



Butte County

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

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Mr. Jerry W. Fielder, Acting Director
California Department of Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Butte

Jack J. McKillop, Chairman
O. E. Dunaway Don Maxon
Arley L. Howsden Jere E. Reynolds

Gentlemen:

Section 2279 of the California Agricultural Code requires that the Agricultural Commissioner compile a report covering conditions, acreage, production and value of the agricultural products of his county. I am pleased to submit Butte County's thirtieth annual crop report.

The gross agricultural production for 1968 is the highest on record, \$65,140,180.

A dry early spring and an excellent growing season, plus new fruit and nut acreage coming into production, were primary reasons for these record breaking crops.

Values given in this report are F.O.B. gross returns and in no way represent a measure of profit to the producer.

The farmer today finds that he is able to stay in business only by increasing efficiency and production. Taxes and the cost-price squeeze are making it more difficult for the smaller growers to continue producing agricultural crops.

Sincere thanks is expressed to the many individuals, agencies and producers for their special cooperation in making this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Black
Agricultural Commissioner

CROP SUMMARY 1968

A relatively dry spring allowed the early planting of field and truck crops and a fairly good set on most fruit and nut crops.

Ideal climatic conditions for crop growing was prevalent throughout the year with the exception of an unusual storm and cool period during the month of August.

Field Crops

1968 values were highest on record, up three million dollars over last year. Beans, rice and sugar beets had significant increases in both yield and acreage.

Below normal spring precipitation allowed early planting of small grains, rice, beans, sugar beets and other field crops.

Weather during summer and early fall were ideal for growing, maturation and harvest of nearly all crops before November rains began.

A storm and an accompanying cool period in August is believed to have adversely affected the rice crop as some varieties were in bloom at that time and these fields had a sharp decrease in production because of it.

Field crops showing a value of over one million dollars were barley, beans, alfalfa hay, rice, sugar beets and wheat.

Seed Crops

Values up \$400,000 over 1967. Increase due primarily to acreage increase of rice and oat seed.

Weather conditions were ideal for seed crops during the growing season.

Vegetable Crops

Gross value up one half million dollars over the 1967 production. This was due mainly to an increase in tomato acreage.

Fruit and Nut Crops

Up over five million dollars from previous year.

A heavy set of apples accounted for an increase of \$400,000.

An exceptionally heavy olive crop increased gross values of this crop three million dollars over the 1967 crop.

Peaches showed a one million dollar increase over the previous year due to increased acreage and yield.

The county's pear crop was up \$400,000 as climatic conditions at bloom time was favorable for a good set.

A short bloom period apparently affected the almond yields which resulted in a drop of one half million dollar gross value.

Prunes showed a decrease in yield but in turn showed a favorable increase in price.

The orange crop was heavy but prices were depressed. Pro-rate was established on the county's oranges this year for the first time which led to harvest and marketing problems.

Apiary Products

Even though a crop failure in honey occurred in the county because of an early dry spring, sales of packaged bees, queens and nuclei were strong.

Livestock and Poultry

An increase of one million dollars was recognized over 1967 production. Total numbers of sheep and hogs were down while the number of head of cattle sold showed an increase.

BUTTE COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE STATISTICS
1968

Orchard Crops	Bearing Acreage	Non-Bearing Acreage	Total
Almonds	16,365	5,771	22,136
Apples	349	66	415
Apricots	26	0	26
Cherries	4	12	16
Citrus			
Mandarins	21	16	37
Navels	343	21	364
Miscellaneous	12	0	12
Figs	4	0	4
Grapes	67	0	67
Nectarines	7	0	7
Olives	4,673	13	4,686
Peaches, clingstone	4,042	1,408	5,450
Peaches, freestone	246	44	290
Pears	702	269	971
Pecans	20	29	49
Persimmons	12	0	12
Pistachio	30	97	127
Plums	8	0	8
Prunes	5,711	2,828	8,539
Walnuts, persian	<u>6,102</u>	<u>2,911</u>	<u>9,013</u>
Total	38,744	13,485	52,229

