

AGRICULTURAL
CROP AND LIVESTOCK
REPORT

STANISLAUS COUNTY
1950

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 1950. The report has been jointly prepared by the Agricultural Extension Service and the County Agricultural Commissioner.

The 1950 season shows an increase in gross agricultural income over 1949. Prices for most agricultural commodities that the farmer produced showed a gain during the year. There were a few exceptions such as alfalfa hay and beans. Production, however, was adversely affected by extreme heat and weather conditions during the season. There were slight gains in acreage of Ladino clover, tomatoes, sugar beets and some declines in other crops, particularly beans. Butterfat production held up and prices on market milk declined but held up for manufacturing milk producers. Grain prices advanced over a year ago and the acreage was close to that seeded in 1949.

There was a smaller production of cling peaches due to the 15 per cent drop invoked and a further decline in tonnage due to hot weather during harvest time. Prices, however, increased over 1949. Freestone peaches declined less in production than clings with prices higher than the 1949 season.

Grape yields and prices also advanced for 1950.

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 members of the Agricultural Extension Service staff and the local Agricultural Commissioner's office have made every effort to make this report as accurate as possible by checking our figures with every known source of reliable information. 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. JUNGEMAN
Farm Advisor
County Director of Extension

MILO M. SCHROCK
County Agricultural Commissioner

CROP SUMMARY

Stanislaus County had a varied harvest season. Some crops were normal, others were lighter due to hot weather making production below average. The warmer summer was favorable for alfalfa production but adversely affected the fruit crops, beans, and to some extent truck crops. Income from field crops showed a drop over 1949 because of weather conditions. This also reflected the decline in production in peaches; however, the grape yields showed some increase over 1949 where production was lower than usual in those crops. The almond and walnut crops were lighter than the previous year due to hot weather and also frosts that affected the almond crop.

The harvest season was favorable, although late rains were encountered which did very little damage because of clearing weather which followed. Irrigation water was available for the greater part of the producing year. During the late fall some loss was encountered in crops due to floods on the river bottoms. More of the loss will show up in 1951 permanent crops such as alfalfa, clovers, and tree crops that were affected by high water.

FRUITS AND NUTS

Almonds -- Almond yields were lighter in 1950 than during 1949, particularly were they lighter on the east side of the county. The average price for almonds increased over 1949's price.

Apricots -- The apricot crop was almost as large as during 1949, and the set was a little lighter on the east side than on the west side of the county. Prices for the fresh, canned, and dried products increased over a year ago.

Grapes -- Due to a very light crop in the upper San Joaquin valley and the fact that the wine and raisin market strengthened greatly during the fall and winter of 1949-1950, the price of grapes more than doubled over the 1949 level. The crop in Stanislaus County was not badly affected by the hot weather and the production was greater than in 1949.

Peaches, Clings -- There was a lighter set of clingstone peaches. Thinning costs were less. The marketing program resulted in a drop of 15 per cent. This and the weather reduced the salable tonnage over 1949. The price, however, was higher.

Peaches, Freestones -- There was a fair crop of freestone peaches produced during the past season. The average price of dried peaches rose to 21¢ per pound, while fresh Elberta peaches sold for \$65 to the canneries. Shipping peaches which showed an increased tonnage were higher than in 1949.

Nectarines -- Nectarine production was about the same as in 1949. Prices were somewhat higher. Most of the nectarines were shipped to eastern markets and a small tonnage to San Francisco and Los Angeles markets, as well as a few available for local trade.

Figs -- Fig acreage remained about constant with a fair crop, growers receiving higher returns this season. Figs are becoming less and less important in the county with acreage mostly Kadotas, followed by Mission with a few acres of Calimyrnas.

Plums -- There was a fair crop of plums produced of which all were shipped to eastern and local markets. Prices were higher than in 1949.

Walnuts -- There was a drop in yield from the bearing orchards and also a slight increase in acres of bearing walnuts in the county during the 1950 season. The average price of walnuts increased slightly. The walnut yield was adversely affected by the high temperature the latter part of the summer. Quality was better than a year ago as most of the walnuts dropped which were affected by high temperatures.

