

AGRICULTURAL
CROP AND LIVESTOCK
REPORT

STANISLAUS COUNTY
1949

Agricultural Extension Service
and
Department of Agriculture
of
Stanislaus County

F O R E W O R D

This is the annual crop and livestock report for Stanislaus County for 1949. This report has been jointly prepared by the County Agricultural Commissioner and the Agricultural Extension Service.

The 1949 season shows a drop of 15.4 per cent in the gross agricultural income over a year ago. Prices of most agricultural commodities that the farmer produced showed a decline over 1948, but production was at a high level for most crops and livestock products. Butterfat production held up, but prices declined. This is also true for poultry and turkeys. Beef cattle number and prices declined somewhat in 1949. Field crop acreage held well over the previous year, there being a drop in Blackeye bean production and acreage but a gain in price. There was some gain in the acreage of alfalfa and irrigated pastures over 1948. Grain acreage increased slightly. Grain production was below average. Barley and oat prices declined.

There was a large production of cling peaches in 1949. A stricter grading system and an increased size for No. 1 cling peaches cut down the deliveries for many growers. Prices for clings were lower by \$25.00 per ton over the previous year.

Freestone peaches reflected the lower price of clings and were lower in price. Almond and walnut yields were above average but prices were lower. Dried fruit prices were lower than last year.

Grape prices were lower and production was affected by a cooler summer. Deliveries to wineries were curtailed.

The figures presented represent gross income from production and not net income of the producer. To get the net income the cost of producing the farm commodity must be deducted. Acreages of crops are reported in producing acreages only. Livestock and livestock products are reported in number of sales of livestock and their products. Production is reported in units commonly used in marketing county crops and livestock products commercially in Stanislaus County. Prices are reported on an average f.o.b. basis. Revenue may be duplicated in some instances where such crops as Ladino clover pasture and alfalfa, native pastures and some feed crops are 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. The Agricultural Commissioner's office has included the latest data on bearing acreage of fruit, grape, and nut crops.

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance of various agencies such as irrigation districts, cooperatives, handlers of crops, producers and others who have made this report possible.

A. A. JUNGERMAN
Farm Advisor
County Director of Extension.

MILO M. SCHROCK
County Agricultural Commissioner

CROP SUMMARY

Stanislaus County had another good harvest season. Crops were normal in most cases; some production was above the average. The cool summer was favorable for the peach harvest and helped to maintain quality in walnut production. It was also favorable for a good set of tomatoes. It retarded the ripening of grapes and rice and adversely affected the yield of grapes and Blackeye beans. The native pastures were below normal because of below normal rainfall. Income from crops and livestock was less, reflecting the decline in agricultural prices.

The season was about average. 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. Irrigation water was available in most districts for the greater part of the producing year.

FRUITS AND NUTS

Almonds -- Almond yields were higher in 1949 than they were in 1948. Practically all orchards in the county had a full crop. The average price dropped about 4¢ a pound under that of last year's price.

Apricots -- The apricot crop was good with most orchards producing a normal crop. Apricot acreage figures have decreased each year since the war. 1949 prices were lower than they were in 1948. This trend increases acreage removal.

Grapes, Raisin -- The Thompson seedless crop was somewhat lighter this year than usual. A considerable number of the grapes was made into natural raisins along with a considerable tonnage of Golden Bleach raisins.

Grapes, Wine Varieties -- There was a good crop of wine grapes produced in the county this season. The price was not too attractive to the growers; however, most of the crop was sold to the wineries. Tonnage of grapes shipped was less than that of the previous year.

Peaches, Clings -- There was an exceptionally heavy set of clingstone peaches which produced probably the largest crop of clingstone peaches grown in this county. The marketing agreement called for an increase in size and thereby slightly decreased the tonnage marketed below the 1948 figure. The price was dropped from \$65.00 per ton in 1948 to \$40.00 per ton for the 1949 season. The bearing acreage was increased slightly during the past season.

