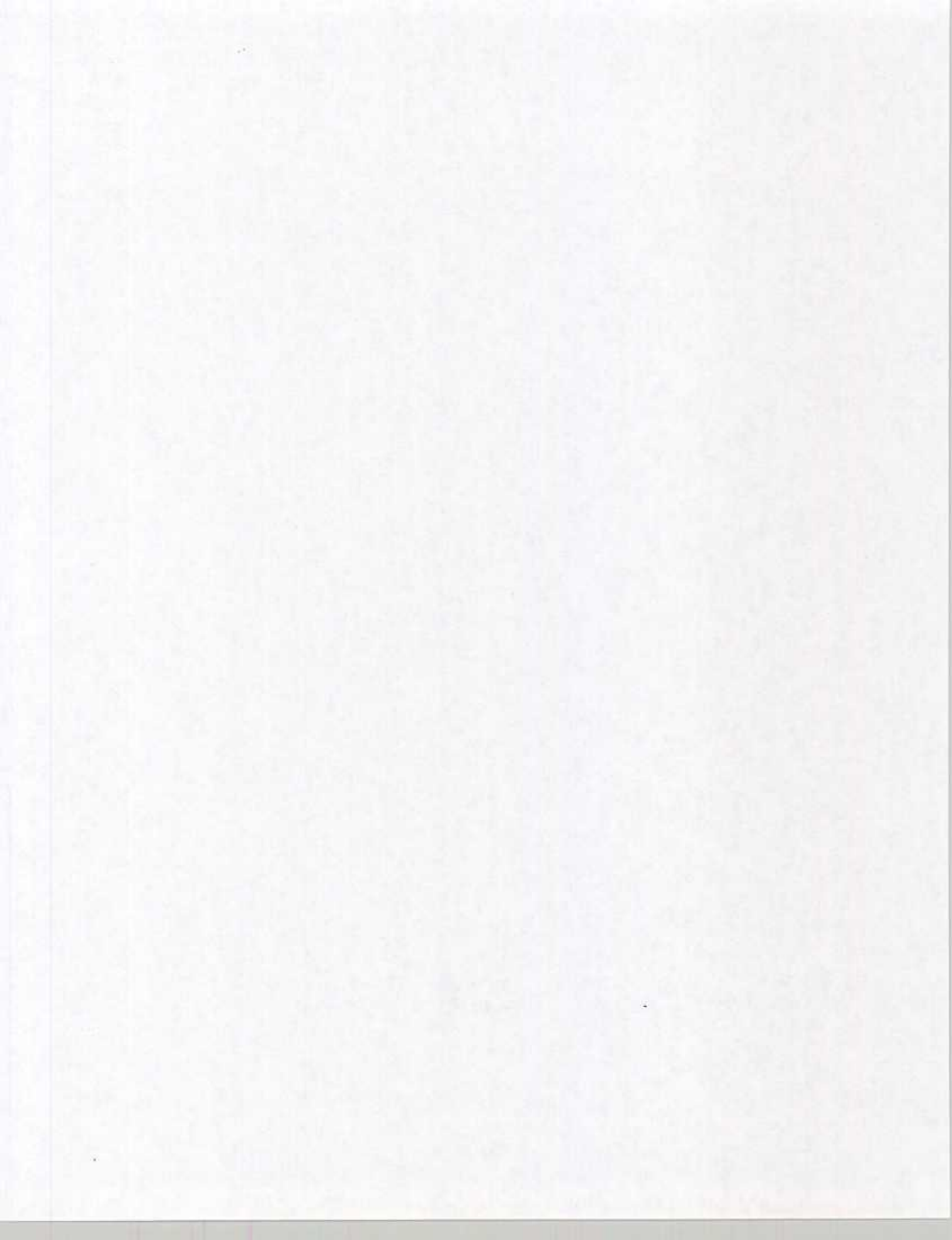


1955

*Annual Crop
and
Livestock Report*

STAN SLAUS COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
and
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Cooperating



Foreword

This report contains information on conditions, acreage, production and value of agricultural crops produced in Stanislaus County for the year 1955. The report has been jointly prepared by the Agricultural Extension Service and the Agricultural Commissioner of the county.