Miscellaneous Fruit -- Miscellaneous fruit includes quinces, pears, persimmons, pomegranates, chestnuts, pecans, and citrus. The crop was fair for most of these fruits. Returns showed a slight increase.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa -- Alfalfa acreage remained about constant. Acreage from which seed was harvested was considerably above the previous year and the seed yields per acre were on the average down a little. Many growers obtained exceptional yields but this still did not increase the seed average. Prices were lower for alfalfa hay compared to the previous year and there was no appreciable price rise for hay stored into the winter months. Production of hay was excellent for the most part and a very mild and long growing season was experienced. Some growers obtained six or seven cuttings of hay.

Beans -- Blackeye bean prices continued good because of short supply. Insect damage and low yields reduced income per acre and quality. Lima bean prices were again at or near support price levels. Yields continued high. Acreage allotments decreased acreage somewhat. A considerable reduction occurred in the standard lima acreage because these high yielding fields will produce more baby limas.

Corn, Field -- This crop continues to do well both for ensilage and grain. Many yields were reported of over three thousand pounds of shelled corn per acre. The prices received made the crop reasonably profitable.

Grain -- In spite of plenty of moisture early in the season, the latter part was again dry and grain yields were down somewhat. Prices started low but climbed rapidly, and at the end of the year prices were above support levels.

Grain Sorghums -- Milo acreage decreased considerably and aside from sudan grass, there was little acreage planted in the county.

Grain Hay -- Yields were fairly good and prices about the same as last year.

Pasture -- Acreage of permanent irrigated pasture has reached an all-time high of 89,632 acres. Pastures continue to be used mainly by dairy and beef cattlemen.

Annual Irrigated Pasture -- Sudan grass acreage changed very little over the previous year and was used mainly for dairy cattle in the irrigated section.

Rice -- Rice acreage was down somewhat because of acreage allotments. Yields were about the same as a year ago.

Sugar Beets -- Acreage increased considerably. Yields were definitely light mainly because of heavy damage from curly top. Harvest costs were high because of the wet weather in the fall. Many acres of beets were still in the ground at the end of the year but should be harvested when the weather breaks.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Lima Beans for Freezing -- Lima beans planted for processing increased slightly in acreage. Yields were down, presumably because of warm weather. Not many Fordhooks were planted as the green seeded baby limas appear to be gaining in favor.

Melons -- Total acreage planted decreased somewhat. Watermelons increased in price to the grower while cantaloupes, honeydews, and related melons were down a little. Cantaloupe acreage dropped considerably and the deal was again not good.

Peas -- Pea acreage increased somewhat but yields were down. Total gross income increased some.

Spinach -- Spinach yields were the highest for a number of years. Acreages were about the same.

Sweet Potatoes -- Acreage increased a little but prices dropped considerably from the year previous. Yields were down as the grading was fairly strict.

Tomatoes -- Tomato acreage increased because of economical conditions. Yields were definitely off due to the hot summer and a shortage of pickers. The shipping tomato deal also increased considerably with 1,950 acres being planted to this crop during the past year. Due to favorable marketing and weather conditions there was some canning tomato acreage that went into green marketing channels and was shipped.

SEED PRODUCTION

Acreage devoted to cucurbit seed production dropped considerably. Ladino clover seed acreage increased considerably. Several fields were planted for vegetable seed production during the past year with lettuce, carrots, and onions accounting for most of the production. Income per acre was generally satisfactory for the vegetable seeds. Alfalfa seed production is mentioned under the heading "Alfalfa" on page 2.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRYING

Beef Cattle -- Both breeding herd numbers and numbers of cattle brought in for finishing were up 5 per cent from 1949. The average price was up about 15 per cent. There was also a slight increase in weights of cattle sold due to more plentiful feed and the increase in actual dry lot feeding and feeding of concentrates in the county.

Dairying -- Dairy production remained about the same as it did during the previous year with a very slight increase. The manufacturing milk producers found themselves at a considerable disadvantage during most of the year from the standpoint of differential with market milk prices. On the other hand, market milk prices were considerably lower than during the previous year. Animals disposed of for meat and breeding purposes have enjoyed a much higher price than previously.