Peaches, Freestones -- There was a good crop of freestone peaches produced during the past season. The average price of dried peaches amounted to 12½¢ per pound; whereas, Elbertas sold to the canneries for \$35.00 a ton and Lovells at \$20.00 to \$25.00 a ton. These prices were lower than that of 1948.

Nectarines -- Nectarine production was less this year than in 1948. Prices were lower; however, acreage remained the same. Practically all of the nectarines were shipped from this area to the eastern market and a small tonnage to San Francisco and Los Angeles markets.

Figs -- Fig acreage remained the same with a fair crop, growers receiving lower returns this season. Figs are becoming less and less important in the county, the acreage being divided between Kadota, Mission, and Calimyrnas.

Boysenberries -- Boysenberries dropped in price from $11\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ to 8¢ a pound, and many plantings were hit heavily with a cane die-back. However, the overall tonnage remained about the same as last year due to tonnage increases in some of the larger plantings.

Strawberries -- This was a rather poor crop year for strawberries. There was a heavy bloom and set, but poor size, and late season rains bothered harvest. The price was low due to a large carryover from 1948. The price, however, strengthened in late season as the coast crop was short, and it is expected to be higher this coming season.

Cherries -- There was a normal crop of cherries produced in the 1949 season. The price was about $1/2$ of that for 1948. Practically all of the white cherries were barreled and sold as pickled cherries; whereas, the black cherries were shipped and sold on the local markets.

Plums and Prunes -- There was a good crop of plums produced of which practically all were shipped to eastern and local markets. Prune acreage is now almost removed so that it is difficult to find any prunes in this county.

Olives -- The olive crop was very small during the 1949 season. Prices increased somewhat with the small crop; however, because of the small crop olives were not profitable to the farmers this year.

Walnuts -- There was an increase in yield from bearing orchards and also an increase in acres of bearing walnuts in the county during the 1949 season. The average price of walnuts dropped from 25¢ per pound in 1948 to around 21¢ per pound in 1949. The walnut growers in the county received less for the 1949 crop even though the production increased. The reduced returns were due to the decrease in price.

Miscellaneous Fruit -- Miscellaneous fruit includes quinces, pears, persimmons, pomegranates, chestnuts, and pecans. The crop was good for most of these fruits; however, returns were lower than that of 1948. Returns from these fruits and nuts are listed under the heading "Miscellaneous Fruits."

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa -- Alfalfa acreage increased by about 7,000 acres. Part of this acreage went in land from which fruit trees had been removed and part in open crop land because of the poor outlook for Blackeye beans. Prices remained fairly firm throughout the entire season. Insect damage was not serious, and production was good.

Beans -- Blackeye bean acreage was reduced by more than 50 per cent because of the economic outlook. The reduction in acreage coupled with poor yields in California and an almost crop failure in Texas resulted in a complete recovery of the Blackeye bean market. Supplies have moved out well and Blackeyes go into the next year with no serious carry over. Gross value of the crop dropped to \$1,240,000 from last year's figure of \$1,864,000. Baby Lima prices dropped to support levels. Yields again were high. The Standard Limas increased to 5,000 acres. Prices dipped considerably and growers averaged only 9½¢ as compared to over 18 in 1948.

Corn, Field -- The acreage planted to field corn for grain more than doubled because of the poor outlook for beans and the publicity given this crop for use in dairy and other livestock rations. Most of this corn continues to be of the hybrid varieties of which several are yielding quite satisfactorily. Yields, on the average, were good. There continues to be a sizable acreage devoted to ensilage corn. New equipment is being used to handle this crop and the price of ensilage is lower than that of competing feedstuffs.

Grain -- Drought conditions continued in the grain country for another year as moisture was short in the latter part of the growing season. Yields dropped about 25 per cent. Prices declined to support levels because of the large supplies produced during recent years.

