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AGRICULTURAL CROP AND  
LIVESTOCK REPORT  
1952

STANISLAUS  
COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
and  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STANISLAUS COUNTY  
cooperating

# Foreword

The 1952 Annual Crop and Livestock summary is reported in this circular. The report has been jointly prepared by the Agricultural Extension Service and the Agricultural Commissioner of Stanislaus County.

This report includes the various acreage estimates of all the fruit and nut crops which are planted in the county, along with the gross agricultural income for all of the commodities that are raised in the county. These commodities include fruit and nuts, field and truck crops, livestock and poultry, nursery stock, and seed crop production. The agricultural income for 1952 amounts to \$125,000,000 which is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars less than it was in 1951. This is primarily due to the decreased tonnage of clingstone peaches, the decrease in the price of beef and a lower return from tomatoes, grapes and poultry.

The figures presented in this circular report gross income from farm production, and should not be considered as net income for the farmers of the county. In order to determine the net income, the cost of producing the farm commodity must be deducted. The various acreages listed in this circular are those acreages which are in full production and do not take into consideration the nonbearing acreages. The production is reported in units commonly used in marketing county crops and livestock products commercially in Stanislaus County. The prices reported are the prices which the farmer receives from the sale of the various commodities. In some instances, the gross income of various commodities may be duplicated to some extent, such crops as ladino clover for pasture, alfalfa, native feeds; and pasture, which are given a value even though they are consumed on the farm. The livestock that consume this feed are also given a value; therefore, there is some duplication reported both under livestock and field crops.

The Agricultural Commissioner's staff furnishes the figures on bearing acreages, nursery stock including gross returns along with the gross income of bees and honey. Members of the Farm Advisor's staff compute the income for the various field and tree crops as well as the income from livestock and poultry.

Every effort has been made to make the report as complete and as accurate as possible. However, in some cases only estimates are possible in order to obtain the total production.

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

MILO M. SCHROCK  
County Agricultural Commissioner

ALBERT G. VOLZ  
County Director of Extension

## FRUITS AND NUTS

Almonds -- The 1952 almond yield was about 25% less than it was the year previous with the price being about the same.

Apricots -- The acreage of apricots is gradually declining with most of the acreage now being located in the Patterson area. The crop was fair; however, the prices were slightly less than they were last year.

Peaches, Clingstone -- The clingstone peach crop in Stanislaus County was spotted this year because of the poor weather conditions at blooming time. Many of the orchards planted on heavier soil failed to set a normal crop. The total tonnage for the county is materially less because of the poor set and also due to the 15% green drop put into effect by the Control Board of the state marketing agreement. Brown rot was also especially bad at harvest time and caused some loss of fruit. The price of \$65 a ton was maintained but with the smaller yield a drop of about \$3,000,000 in the income from clingstone peaches resulted.

Peaches, Freestones -- There was a normal crop of freestone peaches following a smaller crop in 1951. The prices varied from \$50 to \$60 for canned, shipped and frozen markets; whereas, the dried prices increased to an average of about 19 cents a pound. The eastern market for shipping fruit was not too good and the amount of freestone peaches shipped was materially reduced.

Nectarines -- The nectarine acreage was slightly down from 1951 and the income also was less. Practically all of the nectarines are either shipped east or shipped to other local markets.

Figs -- Practically all of the figs that were sold were shipped east. There were no figs canned and what few figs were dried went for stock feed. Figs are becoming of less and less importance in Stanislaus County.

Olives -- There was an average normal crop of olives during the past year with the price of canned olives running around \$175 a ton and the oil olives bringing a support price of around \$100 a ton.

Walnuts -- The acreage of walnuts in Stanislaus County is increasing very rapidly. The 1952 crop was slightly less than the 1951 crop. However, the total tonnage was increased because of the production of new orchards coming into bearing. The average walnut price amounted to around 22½ cents a pound with the quality of the nuts being not too good. A warm spell which occurred in September caused considerable damage to the quality of the crop.