The Crop and Livestock Report includes data on over 80 commercial crops which are grown or produced in the county. Acreages of permanent crops are reported of actual bearing acres and other crops are reported in harvested acres. Production is reported in units commercially used in the marketing of crops in this county. Prices were reported on a F.O.B. basis or as a gross return to the farmer. This report only indicates gross income and does not report the net returns to the grower. In order to obtain net returns, the production costs of the farmer must be deducted. There may be some duplications in the gross returns reported because in some instances crops such as alfalfa hay, permanent pastures, native pastures and some seed crops are produced and consumed on the same farm. The reporting of their sales may be listed as livestock sales and as sales of field crops.

Agricultural income in Stanislaus County reached an all-time high in 1955, with an income of \$130,781,000. This amounted to almost 4 million more than the previous high returns of \$127,000,000 in 1951 and a \$112,700,000 in 1954 - a gain of 18 million dollars over the previous year. Two thirds of this gain was due to the increase of returns for the fruit and nut crops. Clingstone peaches, almonds and walnuts all brought phenomenal incomes. Dairy production increased almost 10%, counting for a little over 3 million gain in the 1955 dairy income. Poultry also showed a big increase in commercial and hatching eggs sold. Egg prices remained about the same, but the total income was up from \$5,953,000 to \$7,486,000. Turkey growers also received a better income for the 1955 year because of higher prices and more birds sold.

Total returns from field and truck crops remained approximately the same for the two years. There were some fluctuations of prices, while some crops brought less and others more. The income from beef cattle, sheep and hogs was slightly down along with such commodities as seed crops and grapes.

In compiling this report, the Agricultural Commissioner has included the latest data of acreage and permanent crops, while the Agricultural Extension Service 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.

ALBERT G. VOLZ
County Director of Extension

MILO M. SCHROCK
County Agricultural Commissioner

Grapes - - Climatic conditions during fruit set on the Thompsons were poor. As a result, most of the vineyards had many loose, stringy bunches. Many of these recovered by having larger berries; however, the end result was a lighter crop than anticipated. Wine grapes did not seem to be affected in the same manner so that crops were normal or slightly above average. Thompson vineyards are being pulled out and, in some instances, being replaced by tree fruits. Most new acreages consist of Palomino, Grenache, and French Columbard. The prices received were below those of the previous year due to reported bumper yields from counties south of Stanislaus.

Boysenberries - - For some reason still not explained but believed to climatic, the boysenberries throughout the county were very slow in leafing out. Many growers complained of very small berries. The small berries, in turn, were responsible for a poor pickout by the pickers. Consequently, yields were far below that anticipated early in the season. Due to the large anticipated crop, most of the crops were contracted for early at a price about three cents below the price received the previous year. There will be 200 acres more in bearing than in 1955.

Strawberries - - Yields were slightly above average for both first and second crops with the second crop continuing well on into the season so that some of the growers reported higher yields than they had in the past. Acreages are continuing to go up; however, the outlook continues to look good in this area.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa - - Acreage remained about the same but prices were considerably better because of greater livestock numbers and unfavorable winter and early spring weather. Yields were up because of a mild fall. Returns per acre were very favorable. Acreage in 1956 would probably be greater if it were not for the threat of a new pest, the spotted alfalfa aphid.

Beans - - Total acreage decreased considerably, with the greatest amount in baby limas and smaller decreases in blackeyes and "Other Varieties." Large lima acreage almost doubled. Yields of all varieties were down considerably because of unfavorable weather. Prices of all varieties except baby limas dropped and returns were much lower. Outlook for 1956 indicates possibility of continued low prices for most varieties.

Grain - - Acreages remained about the same. Average barley yields were up a little, mainly because of good irrigated crops. Montpellier yields were about the same with very good quality. Irrigated Westside milo yields were very good. Prices of all grains were down. Outlook for 1956 is for lower prices because of lower supports.

Field Corn - - Acreage planted for silage increased again as dairy and beef farmers continue to make better use of this excellent feed. Self-feeding silos and machinery for handling silage make silage "more popular." Acreage grown for grain decreased slightly and probably will not increase in the future unless Westside growers find it profitable. Silage acreage will probably increase again in 1956.

Sudan Grass - - Acreage remained about the same. The crop continues to be used mainly for dairy cattle in the irrigated section.

Rice - - Rice acreage decreased greatly as acreage allotments came into being. Yields were well up from 1954 and prices remained about the same. Prospects for 1956 are for probable lower acreages if acreage allotments are again in force.

TRUCK CROPS

Broccoli - - Broccoli is a minor crop in Stanislaus County. It has been profitable on a limited acreage grown as a winter crop.