Grain Sorghums -- Acreage increased slightly, but the crop continues to be of only minor importance.

Grain Hay -- Yield down because of short moisture. Prices also dropped a little.

Pasture -- Acreage of irrigated perennial pasture increased by about 5 per cent with the development of some new land. Pastures continue to be used mainly by dairy and beef cattlemen.

Annual Irrigated Pasture -- Sudan grass acreage increased slightly. Quality continued good.

Rice -- Rice acreage increased by some 350 acres. Yields continued generally good.

Sugar Beets -- Acreage increased considerably because of the poor economic outlook of tomatoes and beans. Yields were somewhat light because of heavy damage from curly top, cutworms, and root rots.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Carrots -- Carrots continue to be planted in small acreages throughout the West Side area. Yields were normal and prices were generally better than the previous year.

Lima Beans for Freezing -- Lima beans planted for processing increased in acreage. Yields continued good although prices dropped somewhat. Fordhook and Baby Lima varieties make up the bulk of the acreage.

Melons -- Total acreage planted to melons decreased some. Prices were generally poorer, caused partially by below average quality of some of the melons, as well as economic conditions. Cantaloupe acreage dropped considerably, but prices were somewhat higher. Watermelon acreage increased on the East Side particularly because of the "bean picture." Yields were good and prices were fairly satisfactory.

Peas -- Pea acreage increased somewhat and yields were higher, although prices were down a little.

Spinach -- Spinach acreage remained about the same. Yields were higher with more favorable growing conditions and prices continued at or near \$20 a ton.

Sweet Corn -- Sweet corn acreage increased considerably throughout the county because of the economic picture of beans and other crops. Insect damage was fairly heavy, but low prices were far more important. Yields were low because of the poor demand for this commodity.

Sweet Potatoes -- Acreage increased somewhat and prices remained firm. Yields were good as the harvest season was favorable. Newer methods of harvesting, curing, and shed packing have resulted in a more attractive product.

Tomatoes -- Tomato acreage decreased because of economic conditions. Yields were a little higher because of ideal weather during the harvesting season. Prices were lower, causing some growers to plant other crops.

SEED PRODUCTION

There continues to be a small acreage devoted to various types of seed crops in Stanislaus County. Alfalfa seed acreage was up considerably and yields were increased. Ladino seed plantings doubled but yields were poor. Prices on alfalfa and Ladino seed were lower than in 1948. Cucurbit seeds were planted in small acreages only because of the large supplies of some varieties already on hand.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRYING

Beef Cattle -- Breeding numbers of beef cattle are down approximately 1 per cent. Numbers of cattle brought in for finishing were 5 per cent lower than in 1948. This latter decrease was for the most part due to cold winter and low rainfall, thus poor feed conditions.

Dairying -- The dairy production did not show any great change during 1949. During the year grade B or manufacturing milk producers found themselves at a very considerable disadvantage at the end of the year. During the last part of 1949 there was a greater differential between grade A and grade B milk than there had been for many years. Animals disposed of for meat and breeding purposes enjoyed a very satisfactory price throughout the year.

Hogs -- Hog production increased; spring and fall litters were larger by 15 per cent.

Sheep -- The breeding sheep population declined 20 per cent from 1948. because of very poor feed conditions on the West Side. Several of the larger sheepmen have gone out of business.

Lambs brought in for finishing were also down 20 per cent. Feeder lambs were very high in price and hard to find. Cattle were fed this year by some operators who would have normally stocked sheep.

Rabbits -- Rabbit production declined over that of the year 1948.

Poultry -- Poultry production of meat and especially eggs increased over that of 1948. The percentage of increase was greater in the county than the state average. The egg-feed ratio was not as favorable as during the previous year. Prices for eggs and meats were lower.

Turkeys -- Turkey production increased over that of last year. Turkey egg production showed a marked increase. Egg prices remained the same. However, the price paid for turkeys on the ranch was considerably lower than that of 1948.