Plums and Cherries -- Both of these crops are of minor importance in the county. Most of the plums are shipped east; whereas, the cherries are both shipped and processed for canned or brine cherries. The returns for the eastern shipment both of plums and cherries were fairly good during the 1952 season.

Miscellaneous Fruit and Nuts -- There are around 93 acres of miscellaneous fruits and nuts which include such fruits as citrus, quinces, pears, persimmons, pomegranates, chestnuts and pecans. Returns from these miscellaneous fruit and nut crops are lumped together and figured at an average return of about \$325 per acre. Much of this acreage is located in backyard orchards.

Boysenberries -- The boysenberry price was the highest since 1946 with a good growing season that brought tonnages up. A larger percentage of the crop was frozen, but canning is still the major outlet in this area. Last picking on most plantings went to a winery.

Strawberries -- Rains and poor weather put an early end to fresh shipment of strawberries in the county and the majority of the crop was sold to freezers. The acreage again decreased but new plantings this spring will more than offset the loss in acreage.

Grapes -- Grape production was down from the peak tonnage of last year. Along with the drop in tonnage came a drop in winery prices. It was a very disappointing season for most grape growers and a number of vineyards are being pulled this fall. Most of those being pulled are old low-producing vineyards and will not affect over-all county production very greatly.

#### FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa -- Alfalfa hay acreage increased because of the favorable price outlook and generally low yields of blackeye beans in the Eastside area. The average price of \$30.50 resulted in good returns and will probably cause heavy plantings for 1953 production.

Beans -- Blackeye acreage was down some from last year (1952 production figures were in error) and the price rose appreciably as it became evident that carry-over plus 1952 production would about equal normal demand.

Baby lima acreage was less than 40% of 1951 and the price strengthened some as the carry-over of former years' production was reduced.

Large lima acreage about trebled because of the favorable price relationship compared to other varieties. Both large and baby lima yields were down presumably because of adverse summer weather conditions.

Field Corn -- As a summer feed crop, corn ensilage remains our best producer. Grain yields were also satisfactory, although the price dropped somewhat.

Grain -- Small grain yields were generally better than in 1951 and acreage was only slightly increased with prices remaining about the same.

Pasture -- Acreage of irrigated pasture continued to climb and this crop continues to be the most economical producer of feed in this area. Some of the new acreage which is being developed is being irrigated through pump irrigation.

Annual Irrigated Pasture -- Sudan grass acreage increased somewhat and was used mainly for dairy cattle in the irrigated section.

Rice -- Acreage increased because of favorable price. Increased export demand resulted in a considerable price jump. Rice remains one of our more profitable crops where it can be grown.

## TRUCK CROPS

Green Lima Beans — Acreage increased about 30 per cent but yields were down, especially early plantings (even more so than for dry limas). Beans were almost entirely of the green-seeded Henderson bush type.

Melons — Total acreage increased considerably and yields were normal. Cantaloupe price was down considerably for the period when our melons were marketed. Watermelon price was up from 1951 but rind rot caused moderate to heavy losses in some fields.

Peas — Acreage increased by 50 per cent, prices were up and an excellent yield was had by most growers.

Spinach — Acreage and price remained about the same. Westside yields were generally higher than in 1951 but river bottom yields were down some.

Sweet Potatoes — The small acreage in sweets continued to show about the same production. Price was a little better.

Tomatoes — Processing acreage was up some but yields were the poorest of recent years. With lower prices, marginal fields showed a loss in some cases but high-yielding fields continued to show a fair profit. The late shipping deal continued good.

## SEED PRODUCTION

Alfalfa — Alfalfa seed acreage increased considerably as certified plantings jumped from some 300 acres to about 4,000 acres. At the same time, acreage planted to Common decreased by about 60 per cent. Yields were excellent but prices were down somewhat from last year. Much of the certified crop was placed under Government support programs because of slow movement of seed during the winter months.

This crop will probably continue to grow in importance as disease-resistant varieties are released by Agricultural Experiment Stations in California and throughout the nation. The adaptability of Western States to produce legume seeds rapidly and economically is now an accepted fact and Stanislaus County should be one of the leading counties.

