

**KERN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA**

ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946

To The Honorable Board of Supervisors and the
Director of the State Department of Agriculture

I herewith submit the Annual Crop Report as required by Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code.

This report covers the acreage, production and value of all crops produced in Kern County, including livestock and livestock products. There was an increase in production over the previous year of 498,523 tons. There was also an increase of 25,650 acres of cultivated crops, and the increase in value of all crops was \$31,348,921. This continued development and increase in production is a marvelous record considering the difficulty farmers are still having to obtain necessary machinery and equipment. However, the labor situation was in much better shape in 1946 than the previous year and there has been no shortage of labor even at times of peak harvest in such crops as cotton.

The number one crop in point of value was potatoes, which produced 16,510,445 sacks valued at \$35,497,457. The potato crop was the best we have ever had both from standpoint of production and quality. We had the largest yield per acre on record. As a result of this tremendous crop and the shipment of over 1,000 cars per day, the market broke and fell below the support price. The government was then required to purchase over three million sacks of potatoes on the support program. These were all dehydrated and sold by the government to distillers. There will be a material reduction in potato acreage in 1947.

The next most important and valuable crop in the county was cotton. We produced 125,000 bales from 88,200 acres, valued at \$24,900,000. Cotton has always been one of Kern County's outstanding crops, and over many years growers have continued to make a profit. We expect a considerable increase in acreage next year.

Grapes were the next big crop. We produced a crop valued at \$24,094,515 from 18,903 acres. The juice grape market was exceptionally good this year and many of the table grapes went to the winery. The breakdown in the report shows much too large a tonnage of juice grapes for the acres of this variety. This is the result of having shipped a large tonnage of table grapes to the winery. We have included Thompson seedless in the acreage of table grapes, which comprise about half of the total acreage in the county. They are oftentimes used as a raisin grape as well as a table grape, but in Kern County we consider them as table grapes and they are classified as such. Production of raisins was much lower than usual because our growers could get more money from selling the raisin varieties as table grapes.

Alfalfa is a valuable crop and from 83,017 acres we produced a crop valued at \$16,271,332. Although these are the major crops, we produced about 80 commercial crops in Kern County and also have a very large livestock industry. Cattle brought \$13,747,716 into the county and sheep were valued at \$3,206,638.

I wish to emphasize again that these prices are GROSS farm prices, F.O.B. shipping point and include the cost of production, harvesting and preparation for market. The net income to farmers was not increased in proportion to the gross sales due to lower efficiency from inexperienced agricultural labor, worn out equipment, and higher cost of all materials used in harvesting and handling the crop.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis A. Burtch

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Agricultural Commissioner
Kern County

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1946 ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR KERN COUNTY

CROP ACREAGE - PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Compiled by Lewis A. Burtch, Agricultural Commissioner

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Deciduous Fruits</u>			
Apples	24	1,050 bx.	4,200
Apricots	428	71,344 lugs	178,360
Apricots, processed		815 tons	67,238
Apricots, dried		13 tons	4,420
Berries	85	17,500 cr.	39,375
Figs, dried	5	28 tons	7,840
Nectarines	23	8,880 lugs	16,872
Olives	414	839 tons	251,700
Peaches	620	200,868 lugs	401,736
Peaches, processed		533 tons	25,584
Peaches, dried		56½ tons	15,255
Pears	80	35,118 lugs	79,016
Persimmons	34	5,817 lugs	13,088
Plums	1,853	528,242 lugs	1,584,726
Pomegranates	11	15,361 lugs	34,562
Prunes	27	17,000 lugs	55,250
Quince	15	65 tons	4,225
Almonds	168	30 tons	21,000
Pecans	32	7,940 lbs.	3,732
Walnuts	12	13,700 lbs.	4,932
Family Orchard	175	880 tons	88,000
Total	4,006		2,901,111
<u>Citrus Fruit</u>			
Grapefruit	33	20,000 bx.	40,000
Oranges, Navel	1,366	346,805 bx.	1,560,623
Oranges, Valencia	84	16,000 bx.	58,400
Tangerines	83	21,350 lugs	74,725
Lemons	8	3,000 bx.	9,000
Total	1,574		1,742,748
<u>Grapes</u>			
Table	15,701	4,438,450 lugs	13,315,350
Wine	3,068	85,284 tons	9,807,660
Raisin		2,409½ tons	722,850
Zante Currants	134	122 tons	42,700
Grapes, processed		2,423 tons	205,955
Total	18,903		24,094,515

