

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JAMES W. STOCKTON
Agricultural Commissioner

ROBERT A. EDWARDS
Assistant Commissioner

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1973

C. B. Christensen, Director
California Department of Food and
Agriculture



The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kern

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit herewith the 1973 Annual Crop Report for the County of Kern.

The estimated value of direct farm marketings from all sources of agricultural production in 1973 is \$597,738,630, an increase of more than 37% over 1972. This is a gross FOB value, which includes cost of production and preparation, and does not represent net income to the farmer. Total harvested acres is 809,578, up by 12,713 acres over 1972.

Cotton continued to maintain its number one position in terms of gross value. A total of 258,000 acres, with a yield of 960 pounds lint per acre, grossed an estimated \$142,890,000. Value of cottonseed is included in this figure.

Almonds recorded a spectacular increase in both bearing acreage and value of production. Bearing acreage was up from 8,630 acres in 1972 to 17,845 acres in 1973. Along with increased acreage, price per ton of nut meats increased from \$1,260 per ton in 1972 to \$2,630 per ton in 1973.

The value of the 1973 potato crop more than doubled in value over 1972, up from \$36,017,600 to \$75,433,000. There was an increase of 2,466 planted acres of potatoes in 1973.

Grapes were in third place, behind cotton and potatoes in value of production. A greater production per acre, 8.14 tons compared to 7.36 tons in 1972, was the primary reason grapes recorded a 13.8% increase in value over 1972, up from \$60,073,000 to \$68,392,000.

Total value of citrus was up more than 84% over 1972. The production of Navels, which suffered heavy losses in 1972 because of freezing weather, almost doubled per acre production in 1973. However, the Valencia crop, which suffered severe freeze damage to the 1972 bloom was down over 94% in gross dollar value.

Cattle prices were higher, but total number of head going to market dropped from 286,000 in 1972 to 212,000 in 1973. This accounted for a 4.7% drop in the gross value of cattle.

Agriculture continues in its dominant position as the number one industry in Kern County. It is estimated that the total impact of agriculture on the County's economy is in excess of \$2.5 billion dollars.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of those who contributed information which made this report possible, and it is especially appreciated by those members of my staff who were directly responsible for compiling the statistical information.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Stockton
James W. Stockton
Agricultural Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
JAMES W. STOCKTON

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Jesse E. Bridges
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Frank Wheeler, Arvin

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Marjorie Krone
Account Clerk II

Sharon Elias
Typist Clerk I

Theresa MacKay
Account Clerk I

Report compiled by Henry Knipp

Cover photograph by J. Hodge Black

PERMANENT ACREAGE

	Bearing	Non-bearing	Total
Almonds	17,845	18,471	36,316
Apples	658	997	1,655
Apricots	92	125	217
Avocados	86	27	113
Cherries	26	1	27
Figs	1	1,809	1,810
Grapefruit	3	1,648	1,651
<u>Grapes: All</u>	38,541	35,208	73,749
Raisin	20,679	2,896	23,575
Table	9,800	1,793	11,593
Wine	8,062	30,519	38,581
Kiwi	10	11	21
Lemons	955	3,254	4,209
Limes	0	1	1
Nectarines	426	755	1,181
Olives	210	6,291	6,501
<u>Oranges: All</u>	14,007	8,415	22,422
Navel	10,487	7,205	17,692
Valencia	3,520	1,210	4,730
Tangerines & Tangelos	451	774	1,225
Peaches	2,072	1,575	3,647
Pears	366	39	405
Pecans	2	0	2
Persimmons	23	32	55
Pistachio	3	7,210	7,213
Plums	1,918	804	2,722
Pomegranates	105	0	105
Prunes	0	396	396
Walnuts	173	858	1,031
TOTAL	77,973	88,701	166,674