Lima Beans - - Lima Beans for processing took a slight acreage slump in 1955. Yield per acre was down slightly as well as the price.

Cantaloupes - - 1955 was a bad year - the yield was high and the acreage was about normal. During the time Stanislaus cantaloupes were being marketed, the price kept slipping and reached a point where it was unprofitable to continue harvesting. Several hundred acres were abandoned.

Honeydews - - Honeydews did not yield as well as in 1954, and the average price for the season was down about \$4.00 a ton.

Other Melons - - Other melons were in more than adequate supply which resulted in an unfavorable market for many growers.

Watermelons - - Acreage was up slightly in 1955. The price averaged over \$2.00 higher. Harvested tonnage was about the same as in 1954, about 11 tons to the acre. Heavy culling was required because of cracked heart so the tonnage sold was less than in 1954.

Peas - - Canning and freezing pea acreage was down in 1955 by 250 acres. The increase in yield and price made the pea deal considerably more attractive than in the previous year.

Spinach - - Spinach acreage went up 940 acres. This larger acreage and the ton and one half heavier yield per acre increased, more than double, the dollar volume of the spinach crop.

Sweet Potatoes - - Acreage declined very slightly as did the acre-yield. The selling price was up about \$1.00 a basket which more than compensated for the lower volume.

Tomatoes - - Shipping tomato prices held up well throughout the season, making this speculative enterprise attractive in 1955. Canning tomato volume per acre was down slightly. Considerable acreage was picked for shipping and then for canning, which may account for the slightly lower yield of canning tomatoes.

SEED PRODUCTION

Alfalfa - - Certified acreage almost doubled as a result of very favorable returns in 1954. Yields were almost 25 per cent lower because of unfavorable summer weather and prices decreased about 15 per cent, resulting in much lower income per acre.

Common alfalfa seed acreage remained the same as 1954. Yields were down about 7 per cent and prices also dropped.

Ladino Clover - - Acreage of ladino seed is no longer large enough to report separately, so it is included under "Miscellaneous Seed."

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRYING

Beef Cattle - - The number of fed cattle produced in the county more than doubled this past year. This was due to enlarging size of farm feed lots, some new farm feed lots getting started and two new commercial lots starting. The number of cattle produced or grown out remained about the same due to a lower price gross return.

Swine - - Hog numbers increased some over 1954. Total return was less due to very low prices.

Sheep - - Number of range bands remain about constant. Farm flocks are on the increase.

Rabbits - - The rabbit industry is still primarily a backyard hobby type operation in Stanislaus County. There is some evidence that larger operators will be coming along soon. The market for rabbits has been strong, although poultry and the red meats are in strong competition pricewise. The industry needs more cooperation from its members in consumer education and improved production and management practices.

Chicken Eggs - - 1955 was considerably better than 1954 for the commercial egg producers. There was an increase in egg production amounting to more than 8%. Many new flocks are being established and old ones are expanding. The 1955 egg-feed ratio was much better than in 1954.

Chicken Meat - - 1955 was a profitable year for broiler growers on the average. Prices received were somewhat higher than last year and higher than the national average. Lower feed costs and more efficient feed conversion teamed up to increase profits. There was no substantial increase in production over 1954. Competition from eastern producers is being felt in all of California.

Hens - - Heavy hens have been selling for as much or more than fryers. Light hens have regained their value somewhat but are still in a very poor position marketwise.

Turkeys - - 1955 was a good year for the turkey grower. Most growers sold birds at somewhat lighter weights, thereby reducing total tonnage. Prices received by growers were sufficient to allow a good profit. The fryer-turkey industry seems to be on the decline.

Breeder Flocks - - Breeder flocks were on the increase over 1954. Prices received for eggs were essentially the same as in 1954, although demand was good. Many producers lost flocks because of outbreaks of sinusitis. Poor fertility is still a costly problem in turkey breeders.

The poultry industry in Stanislaus County has grown to a value of 17 million dollars in 1955, an increase of over 4 million from 1954. Better marketing, more production and efficient production methods have made the difference.

Dairying - - Dairying continues to be the No. 1 industry in the county with approximately 1/4 of the total income coming from the dairy industry. During the past year the amount of milk produced as market milk increased; however, the price remained about the same. With the increased production, the total income was up 10%. The manufactured milk increased and the price per pound was increased 4¢ a pound, giving a total increase of income of a little over 2 million. The price of alfalfa hay was up during the past year; however, the price of concentrates, including the cereal grains, was down which somewhat compensated for the increase of price for hay. Culling of dairy cattle continued at about the normal rate, although the price of culled dairy cows was somewhat less. Dairy herds have continued to increase in size because it becomes more and more necessary for a dairyman to have more cows in order to make money in the dairy industry.