Honey -- Honey production showed a decrease over the previous year due mainly to a lack of interest on the part of the beekeeper in working his bees. The price of honey declined to 7¢ which is below the cost of production. Most of the honey still remains in the producers' hands as they are anticipating government price support. The price of beeswax also declined.

ACREAGE ESTIMATES OF STANISLAUS COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

1949

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

<u>CROP</u>	<u>Bearing Acres</u>
ALMONDS	
Drakes	525
Eureka	6
I.X.L.	269
Jordonola	147
Lewelling	6
Mission (Texas)	1,567
Ne Plus	758
Non Pareil	2,459
Peerless	60
Other Varieties	93
TOTAL ALMONDS	5,890
APRICOTS	
Blenheim-Royal	255
Moorpark & Hemskirk	11
Tilton	1,830
Other Varieties	9
TOTAL APRICOTS	2,105
CHERRIES (ALL)	97
FIGS	
Black	46
Calimyrna	2
Kadota	114
White Adriatic	40
TOTAL FIGS	202

CROP (Continued)Bearing AcresGRAPES, RAISIN

Muscat	50
Thompson Seedless	6,695
Zante Currant	8
TOTAL RAISIN GRAPES	<u>6,753</u>

GRAPES, TABLE

Emperor	175
Malaga	509
Red Malaga	189
Ribier	156
Tokay	39
Other Varieties	21
TOTAL TABLE GRAPES	<u>1,089</u>

GRAPES, WINE

Alicante Bouschet	1,475
Burger	65
Carignane	4,946
Palomino	250
Grenache	596
Mission	270
Petit Sirah	82
Riesling	23
Zinfandel	670
Other Varieties --	
White	94
Dark	505
TOTAL WINE GRAPES	<u>8,976</u>

TOTAL ALL GRAPES

16,818

NECTARINES (ALL) 203

OLIVES (ALL) 209

PEACHES, <u>CLING</u>	
Andora	368
Carolyn	33
Cortez	39
Fortuna	934
Guame	1,570
Gomes-Stuart	1,169
Halford	2,845
Johnson	123
Paloro	2,001
Peak	1,178
Phillip	1,572
Other Varieties	<u>1,508</u>
TOTAL CLING PEACHES	13,340

PEACHES, <u>FREESTONE</u>	
Elbertas	1,046
Hale	178
Lovell	1,151
Muir	335
Rio Oso Gems	121
Other Varieties	<u>107</u>
TOTAL FREESTONE PEACHES	2,938

TOTAL ALL PEACHES 16,278

PLUMS (ALL)	55
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WALNUTS	
Concord	123
Eureka	1,715
Franquette	1,708
Hartley	107
Mayette	625
Payne	1,391
Other Varieties	<u>142</u>
TOTAL WALNUTS	5,811

FRUIT, GRAPES, AND NUTS

Crop	Bearing Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Almonds	5,890	1,000#	2,945	Ton	\$ 320.00	\$ 942,400
Apricots	2,105	6.9 T.		Ton		755,325
(Canned			6,500	Ton	42.50	\$ 276,250)
(Dried			1,000	Dry Ton	440.00	440,000)
(Shipped - fresh market			175	Ton	45.00	7,875)
(Baby Food			780	Ton	40.00	31,200)
Boysenberries	200	4.3	863	Ton	160.00	138,080
Strawberries	290	575	166,750	Crate 9# Ea.	1.74	290,145
Cherries	97	2.2	213	Ton	140.00	29,820
Figs	202	1.0	202	Ton	100.00	20,200
Grapes - <u>Total</u>	15,729	4.8	75,499	Ton		2,456,010
(Raisin --	6,753					
Natural			1,500	Dry Ton	119.67	179,505)
Goldens			5,632	Dry Ton	150.00	844,800)
Soda Dip			1,050	Dry Ton	140.00	147,000)
(Canned			2,500	Ton	40.00	100,000)
(Shipped			1,550	Ton	37.50	58,125)
(Wine			43,330	Ton	26.00	1,126,580)
Peaches, <u>Clings</u>	13,340	13.4		Ton		6,989,360
(Canned			158,000	Ton	40.00	6,320,000)
(Dried			1,475	Dry Ton	160.00	236,000)
(Baby Food			10,834	Ton	40.00	433,360)
<u>Freestone</u>	2,938	14.5		Ton		1,508,205
(Shipping			2,500	Ton	60.00	150,000)
(Canning			17,500	Ton	30.00	525,000)
(Freezing			763	Ton	35.00	26,705)
(Drying			3,100	Dry Ton	250.00	775,000)
(Baby Food			900	Dry Ton	35.00	31,500)