Hogs -- Hog numbers increased 6 per cent but prices remained the same in 1950 as in 1949.

Sheep -- All sheep numbers declined another 5 per cent this year but the average market price was again higher.

Rabbits -- Rabbit production remained approximately the same.

Egg Production -- Egg production increased during the past year by approximately 8 per cent. The egg-feed ratio was not as favorable as during the previous year.

Broilers and Fryers -- Poultry meat production increased considerably over that of the past year. Growers received approximately a cent less a pound than they did during 1949.

Turkeys -- Turkey production increased over that of last year. However, average price received per bird was considerably under that of the previous year. Turkey egg production increased somewhat and egg prices dropped.

Honey -- Honey production showed little gain over the previous year. Prices of honey and beeswax were higher.

ACREAGE ESTIMATES OF STANISLAUS COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

1950

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	515	8	523
I.X.L.	269	1	270
Jordonola	156	95	251
Mission (Texas)	1,605	201	1,806
Ne Plus Ultra	777	91	868
Non Pareil	2,537	291	2,828
Peerless	61	3	64
Other Varieties	98	13	111
TOTAL ALMONDS	6,018	703	6,721
<u>APRICOTS</u>			
Blenheim-Royal	237	0	237
Moorpark & Hemskirk	11	0	11
Tilton	1,772	72	1,844
Other Varieties	9	0	9
TOTAL APRICOTS	2,029	72	2,101
<u>CHERRIES</u>			
Bing	19	2	21
Royal Ann	30	4	34
Tartarian	17	2	19
Other Varieties	29	0	29
TOTAL CHERRIES	95	8	103
<u>FIGS</u>			
Black	46	0	46
Kadota	114	0	114
Calimyrna	2	0	2
TOTAL FIGS	162		162
<u>GRAPES, RAISIN</u>			
Muscat	50	0	50
Thompson Seedless	6,664	87	6,751
Zante Currant	8	0	8
TOTAL RAISIN GRAPES	6,722	87	6,809
<u>GRAPES, TABLE</u>			
Emperor	172	0	172
Malaga	489	0	489
Red Malaga	185	0	185
Ribier	135	0	135
Tokay	37	0	37
Other Varieties	25	0	25
TOTAL TABLE GRAPES	1,043	0	1,043

	<u>Bearing Acres</u>	<u>Non-Bearing Acres</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>GRAPES, WINE</u>			
Alicante Bouschet	1,421	0	1,421
Burger	65	0	65
Carignane	4,925	4	4,929
Palomino	275	17	292
Grenache	663	47	710
Mission	260	0	260
Petite Sirah	82	0	82
Riesling	23	0	23
Zinfandel	660	0	660
Other Varieties	608	28	636
TOTAL WINE GRAPES	8,982	96	9,078
 TOTAL ALL GRAPES	 16,747	 183	 16,930
<u>NECTARINES</u>			
Gower	10	0	10
Quetta	63	2	65
John Rivers	50	6	56
Stanwick	6	0	6
Other Varieties	79	34	113
TOTAL NECTARINES	208	42	250
<u>OLIVES</u>			
Manzanillo	89	32	121
Mission	123	33	156
TOTAL OLIVES	212	65	277
<u>PEACHES, CLING</u>			
Andora	332	206	538
Carolyn	28	94	122
Cortez	80	602	682
Fortuna	918	300	1,218
Guame	1,309	97	1,406
Gomes (Stuart)	1,156	261	1,417
Halfords	2,581	458	3,039
Hauss	18	0	18
Johnson	103	17	120
Libbie	10	0	10
Paloro	1,367	219	1,586
Peak	1,119	199	1,318
Phillips	737	9	746
Sims	216	5	221
Tuscan	24	0	24
Other Varieties	1,054	298	1,352
TOTAL CLING PEACHES	11,052	2,765	13,817
<u>PEACHES, FREESTONE</u>			
Early Elberta	20	0	20
Elberta	1,116	145	1,261
Hale	172	8	180
Lovell	1,087	6	1,093
Muir	319	9	328
Rio Oso Gem	152	24	176
Salway	16	0	16
Other Varieties	115	16	131
TOTAL FREESTONE PEACHES	2,997	208	3,205
 TOTAL ALL PEACHES	 14,049	 2,973	 17,022