Ladino Clover Seed — Acreage continues to drop along with the price. The crop was largely certified this year as the lower prices paid for common seed made the crop less profitable for seed production than would be had from a pasture crop. The large amount of certified seed owned by the Government under their support programs may have a depressing effect on future prices.

Peas — Another seed crop seems to have found a place in the county's agricultural program. With almost 1,500 acres grown the crop yielded well and the returns to growers were highly satisfactory. This crop, too, may grow in popularity as more growers desire to double-crop their land.

## LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRYING

Beef Cattle -- Numbers of cattle in breeding herds and feeders brought in for pasturing did not materially change from last year. The lower price operators received for their cattle this year, caused some rather heavy financial losses.

Hogs -- Hog numbers decreased from last year with heavy liquidation of sows due to high grain costs.

Sheep -- Numbers remained about the same. There are very few sheep range operators in the county at the present time. Farm flocks are on the increase.

Rabbits -- Rabbit production took a substantial increase in the county and price and demand both have remained about the same as the previous year.

Egg Production -- Egg production in Stanislaus County showed a substantial increase of about 17 per cent. This does not necessarily mean that there was an increase of 17 per cent in the layers. The 1952 year showed even less favorable feed-egg ratio than in the previous year, with the average price of eggs down about 5 to 6 cents lower than in 1951.

Broilers and Fryers -- The broiler-fryer situation was still on the increase in 1952 but not with the rapidity that it showed in 1951. With feed prices about the same and a cent to a cent and one-half average, price per pound live bird made it a little more favorable for the fryer producer.

Turkey Production -- Turkey production increased in the county; however, with the unfavorable feed-meat ratio, the grower took much less profit in 1952 than in 1951. The turkey egg production took a strong increase in both quantity and price. With the paying price for eggs in 1952 on an average of 3 cents higher made a substantial gain for the hatching egg producer.

Dairying -- Dairy production in the county increased slightly during the year due mainly to a small increase in the number of dairy cattle. Producers were given some relief in the matter of price which helped to overcome the high price of hay which prevailed during most of the summer. There was a slight trend that changed some of our ranches from beef back to dairy cattle due to the severe reduction in the price of beef. The general trend of dairying in this district is from the production of Grade B to the production of Grade A milk and this will no doubt continue if the price differential remains favorable.

Honey -- Honey production varied considerably between the bees used for pollinization purposes and those used strictly for honey production. The 14,000 hives used for pollinization only produced about 30 lbs. per hive; whereas, the 6,000 hives used for straight honey production produced about 80 lbs. per hive. The average for the county total amounted to around 40 lbs. of honey in each hive.

ACREAGE ESTIMATES OF STANISLAUS COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

1952

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

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>
<u>ALMONDS</u>	
Drakes - - - - -	510
Eureka - - - - -	5
I.X.L. - - - - -	306
Jordanola - - - - -	212
Lewelling - - - - -	6
Mission - Texas - - - - -	2029
Ne Plus Ultra - - - - -	741
Nonpareil - - - - -	2770
Peerless - - - - -	73
Other almonds - - - - -	91
TOTAL ALMONDS	<u>6743</u>
<u>APRICOTS</u>	
Blenheim-Royal - - - - -	203
Moorpark-Hemskirk - - - - -	5
Tilton - - - - -	1767
Other varieties - - - - -	19
TOTAL APRICOTS	<u>1994</u>
<u>CHERRIES</u>	
Bing - - - - -	9
Royal Ann - - - - -	24
Tartarian - - - - -	18
Other varieties - - - - -	10
TOTAL CHERRIES	<u>61</u>
<u>FIGS</u>	
Black - - - - -	18
White - - - - -	146
TOTAL FIGS	<u>164</u>
<u>GRAPES, RAISIN</u>	
Muscat - - - - -	11
Thompson Seedless - - - - -	7092
Zante Currant - - - - -	16
TOTAL RAISIN GRAPES	<u>7119</u>
<u>GRAPES, TABLE</u>	
Emperor - - - - -	169
Malaga - - - - -	464
Red Malaga - - - - -	157
Ribier - - - - -	83
Tokay - - - - -	45
Other varieties - - - - -	68
TOTAL TABLE GRAPES	<u>986</u>

