

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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1968

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 total valuation of all crops produced amounted to an estimated \$324,237,780, which is $9\frac{1}{2}\%$ above the revised 1967 valuation of \$296,162,230.

Cotton regained top position of all crops despite a 35% decrease in price received for lint. There was an 18% increase in total acreage harvested, 41% increase in yield per acre, and the valuation of the entire crop including cottonseed and planting seed increased by 11%. However, it was not a profitable year for cotton farmers. Production costs continued to rise while profits declined. Only once in more than twenty years (1966) has the price of cotton lint gone below thirty cents. As a matter of interest, the highest price received was in 1951 at \$.4075 per pound.

Although total head of beef cattle marketed and total pounds produced are both reduced from 1967 reports, estimates did indicate an increase in average weight per animal which could be considered as Kern County production. Price per pound also increased and the gross value is only 3% less than the previous year. Records show that feed lot production has declined since 1965.

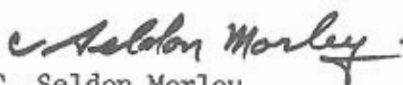
A 40% increase in estimated values for the 1968 potato crop, as compared to 1967, may appear to be particularly attractive, but a true comparison should go beyond the prior year and back to the last really good year of 1965 when the potato crop reached a record value of \$74,587,400.

The grape crop showed an increase in bearing acreage, total production and price per pound, and the valuation for 1968 was 14% above that of 1967. This is a distinct tribute to the grape growers who were beset by a myriad of problems.

Returns on alfalfa hay were less than in 1967, acreage and price per ton were less, but yields per acre increased.

Our report shows twenty-nine commodities with an estimated value of over one million dollars each. Historical records have indicated that extensive acceleration of agricultural production in Kern County depended upon a sufficient supply of irrigation water. With the arrival of water through the California aqueduct desert land is beginning to "blossom as a rose" as vast acreages are being planted or prepared for planting on the West Side of the County.

A great deal of cooperation and assistance is needed in order to secure the information for the annual crop report, and to each who contributed a part we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation.


C. Seldon Morley
Agricultural Commissioner

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
C. Seldon Morley

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Account Clerk I

Report compiled by Alice B. Cook

*Cover photograph through the courtesy of
Dorothy Whisler who hybridized the
RED SKELTON rose at Shafter, California*

1968

PERMANENT ACREAGE

	Bearing	Non-bearing	Total
Almonds	763	9,634	10,397
Apples	172	956	1,128
Apricots	112	66	178
Avocados	--	86	86
Cherries	1	3	4
Figs	1	--	1
Grapefruit	4	--	4
Grapes, Raisin	21,525	454	21,979
Table	10,829	446	11,275
Wine	5,609	472	6,081
All	37,963	1,372	39,335
Lemons	--	658	658
Nectarines	194	73	267
Olives	217	3	220
Oranges, Navel	3,126	6,737	9,863
Valencia	1,104	2,477	3,581
Tangerines and Tangelos	240	390	630
Peaches	1,531	923	2,454
Pears	301	113	414
Pecans	--	4	4
Persimmons	10	--	10
Pistachios	2	78	80
Plums	1,695	326	2,021
Pomegranates	88	6	94
Quince	--	3	3
Walnuts	3	224	227

FIELD CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Barley	1968	125,000	1.51	189,000	ton	\$ 42.30	\$ 7,995,000
	1967	110,000	2.14	235,000	ton	46.00	10,810,000
Beans, dry edible	1968	16,800	0.923	15,500	ton	160.00	2,480,000
	1967	9,380	0.878	8,240	ton	200.00	1,648,000
Corn, Field	1968	3,500	2.02	7,070	ton	50.00	354,000
	1967	7,000	2.04	14,300	ton	48.00	686,000
Cotton Lint	1968	173,700	a/1178	b/427,000	bale	c/.2425	51,774,000
	1967	146,810	a/ 835	b/256,000	bale	c/.3740	47,872,000
Cottonseed	1968			164,180	ton	50.00	8,209,000
	1967			96,770	ton	62.00	6,000,000
Cottonseed, planting	1968			5,820	ton	71.00	413,000
	1967			5,230	ton	68.50	358,000
Hay, Alfalfa	1968	115,000	8.60	989,000	ton	26.50	26,208,000
	1967	117,000	8.23	963,000	ton	28.50	27,446,000
Grain	1968	13,400	3.65	48,900	ton	30.00	1,467,000
	1967	12,300	3.25	40,000	ton	30.00	1,200,000
Other tame	1968	2,360	6.48	15,300	ton	24.20	370,000
	1967	2,580	6.51	16,800	ton	21.50	361,000
Oats	1968	395	1.95	770	ton	50.00	38,500
	1967	549	1.31	719	ton	51.00	36,700
Pasture, Irrigated	1968	19,100	xx	xx	acre	100.00	1,910,000
	1967	18,000	xx	xx	acre	100.00	1,800,000
Other	1968	46,800	xx	xx	acre	9.00	421,000
	1967	61,800	xx	xx	acre	9.00	556,000
Range	1968	2,658,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,658,000
	1967	2,698,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,698,000
Peanuts	1968	710	0.993	705	ton	397.00	280,000
	1967	656	0.869	570	ton	344.00	196,000

