

AGRICULTURAL
CROP AND LIVESTOCK
REPORT

STANISLAUS COUNTY
1948

Agricultural Extension Service
and
Department of Agriculture
of
Stanislaus County

F O R E W O R D

This is the 22nd annual crop and livestock report for Stanislaus County which has been compiled and published by the Stanislaus County Agricultural Extension Service. The last eight reports have been jointly submitted by the Extension Service and County Agricultural Commissioner.

The 1948 season shows a gross agricultural income approximately the same as a year ago. Several factors were responsible for the high gross income for the county -- higher livestock, poultry, and turkey prices, and an increase price per ton for Cling peaches over 1947. Dairy prices remained fairly firm, and income from dairy livestock showed an increase. Butterfat production decreased slightly, while prices both for A and B grade milk held firm. Price for butter declined. Farmers received lower prices for apricots, almonds, walnuts, and for some grapes. Fresh fruit income showed some drop. Blackeye bean income dropped materially, but acreage increased. Due to the early drought alfalfa production showed a lower yield per acre, but prices remained firm.

The farmers, shippers, processors, and others responsible for the production and marketing of the crops, livestock, and livestock products are again to be commended for an outstanding job which they have done this year. As during the past several years, farmers and shippers were faced with many complex problems which had to be overcome, causing additional effort and expense.

Acreages of permanent crops are reported in actual bearing acreage only, other crops in actual planted acreage. Livestock and livestock products are reported in numbers of sales of livestock and their products. Production is reported in units commonly used in marketing county crops and livestock products commercially in this county. Prices are reported on an average f.o.b. basis. This report represents the farmers' gross income. Cost of production, which would include harvesting and handling, must be deducted to get the net farm income. Revenue may be duplicated in some instances where such crops as Ladino clover pasture, alfalfa, native pastures, and some of the feed crops may be produced and consumed on the same farm and be reported under both livestock and field crops.

Both the Farm Advisor and the Agricultural Commissioner have made every effort to make this report as accurate as possible. New acreage figures just compiled by the Agricultural Commissioner's office are enclosed herewith and are the latest and most accurate data having been compiled. This survey includes both fruit, grape, and nut crops. Data have been carefully checked for accuracy with various agencies, and information has been obtained from the most reliable sources.

We wish to express our appreciation to the various irrigation districts who have cooperated in sending us data on acreages, and to all those who have assisted us in getting the necessary information which has made the compilation of this report possible.

A. A. JUNGEMAN
County Farm Advisor

MILO M. SCHROCK
County Agricultural Commissioner

CROP SUMMARY

Stanislaus County had another record income from crops and livestock; however, it was adversely affected by the drought which occurred in the late winter and early spring. Later rainfall occurred after the middle of March. Among the crops affected included a shortage of at least one cutting of alfalfa. Irrigated pastures were delayed in starting. The native pastures picked up after the rains came but were below normal.

The season was cool and later than usual. Weather was favorable for a good harvest with practically no rains occurring during the harvest season which made it possible for all crops to be harvested without any loss. The season was very unfavorable for apricot growers, prices being distressed. Some apricot crops were dropped without harvesting.

Livestock and poultry prices were higher than in the previous year and there was a good demand for all poultry and dairy products. An increased acreage in the planting of Blackeye beans resulted and a decrease in the seeding of alfalfa due to the high price of Blackeyes during the previous year. Blackeye bean prices dropped materially over a year ago.

FRUITS AND NUTS

Almonds -- Almond yields were higher in 1948 than they were in 1947. Production was fairly uniform with good crops being produced in most orchards. Prices were slightly below the past season.

Apricots -- The apricot crop was fairly good with most orchards producing a normal crop. The price situation was unfavorable, and a considerable amount of the crop went unharvested. Because of the poor return received from many apricot orchards, a considerable acreage of apricots was removed during the fall months. Apricot acreage in the county is now less than 50 per cent of what it was five years ago.

Grapes, Raisin -- Due to a cool late season very few, if any, natural raisins were made in the county, and the majority were dehydrated. The crop was about normal even though it was late. A fair percentage of the Thompson grape crop went to the wineries.

