

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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1969

Jerry W. Fielder, Director
California Department of Agriculture

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kern



The Annual Crop Report for the County of Kern is submitted in accordance with Section 2279 of the Agricultural Code. The values quoted are gross FOB figures and do not represent net income to the farmers of this county.

The estimated value of all crops produced during 1969 is \$320,166,910, which is \$4,777,250 less than the 1968 total of \$324,944,160.

Cattle and calves moved into top position on the list of most valuable crops. A greater number of head were marketed compared with the prior year, along with an increase in total weight gained and price per pound. The total valuation is \$65,296,000.

Cotton growers experienced a difficult year. Harvested acreage increased to 178,000, but yield lint per acre is down 16% and the price per pound the lowest since 1945. The Farm and Home Advisor's Office has estimated the net production cost to grow cotton in Kern County is \$382.00, and our report indicates the gross return to farmers in 1969 is approximately \$278.00 per acre. The tremendous cost-price squeeze is clearly evident in this important crop, and similar situations are true throughout the agricultural industry. The total estimated value of cotton is \$49,496,000, a decrease of 19% from the 1968 crop which amounted to \$61,311,000.

Total value of grapes is only slightly above the previous year on increased acreage and tonnage produced. Price per ton received decreased by 25% from \$132.92 to \$100.08. Kern County table grape growers did a fine job of marketing their product under extenuating circumstances, but some growers are indicating it may be necessary for them to change their cultural practices to winery grapes because of continued high production and labor costs plus labor difficulties.

Potato growers had another unprofitable year. The season was unusually late because of weather conditions and shipments were behind normal from the start until completion of harvest which caused growers to ship later in July than in any previous year. It is estimated one-third of the late spring production moved during July, and this was a contributing factor to the poorer than usual quality of late offerings. Harvested acres increased from 38,800 to 41,940, but value decreased from \$41,505,400 to \$36,309,500.

Twenty-eight commodities listed in this report have an estimated value of over one million dollars each. The list varies some from year to year, but changes could become more evident as farm operations switch to high gross income crops in order to stay ahead of production costs.

We appreciate the cooperation of Kern County growers and all others who contributed toward the compilation of the 1969 Agricultural Crop Report.

C. Seldon Morley
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James W. Stockton
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

Jesse E. Bridges
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Robert A. Edwards
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

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L. B. Krauter, Tehachapi
William H. Lewis, Mettler Station
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Trappers

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Office

Alice B. Cook, Senior Secretary
Barbara R. Proctor, Stenographer Clerk I

Lucille M. Hunter, Account Clerk II
Ila M. Moon, Account Clerk I

Report compiled by Alice B. Cook

1969

PERMANENT ACREAGE

	Bearing	Non-bearing	Total
Almonds	1,410	12,225	13,635
Apples	176	952	1,128
Apricots	10	151	161
Avocados	--	86	86
Cherries	2	2	4
Figs	1	261	262
Grapefruit	4	--	4
Grapes, Raisin	21,852	108	21,960
Table	11,185	90	11,275
Wine	6,035	98	6,133
All	39,072	296	39,368
Lemons	--	1,069	1,069
Nectarines	210	220	430
Olives	220	81	301
Oranges, Navel	3,911	6,832	10,743
Valencia	1,549	2,242	3,791
Tangerines	237	135	372
Tangelos	62	466	528
Peaches, Clingstone	756	235	991
Freestone	1,139	592	1,731
Pears	319	95	414
Pecans	--	4	4
Persimmons	10	--	10
Pistachios	2	240	242
Plums	1,918	239	2,157
Pomegranates	88	6	94
Prunes	--	304	304
Quince	--	3	3
Walnuts	3	224	227