	<u>Bearing Acres</u>	<u>Non-Bearing Acres</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>PLUMS</u>			
All Varieties	57	0	57
<u>WALNUTS</u>			
Concord	123	0	123
Eureka	1,820	557	2,377
Franquette	1,881	1,559	3,440
Hartley	129	278	407
Mayette	661	72	733
Payne	1,413	245	1,658
Placentia	9	0	9
Other Varieties	<u>144</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>386</u>
TOTAL WALNUTS	6,180	2,953	9,133
 <u>TOTAL ALL</u>	 <u>45,757</u>	 <u>6,999</u>	 <u>52,756</u>

FRUIT, GRAPES, AND NUTS (Continued)

Crop	Bearing Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Peaches, <u>Freestone</u>	2,917	9.2	26,726*	Ton		\$1,802,200*
(shipping			3,810	Ton	\$ 85.00	\$ 323,850)
(fresh peaches trucked to mkt.			37,521	20# Lug	1.15	43,150)
(canning			12,330	Ton	65.00	801,450)
(freezing			1,050	Ton	65.00	68,250)
(drying			1,320	Dry Ton	420.00	554,400)
(baby food and nectar by-products			185	Ton	60.00	11,100)
Nectarines	207	5.5	1,138	Ton	85.00	96,730
Walnuts	6,180	1225#/A.	3,785	Ton	440.00	1,665,400
Olives	173	700#/A.	60.5	Ton	228.00	13,794
Plums	57	5.5	318*			43,206*
(shipped			300	Ton	135.00	40,500)
(trucked for local markets			1,804	20# Lug	1.50	2,706)
Miscellaneous Fruit	93			Acre	350.00	32,550
Nursery Stock						834,617*
(Dec. Fruits and Nuts	21	90,950 plants				45,695)
(Roses and Ornamentals	161	1,496,325 plants				745,496
(Strawberry plants	6	60,000 plants				831)
(Berry plants - cane	1	1,795 plants				177)
(Vegetable plants	19	7,245,000 plants				36,210)
(Bedding plants	6	252,013 plants				6,208)
	<u>46,711</u>					<u>\$21,191,942</u>

*Accumulated total

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

<u>Kind</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per Unit</u>		<u>Value</u>
Beef Cattle	15,000 raised	\$208.00 each	\$3,120,000	
	37,600 fed	273.00 each	<u>10,264,800</u>	\$13,384,800*
Dairy, Butterfat				
Cows - Market milk	6,319,000 lbs.	\$ 1.06 per lb.	6,698,140	
Mfg. milk	14,835,000 lbs.	\$.82 per lb.	12,164,700	
Meat and breeding stock			<u>4,926,000</u>	23,788,840*
Goats, Butterfat				
Market milk	129,824 lbs.	\$ 1.50 per lb.	194,736	194,736
Honey - 9,000 hives, 48 lbs. per hive		9½¢ per lb.	41,040	
6,000 lbs. wax		45¢ per lb.	2,700	
950 Queen Bees		\$1.00 each	950	
5,000 hives for pollinization		\$2.00 per hive	<u>10,000</u>	54,690*
Horses and Mules	2,000 sold for meat	\$35.00 each	70,000	
	600 sold for pleasure	\$50.00 each	<u>30,000</u>	100,000*
Poultry, Eggs	6,720,370 doz.	39¢ ea. doz.	2,620,944	
Meat	5,500,000 lbs.	29¢ ea. pound	1,595,000	
Hens	377,725 @3½ lbs.	21¢ ea. pound	<u>277,628</u>	4,493,572*
Turkeys, Meat	1,000,000	\$5.88 each	5,880,000	
Eggs	2,652,000	26¢ each	<u>689,520</u>	6,569,520*
Rabbits, Fryers	45,000	96¢ ea. fryer	43,200	
Skins and breeding stock			<u>9,500</u>	52,700*
Sheep, Lambs	11,000 raised	\$22.95 each	252,450	
Ewes	4,750 raised	\$16.80 each	79,800	
Lambs	46,000 finished	\$24.30 each	1,117,800	
Wool (Ewe	110,250 lbs.	67¢ per lb.	73,867	
(Lamb	142,500 lbs.	65¢ per lb.	<u>92,625</u>	1,616,542*
Swine	14,700	\$42.00 each	<u>617,400</u>	\$50,872,800

