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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Stanislaus County cooperating

years

1854

#### \* 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS \*

Stanislaus County has approximately 963,840 acres of which 87.5% of the land is in farms. The 1950 census lists 6,610 farms with a rural farm population of 24,971 people. Sixty-one hundred of the farms or 92.3% of the farms are irrigated with a total acreage of 644,000 acres.

Stanislaus County will celebrate its Centennial birthday on April 1, 1954. In agricultural income, the county rates somewhere within the first ten - probably seventh or eighth - among the three thousand counties of the United States

The county is first in peach production, second in total dairy cows and dairy production, second in turkey production, and fourth or fifth in walnut production. There are over 80 commercial crops grown in the county.

The income is roughly divided in half - 50% coming from livestock products and 50% from crops. Dairying is the most important industry bringing in about 1/4 of the total cash returns. The diversification of the crops, the productivity of the soil, the proper use of irrigation water and wise use of good farming practices are some of the factors which have helped to make Stanislaus County one of the leading agricultural counties in the United States.

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# Foreword

Stanislaus County's annual Crop and Livestock Summary is reported in this circular. This report has been jointly prepared by the Agricultural Extension Service and the Agricultural Commissioner of the county.

The crop report covers the acreage estimates of fruit and nut crops, along with the gross agricultural income from all crops including fruits and nuts, field and truck crops, livestock and poultry, nursery stock, and seed production crops. The gross agricultural income for 1953 amounts to about \$115,000,000 which is a drop of approximately \$10,000,000 from the 1952 total. Lower returns were realized from almonds, walnuts, dairy, beef cattle, sheep, honey production, beans, grain, alfalfa, truck crops, and seed production. The crops which slightly increased in value during the past year were apricots, clingstone peaches, grapes, boysenberries, poultry including eggs and meat birds. The greatest loss was in dairy production due primarily to a drop in dairy prices.

The figures presented represent gross income from production and not net income to 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 and do not include the non-bearing acreages of permanent crops. 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 the average f.o.b. basis. The gross income of the county may be duplicated in some instances where such crops as ladino clover for 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.

The Agricultural Commissioner's office has included the latest data on bearing acreage of fruit, grape, and nut crops. The Agricultural Extension Service staff has figured yields and prices for the various commodities produced in the county. The agencies have made every effort to compile this report as accurately as possible, having checked with every known source of reliable information on production and prices.

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

#### FRUIT AND NUTS

<u>Almonds</u> — The 1953 almond yield was the lowest it had been since 1950, with the price being relatively the same as last year. The reason for the small crop was due to the frosts which occurred in March and April.

<u>Apricots</u> -- The apricot acreage has become stabilized, there being approximately 2,000 acres in the county. The 1953 crop was the best it had been for the last five years. As most of the apricots are located in the Patterson district, they were not affected by the frost. The price was good even though the crop was large.

<u>Peaches, Clingstone</u> — The clingstone peach crop in Stanislaus County during the 1953 season was affected by frosts which occurred on March 3 and between April 7th and 10th. Different areas were affected by the frost and consequently the crops were spotted — some areas having full crops and other areas having very poor crops. The total tonnage of the county was about 30,000 tons greater than 1952 when the industry had a 15% green-drop program. The price dropped from \$65 to \$55; however, the total income from the industry was slightly greater from the increased tonnage harvested.

<u>Peaches, Freestone</u> -- The freestone peach crop was about normal with a few of the orchards being affected by frost. The total tonnage produced amounted to about 26,000 tons during the last few years. The price was \$55 a ton, the same as in 1952.

Nectarines -- The nectarine crop was very light because of injury by local frosts. With less than half of the usual amount of nectarines produced, the prices also were slightly less than they have been in previous years.

<u>Cherries</u> -- Cherries are one of the minor crops produced in the county - only 61 acres still in production. Last year's crop was a little lighter than usual and the price was only fair.

Figs -- Figs are becoming less and less important as a commercial crop with only a few acres producing. Last year the crop was light and the return from the shipped fruit was relatively low.

