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BUTTE COUNTY CROP REPORT

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

1959

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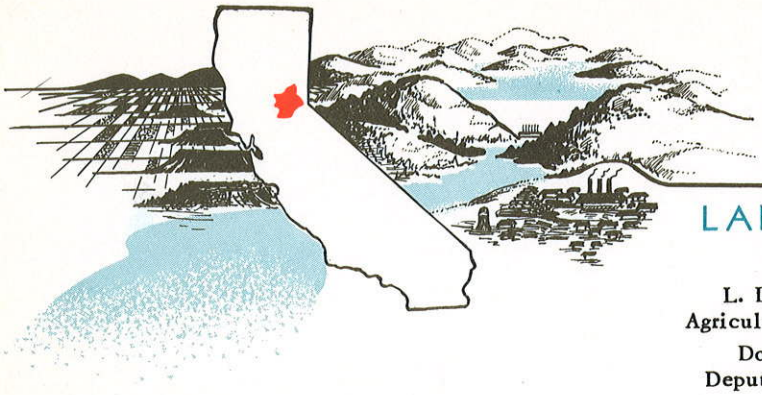

Butte County

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

L. D. McCorkindale
Agricultural Commissioner
Donald J. Black
Deputy Commissioner

AGRICULTURAL BUILDING
Nelson Avenue, Oroville, California
Mail: P. O. Box 1229
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February 29, 1960

Mr. William E. Warne, Director
California Department of Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Butte

Leslie J. Pryde, Chairman
William R. Alldredge
Floyd F. Giles
Dallas B. Huggins
Roy McKernan

Gentlemen:

This is the twenty-first annual crop report for Butte County as required by Section 65.5 of the California Agricultural Code.

Compilation of the condition, acreage, production, and value of agricultural products is a mandatory duty of an agricultural commissioner in his respective county.

Since the first annual report published in 1939 by Agricultural Commissioner, W. L. Stile, many changes have occurred in Butte County agriculture. Various crops have increased or decreased in importance. Others have made their appearances from time to time.

The total value of all crops in 1939 was $9,451,293. For 1959 a record evaluation of $54,591,140 reflects the significance of agriculture in Butte County's economy.

Please bear in mind that the data herein reflects gross value of products enumerated and not the net return to the grower.

My sincere appreciation goes to the personnel of this office, farmers, growers' associations, the Farm Advisor's Office, A.S.C. Office, marketing program committees, food processors, produce dealers, beekeepers and all others who were consulted prior to release of final statistics.

Respectfully submitted,

L. D. McCorkindale

L. D. McCorkindale
Agricultural Commissioner

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BUTTE COUNTY IN BRIEF

County Seat	Oroville
Area (square miles)	1,722
Area (acres)	1,102,080
Altitude	60 feet to 6,650
Privately Owned Land (acres)	896,045
Land in Public Domain (acres)	169,555
Land in National Forests & State Parks (acres)	36,480
Assessed Valuation (gross)	$ 157,743,500
Population (1959)	81,000

Agriculture: Almost any plant that can be raised in the United States can be grown some place in Butte County. It is said to be the "Sample Package" of the nation. Location of the U. S. New Crops Research Plant Introduction Station near Chico is a testimony to the preceding statement. The growing season near Oroville and Chico is approximately 244 days long. The "Mother Orange Tree", credited with being the parent of California's orange industry, is still growing at Bidwell Bar.

Climate: At lower elevations the summers are dry and warm, the winters mild. In the higher mountainous areas the summers are shorter and cooler, the winters comparably colder. Rainfall averages from 20 to 30 inches in the county. Snowfall is heavy in the mountains but rare in the western regions. January temperatures in Oroville and Chico average 45 degrees, and July temperatures 80 degrees.

History: Butte County was founded February 18, 1850 as one of the original 27 California Counties. Trappers operated in the county as early as 1820. Gold was discovered in the streams in 1823. Butte County is rich in historical mining lore, its terrain yet having old ghost towns of the "Northern Diggin's".

Location: The county extends from the Sacramento River on the west to Yuba and Plumas Counties on the east. Tehama County is on the north, with Sutter County on the south.

Manufacturing: Lumbering and food processing are the leading manufacturing industries. Plywood plants; olive oil processing and olive canning; peach, pumpkin and tomato canning; and the processing of various other food products all play an important part in the county's economic structure.

Recreation: Scenic wonders are everywhere and fishing, hunting and hiking are popular. The Feather River section is open all year, and winter sports are available.

Transportation: The transcontinental line of the Western Pacific Railway crosses the county, following the scenic Feather River Canyon in the eastern part. The main line of the Southern Pacific, connecting California and the Pacific Northwest, runs the length of Butte County. Bus and truck lines serve throughout the County. There is a total of 1,835 miles of County and State roads.