*Accumulated total

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Beans, Dry						
Blackeyes	13,200	8.2	108,240	Cwt.	\$ 10.15	\$1,098,636
Baby Limas	15,897	20.5	325,889	Cwt.	6.65	2,167,162
Large Limas	812	23.5	19,082	Cwt.	9.75	186,050
String Varieties	1,410	18.5	26,085	Cwt.	8.00	208,680
Other	2,750	18.0	49,500	Cwt.	7.50	371,250
Bean Straw	9,000	1.0	9,000	Ton	6.00	54,000
Grain						
Barley	77,500	13.5	1,046,250	Cwt.	2.40	2,511,000
Corn, Grain	912	30.5	27,816	Cwt.	3.00	83,448
Corn, Ensilage	3,315	11.0	36,465	Ton	7.00	255,255
Grain Sorghum	546	16.0	8,736	Cwt.	2.90	25,334
Oats	14,500	14.0	203,000	Cwt.	2.45	497,350
Rice	1,650	29.5	48,675	Cwt.	4.00	194,700
Wheat	2,930	14.0	41,020	Cwt.	3.70	151,774
Hay						
Alfalfa	67,856	7.0	474,992	Ton	18.50	8,787,352
Grain	22,500	2.0	45,000	Ton	20.00	900,000
Wild	1,500	1.0	1,500	Ton	14.00	21,000
Pasture						
Irrigated (Ladino)	89,632	---		Acre	45.00	4,033,440
Range	281,000	---	---	Acre	2.00	562,000
Stubble	16,000	---	---	Acre	2.00	32,000
Sudan Grass	5,200	---	---	Acre	25.00	130,000
Sugar Beets	2,050	11.5	23,575	Ton	12.50	294,688
Miscellaneous Field Crops	500	---	---	Acre	100.00	50,000
	<u>630,660</u>					<u>\$22,615,119</u>

TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES)

Crop	Acreage	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Lima Beans (Processing)	5,500	2,300	12,650,000	Lbs.	\$.07	\$ 885,500
Melons				(packed)		
Cantaloupes	650	130	84,500	Crate	3.00	253,500
Honeydews	1,410	5.5	7,755	Ton	20.00	155,100
Watermelons	1,190	10.0	11,900	Ton	25.00	297,500
Other Melons	850	6.0	5,100	Ton	22.00	112,200
Peas	3,200	1.3	4,160	Ton	76.00	316,160
Spinach	1,220	4.8	5,856	Ton	21.00	122,976
Sweet Potatoes	506	130.0	65,780	50# Baskets	1.75	115,115
Tomatoes						
Processing	6,050	14.0	84,700	Ton	22.00	1,863,400
Shipping	1,950	6.0	11,700	Ton	35.00	409,500
Other Garden and Truck Crops	2,950	---	---	Acres	190.00	560,500
	<u>25,476</u>					<u>\$ 5,122,951</u>

SEED CROP PRODUCTION

Alfalfa	2,767	452	1,250,684	Lb.	.185	231,376
Cucurbits	240	310	74,400	Lb.	.30	22,320
Ladino Clover	1,945	114	221,730	Lb.	1.20	266,076
Miscellaneous	980	---		Acre	100.00	98,000
	<u>5,932</u>					<u>\$ 617,772</u>

S U M M A R Y

<u>Item</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Fruit, Grapes, and Nuts	46,711	\$ 21,191,942
Field Crops	630,660	22,615,119
Truck Crops (Vegetables)	25,476	5,122,951
Livestock and Poultry	---	50,872,800
Seed Crop Production	5,932	617,772
	<hr/> 708,779	<hr/> \$ 100,420,584