Grapes, Wine Varieties -- Wine grapes were also late and had very low sugar, which in turn brought down the price to the grower. The market started fairly strong but fell off in late season as rains stopped table grape shipment, especially when the Tokays hit the wine market.

Peaches, Clings -- The clingstone peach crop was the largest peach harvest ever produced in Stanislaus County. Yields of most varieties were good. The set in many orchards was not too heavy, but the sizes were better than average. Because of the cool season the harvest was late and most of the peaches were picked in the county during the month of August. The clingstone peach acreage has increased about 500 acres in the county during the last year.

Peaches, Freestones (Fresh shipment, freezing, and canning) -- The price of freestone peaches which were canned was \$25.00 per ton for Lovells and \$55.00 per ton for Elbertas. The price of dried peaches improved as the season progressed, and the average price of dried freestone peaches amounted to approximately 14¢ per pound. There was a considerable acreage of Lovells and Muirs removed during the fall season because of the continued low price of dried peaches.

Nectarines -- Nectarine production was about average for the season. Prices have remained about stable with the past years' prices; however, acreage has slightly increased. Practically all the nectarines from this area were shipped and sold as fresh fruit.

Figs -- Fig acreage has gradually declined until there are only approximately 200 acres of figs in the county. This acreage is divided between Kadotas, Missions, and Calimyrnas.

Cherries -- Some cherries were shipped fresh; however, most of the production was barreled and sold as pie cherries. There are approximately 100 acres of cherries in the county, and it is one of the minor crops.

Plums and Prunes -- The prune acreage has practically been removed so that there are no more prunes produced in this county. The plum acreage has not increased materially, and what plums are produced are packed and shipped for the fresh market.

Olives -- The olive crop was about normal this season. Prices were about the same as they were last year which was considerably lower than the prices during the war. Olive acreage has slightly increased during the last few years until there are now 277 acres in Stanislaus County. 64 acres are still classified as non-bearing.

Walnuts -- Yields of walnuts for 1948 were slightly higher than they were in 1947 and quality was better than during the past season. The walnut acreage has increased rather rapidly with Stanislaus County now in 4th place in walnut production in the state. There are approximately 6,000 acres of bearing walnuts with a little better than 3,300 acres non-bearing, making a total acreage of nearly 9,300 acres. The current year's average price approximated 25¢ per pound returned to the grower.

Miscellaneous Fruit -- Miscellaneous fruits included quinces, pears, persimmons, pomegranates, and pecans. These are lumped together and shown under one heading entitled "Miscellaneous Fruits."

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FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa -- Declined approximately 20,000 acres. This acreage went mainly into Blackeye beans. Production was also down due to cooler summer. Prices remained very firm throughout the entire season rising towards year's end. Little damage from insect pests.

Beans -- Blackeye bean acreage increased approximately 14,000 acres. Abnormally high prices during 1946 and 1947 no doubt encouraged this. Gross value of the crop dropped from approximately \$4,500,000 in 1947 to less than \$2,000,000 in 1948. Baby Lima prices also dropped to almost support levels. Yields were good. 1500 acres of Standard Lima beans in the county did very well with an average of 25 sacks per acre. This same land is of the quality that would yield on the average of 35 sacks of Baby Limas.

Corn, Field -- A small decrease in the acreage of corn for grain in 1948 is reported. Most of this corn is of the hybrid varieties. The yields were down somewhat due largely to insect damage in early plantings.

Corn, Silage -- Silage corn acreage was increased some and may continue to do so with field chopping equipment becoming more readily available. The large amount of hard labor connected with the older methods of handling silage corn have no doubt held back the amount that would otherwise have been grown.

Grain -- Despite drought conditions during early 1948, the east side grain growing area harvested one of the best crops in history. Buying started cautiously but stayed firm until about mid season followed by decline.

Grain Sorghums -- Grain sorghum acreage held practically the same and remained a very minor source of grain production.

Grain Hay -- Quality about normal. Yield down somewhat. Acreage slightly reduced. Price slightly improved and remained firm.