FIELD CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Barley	1973	52,500	1.60	84,000	ton	\$ 72.00	\$ 6,048,000
	1972	57,000	1.75	99,800	ton	57.50	5,738,000
Beans, dry edible	1973	7,500	1.14	8,550	ton	580.00	4,959,000
	1972	7,000	1.10	7,700	ton	280.00	2,156,000
Corn, Field	1973	900	2.80	2,520	ton	108.00	272,100
	1972	5,200	3.10	16,100	ton	59.00	950,000
Cotton Lint	1973	258,000	a/960	b/516,000	bale	c/.4700	116,410,000
	1972*	229,500	a/1163	b/556,100	bale	c/.3100	82,748,000
Cottonseed	1973			222,000	ton	117.00	25,974,000
	1972*			233,000	ton	57.00	13,281,000
Cottonseed, planting	1973			6,620	ton	76.40	506,000
	1972			6,440	ton	76.90	495,000
Hay, Alfalfa	1973	123,000	8.00	984,000	ton	44.00	43,296,000
	1972	130,000	8.15	1,060,000	ton	33.00	34,980,000
Grain	1973	6,000	3.16	19,000	ton	45.00	855,000
	1972	6,200	3.12	19,300	ton	34.00	656,000
Other	1973	5,000	10.00	50,000	ton	40.00	2,000,000
	1972	2,000	10.00	20,000	ton	29.00	580,000
Pasture, Irrigated	1973	25,000	xx	xx	acre	125.00	3,125,000
	1972	28,000	xx	xx	acre	100.00	2,800,000
Other	1973	73,000	xx	xx	acre	10.00	730,000
	1972	75,000	xx	xx	acre	10.00	750,000
Range	1973	2,548,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,548,000
	1972	2,582,000	xx	xx	acre	1.00	2,582,000
Rice	1973	1,540	1.60	2,500	ton	180.00	450,000
	1972	1,700	1.50	2,550	ton	105.00	268,000

- 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
Safflower	1973	4,200	1.15	4,830	ton	\$165.00	\$ 797,000
	1972	5,200	1.00	5,200	ton	117.00	608,000
Silage	1973	8,000	20.00	160,000	ton	6.50	1,040,000
	1972	5,400	22.00	118,800	ton	5.50	653,000
Sorghum Grain	1973	18,000	2.00	36,000	ton	100.00	3,600,000
	1972	22,500	1.86	41,800	ton	57.80	2,416,000
Sugar Beets	1973	24,000	24.29	583,000	ton	18.58	10,832,000
	1972	31,000	24.10	747,100	ton	14.20	10,609,000
Wheat	1973	37,000	1.75	64,700	ton	85.50	5,532,000
	1972	33,000	2.00	66,000	ton	59.00	3,894,000
Miscellaneous	1973	xx	xx	xx		xx	163,800
	1972	xx	xx	xx		xx	126,000
TOTAL	1973	643,640					\$229,137,900
	1972*	638,700					166,290,000
Range	1973	2,548,000					
	1972	2,582,000					

*Revised

CERTIFIED SEED CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa	1973*	xx	xx	xx	lb.	\$ xx	\$ xx
	1972	685	338	232,000	lb.	\$.386	89,500
Barley	1973	972	3,215	3,125,000	lb.	.044	137,500
	1972	1,738	3,410	5,926,000	lb.	.040	237,000
Cowpeas	1973	451	2,240	1,010,000	lb.	.35	353,500
	1972*	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx
Wheat	1973	643	3,465	2,228,000	lb.	.045	100,000
	1972	869	3,238	2,814,000	lb.	.035	98,500
Miscellaneous	1973	75	xx	6,837	lb.	xx	6,800
	1972	224	xx	752,000	lb.	xx	48,600
TOTAL	1973	2,141					\$597,800
	1972	3,516					473,600

*Included in Miscellaneous

NONCERTIFIED SEED CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa	1973*	xx	xx	xx	lb.	\$ xx	\$ xx
	1972	1,115	385	429,000	lb.	.35	150,000
Grain	1973	329	xx	780,323	lb.	xx	30,100
(Barley	1972	667	xx	1,184,000	lb.	xx	51,000
(Oats							
(Rye							
(Wheat							
Miscellaneous	1973	265	xx	375	lb.	xx	47,600
	1972	593	xx	559,000	lb.	xx	79,500
Vegetable	1973	36	xx	39,600	lb.	xx	14,200
	1972	65	xx	74,400	lb.	xx	18,200
Screenings	1973	xx	xx	690	ton	37.40	25,800
	1972	xx	xx	450	ton	25.00	11,200
TOTAL	1973	630					\$117,700
	1972	2,440					309,900

