

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CROP ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

KERN COUNTY - FOR THE YEAR 1937

Compiled by Lewis A. Burch, Agricultural Commissioner

The past year was characterized by the greatest agricultural expansion and development in the history of the county and, as compared with 1936, we increased the cultivated acres by 43,959 and as a result increased the production of our major crops by about 33 per cent.

Prices were considerable lower on most crops but with the increased production the total return to the county was about half a million dollars more than 1936. The total value of all crops for 1937 was \$30,254,784.

These values are based on average prices obtained for the products packed and loaded on cars and not the net returns to growers. Prices were obtained by a study of the market reports for the year and interviews with the leading shippers.

This figure represents the money brought to Kern County from the sale of crops and includes the money spent for labor and other expenses in growing and harvesting the crops.

The farmer's dollar is more quickly placed in general circulation than money from any other source and this adds much to the general prosperity of the county.

C O T T O N

Cotton continued to lead all other crops by a wide margin from a standpoint of total acreage and gross value. This year's acreage was 122,000 from which we produced 150,000 bales of cotton and 62,500 tons of seed valued at \$9,500,000. Although the cotton crop got off to a bad start this spring the fall weather was ideal for cotton, giving us about thirty days longer growing period than usual. Our high per acre yields of good quality cotton are largely due to the general use of pure planting seed and our one variety district and, with these advantages over other districts, Kern County will always be a large cotton producing county.

LIVE STOCK

This year's sales of livestock showed an increase in value and has placed the livestock industry in second place among all agricultural activities for the first time. The production of sheep and hogs showed an increase and cattle showed a slight decrease but prices received were much better. Poultry, eggs and butterfat were about the same. The total value of livestock was \$7,064,360.

G R A P E S

The grape crop was third in value with a total for all varieties including raisins of \$4,062,970. We produced 20,163 tons more than 1936 and received about 25 per cent less money per ton on our production.

Our early production gives us quite an advantage over the later shipping districts and, as a result, our prices are higher than the state average by quite a margin.

P O T A T O E S

The rapid development of our potato industry in Kern County the past three years is causing quite a sensation in the markets of the western states and among dealers and shippers in this business. This year we doubled last year's acreage and increased our production by 1,516,465 sacks. The prices received were much less than last year as was predicted at that time but our potato growers are good gamblers and expect to further increase the acreage next year. The total value of this year's crop was \$3,653,364.

A L F A L F A

We had some increase in alfalfa plantings this year and prices were better than they have been for several years. We expect quite a large increase in planting of alfalfa next year as there will be a decrease in cotton acreage and most growers like to plant alfalfa as a rotation crop with cotton. This year we had 35,000 acres producing 175,000 tons valued at \$2,450,000.

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<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
<u>DECIDUOUS FRUITS</u>			
Apples	225	1,000 boxes	\$1,500
Apricots	719	1,983 tons	118,980
Apricots (dried)		106 tons	14,840
Berries	60	4,000 crates	4,000
Cherries	40	31,175 lbs.	4,053
Figs (dried)		6,000 lbs.	240
Nectarines	47	2 cars	2,080
Olives	420	520½ tons	15,615
Peaches	834	2,598 tons	168,870
Peaches (dried)		185 tons	22,200
Pears	479	1,120 tons	47,040
Persimmons	24	4,300 lugs	5,375
Plums	1,819	4,758 tons	285,480
Pomegranates	62	9,975 lugs	6,484
Quinces	10	4,903 lugs	2,452
Almonds	88	32½ tons	4,875
Walnuts	46	35 tons	3,500
Family Orchard	135	400 tons	16,000
Total	5,008	Total	\$723,584

CITRUS

Grapefruit	37	4,800 boxes	\$6,000
Lemons	11	500 boxes	1,500
Oranges	1,414	149,197 boxes	253,635
Tangerines	38	1,200 lugs	900
Total	1,500	Total	\$262,035

GRAPES

Table	15,368	63,188 tons	\$3,159,400
Wine	1,778	34,563 tons	518,445
Raisins		5,925 tons	385,125
Total	17,146	Total	\$4,062,970

MELONS

Watermelons	500	7,244 tons	\$105,038
Cantaloupes	250	98,183 crates	171,820
Other Melons	50	9,138 crates	13,707
Total	800	Total	\$290,565

VEGETABLES

Potatoes	22,250	4,566,705 sacks	\$3,653,364
Onions	1,075	191,317 sacks	191,317
Sweet Potatoes	425	80,880 lugs	72,792
Peas	135	4,209 crates	16,836
Lettuce	500	20,433 crates	34,736
Cabbage	10	140 crates	140

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
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VEGETABLES CONTINUED

Tomatoes	22	2,700 lugs	\$2,430
Cucumbers	8	9,000 flats	21,600
Squash	50	5,226 lugs	4,703
Beans (Black Eye)	275	275 tons	11,000
Garlic	8	2,536 sacks	5,072
Other Vegetables	100	8,221 lugs	8,221
Total	24,858		Total \$4,022,211

FIELD CROPS

Cotton	122,000	150,000 bales	\$8,250,000
Cotton seed		62,500 tons	1,250,000
Alfalfa	35,000	175,000 tons	2,450,000
Alfalfa seed		20 tons	10,000
Onion seed		5 tons	3,000
Silage	1,000	1,500 tons	15,000
Nursery Stock			60,000
Honey & Products			85,840
Sugar Beets	375	4,875 tons	29,250
Total	158,375		Total \$12,153,090

GRAIN

Barley	13,960	7,367 tons	184,175
Milo	7,628	14,392 tons	314,644
Wheat	46,211	36,686 tons	917,150
Grain Hay	1,500	3,000 tons	60,000
Total	69,299		\$1,475,969

L I V E S T O C K S O L D

No. Head

Steers	33,524		\$2,849,540
Cows & Heifers	22,654		1,132,700
Calves	8,977		179,540
Sheep	145,132		1,161,056
Wool	1,451,320	lbs.	290,264
Hogs	11,078		221,560
Poultry	125,000	dozen	62,500
Eggs	210,000	dozen	67,200
Milk & Butterfat	2,200,000	lbs.	1,100,000
		Total	\$7,064,360

Benefit payments AAA

200,000

Total acreage of all crops - 276,986

Total value of all crops - \$30,254,784