

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JAMES W. STOCKTON
Agricultural Commissioner

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William F. Cowan, Acting 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 1971 is \$360,555,980, which is \$13,880,280 more than the 1970 valuation of \$346,675,700 or a 4% increase. Harvested acres decreased from 830,581 to 792,254.

Once again cotton became the most valuable crop in the county, the position it last held in 1968. However, the word "value" should not be interpreted to mean "profit", which failed to materialize because of low yields and other economic factors including insects, rain and cold weather at planting time, high interest and taxes. Total valuation was up 23% from \$51,185,000 to \$62,800,000. Harvested acreage increased 19% from 170,700 to 202,700. Yield per acre decreased from 977 pounds lint to 838 pounds lint. This is the fourth year since 1955 that yields have been below 1,000 pounds lint per acre. The highest yield in the last 26 years was 1,310 pounds lint in 1963 and a low of 608 pounds lint was made in 1945. The highest valuation for cotton was achieved in 1951 when farmers received \$.4075 per pound and a total of \$117,043,121. The lowest value was recorded in 1969 at \$.2325 per pound and a total of \$49,198,000.

Grapes moved into second place with a valuation of \$52,448,000. This was an increase of \$11,184,000 over the 1970 figure of \$41,264,000. Prices received for fresh market and wine grapes were considerably higher than a year ago. Shipments were delayed somewhat during the rail strike in July, but continued in an orderly manner after a settlement was reached.

Average price received for cattle and calves was higher in 1971 but fewer head were marketed, and the total valuation of \$52,410,000 was 20% less than the \$65,114,000 received in 1970.

Alfalfa hay continued to be a profitable crop and growers received a total of \$34,441,000. As a matter of information to those who are particularly interested in this crop, yields and prices received were reported higher than average on alfalfa hay produced in the Tehachapi, Cantil and Rosamond areas, and this factor is reflected in the overall county total.

Potato growers had an unprofitable year. The average price received for late spring Long White potatoes was estimated at \$2.15 per sack, and this did not take into consideration cars rolled unsold and which invariably bring a lower return than FOB quoted prices. Our records show the late spring planted acreage was 37,500 and the harvested acreage is reported at 34,600 acres. At an average yield of 18.9 tons per acre it could mean approximately one million sacks of potatoes were not harvested because of economic conditions.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of all who contributed time and effort in order to furnish this office with the most accurate information possible. We in turn hope our efforts will be of interest and value to agricultural and allied industries.

James W. Stockton
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Agricultural Commissioner

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

James W. Stockton

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Robert A. Edwards

DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

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Jesse E. Bridges

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Charles L. Jackson, McFarland

Louis B. Krauter, Tehachapi

William H. Lewis, Mettler Station

Jerry M. McCarthy, Delano

Robert Nousch, Lamont

Robert H. Prunty, Edison

Gene Stark, Shafter

Frank Wheeler, Arvin

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Jack F. Sampson

Laurance P. Shelton

William L. Snodgrass

Van A. Tout

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John A. Herpich

OFFICE

Alice C. Randall
Senior Secretary

Marjorie Krone
Account Clerk II

Nancy Faast
Typist Clerk II

Theresa MacKay
Account Clerk I

Report compiled by Alice C. Randall

Cover photograph through the courtesy
of the Kern County Water Agency.

The California Aqueduct winding through the
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District.

1971

PERMANENT ACREAGE

	Bearing	Non-bearing	Total
Almonds	4,566	23,486	28,052
Apples	331	1,106	1,437
Apricots	81	17	98
Avocados	--	112	112
Cherries	27	1	28
Figs	1	1,026	1,027
Grapefruit	3	--	3
Grapes, Raisin	21,037	326	21,363
Table	10,338	514	10,852
Wine	6,532	9,405	15,937
All	37,907	10,245	48,152
Kiwi	10	11	21
Lemons	--	2,173	2,173
Limes	--	1	1
Nectarines	217	565	782
Olives	210	3,865	4,075
Oranges, Navel	6,603	9,043	15,646
Valencia	2,897	1,366	4,263
Tangerines and Tangelos	380	779	1,159
Peaches	1,951	1,416	3,367
Pears	317	78	395
Pecans	2	4	6
Persimmons	23	5	28
Pistachio	19	2,562	2,581
Plums	1,654	600	2,254
Pomegranates	94	11	105
Prunes	--	396	396
Walnuts	16	676	692
TOTAL	57,309	59,544	116,853