ACREAGE ESTIMATES OF STANISLAUS COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

1955

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

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>
<u>ALMONDS</u>	
Drakes - - - - -	414
I.X.L. - - - - -	229
Jordanola - - - - -	340
Lewelling - - - - -	6
Mission - Texas - - - - -	1,936
Ne Plus Ultra - - - - -	688
Nonpareil - - - - -	2,697
Peerless - - - - -	55
Other Almonds - - - - -	29
TOTAL ALMONDS	<u>6,394</u>
<u>APRICOTS</u>	
Blenheim - Royal - - - - -	177
Moorpark - Hemskirk - - - - -	4
Tilton - - - - -	1,590
Other Apricots - - - - -	1
TOTAL APRICOTS	<u>1,772</u>
<u>CHERRIES</u>	
Bing - - - - -	12
Black Republican - - - - -	1
Lambert - - - - -	2
Royal Ann - - - - -	22
Tartarian - - - - -	6
Other Cherries - - - - -	4
TOTAL CHERRIES	<u>47</u>
<u>FIGS</u>	
Black - - - - -	19
Kadota - - - - -	22
Others - - - - -	5
TOTAL FIGS	<u>46</u>
<u>GRAPES, RAISIN</u>	
Muscat - - - - -	16
Thompson Seedless - - - - -	6,277
Zante Currant - - - - -	13
TOTAL RAISIN VARIETIES	<u>6,306</u>
<u>GRAPES, TABLE</u>	
Concord - - - - -	1
Emperor - - - - -	134
Malaga - - - - -	368
Red Malaga - - - - -	141
Ribier - - - - -	143
Tokay - - - - -	22
Other Table Grapes - - - - -	82
TOTAL TABLE GRAPES	<u>891</u>

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>
<u>GRAPES, WINE</u>	
Alicante Bouschet - - - - -	856
Burger - - - - -	36
Carignane - - - - -	4,812
Chasselas - - - - -	217
Grenache - - - - -	881
Mission - - - - -	483
Palomino - - - - -	362
Petit Sirah - - - - -	7
Zinfandel - - - - -	423
Other Wine - White - - - - -	132
Other Wine - Dark - - - - -	453
TOTAL WINE GRAPES	8,662
TOTAL ALL GRAPES	15,859
<u>NECTARINES</u>	
Gower - - - - -	3
Quetta - - - - -	47
John Rivers - - - - -	63
Other Nectarines - - - - -	113
TOTAL NECTARINES	226
<u>OLIVES</u> (All Varieties) - - - - -	400
<u>PEACHES, CLINGSTONE</u>	
Andora - - - - -	665
Carolyn - - - - -	175
Cortez - - - - -	1,183
Fortuna - - - - -	1,538
Gaume - - - - -	1,636
Gomes (Stuart) - - - - -	1,602
Halford - - - - -	3,299
Johnson - - - - -	113
Paloro - - - - -	1,617
Peak - - - - -	1,319
Phillip - - - - -	410
Sims - - - - -	190
Other Clings - - - - -	1,075
TOTAL CLINGSTONE PEACHES	14,822
<u>PEACHES, FREESTONE</u>	
Early Elberta - - - - -	6
Elberta - - - - -	1,449
Hale - - - - -	120
Lovell - - - - -	596
Muir - - - - -	117
Rio Oso Gem - - - - -	224
Other Freestones - - - - -	201
TOTAL FREESTONE PEACHES	2,713
TOTAL ALL PEACHES	17,535
<u>PLUMS</u> (All Varieties)	38

CROPBEARING ACRESWALNUTS

Concord	- - - - -	109
Eureka	- - - - -	2,465
Franquette	- - - - -	3,196
Hartley	- - - - -	661
Mayette	- - - - -	684
Payne	- - - - -	1,717
Placentia	- - - - -	22
Miscellaneous	- - - - -	546
Seedling	- - - - -	89
TOTAL WALNUTS		9,489