Pasture -- The acreage of irrigated perennial pasture showed some decrease in 1948 for the first time since this crop came into prominence. Dairy-men and beef cattlemen continue to use a larger percentage of this acreage each year.

Annual Irrigated Pasture -- Sudan grass acreage was slightly down. This might be expected with an increase in silage corn and bean acreage.

Rice -- Rice acreage decreased appreciably. Yields likewise less. Prices dropped somewhat. Cool summer did not favor best growing conditions.

Sugar Beets -- Acreage remained about same with yields slightly improved.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Cantaloupes -- Acreage planted to cantaloupes increased about 250 per cent over the 1947 figure. The tonnage and quality were about average, but market conditions were quite poor. Many growers and shippers lost money in cantaloupes.

Carrots -- Carrot acreage increased to 225 acres during the 1948 season. Yields were normal and marketing conditions were excellent early in the year, but very poor in the latter part. Many of the late carrots were used for stock feed.

Casaba, Crenshaw, and Persian Melons -- Acreage devoted to these miscellaneous melons increased over past years. Marketing conditions were poor, however, especially for casabas, resulting in little, if any, profit for most growers and shippers of these melons.

Honey Dews -- Acreage devoted to production of Honey Dew melons increased considerably. Yields were about normal but some melons were left in the field because of the poor marketing conditions. The quality of the 1948 crop was slightly below normal.

Lima Beans for Freezing -- Acreage increased over 1947 very appreciably. Work on spacing trials of U.S. 242 continued. Yields were good.

Peas -- Pea acreage increased slightly over 1947 and yields were about average. Quality about average.

Spinach -- Spinach acreage was about the same as for 1947, but yields and quality were lower because of poor growing conditions and damage from insects and diseases. Prices were about the same as for 1947.

Strawberries -- Strawberry acreage in the county is on increase with an expected bearing acreage of close to 400 acres by 1950.

Sweet Corn -- Sweet corn acreage was up slightly over the past year. The yields and quality were about average, although corn earworm damage was heavy in some cases.

Sweet Potatoes -- Sweet potato acreage decreased considerably and the present acreage is only a fraction of that produced several years ago. Yields were somewhat low but quality remained about average.

Tomatoes -- Tomato acreage decreased some from 1947 but yields and quality were about the same. Most growers received a lower price for tomatoes in 1948 than in 1947.

Watermelons -- Watermelon acreage decreased considerably over 1947. Yields and quality were about average but prices were lower than in 1947. Many melons were left in the fields late in the season.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRYING

Beef Cattle -- Numbers including both cattle raised and those brought in as stockers increased on the average of 5 per cent. Prices were higher by 15 per cent.

Dairying -- Dairy production shows a slight decrease in 1948 but still remains high. There was approximately a 3 per cent reduction in the over-all production with an increase in the per cent of Grade A milk and a slight increase in the average price, making an increase in total value of milk products. Animals disposed of for meat and breeding purposes enjoyed a large increase in price and, therefore, in over-all value.

Hogs -- Hog production appeared to be only slightly down, some 3 per cent from the preceding year, and prices were about the same.

Sheep -- Numbers of ewes and lambs produced within the county were 5 per cent less than one year ago, and the number of lambs fed on irrigated pastures declined 25 per cent from 1947. Prices were up considerably.

Rabbits -- Rabbit production remained approximately the same as the previous year.

Poultry -- Production of meat and eggs increased over that of 1947. The egg feed ratio became more favorable the last half of the year.

Turkeys -- Production of turkeys increased over 1947 despite a decline in the nation's totals. Turkey egg production was down, but actually egg value increased.

Honey -- Honey production showed an increase over a year ago. Prices declined, and much of the honey remained in producers' hands.