<u>Plums</u> — The plum crop was about normal; however, prices of shipped plums were lower than they were the previous year. Plums are also one of the minor crops in the county.

<u>Olives</u> — The weather conditions seriously affected the olive crop in 1953. The olive varieties which are usually harvested for canned olives had practically no crop and the few olives which produced were used for oil purposes. The average yield for all of the olives in the county amounted to less than 500 pounds per acre.

<u>Walnuts</u> — The walnut acreage in the county has been increasing very rapidly -8,374 acres of bearing walnuts reported this year. Poor weather conditions adversely affected the crop so that the yield in 1953 was the lowest it had been during the last five years. The price of the crop was about the same as the previous year. Hot weather during the summer months and a large infestation of codling moths caused the quality of the crop to be poor and percentage of cull nuts to be high. <u>Grapes</u> -- A succession of severe frosts hit the vineyards in the county. Thompson Seedless were leafed out and many lost their entire crop. Even those vineyards that were not hit by frost suffered a reduction in crop. The price per ton was considerably above the previous year so the over-all income for grapes was increased.

Boysenberries — This was an excellent season for producing boysenberries. Several plantings were up in the ten ton per acre class and the price was very favorable. The wineries bought rather heavily and a third major canner was in the field for the first time. Proposed plantings in 1954 is around 500 acres.

<u>Strawberries</u> -- This was probably the most productive year for strawberries in the county since the advent of the University varieties. Some growers experienced an almost continuous crop. In spite of the large crop prices to growers held firm all season.

#### FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa -- Alfalfa hay acreage increased by 10 per cent but returns dropped considerably as the average price dropped from \$30.50 down to \$20.50 per ton, resulting in a loss of total income of about \$2,400,000. Yields were somewhat better than normal and quality was generally good.

Beans -- Total bean acreage increased about 10 per cent and the gross value of the crop was a little higher than in 1952. Yields of all varieties were generally higher than average because of a cool summer. Prices at the start of the season were generally good, but as the season progressed, the market weakened and it appears as though there will be a considerable carry-over of blackeyes and lima varieties with accompanying weakening of the market.

Baby lima beans accounted for about half of the increase in acreage and the return of \$8 per hundred resulted in a doubling of the value of the crop.

Blackeye acreage accounted for the remaining increase and yields of all varieties were exceptionally good. The blackeye price dropped considerably and the total value of the crop was less than in 1952, in spite of an acreage increase of more than 20 per cent. Acreage of large limas and other bean varieties dropped somewhat.

Grain -- Small grain acreage was about the same but the income received by farmers was down about 10 per cent due to generally lower prices. Non-irrigated barley yields were off slightly because of the dry spring.

Field Corn -- Acreage increased a little and yields were quite satisfactory. Corn silage continues our best producer of summer feed for dairy cattle.

Sudan Grass -- Sudan grass acreage dropped. The crop is used mainly for dairy cattle in the irrigated sections.

Irrigated Pasture — The unusual dry period during February, March and early April created a heavy demand for irrigated pasture early in the season. Acreage continued to expand.. Numerous fields which were planted for seed production were used for pasturing.

<u>Rice</u> -- Rice continued to gain in acreage because of the favorable price outlook. Yields were down a little because of the cool season and the total income received by farmers increased only slightly because of a lower price received.

#### TRUCK CROPS

Green Lima Beans -- Acreage in green lima beans increased by almost 40 per cent. Yields were up about 400 pounds an acre and with a higher price, the value of the crop almost doubled. This crop will probably increase in acreage again in 1954 unless the price drops.

Melons -- Acreage decreased about 40 per cent from the previous year, but yields of cantaloupes were up about 20 per cent. The market price was about the same. Watermelon acreage decreased some because of the rind rot fear and prices were up. Rind rot did not show up appreciably in plantings this year.

Peas -- Severe frosts seriously reduced the yields and weeds were a big problem as many growers were forced to irrigate early.