TOTAL ALL

51,806

FRUITS, GRAPES, AND NUTS

Crop	Bearing Acreage	Production			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
<u>Almonds</u>	6,388	1,300	4,152	Ton	\$ 800.00	\$ 3,321,600
<u>Apricots</u>	1,773	7.08	12,220*			1,119,005*
(Canned			8,898	Ton	93.00	827,514)
(Dried	2,205 (green)		340 Dry	Ton	550.00	187,000)
(Shipped - fresh market			50	Ton	100.00	5,000)
(Frozen			300	Ton	93.00	27,900)
(By-products			767	Ton	93.00	71,331)
(Apricot pits			13	Ton	20.00	260)
<u>Peaches, Clings</u>	14,825	13.5	200,089*	Ton		15,924,826*
(Canned			195,211	Ton	80.50	15,714,486)
(Dried - 22 (green ton)			3.5 Dry	Ton	300.00	1,050)
(Spiced			4,506	Ton	40.00	180,240)
(Fresh			350	Ton	83.00	29,050)
<u>Peaches, Freestone</u>	2,712	9.67	26,235*	Ton		1,646,661*
(Canned			12,177	Ton	55.00	669,735)
(Dried - 8,286 (green ton)			1,381 Dry	Ton	360.00	497,160)
(Shipped			2,162	Ton	68.00	147,016)
(Frozen			1,600	Ton	60.00	96,000)
(By-products			1,000	Ton	60.00	60,000)
(Local Markets			1,010	Ton	175.00	176,750)
<u>Nectarines</u>	226	7.73	1,747			138,760*
(Shipped			1,375	Ton	100.00	137,500)
(Dried - 22 (green ton)			3.5 Dry	Ton	360.00	1,260)
<u>Cherries</u>	47	2.08	98*	Ton		28,600*
(Canned & processed			53	Ton	200.00	10,600)
(Shipped & sold fresh			45	Ton	400.00	18,000)
<u>Plums - Shipped</u>	38	4.	152	Ton	140.00	21,280

*Accumulated Total

<u>KIND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PER UNIT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	
<u>Dairy</u>				
Cows - BF in Mkt. milk	10,252,000 lbs.	\$ 1.05 per lb.	\$10,764,600	
BF in Mfg. milk	18,004,000 lbs.	.83 per lb.	14,943,320	
Meat and Breeding stock			<u>1,477,680</u>	
				\$27,185,600*
Goats - Mfg. milk			4,200	
Fresh milk			7,500	
Meat and Breeding stock			5,500	
Grade Stock and meat			<u>2,800</u>	
				20,000*
<u>Beef Cattle</u>				
10,000 feeders		175.00 head	1,750,000	
20,000 clover slaughter or fleshy feeders		210.00 head	4,200,000	
25,000 fed cattle		230.00 head	5,750,000	
4,000 cows and breeding stock			<u>500,000</u>	
				12,200,000*
<u>Sheep, Lambs</u>				
4,000 feeders @ 17¢/#		11.50 head	46,000	
45,000 fed & milk fat @ 20¢		20.00 head	900,000	
Ewes	2,000	6.00 head	12,000	
<u>Wool</u>				
Ewes	90,000 lbs.	.54 pound**	48,600	
Lamb	90,000 lbs.	.44 pound**	<u>39,600</u>	
				1,046,200*
<u>Swine</u>				
14,000		34.00 head	476,000	476,000
<u>Horses & Mules</u>				
400		80.00 head	32,000	32,000
**Does not include wool incentive payment.				
<u>Honey</u> - 20,000 hives, 70 lbs. per hive				
Wax - 15,000 lbs.		.12½¢ per lb.	175,000	
		.54 per lb.	8,100	
<u>Fruit Crops</u> -				
5,000 hives for pollinization		2.00 per hive	10,000	
<u>Seed Crops</u> -				
14,000 acres, 18,000 hives		4.00 per hive	<u>72,000</u>	
				265,100*
<u>Poultry, Eggs - Commercial</u>				
Hatching eggs	11,800,000 doz.	.42 per doz.	4,956,000	
Turkey hatching eggs	1,600,000 doz.	.85 per doz.	1,360,000	
	4,500,000 eggs	.26 per egg	<u>1,170,000</u>	
				7,486,000*
<u>Poultry Meat Hens</u>				
680,000 @ 5#		.17 per lb.	578,000	
<u>Commercial Fryers</u>				
1,800,000 @ 3#		.267 per lb.	1,441,800	
<u>Turkeys</u>				
900,000 @ 22#		.31 per lb.	<u>6,138,000</u>	
				8,157,800*
<u>Rabbits, Fryers</u>				
Breeding stock	91,700 @ 4#	.23 per lb.	84,364	
Skins, fertilizer & worms	5,100	5.00 each	25,500	
			<u>6,000</u>	
				115,864*
				\$56,984,564

1955 showed an increase in all poultry, particularly in commercial and hatching egg production, an increase of over 2½ million eggs.