FIELD CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Barley	1969	92,100	1.39	128,000	ton	\$ 52.00	\$ 6,656,000
	1968	125,000	1.51	189,000	ton	42.30	7,995,000
Beans, dry edible	1969	8,750	1.06	9,280	ton	210.00	1,949,000
	1968	16,800	0.923	15,500	ton	160.00	2,480,000
Corn, Field	1969	2,000	1.99	3,980	ton	51.50	205,000
	1968	3,500	2.02	7,070	ton	50.00	354,000
Cotton Lint	1969	178,000	a/1009	b/375,000	bale	c/.2326	43,612,000
	1968*	173,700	a/1195	b/433,310	bale	c/.2425	52,539,000
Cottonseed	1969			144,400	ton	38.50	5,559,000
	1968*			167,180	ton	50.00	8,359,000
Cottonseed, planting	1969			5,600	ton	58.00	325,000
	1968			5,820	ton	71.00	413,000
Hay, Alfalfa	1969	118,000	8.46	998,000	ton	28.40	28,343,000
	1968	115,000	8.60	989,000	ton	26.50	26,208,000
Grain	1969	12,500	3.24	40,500	ton	30.80	1,247,000
	1968	13,400	3.65	48,900	ton	30.00	1,467,000
Other tame	1969	2,100	6.67	14,000	ton	24.50	343,000
	1968	2,360	6.48	15,300	ton	24.20	370,000
Oats	1969	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
	1968	395	1.95	770	ton	50.00	38,500
Pasture, Irrigated	1969	23,400	xx	xx	acre	100.00	2,340,000
	1968	19,100	xx	xx	acre	100.00	1,910,000
Other	1969	56,700	xx	xx	acre	10.00	567,000
	1968	46,800	xx	xx	acre	9.00	421,000
Range	1969	2,627,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,627,000
	1968	2,658,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,658,000
Peanuts	1969	718	0.964	692	ton	406.00	281,000
	1968	710	0.993	705	ton	397.00	280,000

- a. Pounds lint per acre
b. 500 lb. gross weight bales
c. Price per pound

FIELD CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Rice	1969	2,400	2.50	6,000	ton	\$100.00	\$ 600,000
	1968*	2,700	2.20	5,940	ton	100.00	594,000
Safflower	1969	6,150	1.48	9,100	ton	77.50	705,000
	1968	5,280	1.31	6,920	ton	71.00	491,000
Silage	1969	3,000	20.00	60,000	ton	6.00	360,000
	1968	3,030	24.80	75,100	ton	4.75	357,000
Sorghum grain	1969	45,000	1.88	84,600	ton	47.00	3,976,000
	1968	30,000	1.76	52,800	ton	42.00	2,218,000
Sugar beets	1969	29,200	23.40	683,000	ton	12.00	8,196,000
	1968	33,700	23.20	782,000	ton	12.10	9,462,000
Wheat	1969	25,000	0.96	24,000	ton	48.00	1,152,000
	1968	21,000	0.93	19,500	ton	46.00	897,000
Miscellaneous	1969	715	xx	xx		xx	105,000
	1968	158	xx	xx		xx	21,000
TOTAL	1969	605,733 2,627,000 Range					\$109,148,000
	1968	612,633 2,658,000 Range					119,532,500

*Revised

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa, Ranger	1969	1,170	302	353,000	lb.	\$.385	\$ 136,000
	1968	1,720	366	630,000	lb.	.38	239,000
Proprietary and Other Varieties	1969	5,850	208	1,217,000	lb.	.42	511,000
	1968	4,130	348	1,437,000	lb.	.42	604,000
Barley	1969	689	2,830	1,950,000	lb.	.036	70,200
	1968	991	3,040	3,013,000	lb.	.04	121,000
Cowpeas, Blackeye	1969	582	2,660	1,548,000	lb.	.11	170,000
	1968	393	2,170	853,000	lb.	.08	68,200
Oats	1969	405	2,590	1,049,000	lb.	.055	57,700
	1968	192	1,380	265,000	lb.	.036	9,540
Wheat	1969	192	1,340	257,000	lb.	.029	7,450
	1968	352	1,380	486,000	lb.	.04	19,400
Miscellaneous	1969	40	xx	69,600	lb.	xx	23,000
	1968	44	xx	82,100	lb.	xx	14,000
TOTAL	1969	8,928					\$ 975,350
	1968	7,822					1,075,140

NONCERTIFIED SEED CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa, Common and Other Varieties	1969	6,470	202	1,307,000	lb.	\$.38	\$ 497,000
	1968	6,580	352	2,316,000	lb.	.39	903,000
Grain (Barley Oats Wheat)	1969	878	xx	2,458,000	lb.	.04	98,300
	1968	470	xx	1,250,000	lb.	.028	35,000
Cowpeas, Blackeye	1969	45	1,800	81,000	lb.	.10	8,100
	1968	1,690	2,000	3,380,000	lb.	.06	203,000
Vegetable	1969	260	xx	253,000	lb.	.164	41,500
	1968	512	xx	568,000	lb.	.262	149,000
Miscellaneous	1969	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
	1968	222	xx	502,000	lb.	xx	175,000
Screenings and Cleanings	1969	xx	xx	445	ton	18.00	8,010
	1968	xx	xx	1,630	ton	16.50	26,900
TOTAL	1969	7,653					\$ 652,910
	1968	9,474					1,491,900