*Included in Miscellaneous

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beans, Snap	1973	470	3.28	1,540	ton	\$387.00	\$ 596,000
	1972	710	2.48	1,760	ton	303.00	533,000
Beans, Snap Processing	1973	1,700	2.16	3,670	ton	97.00	356,000
	1972	1,470	2.78	4,080	ton	85.50	349,000
Cabbage	1973	365	9.97	3,640	ton	158.00	575,000
	1972	425	9.16	3,900	ton	130.00	507,000
Carrots	1973	9,400	16.50	155,000	ton	109.00	16,895,000
	1972	7,300	17.10	125,000	ton	89.30	11,162,000
Corn, Sweet	1973	625	3.90	2,440	ton	162.00	395,000
	1972	787	4.24	3,340	ton	120.00	401,000
Garlic	1973	755	5.75	4,340	ton	207.00	898,000
	1972	672	7.05	4,740	ton	154.00	730,000
Lettuce	1973	4,900	10.80	53,000	ton	137.00	7,261,000
	1972	3,700	12.60	46,600	ton	138.00	6,431,000
Melons Cantaloupe	1973	5,860	6.30	37,000	ton	155.00	5,735,000
	1972	5,500	9.64	53,000	ton	138.00	7,314,000
Other Melons	1973	600	6.70	4,000	ton	176.00	704,000
	1972	441	9.70	4,300	ton	215.00	924,000
Watermelons	1973	2,700	15.00	40,500	ton	54.50	2,207,000
	1972	2,350	17.40	40,900	ton	65.60	2,683,000
Onions, Dry	1973	1,400	27.00	37,800	ton	140.00	5,292,000
	1972	1,400	22.10	30,900	ton	110.00	3,399,000
Onions, Dehydrator	1973	6,100	13.00	79,300	ton	49.50	3,925,000
	1972	4,600	16.80	77,300	ton	37.00	2,860,000
Peppers	1973	775	5.75	4,450	ton	476.00	2,118,000
	1972	448	5.81	2,600	ton	336.00	874,000

VEGETABLE CROPS	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
POTATOES, TOTAL	1973	36,450	17.14	624,600	ton	\$120.77	\$ 75,433,000
	1972	33,984	17.94	609,900	ton	59.05	36,017,600
Late Spring, TOTAL	1973	34,300	17.40	597,000	ton	119.71	71,467,000
	1972	30,884	18.68	577,000	ton	58.63	33,833,000
Fresh Market	1973			454,000	ton	143.00	64,922,000
	1972			396,000	ton	72.80	28,829,000
Processed	1973			88,000	ton	70.00	6,160,000
	1972			92,000	ton	49.80	4,582,000
Culls	1973			55,000	ton	7.00	385,000
	1972			89,000	ton	4.75	422,000
Winter, TOTAL	1973	2,150	12.84	27,600	ton	143.70	3,966,000
	1972	3,100	10.61	32,900	ton	66.40	2,184,600
Fresh Market	1973			25,600	ton	154.00	3,942,000
	1972			29,200	ton	74.20	2,167,000
Culls	1973			2,000	ton	12.00	24,000
	1972			3,700	ton	4.75	17,600
Pumpkins and Squash	1973	125	9.75	1,200	ton	136.00	163,000
	1972	200	10.90	2,180	ton	61.00	133,000
Tomatoes, Fresh Market	1973	1,000	6.10	6,100	ton	438.00	2,672,000
	1972	1,130	6.46	7,300	ton	335.00	2,446,000
Tomatoes, Processing	1973	5,500	20.00	110,000	ton	34.00	3,740,000
	1972	3,130	24.30	76,000	ton	28.00	2,128,000
Miscellaneous	1973	4,000	xx	34,500	ton	xx	3,339,000
*Includes:	1972	2,400	xx	28,000	ton	xx	2,087,000
Asparagus, Limas, Broccoli, Carrots (culls), Cauliflower, Cucumbers (proc.), Lettuce (proc.), Melons (proc.), Peas, Peppers, (bell, chili, wax, proc.) Potatoes (fall proc.), Sweet potatoes, Strawberries, Romaine.							
TOTAL	1973	82,725					\$132,304,000
	1972	70,647					80,978,600