1946 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Melons</u>			
Watermelons	1,129	7,707 tons	423,885
Cantaloupes	2,098	213,345 cr.	960,053
Honey Dews	240	45,324 cr.	90,648
Others	15	48 tons	1,920
Total	3,482		1,476,506
<u>Vegetables</u>			
Asparagus	442	41,025 cr.	270,765
Beans, Blackeye	680	9,520 bags	142,800
Beans, Fava	175	3,900 hamp.	10,725
Beans, Pinto	178	5,340 bags	100,125
Beans, String	55	487 hamp.	1,948
Broccoli	565	59,892 cr.	239,568
Cabbage	40	225 cr.	900
Cabbage, processed		187 tons	3,366
Carrots	451	43,036 cr.	161,385
Cauliflower	154	5,963 cr.	10,435
Corn, Sweet	2,535	239,868 cr.	719,604
Cucumbers	47	1,100 lugs	2,750
Endive-Romaine	20	2,749 cr.	2,749
Garlic	10	17,500 lbs.	7,875
Lettuce	1,620	130,172 cr.	390,516
Lettuce Seed	45	93,652 lbs.	79,604
Okra Seed	15	1,985 lbs.	893
Onions	2,428½	705,697 sks.	1,234,970
Onions, processed		1,671 tons	66,840
Onion Seed	122	6,728 lbs.	10,092
Peas	4,275	263,862 hamp.	857,552
Peas, dried		100 sks.	2,000
Peas, processed		3 tons	300
Peppers	377	13,281 cr.	19,922
Potatoes	65,405½	16,510,445 sks.	35,497,457
Potato culls, stock feed		22,843 sks.	13,706
Potatoes, sweet	415½	99,272 lugs	277,962
Spinach	220	33,641 cr.	67,282
Tomatoes	2,593½	441,027 lugs	926,157
Turnips	6	2,608 sks.	3,260
Vegetables, Misc.	300	300 tons	90,000
Total	83,175		41,213,508

1946 CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION	Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE
<u>Field Crops</u>			
Alfalfa	83,017	581,119 tons	16,271,332
Alfalfa Seed		6 tons	4,560
Beets, Sugar	8,823	187,558½ tons	2,130,665
Broom Corn	50	5 tons	1,375
Cotton	88,200	125,000 bales	20,250,000
Cotton Seed		50,000 tons	4,650,000
Flower Seed	200	5,000 lbs.	3,750
Mint	112	8,715 lbs.	43,575
Nursery Stock	250		250,000
Peppermint	5	400 lbs.	2,600
Permanent Pasture	1,000		160,000
Silage	575	2,875 tons	57,500
Total	182,232		43,825,357
<u>Apiary Products</u>			
Beeswax		14,000 lbs.	5,880
Honey		600,000 lbs.	72,000
Queen Bees		6,000 ea.	4,800
Total			82,680
<u>Grain</u>			
Barley	50,000	564,040 sks.	1,635,716
Grain Hay	8,000	12,000 tons	288,000
Milo	11,860	296,500 sks.	815,375
Oats	4,200	44,600 sks.	140,490
Sudan	2,500	4,500 tons	108,000
Wheat	52,300	554,400 sks.	1,732,500
Total	128,860		4,720,081

LIVESTOCK SOLD*

	<u>NUMBER OF HEAD</u>	<u>Dollars Only TOTAL VALUE</u>
Steers	46,747	7,479,520
Cows & Heifers	42,010	5,146,225
Calves	16,305	652,200
Bulls	1,665	303,030
Hides, Cow	21,938	142,597
Hides, Calf	8,048	24,144
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Total		13,747,716
Sheep	16,500	90,750
Lambs	157,500	2,455,425
Wool	1,686,250 lbs.	640,775
Pelts		19,688
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Total		3,206,638
Hogs	9,600	374,400
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Total		374,400
Turkeys	54,450	479,160
Chickens	598,950	953,320
Ducks	9,680	12,100
Geese	1,815	6,353
Eggs	1,099,800 doz.	549,900
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Total		2,005,833
Milk	9,035,157 gal.	2,846,074
Ice Cream Mfg.	653,000 gal.	718,300
Ice Milk Mfg.	83,000 gal.	70,550
Cottage Cheese	834,211 lbs.	150,158
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Total		3,785,082
Grand total of all livestock		23,119,669
Total acreage of all crops	422,232	
Total tonnage of all crops incl. livestock	2,122,178	
Total value of all crops including livestock		143,176,175
Agricultural Conservation Program and Practices		90,000
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Total returns to Agriculture		143,266,175

*Statistics on livestock for calendar year of 1945.
1946 not available until after July.