Water: The Feather River is one of the West's most well known streams. More than half of the people in California expect to supplement dwindling water supplies from the Feather River Project. The Oroville Dam and Reservoir will be the key structures. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 1962. Relocation work on part of U. S. Highway 40-A and the Western Pacific Railroad route are well underway. Capital costs of Oroville Dam Reservoir are estimated at $390,000,000, not including federal flood control contributions.

1959 CROP SUMMARY

Butte County's gross agricultural evaluation for all crops exceeded any previous year on record with a grand total of $54,591,140.

Growers of agricultural commodities always have problems in gambling with natural phenomena, but the current question of key importance to a farmer concerns his realized net income after deducting his production expenses.

According to United States Department of Agriculture estimates, a farm operator's net income dropped from 34.2% of his gross returns in 1958 down to 30.8% of his gross income in 1959. This steady decline in net profit year by year is one of the major factors worrying Butte County farmers today.

Weather exerted both good and bad influences on crops in 1959. The long, dry fall aided harvesting such crops as almonds, rice, citrus, various field crops and seed producing plants. Also the maturity of most fruit and nut crops was hastened by dry weather. Adversely, dry winds were blamed for the poorest nectar flow in 20 years, according to beekeepers.

Rice, almonds and peaches produced bumper crops, probably the heaviest yields in the history of the county. Safflower acreage was up over the past two years due to increased demand and its being a good crop to rotate in rice ground.

Total acreage of seed crops was doubled over 1958 and also was somewhat ahead of 1957. Largest seed crop was purple vetch with 13,800 acres.

Under vegetable crops, field pumpkins and tomatoes accounted for 2,360 acres of the 3,123 involved for all commodities. Canning of the meat of pumpkins continues to be an important operation in the Gridley area.

Apple growers experienced a good year both in yields and monetary returns. Olives were down to 50% of a crop, but prices received tended to be good. Navel orange producers experienced small fruit sizes and perhaps would have been in trouble price-wise if marketing operations had not been handled judiciously. The season terminated successfully for citrus growers.

"Million dollar" crops in order of value were as follows:

Cattle and calves	$10,279,500	Milk	$ 1,655,000
Rice	10,091,328	Sorghum grain	1,303,440
Almonds	7,771,641	Barley grain	1,288,960
Peaches	2,606,643	Olives	1,158,770
Prunes	2,563,764	Alfalfa hay	1,131,590
Irrigated pasture	2,415,000	Field corn	1,042,913
Dry beans	1,917,198		

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE, 1959

Crop	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Barley	30,400	1.06	32,224	ton	$ 40.00	$ 1,288,960
Beans						
Dry edible	9,260	.97	8,982	ton	194.08	1,743,227
Garbanza	45	.1	4.5	ton	240.00	1,080
Corn	8,700	2.5	21,750	ton	47.95	1,042,913
Hay						
Alfalfa	7,240	6.48	46,915	ton	24.12	1,131,590
Grain	2,000	2.5	5,000	ton	22.00	110,000
Oats	12,030	.81	9,744	ton	42.43	413,438
Pasture						
Irrigated	21,000		*	acre	115.00	2,415,000
Other	260,000		*	acre	3.50	910,000
Rice	48,523	2.5	121,308	ton	80.00	9,704,640
Safflower	5,400	.5	2,700	ton	78.23	211,221
Silage						
Corn	276	20.	5,520	ton	7.00	38,640
Sorghum, grain	13,410	2.43	32,586	ton	40.00	1,303,440
Sugar beets	3,005	19.94	59,920	ton	11.61	695,671
Wheat	6,702	.9	6,032	ton	60.00	361,920
Total	427,991					$21,371,740

* Per acre value

SEED CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE, 1959

Crop	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Beans	680	1,968	1,338,240	lb.	$ .13	$ 173,971
Ladino clover Certified	60	300	18,000	lb.	.54	9,720
Melons & Curcurbits	564	390	219,960	lb.	.42	92,383
Oats	5,800	1,903	11,037,400	lb.	.026	286,972
Rice, certified	1,216	5,300	6,444,800	lb.	.06	386,688
Vetch, common	2,500	300	750,000	lb.	.065	48,750
Vetch, purple	13,800	229	3,160,200	lb.	.075	237,015
Large-seeded horse beans	150	600	90,000	lb.	.065	5,850
Total	24,770					$ 1,241,349

VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE, 1959

Crop	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Carrots	1	7.	7	ton	$ 280.00	$ 1,960
Corn, sweet	122	6.03	735.7	ton	67.62	49,748
Melons						
Cantaloup	202	5.79	1,169.6	ton	75.00	87,720
Honeydew	50	22.	1,100	ton	102.00	112,200
Persian	40	20.	800	ton	140.00	112,000
Casaba	29	27.5	797.5	ton	105.00	83,738
Watermelons	112	15.74	1,763	ton	26.33	46,420
Zucca	30	6.75	202.5	ton	11.00	2,228
Pumpkin, field	1,100	20.	22,000	ton	8.00	176,000
Squash	71	16.	1,136	ton	82.80	94,061
Tomatoes						
Fresh market	106	10.61	1,125	ton	30.00	33,750
Processing	1,260	13.51	17,023	ton	21.60	367,697
Total	3,123					$ 1,167,522

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE 1959

Crop	Bearing Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Almonds	15,254	.997	15,208	ton	$ 500.00	$ 7,604,000
Hulls		1.	15,254	ton	10.99	167,641
Apples, all	597	5.69	3,397	ton	114.41	388,650
Fresh market			2,710	ton	137.20	371,812
Processing Crushed			687	ton	24.51	16,838
Apricots, all	23	4.03	92.7	ton		17,270
Fresh			82.7	ton	100.00	8,270
Dried			10	ton	900.00	9,000
Avocados	3	2.33	7	ton	210.70	1,475
Bushberries	1.5	1.68	2.5	ton	315.00	788
Cherries, fresh	13	.074	1	ton	460.00	460
Figs, all	6.3	1.	6.3	ton		1,002
Fresh			1	ton	260.00	260
Dried			5.3	ton	140.00	742
Grapes Juice	26.5	3.73	98.8	ton	105.00	10,375
Table	35	.6	21	ton	172.22	3,617
Wine	3.7	4.8	17.8	ton	60.00	1,068
Lemons	11.2	6.54	73.3	ton	97.63	7,156
Nectarines	12	.33	4	ton	231.22	925
Olives, all	5,112	1.196	6,113.3	ton		1,158,770
Ascolano Canned			72.5	ton	237.90	17,248
Barrouni California Spanish Green			107.5	ton	250.70	26,950

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE 1959 (cont.)

Crop	Bearing Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Olives (cont.)						
Manzanillo						
Canned			148	ton	$ 240.81	$ 35,640
California Spanish Green			27	ton	275.00	7,425
Other			6	ton	50.00	300
Mission						
Oil			789	ton	62.76	49,518
Canned			3,905	ton	221.08	863,317
California Spanish Green			20	ton	50.00	1,000
Greek			140	ton	107.14	15,000
Other			470	ton	50.00	23,500
St. Agostino						
Canned			43.3	ton	255.44	11,061
Sevillano						
Canned			348	ton	284.30	98,936
Sicilian			37	ton	239.86	8,875
Oranges						
Navel, fresh market	545	4.71	2,570	ton	95.26	244,818
Mandarins & Tangerines	27	3.13	84.5	ton	284.00	24,998
Valencia	4	3.5	14	ton	100.00	1,400
Peaches, Clingstone						
Canned	2,465	17.3	42,644	ton	59.00	2,515,996
Peaches, Freestone						
All	400	1.73	694	ton		90,647
Fresh market			196	ton	153.21	30,029
Canned			398	ton	46.78	18,618
Dried			100	ton	420.00	42,000

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE 1959 (cont.)

Crop	Bearing Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Pears, Bartlett						
Fresh market	48	.24	11.5	ton	$ 129.09	$ 1,485
Pecans	8	.14	1.1	ton	840.00	924
Persimmons	11	2.18	24	ton	165.00	3,960
Plums						
Fresh market	8	2.	16	ton	124.00	1,984
Canned	75	18.	1,350	ton	32.00	43,200
Prunes						
Dried	3,039	2.62	7,962	ton	322.00	2,563,764
Strawberries	1	4.37	4.4	ton	429.00	1,877
Walnuts						
Black	306	2.63	805	ton	36.72	29,560
Persian	3,207	.447	1,434	ton	440.00	630,960
Total	31,242					$15,518,770

NURSERY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION, AREA, SALES AND VALUE, 1959

Item	Production Area House Sq.Ft.	Production Area Field Acres	Quantity Sold by Producers	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Citrus		3.	6,218	plant	$ 2.50	$ 15,545
Conifer seedlings		4.	868,304	plant	.0104	9,035
Deciduous fruit trees		7.5	76,032	plant	.60	45,619
Deciduous nut trees						
Almonds		7.5	35,170	plant	.60	21,102
Walnuts		14.	16,907	plant	2.25	38,041
Walnut seedlings			13,402	plant	1.31	17,557
Ornamental trees and shrubs*			11,731	plant	1.75	20,529
Grapevines		1.	5,000	plant	.20	1,000
Bedding plants	7,000		10,216	flat	2.19	22,373
Herbaceous perennials		2.	2,050	plant	.75	1,538
Indoor decorative plants	3,000		4,750	plant	.79	3,753
Cut flowers		1.	285	dozen	1.25	356
Total	10,000	40				$ 196,448