Spinach -- Acreage was down slightly and yield was about the same as 1952

Sweet Potatoes -- Acreage was up about 25 per cent, but prices were down considerably. Yields remained about the same.

Tomatoes -- Acreage dropped about 2,000 acres and yields increased. The reduction was all in those tomatoes planted for ripe canning. Green shipping tomatoes increased in acreage slightly, but prices were down in all outlets.

#### SEED PRODUCTION

<u>Alfalfa</u> -- Certified alfalfa seed acreage continued to increase but the value of the crop was considerably less because of a lower yield and a reduced price. Common alfalfa seed was further reduced to the point where only 317 acres were cut for seed in the county. The market for certified varieties strengthened as the season progressed and the outlook is rather favorable for the coming year.

Ladino Clover Seed -- Acreage dropped considerably as the outlook was poor for 1953. A severe decrease in price, accompanied by a lower acreage, resulted in only 520 acres of certified Ladino clover seed and 50 acres of Common. The large supplies of seed held in storage continued to exert a depressing effect on the market.

## LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRYING

<u>Beef Cattle</u> -- Short feed in the range area in the western part of the county shortened the grazing season. Range was better but not quite up to par in the eastern section. Numbers on irrigated pasture showed a slight increase. Stockers were purchased during the fall of 1953 at prices ranging from  $15\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 18¢. Prices held firm on slaughter cattle during the fall period.

Hogs -- Hog numbers increased due to higher prices. There was very good demand for breeding stock.

Sheep -- Numbers remained about the same. The late dry fall made possible later use of alfalfa pasture for lambing.

Rabbits -- Rabbit production took a slight increase in the county this year in both total number of rabbits and new operators. The fur price has been lower because of regulations on naming the kind of fur that is being put into garments. There are still not enough rabbits produced to meet the demand. Rabbit meat prices remained about the same as the previous year.

Egg Production -- Egg production in this county took a substantial increase in 1953 of approximately 10 per cent over 1952. This increase was shown both in larger flocks and more producers. Egg-feed ratios were very favorable to the producer this year. Egg prices held up well throughout the fall and winter with egg prices averaging  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 cents more per dozen than 1952.

Broilers and Fryers -- The broiler-fryer business has leveled off somewhat in the county with about an equal number of operators coming into the business as going out. Prices have been very close to the production costs, leaving a very small margin of profit for the operator. The squeeze from out-of-state producers has definitely been felt in California.

<u>Turkey Production</u> -- Stanislaus County fell in line with the rest of California in reducing its turkey numbers for 1953. The reduction was somewhat less than was expected earlier in the year. The number of fryer-type turkeys was reduced greatly. Nineteen hundred fifty-three would be a good year on which to establish some base costs and prices since it was a year that few turkey men became rich, few producers went broke, and the average producer made a substantial living.

<u>Turkey Egg Production</u> -- There was a slight increase in the number of breeders in both heavy and light breeds of turkeys in the county. This indicates that there will be more poults for the year of 1954. Turkey egg prices remained about the same as in 1952.

<u>Dairying</u> -- Dairy production in the county increased somewhat during the year due partly to an increase in the number of dairy cattle. Producers suffered somewhat from the lowering of price during the year; however, this was pretty largely offset by reduction in the price of hay compared to the previous year. Culling continued at about the same rate as usual; however, a few dairymen felt that with lower price it was necessary to carry a few extra cows to meet their financial commitments. There is still a slight trend of beef cattle ranches being changed over to dairy ranches but this does not affect too many cows. We have had a very definite conversion of Grade B facilities over to Grade A facilities due to the large differential in price between Grade A and Grade B milk. Grade A contracts have been at a premium but with the large differential dairymen have felt it was worth the chance and so have put in Grade A facilities.

Honey -- The honey production from 20,000 hives in the county amounted to 45 pounds per hive. Bees were used for pollinization in almonds and also in various seed crops.