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beans, Snap	1969	369	2.00	738	ton	\$285.00	\$ 210,000
	1968	336	3.48	1,170	ton	245.00	287,000
Carrots	1969	3,780	22.40	84,700	ton	54.00	4,574,000
	1968	2,280	18.70	42,600	ton	45.00	1,917,000
Corn, Sweet	1969	1,740	2.50	4,350	ton	130.00	566,000
	1968	1,920	4.27	8,200	ton	136.00	1,115,000
Cucumbers, processed	1969	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
	1968	560	7.86	4,400	ton	87.00	383,000
Garlic	1969	1,070	5.00	5,350	ton	110.00	588,000
	1968	815	5.85	4,770	ton	122.00	582,000
Lettuce	1969	2,470	11.90	29,400	ton	140.00	4,116,000
	1968	2,220	12.70	28,200	ton	75.00	2,115,000
Melons Cantaloupe	1969	4,870	6.02	29,300	ton	95.00	2,784,000
	1968	5,120	8.98	46,000	ton	116.00	5,336,000
Other Melons	1969	773	4.29	3,320	ton	103.00	342,000
	1968	960	9.89	9,490	ton	143.00	1,357,000
Watermelons	1969	3,580	11.20	40,100	ton	31.00	1,243,000
	1968	2,870	21.40	61,400	ton	40.00	2,456,000
<u>ONIONS, TOTAL</u>	1969	5,850	22.70	132,800	ton	55.98	7,434,000
	1968	6,410	22.57	144,700	ton	43.93	6,357,000
Dry	1969	2,130	27.40	58,400	ton	82.70	4,830,000
	1968	2,070	26.90	55,700	ton	61.40	3,420,000
Dehydrator	1969	3,720	20.00	74,400	ton	35.00	2,604,000
	1968	4,340	20.50	89,000	ton	33.00	2,937,000
Peas	1969	421	0.65	274	ton	300.00	82,200
	1968	284	1.39	395	ton	232.00	91,600
Peppers, processed	1969	365	9.15	3,340	ton	111.00	371,000
	1968	652	8.48	5,530	ton	74.00	409,000
Potatoes, Sweet	1969	325	3.07	998	ton	121.00	121,000
	1968	294	5.68	1,670	ton	146.00	244,000

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
<u>POTATOES, TOTAL</u>	1969	41,940	17.65	740,280	ton	\$ 49.05	\$36,309,500
	1968	38,800	18.40	714,110	ton	58.12	41,505,400
Late Spring, <u>TOTAL</u>	1969	37,500	18.62	698,300	ton	48.72	34,023,000
	1968	35,000	19.44	680,500	ton	58.38	39,728,000
Fresh Market	1969			479,000	ton	56.00	26,824,000
	1968			485,000	ton	70.00	33,950,000
Processed	1969			123,000	ton	55.40	6,814,000
	1968			124,000	ton	44.00	5,456,000
Culls	1969			96,300	ton	4.00	385,000
	1968			71,500	ton	4.50	322,000
<u>Winter, TOTAL</u>	1969	4,440	9.45	41,980	ton	54.47	2,286,500
	1968	3,800	8.84	33,610	ton	52.88	1,777,400
Fresh Market	1969			36,100	ton	62.70	2,263,000
	1968			29,300	ton	60.00	1,758,000
Culls	1969			5,880	ton	4.00	23,500
	1968			4,310	ton	4.50	19,400
<u>TOMATOES, TOTAL</u>	1969	2,067	21.34	44,100	ton	33.06	1,458,000
	1968	4,613	18.07	83,350	ton	43.50	3,626,000
Fresh Market	1969	197	8.12	1,600	ton	189.00	302,000
	1968	203	11.10	2,250	ton	224.00	504,000
Processed	1969	1,870	22.70	42,500	ton	27.20	1,156,000
	1968	4,410	18.40	81,100	ton	38.50	3,122,000
Miscellaneous	1969	2,820	xx	14,000	ton	xx	1,328,000
(Asparagus,	1968	1,500	xx	4,650	ton	xx	651,000
(fresh and processed							
(Beans, snap, processed							
(Cabbage							
(Cucumbers, processed							
(Peas, processed							
(Peppers							
(Squash							
<u>TOTAL</u>	1969	72,440					\$61,526,700
	1968	69,634					68,432,000