ACREAGE ESTIMATES OF STANISLAUS COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

1948

by Stanislaus County Department of Agriculture
Milo M. Schrock, Agricultural Commissioner

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>	<u>NON-BEARING ACRES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>ALMONDS</u>			
Drakes	531	9	540
I.X.L.	270	2	272
Jordonola	161	86	247
Mission (Texas)	1,704	120	1,824
Ne Plus Ultra	806	75	881
Nonpareil	2,625	203	2,828
Peerless	62	3	65
Other Varieties	108	5	113
TOTAL ALMONDS	6,267	503	6,770
APPLES (ALL)	1	0	1
<u>APRICOTS</u>			
Blenheim-Royal	261	0	261
Tilton	1,900	130	2,030
Other Varieties	23	0	23
TOTAL APRICOTS	2,184	130	2,314
<u>CHERRIES</u>			
All Varieties	102	11	113
CHESTNUTS (ALL)	5	1	6
<u>FIGS</u>			
Kadota	114	0	114
Other Varieties	89	0	89
TOTAL FIGS	203	0	203
<u>GRAPES, RAISIN</u>			
Thompson	6,015	565	6,580
Zante Currant	8	0	8
TOTAL RAISIN GRAPES	6,023	565	6,588
<u>GRAPES, TABLE</u>			
Emperor	177	1	178
Ribier	153	4	157
Thompson	367	19	386
Red Malaga	194	0	194
Other Varieties	59	8	67
TOTAL TABLE GRAPES	950		982

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>	<u>NON-BEARING ACRES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>GRAPES WINE</u>			
Alacante	1,485	16	1,501
Burger	65	0	65
Carignane	4,818	308	5,126
Palomino	222	71	293
Grenache	447	255	702
Mission	271	0	271
Petite Sirah	82	0	82
Zinfandel	676	7	683
Feher Szagas	94	0	94
Salvador	142	8	150
Thompson	181	24	205
White Malaga	513	0	513
Muscat	50	0	50
Other Varieties	83	0	83
TOTAL WINE GRAPES	9,129	689	9,818
TOTAL ALL GRAPES	16,102	1,286	17,388
<u>NECTARINES</u>			
Quetta	61	5	66
Rivers	50	8	58
Gold Mine	42	16	58
Other Varieties	48	6	54
TOTAL NECTARINES			236
<u>OLIVES</u>			
Manzanillo	89	32	121
Mission	124	32	156
Other Varieties	0	0	0
TOTAL OLIVES	213	64	277
ORANGES (ALL)	17	0	17
<u>PEACHES, CLING</u>			
Gaume	1,574	59	1,633
Halford	2,822	192	3,014
Johnson	111	32	143
Paloro	2,098	218	2,316
Peak	1,162	140	1,302
Phillips	1,675	31	1,706
Sims	189	19	208
Tuscan	74	0	74
Andora	336	248	584
Carolyn	34	73	107
Corona	114	55	169
Cortez	16	429	445
Fortuna	681	568	1,249
Gomes (Stuart)	1,056	306	1,362
McKnight	56	0	56
Shasta	165	84	249
Stanford	91	32	123
Sullivan	100	0	100
Williams	74	10	84
Other Varieties	266	37	303
TOTAL CLING PEACHES	12,694	2,533	15,227

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>	<u>NON-BEARING ACRES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>PEACHES, FREESTONE</u>			
Elberta	737	246	983
J. H. Hale	166	36	202
Lovell	1,178	33	1,211
Muir	327	26	353
Rio Oso Gem	91	74	165
Fay Elberta	189	115	304
Kirkman Gem	21	32	53
Other Varieties	86	23	109
TOTAL FREESTONE PEACHES	2,795	585	3,380
TOTAL ALL PEACHES	15,489	3,118	18,607
PEARS (ALL)	5	0	5
PECANS (ALL)	30	8	38
PERSIMMONS (ALL)	14	0	14
PLUMS & PRUNES (ALL)	46	14	60
POMEGRANATES (ALL)	7	0	7
<u>WALNUTS</u>			
Concord	95	4	99
Eureka	1,601	736	2,337
Franquette	2,031	1,295	3,326
Mayette	602	132	734
Payne	1,316	330	1,646
Blackmer	44	301	345
Hartley	107	246	353
Seedling	52	246	298
Other Varieties	102	37	139
TOTAL WALNUTS	5,950	3,327	9,277
TOTAL ALL	46,836	8,497	55,333