## ACREAGE ESTIMATES OF STANISLAUS COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

1953

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

CROP	BEARING ACRES
ALMONDS Drakes	510 5 306 252 6 2091 761 2861 76 91 6959
APRICOTS Blenheim-Royal	$203 \\ 5 \\ 1786 \\ 19 \\ 2013$
CHERRIES Bing	9 5 24 18 <u>5</u> 61
FIGS Black	18 112 <u>34</u> 164
GRAPES, RAISIN Muscat	11 7108 <u>16</u> 7135
CRAPES, TABLE Emperors	169 465 157 83 45 70 989

# CDOD

CROP

		TIVILL'
GRAPES, WINE Alicante Bouschet	1371	
Burger	36 5583 782 521 905	
Petit Sirah	47 23 603 76 <u>560</u> 10507	18,631
NECTARINES Gower	12 63 56 <u>54</u> 185	
OLIVES (All Varieties)	423	
PEACHES, CLINGSTONE   Andora	675 136 673 1626 1717 1579 3076 182 6 1902 1442 760 213 1163 15150	
PEACHES, FREESTONE Crawford	16 24 1273 157 890 271 199 280 3110	18,260

## BEARING ACRES

# CROP

PLUMS (All)	45
WALNUTS   Concord -   Eureka -   Franquette -   Hartley -   Mayette -   Payne -   Waterloo -   Seedling -   TOTAL WALNUTS	112 2344 2790 390 756 1693 27 180 82 8374
MISCELLANEOUS FRUITS AND NUTS	<b>9</b> 0

TOTAL ALL

55,205

	Bearing	P	roduction		F.O.B. Value		
Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value	
Almonds	6,959	750	2,610	Ton	\$ 460.00	\$1,200,000	
Apricots	2,013		13,478*	Ton		1,213,210*	
(Canned			7,580	Ton	90.00	682,200)	
(Dried	5 <b>,</b> 195 (g:	reen)	800 Dr	y Ton	600.00	480,000)	
(Shipped	- fresh mar	ket	20	Ton	100.00	2,000)	
(Frozen			115	Ton	90.00	10,350)	
(Apricot	pits		178	Ton	20.00	3,560)	
(By-produ	cts		390	Ton	90.00	35,100)	
Peaches, Cling	<u>s</u> 15,150	11.1	167,787*	Ton		9,224,035*	
(Canned			158 <b>,</b> 261	Ton	55.00	8,704,355)	
(Dried -	530 (green	ton)	83 D1	ry Ton	300.00	24 <b>,</b> 900)	
(Spiced			3,547	Ton	55.00	195,085)	
(By-produ	icts		5,449	Ton	55.00	299,695)	
Peaches, Frees	stone 3,110	) 8.5	26 <b>,</b> 496*	Ton		1,433,450*	
(Canned			12,970	Ton	55.00	713,350)	
(Dried 9;	,151 (green	ton)	1,525 D	ry Ton	320.00	488,000)	
(Shipped			1,705	Ton	50.00	85,250)	
(Frozen			945	Ton	55.00	51,975)	
(By-prod	ucts		1,725	Ton	55.00	94 <b>,</b> 875)	
Nectarines	18	5 2.	370	Ton	110.00	40,700	
Cherries	6	1	74*	Ton		15,540*	
(Canned	& processed		62	Ton	240.00	14,880)	
(Shipped	L		12	Ton	55.00	660)	
Plums		.5 7.	315	Ton	105.00	33,075	
Olives (Oil)	42	23 472#	/A. 100	Ton	75.00	7,500	