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	1968	2,950	2.11	6,220	ton	\$100.00	\$ 622,000
	1967	2,510	1.92	4,820	ton	95.00	458,000
Safflower	1968	5,280	1.31	6,920	ton	71.00	491,000
	1967	9,190	1.12	10,300	ton	85.00	876,000
Silage	1968	3,030	24.80	75,100	ton	4.75	357,000
	1967	4,130	22.60	93,400	ton	6.50	607,000
Sorghum grain	1968	30,000	1.76	52,800	ton	42.00	2,218,000
	1967*	47,000	1.77	83,200	ton	40.00	3,328,000
Sugar beets	1968	33,700	23.20	782,000	ton	12.10	9,462,000
	1967	16,900	23.70	401,000	ton	11.60	4,652,000
Wheat	1968	21,000	0.93	19,500	ton	46.00	897,000
	1967	23,000	1.11	25,500	ton	49.00	1,250,000
Miscellaneous (Sesame (Straw	1968	158	xx	xx		xx	21,000
	1967	1,410	xx	xx		xx	36,100
TOTAL	1968	612,883					\$118,645,500
		2,658,000	Range				
	1967*	590,215					112,874,800
		2,698,000					

*Revised

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa, Ranger	1968	1,720	366	630,000	lb.	\$.38	\$ 239,000
	1967	2,180	353	769,000	lb.	.42	323,000
Proprietary and Other Varieties	1968	4,130	348	1,437,000	lb.	.42	604,000
	1967	4,680	348	1,630,000	lb.	.436	711,000
Barley	1968	991	3,040	3,013,000	lb.	.04	121,000
	1967	1,320	3,229	4,262,000	lb.	.034	145,000
Cowpeas, Blackeye	1968	393	2,170	853,000	lb.	.08	68,200
	1967	375	1,643	616,000	lb.	.129	79,500
Oats	1968	192	1,380	265,000	lb.	.036	9,540
	1967	189	2,116	400,000	lb.	.03	12,000
Wheat	1968	352	1,380	486,000	lb.	.04	19,400
	1967	432	762	329,000	lb.	.044	14,500
Miscellaneous (Milo (Peanuts	1968	44	xx	82,100	lb.	xx	14,000
	1967	40	xx	44,600	lb.	xx	14,600
TOTAL	1968	7,822					\$1,075,140
	1967	9,216					1,299,600

NONCERTIFIED SEED CROPS		HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
YEAR			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa, Common and Other Varieties	1968	6,580	352	2,316,000	lb.	\$.39	\$ 903,000
	1967	4,410	329	1,451,000	lb.	.403	585,000
Beans, Castor	1968*	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
	1967	293	1,600	469,000	lb.	.108	50,700
Grain	1968	470	xx	1,250,000	lb.	.028	35,000
(Barley	1967	455	xx	596,000	lb.	.033	19,700
(Oats							
(Wheat							
Cowpeas,	1968	1,690	2,000	3,380,000	lb.	.06	203,000
Blackeye	1967*	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
Miscellaneous	1968	222	xx	502,000	lb.	xx	175,000
(Castor Beans	1967	227	xx	617,000	lb.	xx	148,000
(Grass							
(Peanuts							
Vegetable	1968	512	xx	568,000	lb.	.262	149,000
	1967	882	xx	622,000	lb.	.20	124,000
Screenings and	1968	xx	xx	1,630	ton	16.50	26,900
Cleanings	1967	xx	xx	624	ton	25.50	15,900
TOTAL	1968	9,474					\$1,491,900
	1967	6,267					943,300