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds	1969*	1,410	1.57	2,210	ton	\$1120.00	\$ 2,475,000
	1968*	763	1.12	854	ton	1030.00	880,000
Apples	1969*	176	18.20	3,200	ton	161.00	515,000
	1968	172	5.21	896	ton	254.00	228,000
<u>GRAPES, TOTAL**</u>	1969	39,072	9.78	381,954	ton	100.08	38,225,000
	1968	37,963	7.52	285,295	ton	132.92	37,921,000
<u>Raisin Varieties</u>	1969	21,852					
	1968	21,525					
Fresh Market	1969			58,900	ton	252.00	14,843,000
	1968			68,000	ton	267.00	18,156,000
Raisins, dry weight**	1969			3,720	ton	255.00	949,000
	1968			5,070	ton	260.00	1,318,000
Processed	1969			27,800	ton	62.50	1,738,000
	1968			15,900	ton	64.00	1,018,000
Crushed	1969			107,000	ton	39.50	4,226,000
	1968			63,400	ton	38.00	2,409,000
<u>Table Varieties</u>	1969	11,185					
	1968	10,829					
Fresh Market	1969			43,500	ton	250.00	10,875,000
	1968			39,700	ton	297.00	11,791,000
Crushed	1969			62,400	ton	33.80	2,109,000
	1968			28,000	ton	31.50	882,000
<u>Wine Varieties</u>	1969	6,035					
	1968	5,609					
Crushed	1969			67,400	ton	51.70	3,485,000
	1968			48,900	ton	48.00	2,347,000

* Includes production from young orchards officially classified as non-bearing.
Almond production and unit value in terms of meat equivalents.

**Total production includes raisins on a fresh equivalent basis.

Dry ratio: 1969 - 4.02 to 1 = 14,954 tons

1968 - 4.22 to 1 = 21,395 tons

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Nectarines	1969	210	3.63	762	ton	\$445.00	\$ 339,000
	1968	194	4.54	881	ton	402.00	354,000
Olives	1969	220	1.33	293	ton	345.00	101,000
	1968	217	2.87	623	ton	361.00	225,000
<u>ORANGES, ALL</u>	1969	5,759	10.03	57,770	ton	117.79	6,804,500
	1968	4,470	13.60	60,800	ton	102.22	6,214,800
<u>Navel</u>	1969	3,911	8.92				
	1968	3,126	13.15				
Fresh	1969			31,100	ton	150.00	4,665,000
	1968			39,400	ton	122.00	4,807,000
Processed	1969			3,790	ton	7.52	28,500
	1968			1,700	ton	13.00	22,100
<u>Valencia</u>	1969	1,549	13.97				
	1968	1,104	16.23				
Fresh	1969			13,900	ton	124.00	1,724,000
	1968			12,100	ton	84.00	1,016,000
Processed	1969			7,740	ton	18.00	139,000
	1968			5,820	ton	8.20	47,700
Tangerines and Tangelos	1969	299	4.15	1,240	ton	200.00	248,000
	1968	240	7.42	1,780	ton	181.00	322,000
<u>PEACHES, ALL</u>	1969	1,895	9.05	17,150	ton	174.17	2,987,000
	1968	1,531	9.35	14,310	ton	224.95	3,219,000
Fresh	1969			7,940	ton	295.00	2,342,000
	1968			6,960	ton	378.00	2,631,000
Processed	1969			9,210	ton	70.00	645,000
	1968			7,350	ton	80.00	588,000
<u>PEARS, ALL</u>	1969	319	5.31	1,693	ton	153.04	259,100
	1968*	301	6.23	1,874	ton	164.89	309,000
Fresh	1969			825	ton	219.00	181,000
	1968			875	ton	219.00	192,000
Processed	1969			868	ton	90.00	78,100
	1968*			999	ton	117.00	117,000

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Plums	1969	1,918	2.69	5,160	ton	\$428.00	\$ 2,208,000
	1968	1,695	2.91	3,930	ton	385.00	1,898,000
Pomegranates	1969	88	6.52	574	ton	242.00	139,000
	1968*	88	5.00	440	ton	230.00	101,000
Miscellaneous	1969	32	xx	1,100	ton	xx	98,800
(Apples, processed)	1968	133	xx	645	ton	xx	173,000
(Apricots)							
(Grapefruit)							
(Kiwi)							
(Lemons)							
(Persimmons)							
(Plums, processed)							
(Walnuts)							
TOTAL	1969	51,099					\$54,151,400
	1968*	47,527					51,522,800