FRUIT, GRAPES, AND NUTS

Crop	Bearing Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Almonds	6,268	807#	2,530	Ton	\$400.00	\$1,012,000
Apricots	3,300	5 Tons	8,495	Ton		478,200
(Canned		1/2 unharvested	1,300	Ton	60.00	\$ 78,000)
(Dried			1,050	Dried Ton	360.00	378,000)
(Shipped - fresh market)			200	Ton	60.00	12,000)
(Frozen			170	Ton	60.00	10,200)
Boysenberries	200	4.2	840	Ton	230.00	193,200
Cherries	101	2.0	202	Ton	300.00	60,600
Figs	202	2.0	404	Ton	350.00	141,400
Grapes - Total	16,102	6.64	106,846	Ton	29.00	3,069,088
(Raisin (as used)			24,000	Ton	24.00	576,000)
(Canned			3,600	Ton	45.00	162,000)
(Shipped			3,300	Ton	62.00	204,600)
(Wine			75,946	Ton	28.00	2,126,488)
Peaches, Clings	12,692	13.4	170,000	Ton	65.00	11,050,000
Freestone	2,700	11.6	31,373	Ton		621,515
(Shipping			2,100	Ton	80.00	168,000)
(Canning			20,000	Ton	40.00	80,000)
(Freezing			173	Ton	55.00	9,515)
(Drying			1,300	Dried Ton	280.00	364,000)
Nectarines	200	8.0	1,600	Ton	110.00	176,000
Walnuts	5,955	1300#/A.	3,871	Ton	500.00	1,935,500
Olives	213	4.0	852	Ton	150.00	127,800
Miscellaneous Fruit	150			Acre	400.00	60,000
Nursery Stock						1,256,875
(Deciduous Fruits and Nuts						123,875)
(Roses and ornamentals						930,500)
(Strawberry plants	35	55,000,000 plants				202,500)
	48,118					\$20,182,178

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
		5.0	303,845	Ton	\$ 27.00	\$8,203,815
Barley	73,000	2060#	150,380,000	Lb.	.028	4,210,640
Beans, Dry						
Blackeyes	37,668	9.0	339,012	Cwt.	5.50	1,864,566
Baby Limas	19,500	22.0	429,000	Cwt.	8.50	3,646,500
Std. Limas	1,500	25.0	37,500	Cwt.	18.25	684,375
Bean Straw	36,000	1.0	36,000	Ton	9.00	324,000
Corn, Grain	546	23.6	12,886	Cwt.	3.50	45,101
Corn Silage	5,347	11.0	58,817	Ton	7.00	411,719
Cotton, Lint	95	425.0	40,375	Lb.	.31	12,516
Cotton, Seed	115	.60	69	Ton	68.00	4,692
Grain Sorghum	531	18.00	9,558	Cwt.	3.75	35,843
Hay, Grain	20,350	1.75	35,613	Ton	22.00	783,486
Hay, Wild	1,200	.5	600	Ton	16.00	9,600
Oats	13,380	1750#	23,415,000	Lb.	.0345	807,818
Pasture, Range	279,350			Acres	2.00	558,700
Permanent Irrigated (Ladino)	80,887			Acres	55.00	4,448,785
Sudan Grass	4,237			Acres	25.00	105,925
Stubble	86,934			Acres	2.00	173,868
Rice	1,591	27.0	42,957	Cwt.	3.00	128,871
Sugar Beets	160	18.0	2,880	Ton	14.00	40,320
Sweet Potatoes	365	6500#	2,372,500	Lb.	.0512	130,488
Wheat	554	1400#	775,600	Lb.	.038	29,473
	724,079					\$26,661,101

TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES)