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds	1973*	17,845	.63	10,060	ton	\$2630.00	\$26,459,000
	1972*	8,630	.73	6,300	ton	1260.00	7,938,000
Apples	1973	658	2.18	1,400	ton	315.00	441,000
	1972	519	2.30	1,200	ton	272.00	326,000
<u>GRAPES, TOTAL**</u>	1973	38,541	8.14	314,000	ton	217.80	68,392,000
	1972*	37,861	7.36	275,000	ton	218.45	60,073,000
<u>Raisin Varieties</u>		20,679					
	1973	20,749					
	1972						
Fresh Market	1973			50,000	ton	505.00	25,250,000
	1972			44,000	ton	510.00	22,440,000
Raisins, dry weight**	1973			3,400	ton	700.00	2,380,000
	1972			1,200	ton	500.00	600,000
Processed	1973			12,600	ton	120.00	1,512,000
	1972			11,000	ton	98.00	1,078,000
Crushed	1973			104,000	ton	80.00	8,320,000
	1972			91,300	ton	82.00	7,486,000
<u>Table Varieties</u>	1973	9,800					
	1972	9,834					
Fresh Market	1973			34,000	ton	493.00	16,762,000
	1972			30,100	ton	504.00	15,170,000
Crushed	1973			37,000	ton	85.00	3,145,000
	1972			32,900	ton	88.60	2,915,000
<u>Wine Varieties</u>	1973	8,062					
	1972	7,278					
Crushed	1973			73,000	ton	151.00	11,023,000
	1972			64,500	ton	161.00	10,384,000
Nectarines	1973	426	4.70	2,000	ton	680.00	1,360,000
	1972	298	6.00	1,790	ton	515.00	922,000
Olives	1973	210	3.35	700	ton	390.00	273,000
	1972	210	1.94	408	ton	387.00	158,000

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

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

Dry Ratio: 1973 - 4.50 to 1

1972 - 4.15 to 1

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL		PER UNIT	TOTAL
<u>CITRUS, ALL</u>	1973	14,458	6.11	88,340	ton	\$163.29	\$ 14,425,000
	1972*	12,011	5.03	60,500	ton	133.07	7,811,000
Navels	1973	10,487	6.22	65,200	ton	189.25	12,339,000
	1972	8,281	3.47	28,800	ton	160.00	4,608,000
Valencias	1973	3,520	2.71	9,540	ton	152.00	1,450,000
	1972	3,304	6.16	20,400	ton	137.50	2,805,000
Tangerines and Tangelos	1973	451	3.14	1,400	ton	280.00	392,000
	1972*	426	2.81	1,200	ton	210.00	252,000
Processed	1973			12,200	ton	20.00	244,000
	1972			10,100	ton	14.50	146,000
<u>PEACHES, ALL</u>	1973	2,083	6.63	13,820	ton	335.30	4,634,000
	1972	1,768	8.65	15,300	ton	314.90	4,818,000
Fresh Market	1973			7,350	ton	535.50	4,000,000
	1972			8,900	ton	487.50	4,338,000
Processed	1973			6,470	ton	98.00	634,000
	1972			6,400	ton	75.00	480,000
<u>PEARS, ALL</u>	1973	366	4.07	1,490	ton	301.95	449,900
	1972	343	2.30	790	ton	315.06	248,900
Fresh Market	1973			1,160	ton	355.00	412,000
	1972			600	ton	380.00	228,000
Processed	1973			330	ton	115.00	37,900
	1972			190	ton	110.00	20,900
Plums	1973	1,918	2.70	5,200	ton	684.00	3,557,000
	1972	1,762	3.18	5,600	ton	600.00	3,360,000
Pomegranates	1973	105	3.90	410	ton	360.00	147,600
	1972	98	3.25	320	ton	365.62	117,000
Miscellaneous	1973**	1,363	xx	11,500	ton	xx	2,768,000
**Includes:	1972	274	xx	825	ton	xx	247,000
Apples (proc.), Apricots, Avocados, Cherries, Figs, Grapefruit, Kiwi, Lemons, Limes, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachios, Prunes and Walnuts.							
TOTAL	1973	77,973					\$122,906,500
	1972	63,774					86,018,900

*Revised

<u>NURSERY PRODUCTS</u>		YEAR	ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	<u>VALUE</u>	
						PER UNIT	TOTAL
Grapevines	1973		807	18,260,000	plant	\$.222	\$ 4,054,000
	1972		810	19,183,000	plant	.154	2,954,000
Trees and Shrubs	1973		124	788,000	plant	1.40	1,103,000
	1972		168	998,000	plant	1.25	1,248,000
Rose Plants	1973		1,160	17,053,000	plant	.542	9,243,000
	1972		1,150	16,365,000	plant	.385	6,300,000
Plants, Propagative Material and Cut Flowers	1973		378	xx		xx	3,547,000
	1972		160	xx		xx	970,000
TOTAL	1973		2,469				\$17,947,000
	1972		2,288				11,472,000

