrass, Merion Kentucky	152	90,000 lbs.	144,000
Canary Grass	60	56,000 lbs.	5,040
Carrot	28	4,004 lbs.	1,802
Clover, Kenland Red	210	52,739 lbs.	18,459
Clover, Sour		195,036 lbs.	11,702
Cotton seed, planting		12,094 tons	1,632,690
Lettuce	15	13,700 lbs.	13,700
Milo	20	20,755 lbs.	830
Peas, English	20	34,000 lbs.	2,720
Rye	10	11,073 lbs.	664
Sudan	124	191,802 lbs.	7,672
Wheat	100	101,714 lbs.	4,069
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,035</b>		<b>2,807,627</b>

1956 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	VALUE
<u>Grain, Irrigated</u>			
Barley	47,532	62,356 tons	2,743,664
Corn, Field	11,042	29,396 tons	1,763,760
Milo	36,380	91,762 tons	4,771,624
Oats	937	1,093 tons	63,394
Rice	4,069	7,124 tons	569,920
Wheat	11,041	12,396 tons	793,344
Total	111,001		10,705,706
<u>Grain, Dry Farm</u>			
Barley	28,469	22,249 tons	978,956
Oats	40	25 tons	1,450
Wheat	21,837	8,765 tons	560,960
Total	50,346		1,541,366
<u>Apiary Products</u>			
Beeswax		27,464 lbs.	16,478
Honey		4,119,560 lbs.	535,543
Total			552,021

1956

## LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

	<u>NUMBER OF HEAD</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Purebreds	431	143,234
Steers	104,967	12,428,093
Cows and Heifers	63,698	6,076,789
Calves	4,188	226,152
Bulls	1,108	187,252
Hides, Cow	45,709	185,121
Hides, Calf	2,874	17,244
Fertilizer		211,116
<hr/>		
Total		19,475,001
Sheep	11,971	95,768
Lambs	171,700	3,322,395
Wool	1,867,000 lbs.	728,130
Pelts	17,400	32,190
<hr/>		
Total		4,178,483
Hogs	7,849	228,406
<hr/>		
Total		228,406
Chickens	173,000	259,500
Fryers	737,000	589,600
Ducks	2,500	3,750
Geese	5,000	12,500
Squab	11,200	8,960
Turkeys	60,060	357,357
Eggs	3,460,000 doz.	1,453,200
<hr/>		
		2,684,867
Rabbits, domestic	78,060	91,330
Pelts	36,000	2,700
<hr/>		
Total		94,030
Fur bearing animals and pelts		60,510
<hr/>		
Total		60,510
Milk, Market - pounds milk fat	3,570,000 lbs.	4,034,000
Milk, Manufacturing - pounds milk fat	10,000 lbs.	8,500
<hr/>		
Total		<u>4,042,500</u>
<hr/>		
Grand Total of All Livestock and Livestock Products		30,763,797

1956

## SUMMARY

Acreage

	1955	1956
Deciduous Fruits and Nuts	2,614	2,316
Citrus Fruits	1,191	1,141
Grapes	26,085	22,704
Melons	774	2,511
Vegetables	63,974	63,719
Field and Forage Crops	321,734	356,257
Seed, Certified	55,446	48,940
Seed, Uncertified	6,307	7,035
Grain	182,465	161,347
<b>Total</b>	<b>660,590</b>	<b>665,970</b>

Value

Deciduous Fruits and Nuts	\$ 3,483,317	\$ 2,925,330
Citrus Fruits	1,713,630	899,278
Grapes	18,705,788	18,249,144
Melons	492,193	1,399,865
Vegetables	37,210,373	54,858,668
Field and Forage Crops	86,715,114	100,085,814
Seed, Certified	7,867,190	8,465,314
Seed, Uncertified	2,260,125	2,807,627
Grain	13,122,926	12,247,072
Apiary Products	606,045	552,021
Beef Cattle	22,324,453	19,475,001
Sheep	4,400,470	4,178,483
Hogs	178,282	228,406
Poultry	3,790,140	2,684,867
Rabbits	178,282	94,030
Fur bearing animals and pelts		60,510
Dairy Products	3,520,100	4,042,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 206,467,621</b>	<b>\$ 233,253,930</b>
Agricultural Conservation Payments	5,491	9,798

---

<b>TOTAL RETURNS TO AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>\$ 206,473,112</b>	<b>\$ 233,263,728</b>
-------------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

Total Carlot Shipments	71,874	69,392
------------------------	--------	--------