FIELD CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Barley	1971	68,200	1.50	102,000	ton	\$ 54.00	\$ 5,508,000
	1970	100,000	1.45	145,000	ton	46.00	6,670,000
Beans, dry edible	1971	5,580	1.01	5,640	ton	298.00	1,681,000
	1970	8,770	0.95	8,330	ton	160.00	1,333,000
Corn, Field	1971	5,000	2.76	13,800	ton	55.00	759,000
	1970	3,000	3.00	9,000	ton	54.00	486,000
Cotton Lint	1971	202,700	a/838	b/353,690	bale	c/.3150	53,478,000
	1970*	170,700	a/977	b/347,440	bale	c/.2500	41,693,000
Cottonseed	1971			136,400	ton	65.00	8,866,000
	1970*			133,800	ton	67.60	9,045,000
Cottonseed, planting	1971			5,060	ton	90.10	456,000
	1970			5,130	ton	87.20	447,000
Hay, Alfalfa	1971	136,000	8.17	1,111,000	ton	31.00	34,441,000
	1970	124,000	8.45	1,048,000	ton	29.80	31,230,000
Grain	1971	11,200	3.13	35,100	ton	34.00	1,193,000
	1970	8,820	3.85	34,000	ton	33.00	1,122,000
Other tame	1971	1,120	8.00	8,960	ton	28.00	251,000
	1970	1,040	8.00	8,320	ton	27.00	225,000
Oats	1971	260	1.75	455	ton	63.00	28,700
	1970	590	1.50	885	ton	52.00	46,000
Pasture, Irrigated	1971	25,300	xx	xx	acre	100.00	2,530,000
	1970	20,000	xx	xx	acre	100.00	2,000,000
Other	1971	78,100	xx	xx	acre	10.00	781,000
	1970	116,000	xx	xx	acre	11.00	1,276,000
Range	1971	2,602,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,602,000
	1970	2,612,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,612,000
Peanuts	1971	673	0.838	564	ton	432.00	244,000
	1970	708	0.990	701	ton	420.00	294,000

- a. Pounds lint per acre
 b. 480 lb. net weight bales
 c. Price per pound
 * Revised

FIELD CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Rice	1971	1,700	1.85	3,140	ton	\$100.00	\$ 314,000
	1970	1,900	2.30	4,370	ton	100.00	437,000
Safflower	1971	4,420	1.20	5,300	ton	100.00	530,000
	1970	8,940	1.22	10,900	ton	96.50	1,052,000
Silage	1971	2,330	20.00	46,600	ton	6.50	303,000
	1970*	2,000	20.00	40,000	ton	7.00	280,000
Sorghum grain	1971	36,500	1.85	67,500	ton	46.50	3,139,000
	1970	43,000	1.96	84,300	ton	50.00	4,215,000
Sugar beets	1971	36,000	21.90	788,000	ton	13.60	10,717,000
	1970	36,600	25.30	926,000	ton	13.50	12,501,000
Wheat	1971	35,000	1.54	53,900	ton	55.00	2,964,000
	1970	48,000	1.83	87,800	ton	50.00	4,390,000
Miscellaneous	1971	xx	xx	xx		xx	12,300
	1970	xx	xx	xx		xx	38,000
TOTAL	1971	650,083					\$130,798,000
		2,602,000 Range					
	1970	694,068					121,392,000
		2,612,000 Range					

*Revised

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa	1971	3,110	314	976,000	lb.	\$.384	\$ 375,000
	1970*	7,060	391	2,760,000	lb.	.367	1,012,000
Barley	1971	714	3,090	2,206,000	lb.	.050	110,000
	1970**	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
Cowpeas	1971	554	1,710	947,000	lb.	.124	117,000
	1970	861	1,220	1,050,000	lb.	.091	95,600
Grain (Milo (Oats	1971	110	xx	93,500	lb.	xx	7,390
	1970	1,160	xx	3,213,000	lb.	xx	83,500
Wheat	1971	283	2,800	792,000	lb.	.055	43,600
	1970**	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
Miscellaneous	1971	24	xx	27,600	lb.	xx	6,070
	1970	26	xx	36,400	lb.	xx	11,500
TOTAL	1971	4,795					\$ 659,060
	1970*	9,107					1,202,600