FRUIT, GRAPES, AND NUTS (Continued)

Crop	Bearing Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Nectarines	203	5.0	1,015	Ton	\$ 75.00	\$ 76,125
Walnuts	5,811	1421#/A.	4,128	Ton	420.00	1,733,760
Olives	209	700#	73	Ton	200.00	14,600
Miscellaneous Fruit	150			Acre	250.00	37,500
Nursery Stock						706,500
(Dec. Fruits and Nuts)	35				\$ 145,865)	
(Roses and Ornamentals)	161	2,114,000 plants			422,800)	
(Strawberry plants)	4	40,000 plants			2,300)	
(Vegetable plants)	25	5,650,000 plants			42,050)	
(Bedding plants)	38	1,350,000 plants			93,485)	
	<u>54,180</u>					<u>\$15,698,030</u>

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

<u>Kind</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per Unit</u>		<u>Value</u>
Beef Cattle	14,500 raised	\$180.80 each	\$2,621,600	
	35,900 finished	226.00 each	<u>8,113,400</u>	\$10,735,000
Dairy, Butterfat				
<u>Cows</u> - Grade "A"	6,198,000 lbs.	\$ 1.22 per lb.	7,561,560	
Grade "B"	14,485,000 lbs.	\$.82 per lb.	11,877,700	
Meat and breeding stock			<u>4,104,000</u>	23,543,260
<u>Goats</u> -Grade "A"	112,500 lbs.	\$ 1.75 per lb.	196,875	
Breeding stock			<u>8,000</u>	204,875
Honey - 9,000 hives, 40 lbs. per hive		7¢ per lb.	25,200	
5,400 lbs. wax		40¢ per lb.	2,160	
1,175 Queen Bees		\$1.00 each	1,175	
3,000 lbs. Bees (as Nucleus)		45¢ per lb.	1,350	
3,600 hives for pollinization)		\$1.75 per hive	<u>6,300</u>	36,185
Horses and Mules	2,200 sold for meat	\$40.00 each	88,000	
	800 sold for pleasure and work	\$50.00 each	<u>40,000</u>	128,000
Poultry, Eggs	6,222,546 doz.	46.3¢ ea. doz.	2,881,039	
Meat	1,125,000 lbs.	30¢ ea. pound	337,500	
Hens	354,670 @ $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	24¢ ea. pound	<u>297,923</u>	3,516,462
Turkeys, Meat	825,800	\$6.65 each	5,491,570	
Eggs	2,382,000	35¢ each	<u>833,700</u>	6,325,270
Rabbits, Fryers	45,000	96¢ ea. fryer	43,200	
Skins and breeding stock			<u>9,500</u>	52,700
Sheep, Lambs	11,400 raised	\$18.70 each	213,180	
Ewes	5,000 raised	\$12.00 each	60,000	
Lambs	48,000 finished	\$20.34 each	976,320	
(Wool (Ewe	90,000 lbs.	55¢ per lb.	49,500	
(Lamb	148,500 lbs.	50¢ per lb.	<u>74,250</u>	1,373,250
Swine	13,870	\$42.00 each	582,540	
				<u>\$46,497,542</u>