* Includes broad leaved evergreens, coniferous evergreens, deciduous shade trees and shrubs.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1959

Item	Production: No. of Head	Production: Total Live Weight	Unit	Value: Per Unit	Value: Total
Cattle & calves	~~61,190~~ 32,000	~~48,950,000~~ 224,000	cwt.	$ 21.00	~~$ 10,279,500~~ 4,704,000 see 1960 report RJJ
Sheep & lambs	54,600	5,460,000	cwt.	16.56	904,176
Hogs & pigs	12,500	3,163,800	cwt.	14.50	458,751
Broilers & fryers	26,300	92,050	lb.	.27	24,853
Other chickens	92,180	414,810	lb.	.105	43,555
Pheasants	14,443	46,404	lb.	.97	45,012
Partridges	1,144	1,716	lb.	1.34	2,299
Turkeys	53,694	1,025,555	lb.	.229	234,852
Rabbits	3,149	15,745	lb.	.25	3,936
Total					$ 11,996,934

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1959

Item	Production	Unit	Value: Per Unit	Value: Total
Milk				
Market	208,420	cwt.	$ 5.03	$ 1,049,000
Manufacturing	184,750	cwt.	3.28	606,000
Wool	180,180	lb.	.55	99,099
Eggs, chicken				
Market	2,177,785	doz.	.322	701,247
Hatching	152,307	doz.	.654	99,608
Eggs, turkey, hatching	55,700	each	.22	12,254
Total				$ 2,567,208

APIARY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1959

Item	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Honey	104,600	lb.	$ .085	$ 8,891
Beeswax	3,310	lb.	.43	1,423
Package Bees	44,260	lb.	1.72	76,127
Queen Bees	2,700	each	1.06	2,862
Pollination	9,267	colony	1.00	9,267
Nuclei	1,400	each	4.10	5,740
Total				$ 104,310

PRODUCTION OF MISCELLANEOUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES 1959

Item	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value Total
Furbearing animals				
Mink	393	each	$ 19.00	$ 7,467
Chinchillas	1,412	each	10.00	14,120
Pelts	100	each	15.90	1,590
Total				$ 23,177

PAYMENTS UNDER AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION COMMITTEE 1959

Agricultural Conservation Reserve	$ 105,386
Agricultural Conservation Program	56,716
Wool Incentive Payments	112,228
Sugar Beet Payments	129,352
Total	$ 403,682

JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY 1959 AND 1960

Item	1959	1960
Cattle and calves		
All	60,000	62,400
Milk cows 2 years and over	7,800	7,500
Cattle and calves on feed	52,400	54,900
Sheep and lambs		
All	51,800	52,000
Stock sheep	12,000	24,000
Sheep and lambs on feed	39,800	28,000
Hogs and pigs, all	15,000	14,500
Horses and mules		2,100
Hens and pullets of laying age	105,000	123,400
Turkey breeder hens	3,000	3,000

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF CROP VALUES

Commodities	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Field Crops	$20,454,800	$21,865,100	$21,306,100	$26,049,450	$21,371,740
Seed Crops	530,500	709,750	940,900	419,200	1,241,349
Vegetable Crops	307,500	848,700	760,850	969,150	1,167,522
Fruit & Nut Crops	6,469,700	17,099,400	8,033,950	7,692,800	15,518,770
Nursery Stock	278,300	277,150	130,200	200,800	196,448
Livestock & Poultry	6,605,200	6,664,250	11,510,250	14,535,300	14,564,142
Miscellaneous	160,300	187,500	134,600	129,500	127,487
Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Payments	20,000	92,150	657,250	426,840	403,682
Grand Totals	$34,826,300	$47,744,000	$43,474,100	$50,423,040	$54,591,140

FIVE YEAR COMPARISON STUDY OF PLANT CROP ACREAGES

Commodities	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Field Crops	460,565	448,086	448,443	450,393	427,991
Seed Crops	10,895	16,297	19,109	12,139	24,770
Vegetable Crops	1,537	2,612	3,074	3,413	3,123
Fruit and Nut Crops	30,642	30,561	31,007	31,232	31,242
Grand Totals	503,639	497,556	501,633	497,177	487,126