* Revised

** Included under Grain in 1970 Report

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beans, Snap	1971	528	2.58	1,360	ton	\$275.00	\$ 374,000
	1970	553	3.40	1,880	ton	259.00	487,000
Beans, Snap Processed	1971	670	3.40	2,280	ton	102.00	233,000
	1970**	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
Cabbage	1971	182	9.61	1,750	ton	125.00	219,000
	1970**	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
Carrots	1971	6,690	18.50	124,000	ton	108.00	13,392,000
	1970*	4,590	18.80	86,300	ton	76.40	6,593,000
Corn, Sweet	1971	709	3.80	2,690	ton	145.00	390,000
	1970	914	3.91	3,570	ton	145.00	518,000
Garlic	1971	260	7.42	1,930	ton	120.00	232,000
	1970	614	8.34	5,120	ton	112.00	573,000
Lettuce	1971	3,100	11.40	35,400	ton	125.00	4,420,000
	1970	3,010	11.10	33,400	ton	59.00	1,971,000
Melons							
Cantaloupe	1971	4,060	6.92	28,100	ton	151.00	4,243,000
	1970	4,190	7.33	30,700	ton	113.00	3,469,000
Other Melons	1971	862	4.63	3,990	ton	224.00	894,000
	1970	787	7.66	6,030	ton	155.00	935,000
Watermelons	1971	2,620	12.90	33,800	ton	61.60	2,082,000
	1970	3,510	10.50	36,900	ton	42.80	1,579,000
Onions, Dry	1971	2,850	26.00	74,100	ton	79.00	5,854,000
	1970	2,430	24.50	59,500	ton	68.30	4,064,000
Onions, Dehydrator	1971	5,600	18.40	103,000	ton	33.00	3,399,000
	1970	3,990	19.40	77,400	ton	33.00	2,554,000
Peas	1971	240	2.15	516	ton	295.00	152,000
	1970	159	2.64	420	ton	270.00	113,000
Peppers	1971	299	5.42	1,620	ton	260.00	421,000
	1970	318	4.56	1,450	ton	183.00	265,000
Potatoes, Sweet	1971	154	2.35	362	ton	177.00	64,000
	1970	105	3.77	396	ton	158.00	62,600

* Revised

**Included under Miscellaneous in 1970 Report

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
<u>POTATOES, TOTAL</u>	1971	38,220	17.76	678,780	ton	\$ 38.25	\$25,966,600
	1970	39,690	18.67	740,920	ton	61.73	45,734,700
<u>Late Spring, TOTAL</u>	1971	34,600	18.90	653,000	ton	37.81	24,696,000
	1970	35,700	19.60	699,800	ton	61.55	43,071,000
Fresh Market	1971			450,000	ton	44.40	19,980,000
	1970			508,000	ton	67.00	34,036,000
Processed	1971			108,000	ton	39.70	4,288,000
	1970			115,000	ton	75.90	8,728,000
Culls	1971			95,000	ton	4.50	428,000
	1970			76,800	ton	4.00	307,000
<u>Winter, TOTAL</u>	1971	3,620	7.12	25,780	ton	49.29	1,270,600
	1970	3,990	10.31	41,120	ton	64.78	2,663,700
Fresh Market	1971			18,900	ton	62.00	1,172,000
	1970			35,200	ton	70.00	2,640,000
Processed	1971			3,580	ton	23.40	83,800
	1970			xx		xx	xx
Culls	1971			3,300	ton	4.50	14,800
	1970			5,920	ton	4.00	23,700
Pumpkin and Squash	1971	167	8.35	1,390	ton	66.30	92,200
	1970	161	9.23	1,490	ton	84.60	126,000
Tomatoes, Fresh Market	1971	424	9.03	3,830	ton	415.00	1,589,000
	1970	335	7.88	2,640	ton	180.00	475,000
Tomatoes, Processed	1971	2,480	25.80	64,000	ton	28.00	1,792,000
	1970	2,220	15.30	34,000	ton	25.20	857,000
Miscellaneous	1971	1,010	xx	22,900	ton	xx	819,000
(Asparagus	1970	1,280	xx	7,840	ton	xx	950,000
(Broccoli							
(Cauliflower							
(Garlic							
(Green Onions							
(Lettuce, processed							
(Parsnips							
<u>TOTAL</u>	1971	71,125					\$66,627,800
	1970	68,856					71,326,300