<u>APIARY PRODUCTS</u>		YEAR	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	<u>VALUE</u>	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	1973		639,100	lb.	\$.42	\$268,400
	1972		545,600	lb.	.33	180,000
Beeswax	1973		10,600	lb.	.72	7,630
	1972		9,100	lb.	.59	5,370
Pollination	1973		14,800	colony	16.00	236,800
	1972		12,100	colony	15.00	181,500
TOTAL	1973					\$512,830
	1972					366,870

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY		NO. OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
	YEAR		TOTAL LIVESTOCK			PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle and Calves	1973	212,000	1,390,000	cwt.	\$42.80		\$59,492,000
	1972	286,000	1,853,000	cwt.	33.70		62,446,000
Sheep and Lambs	1973	166,000	178,000	cwt.	33.07		5,886,000
	1972	188,000	180,000	cwt.	27.30		4,914,000
Hogs	1973	3,400	4,860	cwt.	38.55		187,000
	1972	3,590	5,200	cwt.	28.80		150,000
Fryers	1973	486,000	1,944,000	lb.	.350		680,000
	1972*	738,000	1,661,000	lb.	.173		287,000
Chickens, other	1973	282,000	1,128,000	lb.	.134		151,000
	1972	330,000	1,320,000	lb.	.056		74,000
Turkeys	1973	463,000	9,260,000	lb.	.500		4,630,000
	1972	584,000	11,820,000	lb.	.229		2,707,000
Rabbits	1973	17,500	70,000	lb.	.38		26,600
	1972	15,000	60,000	lb.	.30		18,000
Game birds and Squab	1973						43,200
	1972						47,000
TOTAL	1973						\$71,095,800
	1972						70,643,000
*Revised							

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS		PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
	YEAR			PER UNIT	TOTAL
<u>Milk</u>					
Market	1973	2,868,000	cwt.	\$6.32	\$18,126,000
	1972*	2,755,000	cwt.	5.38	14,822,000
Manufacturing	1973	10,900	cwt.	5.51	60,100
	1972*	4,800	cwt.	4.74	22,800
Wool	1973	1,631,000	lb.	.85	1,386,000
	1972	1,807,000	lb.	.22	398,000
Eggs, chicken Market	1973	5,911,000	doz.	.60	3,547,000
	1972	6,993,000	doz.	.426	2,979,000
TOTAL	1973				\$23,119,100
	1972*				18,221,800

JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY, 1973-1974
(In number of head)

ITEM	January 1, 1973	January 1, 1974
* <u>All cattle and calves</u>	231,400	268,000
* Cattle on feed	98,800	106,200
* Milk cows, two years and over	21,300	23,600
* Stock sheep and lambs	145,300	146,200
* Hogs	5,500	4,900
Hens and pullets of laying age	321,000	345,348

*Estimates of California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

1973 SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM PAYMENTS

(Barley Field Corn Sorghum)	\$ 792,926
Cotton	19,587,353
Sugar Beets	942,218
Wheat	332,120
TOTAL	\$21,654,617

S U M M A R Y

	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED VALUE</u>
Field Crops and Rangeland	1973	643,640 2,548,000	\$229,137,900
	1972*	638,700 2,582,000	166,290,000
Certified Seed Crops	1973	2,141	597,800
	1972	3,516	473,600
Noncertified Seed Crops	1973	630	117,700
	1972	2,440	309,900
Vegetable Crops	1973	82,725	132,304,000
	1972	70,647	80,978,600
Fruit and Nut Crops	1973	77,973	122,906,500
	1972*	63,774	86,018,900
Nursery Products	1973	2,469	17,947,000
	1972	2,288	11,472,000
Apiary Products	1973		512,830
	1972		366,870
Livestock and Poultry	1973		71,095,800
	1972*		70,643,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	1973		23,119,100
	1972*		18,221,800
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE (Includes 22,000 acres dry farm barley and wheat)	1973	809,578	
RANGELAND		2,548,000	
TOTAL VALUE			\$597,738,630
TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE (Includes 11,000 acres dry farm barley and wheat)	1972	781,365	
RANGELAND		2,582,000	
TOTAL VALUE*			\$434,774,670

*Revised