*Included in Miscellaneous

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beans, Snap	1968	336	3.48	1,170	ton	\$245.00	\$ 287,000
	1967	492	1.59	782	ton	249.00	195,000
Carrots	1968	2,280	18.70	42,600	ton	45.00	1,917,000
	1967	2,110	25.70	54,200	ton	87.00	4,715,000
Corn, Sweet	1968	1,920	4.27	8,200	ton	136.00	1,115,000
	1967	2,310	2.99	6,910	ton	140.00	967,000
Cucumbers, processed	1968	560	7.86	4,400	ton	87.00	383,000
	1967	xx	xxx	xx		xx	xx
Garlic	1968	815	5.85	4,770	ton	122.00	582,000
	1967	460	5.67	2,610	ton	120.00	313,000
Lettuce	1968	2,220	12.70	28,200	ton	75.00	2,115,000
	1967	1,940	9.02	17,500	ton	108.00	1,890,000
Melons							
Cantaloupe	1968	5,120	8.98	46,000	ton	116.00	5,336,000
	1967	3,990	7.89	31,500	ton	143.00	4,504,000
Other Melons	1968	960	9.89	9,490	ton	143.00	1,357,000
	1967	1,170	6.27	7,340	ton	144.00	1,057,000
Watermelons	1968	2,870	21.40	61,400	ton	40.00	2,456,000
	1967	2,360	13.10	30,900	ton	45.00	1,391,000
<u>Onions, TOTAL</u>	1968	6,410	22.57	144,700	ton	43.93	6,357,000
	1967	5,110	19.18	98,000	ton	44.42	4,353,000
Dry	1968	2,070	26.90	55,700	ton	61.40	3,420,000
	1967	1,480	20.60	30,500	ton	68.60	2,092,000
Dehydrator	1968	4,340	20.50	89,000	ton	33.00	2,937,000
	1967	3,630	18.60	67,500	ton	33.50	2,261,000
Peas	1968	284	1.39	395	ton	232.00	91,600
	1967	295	1.26	372	ton	285.00	106,000
Peppers, processed	1968	652	8.48	5,530	ton	74.00	409,000
	1967	xx	xxx	xx		xx	xx
Potatoes, Sweet	1968	294	5.68	1,670	ton	146.00	244,000
	1967	307	5.08	1,560	ton	159.00	248,000

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
<u>Potatoes, TOTAL</u>	1968	38,800	18.40	714,110	ton	\$ 58.12	\$41,505,400
	1967	50,210	16.21	813,960	ton	36.47	29,687,800
<u>Late Spring, TOTAL</u>	1968	35,000	19.44	680,500	ton	58.38	39,728,000
	1967	44,000	17.48	769,000	ton	35.90	27,609,000
Fresh Market	1968			485,000	ton	70.00	33,950,000
	1967			523,000	ton	42.00	21,966,000
Processed	1968			124,000	ton	44.00	5,456,000
	1967			116,000	ton	43.60	5,058,000
Culls	1968			71,500	ton	4.50	322,000
	1967			130,000	ton	4.50	585,000
<u>Winter, TOTAL</u>	1968	3,800	8.84	33,610	ton	52.88	1,777,400
	1967	6,210	7.24	44,960	ton	46.24	2,078,800
Fresh Market	1968*			29,300	ton	60.00	1,758,000
	1967*			37,900	ton	54.00	2,047,000
Culls	1968			4,310	ton	4.50	19,400
	1967			7,060	ton	4.50	31,800
<u>Tomatoes, TOTAL</u>	1968	4,613	18.07	83,350	ton	43.50	3,626,000
	1967	2,775	13.21	36,653	ton	40.28	1,476,600
Fresh Market	1968	203	11.10	2,250	ton	224.00	504,000
	1967**	25	10.10	253	ton	267.00	67,600
Processed	1968	4,410	18.40	81,100	ton	38.50	3,122,000
	1967	2,750	13.20	36,400	ton	38.70	1,409,000
Miscellaneous	1968	1,500	xx	4,650	ton	xx	651,000
(Asparagus,	1967	2,490	xx	18,500	ton	xx	1,570,980
fresh and processed							
{ Beans, snap, processed							
{ Beans, Fava							
{ Cabbage							
{ Melons, processed							
{ Peas, processed							
{ Peppers							
{ Squash							
TOTAL	1968	69,634					\$68,432,000
	1967	76,019					52,474,380