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS		BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
YEAR	PER ACRE		TOTAL	PER UNIT		TOTAL	
Almonds	1971*	4,566	1.40	6,390	ton	\$1000.00	\$ 6,390,000
	1970*	1,749	1.16	2,030	ton	1040.00	2,111,000
Apples	1971	331	6.95	2,300	ton	184.00	423,000
	1970	177	8.75	1,550	ton	209.00	324,000
<u>GRAPES, TOTAL**</u>	1971	37,907	9.31	352,840	ton	148.65	52,448,000
	1970	38,249	8.18	312,873	ton	131.89	41,264,000
<u>Raisin Varieties</u>	1971	21,037					
	1970	21,143					
Fresh Market	1971			58,300	ton	370.00	21,571,000
	1970			40,600	ton	382.00	15,509,000
Raisins, dry weight**	1971			1,770	ton	277.00	490,000
	1970			1,970	ton	294.00	579,000
Processed	1971			13,700	ton	80.00	1,096,000
	1970			15,600	ton	75.00	1,170,000
Crushed	1971			129,000	ton	55.00	7,095,000
	1970			92,700	ton	53.30	4,941,000
<u>Table Varieties</u>	1971	10,338					
	1970	10,611					
Fresh Market	1971			34,900	ton	371.00	12,948,000
	1970			38,500	ton	312.00	12,012,000
Crushed	1971			38,100	ton	51.60	1,966,000
	1970			42,400	ton	48.30	2,048,000
<u>Wine Varieties</u>	1971	6,532					
	1970	6,495					
Crushed	1971			70,700	ton	103.00	7,282,000
	1970			74,700	ton	67.00	5,005,000
Nectarines	1971	217	6.73	1,460	ton	606.00	885,000
	1970	186	4.59	854	ton	519.00	443,000
Olives	1971	210	2.32	487	ton	134.00	65,300
	1970	210	2.42	508	ton	236.00	120,000

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

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

Dry ratio: 1971 - 4.60 to 1 = 8,140 tons

1970 - 4.25 to 1 = 8,370 tons

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
<u>CITRUS, ALL</u>	1971	9,880	7.13	70,460	ton	\$139.02	\$ 9,795,000
	1970	7,189	6.85	49,270	ton	134.30	6,617,000
Navels	1971	6,603	6.56	43,300	ton	157.00	6,798,000
	1970	4,836	6.41	31,000	ton	146.00	4,526,000
Valencias	1971	2,897	5.04	14,600	ton	179.00	2,613,000
	1970	2,035	6.44	13,100	ton	137.00	1,795,000
Tangerines and Tangelos	1971	380	3.05	1,160	ton	200.00	232,000
	1970	318	3.36	1,070	ton	180.00	193,000
Processed	1971			11,400	ton	13.30	152,000
	1970			4,100	ton	25.10	103,000
<u>PEACHES, ALL</u>	1971	1,951	8.49	16,560	ton	211.65	3,505,000
	1970	2,123	5.69	12,090	ton	177.09	2,141,000
Fresh Market	1971			7,770	ton	364.00	2,828,000
	1970			4,660	ton	331.00	1,542,000
Processed	1971			8,790	ton	77.00	677,000
	1970			7,430	ton	80.60	599,000
<u>PEARS, ALL</u>	1971	317	2.38	755	ton	250.86	189,400
	1970	301	1.36	411	ton	218.49	89,800
Fresh Market	1971			620	ton	288.00	179,000
	1970			197	ton	320.00	63,000
Processed	1971			135	ton	77.00	10,400
	1970			214	ton	125.00	26,800
Plums	1971	1,654	3.45	5,700	ton	338.00	1,927,000
	1970	1,626	4.74	7,710	ton	251.00	1,935,000
Pomegranates	1971	94	5.15	484	ton	209.00	101,000
	1970	94	6.31	593	ton	300.00	178,000
Miscellaneous	1971	146	xx	717	ton	xx	126,000
(Apples	1970	72	xx	734	ton	xx	83,300
(Apricots							
(Avocados							
(Cherries							
(Grapefruit							
(Lemons							
(Persimmons							
(Walnuts							
TOTAL	1971	57,273					\$75,854,700
	1970	51,976					55,306,100

<u>NURSERY PRODUCTS</u>	YEAR	ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
Citrus Trees	1971	41	111,000	plant	\$2.50	\$ 278,000
	1970	34	172,000	plant	2.17	373,000
Grapevines	1971	574	13,891,000	plant	0.21	2,917,000
	1970*	xx	xx		xx	xx
Trees and Shrubs	1971	144	633,000	plant	1.16	734,000
	1970	137	822,000	plant	.67	551,000
Rose Plants	1971	1,200	15,221,000	plant	.35	5,327,000
	1970	1,310	17,329,000	plant	.35	6,065,000
Plants, Propagative Material and Cut Flowers	1971	3	xx		xx	418,000
	1970	260	xx		xx	689,000
*Included under Plants in 1970 Report						
TOTAL	1971	1,962				\$9,674,000
	1970	1,741				7,678,000