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Barley	1968	23,400	1.43	33,500	ton	\$ 42.40	\$ 1,420,000
	1967	25,500	1.25	31,900	ton	46.00	1,467,000
Beans, dry edible	1968	4,030	1.0	4,030	ton	298.00	1,201,000
	1967	3,580	1.0	3,580	ton	220.00	788,000
Corn	1968	3,420	3.5	12,000	ton	44.00	528,000
	1967	2,450	3.0	7,350	ton	47.00	345,000
Hay, alfalfa	1968	7,000	6.0	42,000	ton	26.00	1,092,000
	1967	8,300	6.0	49,800	ton	27.00	1,345,000
Grain	1968	4,130	2.0	8,260	ton	22.00	182,000
	1967	3,500	2.5	8,750	ton	22.50	197,000
Wild	1968	2,000	1.3	2,600	ton	18.00	46,800
	1967	2,000	1.3	2,600	ton	21.00	54,600
Oats	1968	2,660	1.25	3,320	ton	50.00	166,000
	1967	3,000	1.0	3,000	ton	60.00	180,000
Pasture, irrigated	1968	19,000			* acre	80.00	1,520,000
	1967	19,000			* acre	80.00	1,520,000
Other	1968	331,000			* acre	2.50	828,000
	1967	331,000			* acre	2.50	828,000
Rice	1968	74,200	2.55	189,000	ton	96.80	18,295,000
	1967	63,900	2.3	147,000	ton	97.00	14,259,000
Safflower	1968	3,700	.69	2,550	ton	80.60	206,000
	1967	5,200	.75	3,900	ton	93.00	363,000
Silage, corn	1968	355	20.0	7,100	ton	6.00	42,600
	1967	450	18.0	8,100	ton	6.10	49,400
Sorghum, grain	1968	4,820	1.5	7,230	ton	42.00	304,000
	1967	20,600	2.0	41,200	ton	44.00	1,813,000
Sugar beets	1968	4,040	22.5	90,900	ton	13.40	1,218,000
	1967	2,530	18.0	45,500	ton	10.00	455,000
Wheat	1968	20,000	1.25	25,000	ton	40.00	1,000,000
	1967	<u>16,700</u>	1.57	26,200	ton	47.00	<u>1,231,000</u>
Total	1968	503,755					\$ 28,049,400
	1967	507,710					\$ 24,895,000

* Per acre value

SEED CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Alfalfa	1968	* 100	386	38,600	lb.	\$.40	\$ 15,400
	1967	* 725	350	254,000	lb.	.40	102,000
Barley	1968	420	2,500	1,050,000	lb.	.032	33,600
	1967	705	2,000	1,410,000	lb.	.035	49,400
Beans	1968	1,170	1,480	1,732,000	lb.	.16	277,000
	1967	2,470	1,100	2,717,000	lb.	.14	380,000
Oats	1968	4,290	2,000	8,580,000	lb.	.04	343,000
	1967	1,100	1,000	1,100,000	lb.	.038	41,800
Oats & Vetch mixed	1968	3,000					231,000
	1967	3,200					167,000
Rice, certified & non-certified	1968	3,380	4,400	14,872,000	lb.	.071	1,056,000
	1967	2,230	4,600	10,258,000	lb.	.07	718,000
Vetch	1968	190	300	57,000	lb.	.065	3,700
	1967	1,060	750	795,000	lb.	.07	55,600
Wheat	1968	1,030	1,300	1,339,000	lb.	.03	40,200
	1967	1,190	1,450	1,726,000	lb.	.037	63,900
**Miscellaneous	1968	1,320					276,000
	1967	<u>2,700</u>					<u>408,000</u>
Total	1968	14,800					\$ 2,275,900
	1967	14,655					\$ 1,985,700

* Acreage recorded in field crops

** Bur Clover, Canary Grass, Carrots, Dichondra, Horse Beans, Ladino Clover, Millet, Peas, Sudan Grass, Melons and Cucurbits.

VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
*Miscellaneous	1968	4,060					\$ 1,635,000
	1967	3,350					\$ 1,011,000

* Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Melons, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Pumpkins, Rutabagas, Squash, Tomatoes, Turnips

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Almonds	1968	16,365	.699	11,400	ton	\$ 638.00	\$ 7,273,000
	1967	14,958	.82	12,300	ton	630.00	7,749,000
Hulls	1968			13,200	ton	5.00	66,000
	1967			14,800	ton	9.00	133,000
Apples	1968	349	13.1	4,570	ton	120.00	548,000
	1967	349	3.4	1,190	ton	140.00	167,000
Olives	1968	4,673	2.23	10,400	ton	347.00	3,609,000
	1967	4,708	.315	1,480	ton	355.00	525,000
Oranges, Navel	1968	343	5.83	2,000	ton	115.00	230,000
	1967	341	4.9	1,670	ton	187.00	312,000
Mandarins & Tangerines	1968	21	5.0	105	ton	200.00	21,000
	1967	19	1.7	30	ton	200.00	6,000
Peaches, Clingstone	1968	4,042	14.0	56,600	ton	76.00	4,302,000
	1967	3,662	10.4	38,000	ton	83.00	3,154,000
Freestone	1968	246	9.63	2,370	ton	77.60	184,000
	1967	251	6.0	1,500	ton	96.00	144,000
Pears	1968	702	6.27	4,400	ton	115.00	506,000
	1967	680	.78	530	ton	180.00	95,400
Prunes, dried	1968	5,711	1.89	10,800	ton	273.00	2,948,000
	1967	4,980	2.45	12,200	ton	285.00	3,477,000
Walnuts, Persian	1968	6,102	.78	4,760	ton	660.00	3,142,000
	1967	5,700	.584	3,330	ton	560.00	1,865,000
*Miscellaneous	1968	190					143,000
	1967	<u>202</u>					<u>69,000</u>
Total	1968	38,744					\$ 22,972,000
	1967	35,850					\$ 17,696,400

* Apricots, Avocados, Black Walnuts, Bushberries, Cherries, Miscellaneous Citrus, Figs, Grapes, Kiwi Fruit, Nectarines, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachio, Plums, Strawberries.

NURSERY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AREA, SALES AND VALUE

Item	Year	Production Area		Sold by Producers	Unit	Per Unit	Value	
		House Sq. Ft.	Field Acres				Total	Total
Conifer Seedlings	1968		5.0	614,000	plant	\$.022	\$	13,500
	1967		3.0	658,000	plant	.02		13,200
Deciduous Fruit & Nut Trees	1968		20.0	224,000	plant	1.62		363,000
	1967		23.0	248,000	plant	1.57		389,000
*Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	1968		3.0	14,000	plant	2.29		32,000
	1967		2.0	12,100	plant	.85		10,300
**Miscellaneous	1968	10,000	3.0					16,600
	1967	<u>10,000</u>	<u>3.0</u>					<u>17,200</u>
Total	1968	10,000	31.0				\$	425,100
	1967	10,000	31.0				\$	429,700

* Includes broad leaved evergreens, coniferous evergreens, deciduous shade trees and shrubs, miscellaneous citrus, specimen olive trees.

** Includes grapevines, herbaceous perennials, indoor decorative plants, bulbs, rhizomes, roots, bedding plants, etc.

APIARY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Item	Year	Production Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value	
					Total	Total
Honey	1968	*				
	1967	163,000	lb.	\$.12	\$	19,600
Beeswax	1968	1,670	lb.	.65		1,080
	1967	3,110	lb.	.62		1,930
Package Bees	1968	93,800	lb.	1.35		126,600
	1967	76,300	lb.	1.35		103,000
Queen Bees	1968	23,800	each	1.35		32,100
	1967	24,000	each	1.35		32,400
Pollination	1968	22,800	colony	2.08		47,400
	1967	22,800	colony	1.85		42,200
Nuclei	1968	2,210	each	6.90		15,200
	1967	340	each	5.00		<u>1,700</u>
Total	1968				\$	222,380
	1967				\$	200,830