CROP (Continued)BEARING ACRESGRAPES, WINE

Alicante Bouschet	1371
Burger	36
Carignane	5550
Palomino	903
Grenache	759
Mission	503
Petit Sirah	47
Riesling	23
Zinfandel	603
Miscellaneous White	76
Miscellaneous Dark	539
All Wine Varieties	10410

TOTAL GRAPES - ALL VARIETIES

18,515

NECTARINES

Gower	12
Quetta	63
John Rivers	56
Stanwick	6
Other varieties	37
TOTAL NECTARINES	174

OLIVES (All)

423

PEACHES, CLINGSTONE

Andora	606
Carolyn	102
Cortez	428
Fortuna	1390
Guame	1592
Gomes (Stuart)	1466
Halford	2803
Johnson	172
Libbie	6
Palora	1722
Peak	1382
Phillips	757
Sims	213
Other varieties	1024
TOTAL CLINGSTONE PEACHES	13663

PEACHES, FREESTONE

Early Elberta	21
Elberta	1209
Hale	157
Lovell	890
Muir	271
Rio Oso Gem	186
Other varieties	265
TOTAL FREESTONE PEACHES	2999

TOTAL ALL PEACHES

16,662



<u>CROP</u> (Continued)	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>
<u>PLUMS</u> (All)	44
<u>WALNUTS</u>	
Concord - - - - -	112
Eureka - - - - -	2195
Franquette - - - - -	2483
Hartley - - - - -	230
Mayette - - - - -	741
Payne - - - - -	1644
Placentia - - - - -	5
Waterloo - - - - -	7
Miscellaneous varieties - - - - -	162
Seedling - - - - -	62
TOTAL WALNUTS	7641
MISCELLANEOUS FRUITS AND NUTS	93
<u>TOTAL ALL</u>	<u>52,514</u>

FRUIT, GRAPES, AND NUTS

Crop	Bearing Acreage	Production			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
<u>Almonds</u>	6 743	900	034		4	\$1 448 7
<u>Apricots</u>	994		06*	To		12 7 0*
ed			7 114		00	604 690
Dri	1 182 gre			Dry Ton	580 00	60
Shipped	mark		10	Ton	00 00	000
Apri			7	To	00	500
<u>Peaches, Clings</u>	13 743		13 7 6*	Ton		9 01 065*
ann			13 12		00	23 190
Dried	41 gre		60 Dry Ton		20 00	1 200
Spil ed				To	00	77 02
By-product			01	To	00	90
<u>Peaches, Freestone</u>	000		5*	Ton		493 7*
ed			14 216	Ton	00	781 880
Dri	7 939 green		60 Dry To		80 00	4 800
Shipped			1	Ton	50	114
(For				Ton	60 00	7 800)
(By-prod			61	Ton	50 00	80 750
<u>Nectarines</u>	74 4		7	Ton	140 00	
<u>Cherries</u>	61		112*	To		840*
Cann pro ed			54	Ton	160 00	640)
hipped				Ton	400 00	00)
<u>Plums</u>	44 7		45	To	14 00	48 00
<u>Olives</u>	42 2000# A.		423*	Ton		6,775*
Canned			193	Ton	7 00	33 77)
Oil			30	To	00 00	000
unmul ed Total						

FRUIT, GRAPES, AND NUTS (Continued)

