

BUTTE COUNTY



CALIFORNIA'S MOTHER ORANGE TREE AND FIRST SUSPENSION BRIDGE

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

1955

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

CROP SUMMARY

Butte County farmers during 1955 received \$34,826,000 for plant crops, livestock and honey. This was a modest gain of \$274,700 over 1954.

Butte County agriculture has suffered several serious set backs during the past few years. In 1955 serious frosts in the spring reduced some of our fruit and nut crops considerably below what normally could be expected. The almond crop alone was reduced from \$5,490,000 in 1954 to \$1,620,000 due to these frosts.

Prunes also showed the effects of the frosts. The total returns from prunes shows a serious drop with \$447,000 in 1955 in contrast to \$1,221,000 in 1954.

Although peaches were hit by the frost also, the total returns still increased \$675,000 over 1954. This was due to good prices for the fruit along with virtually no loss of fruit due to Brown Rot during the summer and no green drop ordered by the Cling Peach Advisory Board.

The olive crop was very light, raising only one-half tons per acre. Total returns from canning and oil olives was \$654,350 in contrast to \$1,442,500 in 1954. The olive price per ton, did show an increase of approximately 25% over 1954. However, reduced yields, due to frost and cool weather during blooming periods, along with various other factors accounted for the reductions in total returns.

Walnuts for the first time in the history of Butte County exceeded \$1,000,000. The English or Persian Walnuts had a bearing acreage of 2,935 acres and produced 2,133 tons for a value of \$1,194,900. Walnuts in this volume are a comparatively new crop in Butte County and much of our acreage which is shown as bearing still have young trees that have not reached but a fraction of their ultimate producing capacity. In the future it is doubtful unless unusual circumstances occur that walnut returns should be less than \$1,000,000 per year

Citrus showed an increase over 1954 due to good yield throughout the citrus producing area while apples increased from \$84,000 in 1954 to \$205,000 total returns in 1955.

Field crops showed an increase of approaching \$3,500,000 and most of this was due to the rice returns, Butte County's number one money crop. Although the harvested acres in 1955 were 8,000 less than 1954, the yield was enough larger to account for the increase.

Field corn shows a jump from 3,500 to 8,000 acres and the total returns were \$1,450,000 compared to \$590,500 in 1954. The other field crops showed returns very similar to that of 1954 with slight decreases in some cases and some increases in others.

Total truck crops were up about \$70,000 which is due somewhat to increased melon acreage and increased tomato returns.

Seed crops showed an increase of \$75,000 over 1954 and Nursery Stock showed an increase of \$145,000.

Although livestock and poultry total returns showed an increase of \$235,000 the industries themselves remained relatively static. Beef cattle showed a slight increase and indicates a trend toward higher returns while hogs in 1955 showed a considerable drop of \$260,000. This was due to extremely low prices which in turn reflected in the total production.

Poultry seems to be on the increase with a considerable increase in the number of eggs produced as well as total returns.

In conclusion it should be reemphasized that these figures are all F.O.B. returns to the farmer and do not reflect an increase in net income. In fact with the modest gain of \$274,700 over 1954 will undoubtedly reflect some decrease in net income due to increased production costs.

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COVER OF 1955 CROP REPORT

California's First Suspension Bridge was constructed at Bidwell Bar in 1856 and in the same year California's Mother Orange Tree, a sweet seedling, was planted by the bridge.

This, the 17th official crop report of Butte County, fittingly presents the cover picture because of the historical interest as they side by side start their second century of coexistence. They are located nine miles east of Oroville by and over the Middle Fork of the Feather River.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

Crop	Bearing Acres	Production Per Acre	Total	Total Value
Almonds	15,072	.13 Tons	2,000 Tons	\$1,600,000.00
Hulls			1,750 Tons	19,800.00
Apples	578			
Loose Fruit			37,000 Boxes	67,000.00
Packed Fruit			37,400 Boxes	109,000.00
By Products			50 Tons	1,500.00
Cider			31,000 Gals.	28,000.00
Citrus				
Lemons	11	302 Boxes	3,325 Boxes	8,500.00
Tangerines & Mand.	15	3,266 Lbs.	49,000 Lbs.	7,350.00
Wash. Navels	790	103 F. Boxes	81,500 F. Boxes	174,000.00
Grapes - Concord juice	35		14,200 Gal.	20,600.00
Olives	4,947			
Canning		.5 Tons	2,475 Tons	606,350.00
Oil & Greeks			300 Tons	48,000.00
Peaches				
Clingstone	2,497	9.8 Tons	24,400 Tons	1,964,200.00
Freestone	388			
Canning			815 Tons	50,000.00
Fresh Fruit			175 Tons	17,500.00
Dried Fruit			100 Tons	40,000.00
Plums	64	1.95 Tons	125 Tons	10,000.00
Prunes	2,994	.5 Dry Tons	1,490 Dry Tons	447,000.00
Strawberries	10	340 Crates	3,400 Crates	6,000.00
Walnuts				
Persian	2,935	.73 Tons	2,133 Tons	1,194,900.00
Black	306		30,000 Sx	30,000.00
Misc. Fruits and Nuts				20,000.00
Total Fruit & Nuts				\$6,469,700.00

FIELD CROPS

Crop	Acreage	Production		Total Value
		Per Acre	Total	
Alfalfa	8,500	8 Tons	68,000 Tons	\$ 1,870,000.00
Barley	37,000	1.05 Tons	38,850 Tons	1,582,600.00
Beans	11,500	.975 Tons	11,200 Tons	1,512,000.00
Field Corn	8,000	2.38 Tons	19,000 Tons	1,045,000.00
Hay	5,500	2 Tons	11,000 Tons	275,000.00
Milo	6,000	1.45 Tons	8,700 Tons	391,500.00
Oats	6,000	1.15 Tons	6,900 Tons	393,000.00
Pastures				
Irrigated	38,000			2,736,000.00
Range	250,000			875,000.00
Stubble	15,000			45,000.00
Rice	56,827	1.68 Tons	95,185 Tons	8,186,000.00
Safflower	6,500	.475 Tons	3,090 Tons	216,300.00
Sugar Beets *	2,598	19.4 Tons	50,300 Tons	653,900.00 **
Wheat	9,140	1.1 Tons	10,054 Tons	653,500.00
Misc.				<u>20,000.00</u>
Total				\$ 20,454,800.00

* Total planted 2,969 acres, total harvested 2,598.