* Crop Failure

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Item	Year	Production		Unit	Value	
		No. of Head	Total Live Weight		Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	1968	34,200	248,000	cwt.	\$ 24.60	\$ 6,101,000
	1967	31,200	225,000	cwt.	24.00	5,400,000
Sheep and Lambs	1968	16,300	17,600	cwt.	20.40	359,000
	1967	17,000	18,700	cwt.	20.00	374,000
Hogs and Pigs	1968	6,710	14,200	cwt.	19.60	278,000
	1967	10,000	21,000	cwt.	20.00	420,000
*Miscellaneous Poultry	1968					566,000
	1967					308,000
Total	1968					\$ 7,304,000
	1967					\$ 6,502,000

* Meat Poultry, Partridges, Pheasants, Pullet replacements, Rabbits, Turkeys.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
				Per Unit	Total
Milk, Market	1968	161,000	cwt.	\$ 5.57	\$ 897,000
	*1967	165,000	cwt.	5.47	903,000
Manufacturing	1968	88,000	cwt.	4.19	369,000
	*1967	106,000	cwt.	4.18	443,000
Eggs, Chicken Market	1968	2,703,000	doz.	.30	811,000
	1967	2,469,000	doz.	.29	716,000
Eggs, Hatching Chicken & Turkey	1968				107,000
	1967				136,000
Wool	1968	154,000	lb.	.47	72,400
	1967	165,000	lb.	.42	69,300
Total	1968				\$ 2,256,400
	*1967				\$ 2,267,300

* Revised

PAYMENTS UNDER AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION COMMITTEE

	1968	1967
Agricultural Conservation Reserve	\$ 13,929	\$ 16,234
Agricultural Conservation Program	78,035	81,070
Cropland Adjustment Program	10,953	10,953
Wool Incentive Payments	45,307	24,538
Sugar Beet Payments	175,363	78,245
Feed Grain Program	51,792	77,062
Wheat Stabilization Program	<u>82,847</u>	<u>106,278</u>
*Total	\$ 458,000	\$ 394,000

* Total figures rounded

JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

	1969	1968
Cattle and Calves, All	62,600	57,000
Milk cows 2 years and over	3,400	3,800
Cattle and Calves in feed lots	2,160	2,100
Sheep and Lambs, All	32,000	27,000
Stock Sheep	18,000	15,000
Hogs and Pigs, All	6,500	3,250
Hens and Pullets of laying age	99,400	105,000
Turkey Breeder Hens	0	8,000

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF CROP VALUES

Commodities	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Field Crops	\$ 26,102,000	\$ 25,381,100	\$ 26,505,900	\$ 24,895,000	\$ 28,049,400
Seed Crops	1,237,900	1,737,300	2,512,760	1,985,700	2,275,900
Vegetable Crops	1,473,000	582,000	1,155,000	1,011,000	1,635,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	17,207,730	14,796,970	17,238,800	17,696,400	22,972,000
Nursery Stock	278,670	316,400	377,200	429,700	425,100
Livestock and Poultry	8,148,150	9,164,100	9,178,500	* 8,769,300	9,560,400
Apiary Products	<u>162,950</u>	<u>206,340</u>	<u>223,705</u>	<u>200,830</u>	<u>222,380</u>
Grand Total	\$ 54,610,400	\$ 52,184,210	\$ 57,191,865	*\$ 54,987,930	\$ 65,140,180
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Payments	\$ 737,000	\$ 631,000	\$ 588,000	\$ 394,000	\$ 458,000

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF PLANT CROP ACREAGES

Commodities	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Field Crops	492,160	487,810	492,720	507,710	503,755
Seed Crops	11,783	14,305	15,640	14,655	14,800
Vegetable Crops	3,693	2,100	3,130	3,350	4,060
Fruit and Nut Crops	<u>33,962</u>	<u>33,017</u>	<u>33,915</u>	<u>35,850</u>	<u>38,744</u>
Grand Total	541,598	537,232	545,405	561,565	561,359

* Revised