Crop	Bearing Acreage	Production			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
<u>Figs</u>	164	3000#/A.			\$	\$ 27,850*
(Canned	None					
(Shipped			90	Ton	300.00	27,000)
(Dried (Stock feed)			20	Ton	42.50	850)
<u>Walnuts</u>	7,685	1442#/A.	5,541	Ton	450.00	2,493,450
<u>Misc. Fruit</u>	93			Acre	325.00	30,225
<u>Boysenberries</u>	206	5.0	1,030	Ton	270.00	278,100
<u>Strawberries</u>	120	6300#/A.	756,000	Lbs.	.16	120,960
<u>Grapes</u>						
<u>Wine</u>	9,537	5.0	47,685*	Ton		1,035,727*
(Winery			44,685	Ton	21.50	960,727)
(Shipped			3,000	Ton	25.00	75,000)
<u>Raisin &amp; Table</u>	7,356	7.0	51,492*	Ton		1,215,474*
(Golden Raisin			15,200	Green ton	25.00	380,000)
(Canned			2,000	Ton	35.00	70,000)
(Shipped			850	Ton	35.00	29,750)
(Wine			33,442	Ton	22.00	735,724)
	<u>51,343</u>					<u>\$ 18,113,238</u>
<u>Nursery Stock</u>	287*					897,615*
(Dec. Fruits and Nuts	31	229,165 plants				98,625)
(Grapevines	2	32,000 plants				2,700)
(Strawberry Plants	27	81,000 plants				1,040)
(Vegetable Plants	25	6,425,000 plants				24,862)
(Roses and Ornamentals	202	1,841,300 plants				742,800)
(Bedding Plants		1,282,232 plants				27,588)

\*Accumulated Total

# LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

<u>Kind</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per Unit</u>		<u>Value</u>
<u>Dairy, Butterfat</u>		\$	\$	
Cows - Market milk	7,920,000 lbs.	1.33 per lb.	10,533,600	
Mfg. milk	14,751,000 lbs.	1.09 per lb.	16,078,590	
Meat and breeding stock			<u>4,925,600</u>	
				\$31,537,790*
Goats - Market milk			160,000	
Breeding stock			<u>2,000</u>	
				162,000*
<u>Beef Cattle</u>	15,000 feeders	210.00 head	3,150,000	
	40,000 slaughter	290.00 head	11,600,000	
	or fleshy feeders			
	3,000 cows & breeding stock		<u>550,000</u>	15,300,000*
<u>Sheep, lambs</u>	9,500 feeders	16.50 head	156,750	
	39,000 slaughter	23.00 head	897,000	
Ewes	2,000	17.50 head	35,000	
<u>Wool</u>				
Ewe	80,000 lbs.	.60 pound	48,000	
Lamb	136,000 lbs.	.40 pound	<u>54,400</u>	
				1,191,150*
<u>Swine</u>	13,000	40.00 head	520,000	
<u>Horses &amp; Mules</u>	100 meat	40.00 head	4,000	
	150 pleasure	60.00 head	<u>9,000</u>	
				13,000*
<u>Honey</u> - 20,000 hives, 40 lbs. per hive		10¢ per lb.	80,000	
Wax - 6,000 lbs.		45¢ per lb.	2,700	
<u>Fruit Crops</u> -				
5,000 hives for pollinization		2.00 per hive	10,000	
<u>Seed Crop</u> -				
5,800 acres, 14,000 hives		5.00 per hive	<u>70,000</u>	162,700*
<u>Poultry, Eggs</u>	8,098,717 doz.	45.5 ea. doz.	3,684,916	
Meat	5,600,000 lbs.	25.5 ea. pound	1,428,000	
	404,500 @ 3½ lbs.	21.5 ea. pound	<u>304,386</u>	5,417,302*
<u>Turkeys, Meat</u>	980,000 or 18 million pounds	31¢ per pound	5,580,000	
	4,500,000	29¢ each	1,305,000	
Breeders	90,000	\$6.00 each	<u>540,000</u>	
				7,425,000*
<u>Rabbits, Fryers</u>	62,500	\$1.04 ea. fryer	65,000	
Skins and breeding stock			<u>14,500</u>	
				79,500*
				<u>\$61,288,442</u>