Crop	Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Cantaloupes	2,105	135	284,175	Crate	\$ 2.10	\$ 596,768
Carrots	225	10	2,250	Ton	40.00	90,000
Casabas, Crenshaws, Persians, etc.	810	7	5,670	Ton	23.00	130,410
Honeydews	1,480	6	8,880	Ton	25.00	222,000
Lima Beans (for freezing)	4,500	2,800	12,600,000	Lb.	.0875	1,102,500
Peas	2,350	1	2,350	Ton	85.00	199,750
Spinach	1,310	3.5	4,585	Ton	20.25	92,846
Strawberries	290	700	203,000	Crate (9# ea.)	1.75	355,250
Sweet Corn	310	200	62,000	Crate (35-40# ea.)	1.75	108,500
Sweet Potatoes	365	6,500	2,372,500	Lb.	.045	106,762
Tomatoes	6,750	16	108,000	Ton	26.00	2,808,000
Watermelons	1,075	10	10,750	Ton	17.50	188,125
Other Garden Truck Crops	2,136	--	--	Acres	220.00	469,920
	<u>23,706</u>					<u>\$6,470,831</u>

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LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

<u>Kind</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per Unit</u>	<u>Value</u>	
Beef Cattle	14,700 raised	\$189.00 each	\$ 2,778,300	
	37,800 fed	230.00 each	<u>8,694,000</u>	\$11,472,300
Dairy, Butterfat				
Grade "A"	12,974,700 lbs.	\$ 1.22 per lb.	15,829,134	
Grade "B"	6,986,000 lbs.	\$ 1.13 per lb.	7,894,180	
Meat and breeding stock			<u>4,104,000</u>	27,827,314
Honey - 9,000 hives, 45 lbs. per hive		8¢ per lb.	32,400	
2,500 lbs. wax		40¢ per lb.	1,000	
2,000 Queen Bees		\$1.00 each	2,000	
500 3-lb. packages		\$4.00 per pkg.	2,000	
1,000 colonies for pollinization		\$1.00 per colony	<u>1,000</u>	38,400
Horses and Mules	2,600 (sold for meat)	\$45.00 each	117,000	
	1,000 (sold for pleasure and work)	\$50.00 each	<u>50,000</u>	167,000
Poultry, Eggs	5,142,600 doz.	54¢ ea. dozen	2,777,004	
Meat	442,000 lbs.	42¢ ea. pound	185,640	
Hens	285,700 @ 3½ lbs.	31¢ ea. pound	<u>309,984</u>	3,272,628
Rabbits, Fryers	46,500	\$1.20 ea. fryer	55,800	
Skins and breeding stock			<u>11,000</u>	66,800
Sheep, Lambs	14,250 @ 22.80	\$22.80 each	324,900	
Ewes	3,800	\$12.20 each	46,360	
Fed Lambs	60,000 @ 3.60	\$24.00 per cwt.	216,000	
(Ewe	105,000 lbs.	50¢ per lb.	52,500	
Wool				
(Lamb	185,625 lbs.	44¢ per lb.	<u>81,675</u>	721,435
Swine	12,610	\$65.00 each		819,650
Turkeys, Meat	993,600	\$ 9.80 each	9,737,280	
Eggs	1,982,000	35¢ each	<u>693,700</u>	10,430,980
				<u>\$54,816,507</u>

SEED CROP PRODUCTION

Crop	Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Alfalfa	361	350	126,350	Lbs.	30¢	\$ 37,905
Cantaloupe	2.5	202	505	Lbs.	50¢	253
Gourds	1	700	700	Lbs.	40¢	280
Ladino	300	150	45,000	Lbs.	\$1.80	81,000
Pumpkin	57.5	331	21,908	Lbs.	30¢	6,572
Squash	146	372	54,312	Lbs.	33¢	17,923
Sunflower	265	485	128,525	Lbs.	.0975	12,531
Watermelon	246	252	61,992	Lbs.	35¢	21,697
	1,379					178,161

S U M M A R Y

<u>Item</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Fruit, Grapes, and Nuts	48,118	\$20,182,178
Field Crops	724,079	26,661,101
Truck Crops (Vegetables)	23,706	6,470,831
Seed Crop Production	1,379	178,161
Livestock and Poultry		54,816,507
	797,282	\$108,308,778