* Includes processed potatoes

**Includes canning tomatoes
sold Fresh Market

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds	1968*	763	1.12	854	ton	\$1030.00	\$ 880,000
	1967*	444	1.43	635	ton	1080.00	686,000
Apples	1968	172	5.21	896	ton	254.00	228,000
	1967	172	1.50	258	ton	284.00	73,300
<u>Grapes, TOTAL**</u>	1968	37,963	7.52	285,295	ton	132.92	37,921,000
	1967	36,981	7.11	262,772	ton	126.37	33,206,000
<u>Raisin Varieties</u>	1968	21,525					
	1967	21,287					
Fresh Market	1968			68,000	ton	267.00	18,156,000
	1967			57,800	ton	257.00	14,855,000
Raisins, dry weight**	1968			5,070	ton	260.00	1,318,000
	1967			5,430	ton	235.00	1,276,000
Processed	1968			15,900	ton	64.00	1,018,000
	1967			3,100	ton	60.00	486,000
Crushed	1968			63,400	ton	38.00	2,409,000
	1967			49,100	ton	42.60	2,092,000
<u>Table Varieties</u>	1968	10,829					
	1967	10,491					
Fresh Market	1968			39,700	ton	297.00	11,791,000
	1967			35,300	ton	302.00	10,661,000
Crushed	1968			28,000	ton	31.50	882,000
	1967			40,100	ton	30.70	1,231,000
<u>Wine Varieties</u>	1968	5,609					
	1967	5,203					
Crushed	1968			48,900	ton	48.00	2,347,000
	1967			50,000	ton	52.10	2,605,000

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

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

Dry ratio: 1968 - 4.22 to 1 = 21,395

1967 - 4.12 to 1 = 22,372

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Nectarines	1968	194	4.54	881	ton	\$402.00	\$ 354,000
	1967	189	4.47	844	ton	339.00	286,000
Oranges, Navel <u>TOTAL</u>	1968	3,126	13.15	41,100	ton	117.50	4,829,100
	1967	2,683	6.29	16,870	ton	126.85	2,140,000
Fresh Market	1968			39,400	ton	122.00	4,807,000
	1967			9,190	ton	217.00	1,994,000
Processed	1968			1,700	ton	13.00	22,100
	1967			7,680	ton	19.00	146,000
Oranges, Valencia <u>TOTAL</u>	1968	1,104	16.23	17,920	ton	59.36	1,063,700
	1967	762	15.80	12,040	ton	102.82	1,238,000
Fresh Market	1968			12,100	ton	84.00	1,016,000
	1967			8,780	ton	125.00	1,098,000
Processed	1968			5,820	ton	8.20	47,700
	1967			3,260	ton	43.00	140,000
Tangerines and Tangelos	1968	240	7.42	1,780	ton	181.00	322,000
	1967	210	2.17	455	ton	200.00	91,000
Olives	1968	217	2.87	623	ton	361.00	225,000
	1967	216	1.64	354	ton	269.00	95,200
<u>Peaches, TOTAL</u>	1968	1,531	9.35	14,310	ton	224.95	3,219,000
	1967	1,635	5.99	9,800	ton	210.80	2,066,000
Fresh Market	1968			6,960	ton	378.00	2,631,000
	1967			5,150	ton	329.00	1,694,000
Processed	1968			7,350	ton	80.00	588,000
	1967			4,650	ton	80.00	372,000
<u>Pears, TOTAL</u>	1968	301	6.23	1,874	ton	161.15	302,000
	1967	301	3.28	986	ton	242.49	239,100
Fresh Market	1968			875	ton	219.00	192,000
	1967			613	ton	280.00	172,000
Processed	1968			999	ton	110.00	110,000
	1967			373	ton	180.00	67,100
Plums	1968	1,695	2.91	4,930	ton	385.00	1,898,000
	1967	1,757	3.36	5,910	ton	343.00	2,027,000

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Pomegranates	1968	88	0.78	69	ton	\$171.00	\$ 11,800
	1967	94	2.89	272	ton	91.50	24,900
Miscellaneous	1968	133	xx	645	ton	xx	173,000
(Apricots	1967	133	xx	1,280	ton	xx	196,600
(Grapefruit							
(Persimmons							
(Plums, processed							
(Quince							
TOTAL	1968	47,527					\$51,426,600
	1967	45,577					42,369,100

NURSERY PRODUCTS	YEAR	ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
Citrus Trees	1968	58	165,000	plant	\$2.25	\$ 371,000
	1967	61	279,000	plant	2.50	698,000
Trees and Shrubs	1968	122	721,000	plant	.60	433,000
	1967	94	733,000	plant	.59	432,000
Rose Plants	1968	821	11,766,000	plant	.35	4,118,000
	1967	749	11,408,000	plant	.35	3,993,000
Plants,	1968	220	xx		xx	256,000
Propagative	1967	195	xx		xx	304,000
Material and						
Cut Flowers						
TOTAL	1968	1,221				\$5,178,000
	1967	1,099				5,427,000