\*Accumulated Total

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Acreage	Production		Unit	F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Value
<u>Beans, Dry</u>						
Blackeyes	16,600	10.0	166,000	Cwt.	\$11.75	\$ 1,950,500
Baby Limas	7,100	19.2	136,320	Cwt.	6.90	940,608
Large Limas	5,600	19.5	109,200	Cwt.	11.20	1,223,040
Other Varieties (Inc. Kidneys)	7,500	17.0	127,500	Cwt.	8.10	1,032,750
<u>Bean Straw</u>	12,500	0.8	10,000	Ton	12.00	120,000
<u>Grain</u>						
Barley	68,000	13.5	918,000	Cwt.	3.20	2,937,600
Corn, Grain	1,080	30.0	32,400	Cwt.	3.80	123,120
Corn, Ensilage	4,300	11.0	47,300	Ton	7.00	331,100
Grain Sorghum	363	16.0	5,808	Cwt.	3.60	20,909
Oats	9,800	12.0	117,600	Cwt.	3.40	399,840
Rice	3,330	32.0	106,560	Cwt.	5.90	628,704
Wheat	1,000	11.0	11,000	Cwt.	3.75	41,250
<u>Hay</u>						
Alfalfa	73,970	6.4	473,408	Ton	30.50	14,438,944
Grain	16,600	1.5	24,900	Ton	30.00	747,000
Wild	6,870	0.8	5,496	Ton	24.00	131,904
<u>Pasture</u>						
Irrigated (Ladino)	101,000	----	----	Acre	60.00	6,060,000
Range	281,000	----	----	Acre	4.00	1,124,000
Stubble	16,000	----	----	Acre	2.00	32,000
Sudan grass	3,946	----	----	Acre	30.00	118,380
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Field Crops	1,400		----	Acre	100.00	140,000
	<u>637,959</u>					<u>\$32,541,649</u>

TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES)

Crop	Acreage	Production			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
<u>Broccoli</u>	475	5,000	2,375,000	Lbs.	\$ .07	\$ 166,250
<u>Lima Beans</u> (Processing)	5,800	2,200	12,760,000	Lbs.	.075	957,000
<u>Melons</u>				(Packed)		
Cantaloupes	2,450	135	330,750	Crate	2.50	826,875
Honeydews	2,900	9.0	26,100	Ton	22.50	587,250
Watermelons	1,550	11.0	17,050	Ton	24.00	409,200
Other Melons	1,500	8.0	12,000	Ton	23.00	276,000
<u>Peas</u>	4,800	2.5	12,000	Ton	84.00	1,008,000
<u>Spinach</u>	1,357	6.0	8,142	Ton	25.00	203,550
<u>Sweet Potatoes</u>	222	130	28,860	50# Baskets	4.25	122,655
<u>Tomatoes</u>						
Processing	9,700	15.0	145,500	Ton	25.00	3,637,500
Shipping	3,100	12.0	37,200	Ton	50.00	1,860,000
<u>Other Garden and Truck Crops</u>	5,500			Acres	180.00	990,000
	<u>39,354</u>					<u>11,044,280</u>

SEED CROP PRODUCTION

<u>Alfalfa</u>						
Certified	3,945	740	2,919,300	Lbs.	.40	1,167,720
Common	730	800	584,000	Lbs.	.23	134,320
<u>Ladino</u>						
Certified	1,200	130	156,000	Lbs.	.95	148,200
Common	170	140	23,800	Lbs.	.67	15,946
<u>Peas</u>	1,480	21.0	31,080	Cwt.	5.25	163,170
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	1,100			Acre	100.00	110,000
	<u>8,625</u>					<u>1,739,356</u>

# S U M M A R Y

<u>Item</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Fruit, Grapes, Nuts and Berries	51,343	\$ 18,113,238
Field Crops	637,959	32,541,649
Truck Crops (Vegetables)	39,354	11,044,280
Livestock and Poultry	----	61,288,442
Nursery Stock	287	897,615
Seed Crop Production	<u>8,625</u> 737,568	<u>1,739,356</u> \$125,624,580