

Agricultural Production - - - Sacramento County 1950

The returns from the agricultural production in Sacramento County for the year 1950 amounted to \$ 48,157,159. This is a substantial increase over the \$39,063,620 indicated for the year 1949. The increase was brought about by three factors:

- 1 - A larger acreage of high revenue producing crops,
- 2 - Heavier per acre yields on some of the major crops,
- 3 - Higher prices received for crops in general.

Unfortunately the cost of production also increased and practically wiped out any substantial benefit from returns received for products sold.

The increase in the gross returns occurred in spite of one of the most peculiar years experienced with regard to weather. Low freezing temperatures during January severely damaged the oranges remaining on the trees from the 1949 crop. A light frost on May 3rd caused damage to strawberries and newly planted tomatoes. Heavy winds in June caused a heavy fruit drop in pear and plum orchards. Excessive high temperatures in late June and early July caused sunburning of grapes, prunes, plums, strawberries and walnuts with some stunting occurring to tomato plantings. A second period of excessive temperatures occurred in early September causing further damage to grapes and tomatoes. Heavy winds also caused heavy drop of olives and oranges in late September. Heavy warm rains in November came as a climax with high water and floods. These rains hindered the harvesting of sugar beets, causing new growth to start and a lowering of the sugar content; they caused suspension of the harvest of milo with approximately 3,000 acres remaining unharvested. The resultant floods damaged hop fields, sugar beets and alfalfa. The crop loss from these heavy rains and floods exceeded \$ 500,000. Further losses will carry over into 1951 through curtailment of the planting of grain and the reduction of some fruit and nut crops due to deciduous trees not going completely dormant early in the winter, a normal requirement.

Field crops continued to be the biggest factor in agricultural returns with hops and barley being the leaders. Increased acreage planted to barley together with heavy yields and good prices showed an increase of over one million dollars. Special attention given to the control of weeds has some bearing on increased yields. An increase is also shown in hops but this is mainly an adjustment missed in the preparation of the 1949 figures which showed returns less than actual returns for that year. Sugar beets yielded a heavier production and an increase in the acreage over 1949. This produced an increased income which offset losses occurring from the floods and lowering of sugar content due to warm rains. The total returns from all field crops reached \$ 18,376,724.

The livestock section is the second largest in the amount of the returns. No great change occurred in this field although some increase was noted in the number of stock in the county. The returns show an increase of approximately one and one-half million dollars. This increase is accounted for mainly in higher prices paid for the livestock and poultry products although irrigated pastures has encouraged an increase in dairying, particularly in the family sized dairy. Poultry and poultry products, including turkeys, rank high in the overall returns.

The acreage of horticultural crops continues to show a decline due to the encroachment of residential and business development. The returns for 1950 are greater than in 1949 mainly from a larger pear crop and good prices both from the cannery deliveries and the eastern market. Grape acreage shows a decline and the per acre production was low due to a light crop and sunburning.

Tomatoes are the county's leading agricultural crop with a yield of \$4,669,510. The acreage was about the same as in 1949 with the per acre yield being greater. Prospects for 1951 indicate a substantial increase in the acreage of tomatoes.

The total returns from all vegetable crops amounted to \$ 5,527,510. Asparagus, once the leading agricultural crop, has now been reduced to a minor role.

Agricultural Production in Sacramento County

This report is compiled and issued under Section 65.6 of the Agricultural Code of the State of California. The figures represent gross receipts and do not indicate net income.

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION:

Field Crops	\$18,376,724		
Fruit, Nuts, and Berries	7,090,425		
Vegetables	5,527,510		
Livestock and Dairy	11,900,000		
Poultry, eggs, turkeys, etc	<u>5,262,500</u>	Total	\$48,157,159

FIELD CROPS:

Crop Acreage and Gross Returns by Commodity

Alfalfa	18,000	\$2,230,200	Seed Crops	2,500	\$ 370,950
Barley	70,000	3,437,000			
Beans, Dry	5,000	677,280	Vegetable Seed	120	
Beets, Sugar	15,000	3,153,600	Alfalfa	400	
Corn, Field	2,500	337,500	Clover	1,300	
Hay, Grain	9,000	263,250	Barley	20	
Hops	3,267	4,024,944	Beans	100	
Milo	10,000	602,000	Milo	100	
Oats	7,500	145,000	Oats	50	
Pasture, Irr.	25,000	1,125,000	Rye Grass	10	
Rice	8,000	1,128,000	Sudan Grass	250	
Wheat	24,000	792,000	Wheat	150	
			Total Field Crops		18,376,724

FRUIT, NUTS, AND BERRIES:

Almonds	2,000	492,000	Pears, Cannery	2,694,375	
Apricots	100	21,000	Pears, Ship East	755,040	
Berries, Bush	125	80,600	Pears, Local	111,960	
Cherries	100	62,400	Plums	261	\$ 117,450
Figs	100	14,500	Peaches	300	162,000
Grapes, Wine	1,400	126,000	Pistachio	42	4,200
Grapes, Table	3,660	416,000	Prunes	1,800	318,500
Olives	1,800	540,000	Strawberries	300	600,000
Oranges	400	200,000	Walnuts	1,250	340,000
Pears (All)	4,000	3,561,375	Misc. Fruit	200	35,000
			Total Fruits		7,090,425

VEGETABLE CROPS:

Asparagus	1,380	345,000	Tomatoes (All)	11,900	4,669,510
Cucumbers	300	63,000	Round Cannery	3,038,750	
Peas	1,000	210,000	Pear Shape	1,540,000	
Misc, Vegetables	1,200	240,000	Shipping	90,760	
			Total Vegetables		5,527,510