\*Accumulated Total

		Bearing		Production		F.0.	B. Value
• - · · · ·	Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
<u>Figs</u>	(Canned & (Dried - s	164 shipped stock feed -	1707#/A. 90 tons -	140 50 green 30	Ton	\$ 100.00 70.00	7,700* 5,000) 2,700)
Walm	uts Black walr	8,374 nuts	1167#/A.	4,886 10,750		430.00 .90	2 <b>,1</b> 00,980 9,675
Misc	. Fruit	90			Acre	300.00	27,000
Boys	enberries	320	5.0	1,875	*		525,000*
	(Canned			1,008	Ton	280.00	282,240)
	(Shipped			5	Ton	280.00	1,400)
	(Frozen			595	Ton	280.00	166,600)
	(Wine			267	' Ton	280.00	74,760)
Stra	wberries	375	9000#/A.	3,375,000	Lbs.	.17	573,750
Grap	es -						
Wi	ne	10,507	4.5	47,282	* Ton		1,672,420*
	(Winery			43,772	2 Ton	35.00	1,532,020)
	(Shipped			3,510	) Ton	40.00	140,400)
Ra	isin & Tab	<u>le</u> 8,124	55	44,682	?* Ton		1,365,460*
	(Golden	Raisin		10,000	) Green To	on 28.00	280,000)
	(Canned			2,000	) Ton	50.00	100,000)
	(Shipped	Į		500	O Ton	40.00	20,000)
	(Wine	55,900		32,18	2 Ton	30.00	965,460) \$ 19,450,095
Nura	sery Stock		6	09* Bearin	g Acreage		\$ 1,215,719*
	(Dec. Fr	ruits and Nu	its	46	469 <b>,1</b> 04 pla	nts	240,425)
	(Berry p	plants		80	125,000 pla	nts	8,125)
	(Strawbe	erry plants		27 2	,050,000 pla	nts	20,850)
	(Vegetal	ble plants		36 4	,500,000 pla	nts	22,250)
	(Roses a	and Ornament	tals I	420 1	,868,891 pla	ints	924,069)
*Ac	cumulated	Total		-9-			

KIND		AMOUNT	PER UNIT		VALUE
Cov	Butterfat NS - Market mil Mfg. milk Nt and Breeding	14,805,000 lbs.	\$ 1.19 per 1b. .96 per 1b.	\$ 10,224,480 14,212,800 2,462,800	
Goa	ts - Market mi Mfg. milk Fresh mil Breeding	5,000 lbs. k 1,500 gals.	2.20 per lb. 1.50 per lb. 1.00 per gal.	94,600 7,500 1,500 3,000	\$26,900,080*
					106,600*
<u>Beef</u> Ca	ttle	15,000 feeders 40,000 slaughter	160.00 head	2,400,000	
		or fleshy feeders 4,000 cows and breed	220.00 head Ling stock	8,800,000 560,000	11,760,000*
Sheep, Ewe		9,500 feeders 39,000 slaughter 2,000	13.00 head 21.00 head 7.50 head	123,500 819,000 15,000	
<u>Wool</u> Ewe Lan		80,000 lbs. 36,000 lbs.	.65 pound .48 pound	52,000 65,280	1,074,780*
Swine		14,000	55.00 head	770,000	
Horses	& Mules	50 meat 200 pleasure	40.00 head 80.00 head	2,000 16,000	18,000*
<u>Honey</u> -	20,000 hives, Wax - 7,500 l	45 lbs. per hive bs.	ll¢ per lb. 44¢ per lb.	99,000 3,300	
		s for pollinization	2.00 per hive	10,000	
	Seed Crops - 5,800 acre	s, 14,000 hives	5.00 per hive	70,000	182,300*
Poultry	, Eggs	8,908,588 doz.	50.5¢ ea. doz.	4,498,837	
	Meat (fryers)	6,492,000 lbs.	26¢ ea. pound	1,687,920	
	Hens	535,000 @ 4 lbs or 2,140,000 lbs.	20¢ ea. pound	428,000	6,614,757*
Turkeys	, Meat	878,000 or 15,805,000 lbs.	35¢ per pound	5,531,750	
	Eggs	5,500,000	28¢ each	1,540,000	
	Breeders	110,000	\$6.00 each	660,000	7,731,750*
Rabbits	, Fryers Breeding stoc Skins, fertil		\$1.12 ea. fryer 5.00	84,896 20,000 4,000	108,896* \$54,497,163