** Includes Sugar Act Payments of \$129,406.00

TRUCK CROPS

Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Total Value
Melons				
Honeydew	40	10.8 Tons	432 Tons	\$ 16,200.00
Persian	50	14.5 Tons	725 Tons	27,200.00
Watermelons	10	20 Tons	200 Tons	8,000.00
Pumpkin-Field	1,050	16 Tons	16,800 Tons	126,000.00
Boston Pie	12	9 Tons	108 Tons	1,600.00
Squash	120	8.4 Tons	1,000 Tons	16,000.00
Tomatoes-Canning	255	17 Tons	4,335 Tons	97,500.00
Misc.				<u>15,000.00</u>
Total				\$ 307,500.00

APIARY

Crop	Production	Value
Beeswax	12,500 Lbs.	\$ 6,800.00
Honey	750,000 Lbs.	82,500.00
Package Bees		
Two pound packages	15,000 Pkgs.	45,000.00
Three pound packages	3,000 Pkgs.	12,000.00
Queens	9,000	9,000.00
Nuclei	1,000	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total		\$ 160,300.00

Pollination \$7,500.00

\$ 20,000.00

PAYMENTS UNDER PRODUCTION MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Agricultural Conservation Payments \$ 20,000.00

SEED CROPS

Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Total Value
Beans	200	1 Ton	200 Tons	\$ 36,000.00
Ladino Clover Certified	137	350 Lbs.	47,950 Lbs.	25,400.00
Field Peas	1,000	13.5 Sx	13,500 Sx	87,800.00
Rice, Certified	410	2.05Tons	840 Tons	109,200.00
Sudan Grass				
Sudan 23	120	10 CWT	1,200 CWT	6,000.00
Piper Sudan	16	12 CWT	190 CWT	1,400.00
Sweet Sudan	250	9.4 CWT	2,350 CWT	10,600.00
Vetch	8,500	2.5 CWT	21,250 CWT	201,900.00
Vine Crops	262	312 Lbs.	81,744 Lbs.	37,200.00
Misc.				<u>15,000.00</u>
Total				\$ 530,500.00

NURSERY STOCK

Crop	Production	Total Value
Bedding Plants	6,500 Flats	\$ 8,500.00
Citrus Trees	2,100 Trees	5,500.00
Deciduous Fruit Trees	15,000 Trees	8,500.00
Deciduous Nut Trees	38,000 Trees	79,800.00
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	6,500 Plants	8,000.00
Forest Trees	800,000 Trees	81,000.00
Strawberry Plants	8,150,000 Plants	82,000.00
Misc.		<u>5,000.00</u>
Total		\$278,300.00

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

	Production	Total Value
Beef Cattle	7,700 Head	\$ 1,350,000.00
	14,000 Head	1,225,000.00
Hogs	13,000 Head	481,000.00
Milk		
Market	787,000 Lbs. Milk fat	960,150.00
Manufacturing	1,095,000 Lbs. Milk fat	886,950.00
Poultry		
Chickens-Fryers	16,000 Birds	16,800.00
Chickens-Hens	93,000 Birds	83,700.00
Day old chicks	120,000 Birds	21,600.00
Turkeys (Market)	44,000 Birds	200,000.00
Eggs	1,675,000 Dozen	653,000.00
Rabbits	4,000 Head	5,000.00
Sheep	32,000 Head	592,000.00
Wool	200,000 Lbs.	100,000.00
Misc. Livestock		<u>- 30,000.00</u>
Total		\$ 6,605,200.00

SUMMARY

Fruit and Nut Crops	\$ 6,469,700.00
Field Crops	20,454,800.00
Truck Crops	307,500.00
Apiary	160,300.00
Seed Crops	530,500.00
Nursery Stock	278,300.00
Livestock & Poultry	6,605,200.00
A. C. S. Payments	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total Agricultural Crop Value	\$ 34,826,300.00

FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF TOTAL VALUES

1951	\$ 62,644,850.00*
1952	\$ 46,066,700.00
1953	\$ 37,197,700.00
1954	\$ 34,551,593.00
1955	\$ 34,826,300.00

* Includes Lumber value of \$10,945,000.00

TIMBER PRODUCTION

1951	125,000,000 board feet	
1952	135,000,000 board feet	
1953	171,000,000 board feet	
1954*	129,000,000 board feet	\$5,418,000.00

* Value of 1954 lumber based on estimated average price of \$42.00 per thousand feet.

Actual data for 1955 is not available at this time.

MINERAL PRODUCTION 1954 *

Gold	fine ounces	130	\$ 4,550
Natural gas	M cubic feet	4,901,592	1,010,000
Sand and gravel	short tons	849,182	1,030,391
Silver	fine ounces	26	24
Stone (crushed)	short tons.	57,669	23,495
Total value			\$ 2,068,460

* 1954 mineral production figures are the latest available.