NURSERY PRODUCTS	YEAR	ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
Citrus Trees	1969	21	39,000	plant	\$2.00	\$ 78,000
	1968	58	165,000	plant	2.25	371,000
Trees and Shrubs	1969	150	837,000	plant	.63	527,000
	1968	122	721,000	plant	.60	433,000
Rose Plants	1969	1,000	13,834,000	plant	.35	4,842,000
	1968	821	11,766,000	plant	.35	4,118,000
Plants,	1969	208	xx		xx	576,000
Propagative	1968	220	xx		xx	256,000
Material and						
Cut Flowers						
TOTAL	1969	1,379				\$6,023,000
	1968	1,221				5,178,000

APIARY PRODUCTS	YEAR	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		TOTAL			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	1969	898,000		lb.	\$.13	\$117,000
	1968	575,000		lb.	.11	63,200
Beeswax	1969	15,000		lb.	.65	9,750
	1968	9,600		lb.	.70	6,720
Pollination	1969	13,100		colony	5.00	65,500
	1968	12,300		colony	4.00	49,200
TOTAL	1969					\$192,250
	1968					119,120

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	YEAR	NO. OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			TOTAL	LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle and calves	1969	368,000	2,332,000		cwt.	\$28.00	\$65,296,000
	1968	355,000	2,179,000		cwt.	25.60	55,782,000
Sheep and lambs	1969	194,000	192,000		cwt.	26.80	5,146,000
	1968	192,000	189,000		cwt.	24.40	4,612,000
Hogs	1969	2,930	5,910		cwt.	24.20	143,000
	1968	2,600	5,200		cwt.	20.00	104,000
Horses and misc. animals	1969	xx	xx			xx	xx
	1968	xx	xx			xx	719,000
Fryers	1969	787,000	2,361,000		lb.	.173	408,000
	1968	723,000	2,168,000		lb.	.172	373,000
Chickens, other	1969	346,000	1,385,000		lb.	.095	132,000
	1968	361,000	1,624,000		lb.	.05	81,200
Turkeys	1969	467,000	9,462,000		lb.	.24	2,271,000
	1968	544,000	11,013,000		lb.	.20	2,203,000
Rabbits	1969	10,500	42,000		lb.	.286	12,000
	1968	9,500	38,000		lb.	.275	10,400
Game birds and Squab	1969	xx	xx			xx	65,700
	1968	xx	xx			xx	87,100
TOTAL	1969						\$73,473,700
	1968						63,971,700

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS			VALUE		
	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Milk					
Market	1969	2,110,000	cwt.	\$4.77	\$10,065,000
	1968*	2,133,000	cwt.	4.63	9,876,000
Manufacturing	1969	3,240	cwt.	4.19	13,600
	1968*	2,660	cwt.	4.12	11,000
Wool	1969	1,670,000	lb.	.40	668,000
	1968	1,657,000	lb.	.39	646,000
Eggs, chicken	1969	7,063,000	doz.	.464	3,277,000
Market	1968	7,574,000	doz.	.393	2,977,000
Miscellaneous	1969	xx		xx	xx
	1968	xx		xx	111,000
TOTAL	1969				\$14,023,600
	1968*				13,621,000

JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY, 1969-1970
(In number of head)

ITEM	January 1, 1969	January 1, 1970
*All cattle and calves	362,900	376,000
* Cattle on feed	120,000	121,000
* Milk cows, two years and over	20,800	21,200
*Stock sheep and lambs	147,700	168,100
*Hogs	5,000	4,800
Hens and pullets of laying age	429,000	413,000

*Estimates of California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

S U M M A R Y

		<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED VALUE</u>
Field Crops and Rangeland	1969	605,733 2,627,000	\$109,148,000
	1968*	612,633 2,658,000	119,532,500
Certified Seed Crops	1969	8,928	975,350
	1968	7,822	1,075,140
Noncertified Seed Crops	1969	7,653	652,910
	1968	9,474	1,491,900
Vegetable Crops	1969	72,440	61,526,700
	1968	69,634	68,432,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	1969	51,023	54,151,400
	1968	47,527	51,522,800
Nursery Products	1969	1,379	6,023,000
	1968	1,221	5,178,000
Apiary Products	1969		192,250
	1968		119,120
Livestock and Poultry	1969		73,473,700
	1968		63,971,700
Livestock and Poultry Products	1969		14,023,600
	1968		13,621,000
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE	1969	747,156	
(Irrigated acres 713,106			
(Dry Farm Barley 24,600			
(Dry Farm Wheat 9,450			
RANGELAND	1969	2,627,000	
TOTAL VALUE	1969		\$320,166,910
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE	1968*	748,311	
(Irrigated acres 709,311			
(Dry Farm Barley 26,000			
(Dry Farm Wheat 13,000			
RANGELAND	1968	2,658,000	
TOTAL VALUE	1968*		\$324,944,160

*Revised