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## FIELD CROPS

			oduction	[	F.0.	
Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Beans, Dry						
Blackeyes	20,455	11.0	225,005	Cwt.	\$ 8.00	\$ 1,800,040
Baby Limas	9,836	23.0	226,228	Cwt.	8.00	1,809,824
Large Limas	4,146	26.5	109,869	Cwt.	11.35	1,247,013
Other Varieties	6,238	16.0	99,808	Cwt.	10.00	998,080
(Inc. Kidneys)	0,~,0	2000	<i>,,,</i> ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	0	20100	,,ogooo
Bean Straw	16,000	0.8	12,800	Ton	9.00	115,200
Grain						
Barley	66,000	14.0	924,000	Cwt.	2.75	2,541,000
Corn, Grain	1,250	30.0	37,500	Cwt.	3.20	120,000
Corn, Ensilage	4,900	11.0	53,900	Ton	6.00	323,400
Grain Sorghum	600	20.0	12,000	Cwt.	2.80	33,600
Oats	9,300	12.0	111,600	Cwt.	3.05	340,380
Rice	4,200	31.0	130,200	Cwt.	5.00	651,000
Wheat	1,130	12.0	13,560	Cwt.	3.60	48,816
Uorr						
Hay Alfalfa	80,500	6.7	539,350	Ton	20.50	11,056,675
Grain	14,900	1.9	28,310	Ton	21.00	594,510
Wild	5,000	0.5	2,500	Ton	17.00	42,500
MTTG	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	0.7	~3,700	1011	<b>1</b>	4
Sugar Beets	2 <b>,</b> 357	16.5	38,891	Ton	13.71	533,196
Pasture						
Irrigated						
(Ladino)	107,979			Acre	55.00	5,938,845
Range	260,000			Acre	4.00	1,040,000
Stubble	16,000			Acre	1.50	24,000
Sudan grass	3,150			Acre	30.00	94 <b>,</b> 500
Miscellaneous						
Field Crops	1,600		حقو عقو ابنيا جي	Acre	100.00	160,000
-	635,541					\$ 29,512,579

# TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES)

		F	Production		F.O.B. Value	
Crop	Acreage	Per Acre		Unit	Per Unit	Value
Broccoli	400	5,000	2,000,000	Lbs.	\$.07	\$ 140,000
Lima Beans (Processing)	8,000	2,600	<b>20,800,</b> 000	Lbs.	•08	1,664,000
Melons				(Pack	ed)	
Cantaloupes	1,575	170	267,750	Crate	2.75	736,313
Honeydews	1,600	8.0	12,800	Ton	21.50	275,200
Watermelons	1,341	11.0	14,751	Ton	30.00	442,530
Other Melons	800	9.0	7,200	Ton	25.00	180,000
Peas	5,600	1.0	5,600	Ton	68.00	380,800
Spinach	1,260	6.0	7,560	Ton	25.00	189,000
Sweet Potatoes	306	125	38,250	50# Basket	2.90	110,925
Tomatoes Processing	7,200	17.5	126,000	Ton	22.50	2,835,000
Shipping	3,600	14.0	50,400	Ton	35.00	1,764,000
Other Garden and Truck Crops	4,061			Acres	170.00	690,370
	35,743					\$9,408,138
	SEI	SD CROP PH	ODUCTION			
Alfalfa Certified Common	5 <b>,</b> 460 317	650 660	3,549,000 209,220	Lbs. Lbs.	.25 .20	887,250 41,844
Ladino Certified Common	520 50	140 140	72,800 7,000	Lbs. Lbs.	•38 •30	27,664 2,100

150,000
\$1,305,088

100.00

196,230

2;110

1,500

9,957

Peas

Miscellaneous

12.0 25,320 Cwt. 7.75

Acre

# \* <u>S U M M A R Y</u> \*

ITEM	ACREAGE	ESTIMATED VALUE
Fruit, Grapes, Nuts and Berries	55,900	\$ 19,450,095
Field Crops	635,541	29,512,579
Truck Crops (Vegetables)	35,743	9,408,138
Livestock and Poultry		54,497,163
Nursery Stock	609	1,215,719
Seed Crop Production	<u>9,957</u> 737,750	1,305,088 \$115,388,782