<u>APIARY PRODUCTS</u>	YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	1971	819,000	lb.	\$.23	\$188,000
	1970	1,047,600	lb.	.14	147,000
Beeswax	1971	13,700	lb.	.60	8,220
	1970	17,500	lb.	.58	10,200
Pollination	1971	13,400	colony	13.00	174,000
	1970	16,300	colony	8.50	139,000
TOTAL	1971				\$370,220
	1970				296,200

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY		NO. OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
YEAR			TOTAL	LIVEWEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle and calves	1971	266,000	1,724,000	cwt.	\$30.40		\$52,410,000
	1970	349,000	2,309,000	cwt.	28.20		65,114,000
Sheep and lambs	1971	176,000	176,000	cwt.	24.90		4,382,000
	1970	189,000	180,000	cwt.	25.00		4,500,000
Hogs	1971	4,780	7,020	cwt.	18.70		131,000
	1970	3,940	5,990	cwt.	25.00		150,000
Fryers	1971	687,000	1,546,000	lb.	.172		266,000
	1970	957,000	2,153,000	lb.	.168		362,000
Chickens, other	1971	375,000	1,571,000	lb.	.070		110,000
	1970	425,000	1,772,000	lb.	.092		163,000
Turkeys	1971	670,000	12,882,000	lb.	.215		2,770,000
	1970	572,000	10,894,000	lb.	.230		2,506,000
Rabbits	1971	12,100	48,400	lb.	.29		14,000
	1970	11,300	45,200	lb.	.29		13,100
Game birds and Squab	1971	xx	xx		xx		90,200
	1970	xx	xx		xx		72,800
TOTAL	1971						\$60,173,200
	1970						72,880,900

<u>LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS</u>		<u>PRODUCTION</u>	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
<u>Milk</u>					
Market	1971	2,554,000	cwt.	\$5.21	\$13,315,000
	1970*	2,460,000	cwt.	5.00	12,300,000
Manufacturing	1971	340	cwt.	4.18	1,400
	1970*	410	cwt.	4.38	1,800
Wool	1971	1,642,000	lb.	.14	230,000
	1970*	1,585,000	lb.	.33	523,000
Eggs, chicken Market	1971	6,251,000	doz.	.335	2,094,000
	1970	7,340,000	doz.	.406	2,980,000
TOTAL	1971				\$15,640,400
	1970*				15,804,800

*Revised

JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY, 1971-1972
(In number of head)

ITEM	January 1, 1971	January 1, 1972
* <u>All cattle and calves</u>	329,000	333,600
* Cattle on feed	96,700	98,600
* Milk cows, two years and over	22,500	21,000
* Stock sheep and lambs	172,400	156,100
* Hogs	4,900	5,300
Hens and pullets of laying age	413,000	306,000
* Estimates of California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service		

S U M M A R Y

	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED VALUE</u>
Field Crops and Rangeland	1971	650,083 2,602,000	\$130,798,000
	1970*	694,068 2,612,000	121,392,000
Certified Seed Crops	1971	4,795	659,060
	1970*	9,107	1,202,600
Noncertified Seed Crops	1971	7,016	758,600
	1970	4,833	788,800
Vegetable Crops	1971	71,125	66,627,800
	1970*	68,856	71,326,300
Fruit and Nut Crops	1971	57,273	75,854,700
	1970	51,976	55,306,100
Nursery Products	1971	1,962	9,674,000
	1970	1,741	7,678,000
Apiary Products	1971		370,220
	1970		296,200
Livestock and Poultry	1971		60,173,200
	1970		72,880,900
Livestock and Poultry Products	1971		15,640,400
	1970*		15,804,800
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE	1971	792,254	
(Irrigated acres 758,654			
(Dry Farm Barley 22,600			
(Dry Farm Wheat 11,000			
RANGELAND	1971	2,602,000	
TOTAL VALUE	1971		\$360,555,980
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE	1970*	830,581	
(Irrigated acres 792,881			
(Dry Farm Barley 26,300			
(Dry Farm Wheat 11,400			
RANGELAND	1970	2,612,000	
TOTAL VALUE	1970*		\$346,675,700

*Revised