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Beans, Dry						
Blackeyes	16,100	7.0	112,700	Cwt.	\$ 11.00	\$1,239,700
Baby Limas	17,200	21.0	361,200	Cwt.	6.90	2,492,280
Std. Limas	4,750	23.0	109,250	Cwt.	9.50	1,037,875
Bean Straw	11,000	1.0	11,000	Ton	6.25	68,750
Cotton	335					
Lint		375.0	125,625	Lbs.	.28	35,175
Seed		.3	100.5	Ton	45.00	4,522
Grain						
Barley	72,500	16.6	1,203,500	Cwt.	2.25	2,707,875
Corn, Grain	1,320	25.8	34,056	Cwt.	2.80	95,357
Corn, Ensilage	4,005	11.0	44,055	Ton	7.00	308,385
Grain Sorghum	752	18.0	13,536	Cwt.	2.70	36,547
Oats	14,500	14.5	210,250	Cwt.	2.40	504,600
Rice	1,938	28.0	54,264	Cwt.	3.55	192,637
Wheat	850	14.0	11,900	Cwt.	3.40	40,460
Hay						
Alfalfa	67,828	6.5	440,882	Ton	22.00	9,699,404
Grain	23,100	1.75	40,425	Ton	20.00	808,500
Wild	1,200	.8	960	Ton	16.00	15,360
Pasture						
Irrigated (Ladino)	85,200	---	---	Acre	45.00	3,834,000
Range	279,350	---	---	Acre	2.00	558,700
Stubble	16,500	---	---	Acre	2.00	33,000
Sudan Grass	5,400	---	---	Acre	25.00	135,000
Sugar Beets	890	12.7	11,303	Ton	14.00	158,242
Miscellaneous Field Crops	150	---	---	Acre	75.00	11,250
	<u>624,868</u>					<u>\$24,017,619</u>

TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES)

Crop	Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Carrots	140	14.0	1,960	Ton	\$ 25.00	\$ 49,000
Lima Beans (Processing)	5,200	2,900	15,080,000	Lbs.	.07	1,055,600
Melons					(packed)	
Cantaloupes	1,100	150	165,000	Crate	2.50	412,500
Honeydews	1,650	3.5	5,775	Ton	22.50	129,938
Watermelons	1,433	10.0	14,330	Ton	18.50	265,105
Other Melons	760	6.3	4,788	Ton	24.00	114,912
Peas	2,750	1.4	3,850	Ton	75.00	288,750
Spinach	1,230	4.0	4,920	Ton	20.25	99,630
Sweet Corn	1,300	600.	780,000	Doz.	.175	136,500
Sweet Potatoes	427	150	64,050	50# Baskets	3.00	192,150
Tomatoes						
Processing	4,425	17.0	75,225	Ton	23.40	1,760,265
Green Wraps	850	15.0	12,750	Ton	25.00	318,750
Other Garden and Truck Crops	2,050	---	---	Acres	190.00	389,000
	<u>23,315</u>					<u>\$ 5,212,600</u>

SEED CROP PRODUCTION

Alfalfa	850	470.	399,500	Lb.	.23	91,885
Beet	9.5	190	1,805	Lb.	.22	397
Carrot	10.0	503	5,030	Lb.	.30	1,509
Cucurbits						
Cantaloupe	7.0	100	700	Lb.	.40	280
Gourds	18	228	4,104	Lb.	.35	1,436
Pumpkins	48	170	8,160	Lb.	.30	2,448
Squash	154	234	36,036	Lb.	.30	10,811
Watermelons	162	220	35,640	Lb.	.30	10,692
Ladino Clover	595	90	53,550	Lb.	1.15	61,583
Vetch	150	750	112,500	Lb.	.08	9,000
	<u>2,003</u>					<u>\$ 190,041</u>