*Accumulated Total

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Acreage	Production			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
<u>Beans, Dry</u>						
Blackeyes	17,000	9.5	161,500	Cwt.	\$ 6.10	\$ 985,150
Baby Limas	3,300	19.1	63,000	Cwt.	7.00	441,000
Large Limas	6,830	22.0	150,260	Cwt.	9.90	1,487,574
Other Varieties	9,850	13.0	128,000	Cwt.	9.25	1,184,000
<u>Bean Straw</u>						
Blackeye Straw	13,000	0.8	10,400	Ton	8.00	83,200
Lima Bean Silage	3,000	1.5	4,500	Ton	1.50	6,750
<u>Grain</u>						
Barley	68,500	16.0	1,096,000	Cwt.	2.10	2,301,600
Corn, Grain	2,500	32.0	80,000	Cwt.	2.80	224,000
Corn, Silage	13,100	11.5	150,650	Ton	6.50	979,225
Grain Sorghums	1,180	30.0	35,400	Cwt.	2.30	81,420
Oats	9,000	12.5	112,500	Cwt.	2.50	281,250
Rice	2,240	35.0	78,400	Cwt.	4.30	337,120
Wheat	620	14.0	8,680	Cwt.	3.60	31,248
<u>Hay</u>						
Alfalfa	74,000	7.0	518,000	Ton	25.50	13,209,000
Grain	13,500	1.7	22,950	Ton	25.00	573,750
Wild	4,000	0.5	2,000	Ton	25.00	50,000
<u>Sugar Beets</u>	1,655	24.0	39,720	Ton	14.00	556,080
<u>Pasture</u>						
Irrigated (Ladino)	100,000	----	----	Acre	45.00	4,500,000
Range	260,000	----	----	Acre	4.00	1,040,000
Stubble	14,000	----	----	Acre	1.50	21,000
Sudan	3,630	----	----	Acre	30.00	108,900
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Field Crops	1,800	----	----	Acre	100.00	180,000
	<u>622,705</u>					<u>\$ 28,662,267</u>

TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES)

Crop	Acreage	Production			F.O.B. Value	
		Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
<u>Broccoli</u>	170	1,700	289,000	Lbs.	\$.07	\$ 20,230
<u>Lima Beans</u> (Processing)	8,100	2,200	17,820,000	Lbs.	.07	1,247,400
<u>Melons</u>						
Cantaloupes	1,206	190	229,140	Packed Crates	2.15	492,651
Honeydews	2,115	7.0	14,805	Ton	20.00	296,100
Watermelons	1,942	9.0	17,478	Ton	21.25	371,408
Other Melons	1,042	9.0	9,378	Ton	22.50	211,005
<u>Peas</u>	5,150	1.9	9,785	Ton	73.00	714,305
<u>Spinach</u>	2,180	7.0	15,260	Ton	22.50	343,350
<u>Sweet Potatoes</u>	711	114	81,054	50# baskets	3.75	303,953
<u>Tomatoes</u>						
Processing	5,479	17.0	93,143	Ton	22.50	2,095,718
Shipping	3,120	393	1,226,160	Crates	2.60	3,188,016
<u>Other Vegetable and Vegetable Seed Crops</u>	4,500		----	Acres	200.00	900,000
	<u>35,715</u>					<u>\$10,184,136</u>

SEED CROP PRODUCTION

<u>Alfalfa</u>						
Certified	10,900	500	5,450,000	Lbs.	.265	1,444,250
Common	3,700	700	2,590,000	Lbs.	.19	492,100
<u>Peas</u>	822	14.0	11,508	Cwt.	8.00	92,064
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	2,000	----	----	Acres	125.00	250,000
	<u>17,422</u>					<u>\$ 2,278,414</u>

* S U M M A R Y *

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED VALUE</u>
Fruit, Grapes, Nuts and Berries	53,841	\$ 31,934,332
Field Crops	622,705	28,662,267
Truck Crops (Vegetables)	35,715	10,184,136
Livestock and Poultry	-----	56,984,564
Nursery Stock	258	737,319
Seed Crop Production	17,422	2,278,414
	<u>729,941</u>	<u>\$ 130,781,032</u>