APIARY PRODUCTS		PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
YEAR		TOTAL			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	1968	575,000		lb.	\$.11	\$ 63,200
	1967	756,000		lb.	.105	79,400
Beeswax	1968	9,600		lb.	.70	6,720
	1967	12,600		lb.	.62	7,810
Pollination	1968	12,300		colony	4.00	49,200
	1967	12,100		colony	5.00	60,500
TOTAL	1968					\$119,120
	1967					147,710

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY			PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
YEAR	NO. OF HEAD		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle and calves	1968	355,000	2,179,000	cwt.	\$25.60		\$55,782,000
	1967	420,000	2,383,000	cwt.	24.10		57,430,000
Sheep and lambs	1968	192,000	189,000	cwt.	24.40		4,612,000
	1967	213,000	218,000	cwt.	21.70		4,731,000
Hogs	1968	2,600	5,200	cwt.	20.00		104,000
	1967	3,600	7,500	cwt.	21.50		161,000
Horses and	1968	xx	xx		xx		719,000
misc. animals	1967	xx	xx		xx		1,323,000
Fryers	1968	723,000	2,168,000	lb.	.172		373,000
	1967	517,000	1,811,000	lb.	.173		313,000
Chickens, other	1968	361,000	1,624,000	lb.	.05		81,200
	1967	381,000	1,619,000	lb.	.04		64,800
Turkeys	1968	544,000	11,013,000	lb.	.20		2,203,000
	1967	611,000	11,569,000	lb.	.19		2,198,000
Rabbits	1968	9,500	38,000	lb.	.275		10,400
	1967	3,510	14,000	lb.	.260		3,640
Game birds	1968	xx	xx		xx		87,100
and Squab	1967	xx	xx		xx		73,000
TOTAL	1968						\$63,971,700
	1967						66,297,440

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS			VALUE		
	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Milk					
Market	1968	2,165,000	cwt.	\$4.69	\$10,154,000
	1967*	1,977,000	cwt.	4.56	9,015,000
Manufacturing	1968	2,360	cwt.	4.16	9,820
	1967*	2,470	cwt.	4.01	9,900
Wool	1968	1,657,000	lb.	.39	646,000
	1967	1,973,000	lb.	.384	758,000
Eggs, chicken	1968	7,574,000	doz.	.393	2,977,000
Market	1967	8,401,000	doz.	.384	3,226,000
Miscellaneous	1968	xx		xx	111,000
	1967	xx		xx	1,320,000
TOTAL	1968				\$13,897,820
	1967*				14,328,900

*Revised

JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY, 1968-1969
(In number of head)

ITEM	January 1, 1968	January 1, 1969
* <u>All cattle and calves</u>	346,000**	365,200
* Cattle on feed	119,000	120,000
* Milk cows, two years and over	21,200	20,800
* Stock sheep and lambs	163,800**	147,700
* Hogs	4,700**	4,700
Hens and pullets of laying age	439,000	429,000

* Estimates of California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

**Revised

S U M M A R Y

		<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED VALUE</u>
Field Crops and Rangeland	1968	612,883	\$118,645,500
		2,658,000	
	1967*	590,215	112,874,800
		2,698,000	
Certified Seed Crops	1968	7,822	1,075,140
	1967	9,216	1,299,600
Noncertified Seed Crops	1968	9,474	1,491,900
	1967	6,267	943,300
Vegetable Crops	1968	69,634	68,432,000
	1967	76,019	52,474,380
Fruit and Nut Crops	1968	47,527	51,426,600
	1967	45,577	42,369,100
Nursery Products	1968	1,221	5,178,000
	1967	1,099	5,427,000
Apiary Products	1968		119,120
	1967		147,710
Livestock and Poultry	1968		63,971,700
	1967		66,297,440
Livestock and Poultry Products	1968		13,897,820
	1967		14,328,900
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE	1968	748,561	
(Irrigated acres 720,961			
(Dry Farm Barley 26,000			
(Dry Farm Wheat 13,000			
RANGELAND	1968	2,658,000	
TOTAL VALUE	1968		\$324,237,780
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE	1967*	728,393	
(Irrigated acres 695,393			
(Dry Farm Barley 23,000			
(Dry Farm Wheat 10,000			
RANGELAND	1967	2,698,000	
TOTAL VALUE	1967		\$296,162,230

*Revised