

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1934

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AUSTIN E. MAHONEY
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STATISTICAL REPORT OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS

FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

1934

COMPILED BY

AUSTIN E. MAHONEY - AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

This report is probably the most accurate survey of the acreage and valuation that has ever been made in any agricultural section of the United States of equal size. A glance at the various crops and acreage will indicate the necessity for such a survey in order to arrive at any true value of the crops in our county.

A greater number of requests each year from various organizations for these figures have led us to make this report as accurate as is humanly possible. Our staff is composed of qualified agricultural inspectors who have had many years of experience in this line of work. Acreages are obtained by a farm to farm survey.

Production and valuation of some of the crops listed are based upon statistical information gathered throughout the year and are not estimates. On most of the crops it is impossible to secure this information and in order to make it as accurate as possible, various individuals and organizations are contacted and a fair average obtained.

Organizations for whom this information is compiled are: United States Department of Agriculture, State, County and City Chambers of Commerce, University of California, Farm Bureau, Fruit Shipping Concerns, Federal Land Bank and other banks, United States Department of Labor, Agricultural Prorate, Newspapers, Insecticide Companies, Nurseries, Real Estate Companies, Railroads, Stockton Port District, Canneries and others.

The local State Emergency Relief Administration under the directorship of E. W. Cummings has cooperated in making this survey by furnishing office men for transferring and compiling records.

CROP SUMMARY FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

- 1934 -

ALMONDS - Total valuation of almonds showed considerable increase over the previous year. This was due entirely to new acreage coming into production as production per acre and prices remained unchanged.

APRICOTS - Prices for apricots both dried and fresh were higher than they had been for many years. Extremely light crops throughout all of the State were accountable for this increase. Many of the orchards had practically no commercial crop. Tracy District was the only section not affected, where for some unknown reason many orchards had a bumper crop.

CHESTNUTS - San Joaquin County before many years will be the leading producer of chestnuts in the United States. The native chestnut of the East is gradually disappearing due to the ravages of chestnut blight. New orchards in San Joaquin County are coming into bearing every year and each year sees additional acreage being planted. Considerable work needs to be done to improve our varieties. Prices on chestnuts are fairly strong ranging from 8 to 12 cents per pound at the start of the season. Foreign competition of Chinese and Japanese varieties later cause a slump in prices of home grown chestnuts and prices dropped to around 5¢ per pound.

CHERRIES - Cherries produced a heavier crop than the previous season when many orchards were hit by frost. Total valuation was higher also, but this does not necessarily show a more prosperous year for many cherry growers. Cherry harvest was earlier than normal, and due to an unfavorable growing season, fruit did not hold up in shipment. Brown Rot was prevalent and cherries, apparently in good shape when packed, soon broke down in shipment resulting in many cases disastrous prices in Eastern markets.

FIGS - Prices on figs did not show much improvement, but growers were able to dispose of all of their crop to the canneries. A greater tonnage was harvested due to more lenient grading.

OLIVES - Prices on olives were good due to the short crop on many orchards which have not yet recovered from the severe freeze in 1932.

PEACHES - Both freestone and cling peaches showed a big improvement over the past few years. Prices were greatly improved and farmers were able to market all of their crop. Many of our freestone peaches were sold on the Stockton market. Cling peach growers harvested around eight tons per acre, which was an increase over last year of 2 3/4 tons per acre, and a price increase of \$10.00 per ton resulting in a net increase of \$27.50 per acre.

PEARS - Pear growers were treated to a surprise by the canneries. Competition between canneries brought the price higher than it had been for several years. Prices ranged from \$26.50 per ton F.O.B. cannery for field run pears to \$48.00 for No. 1 pears. The average prices for No. 1 pears was about \$35.00 per ton. The crop throughout the state was lighter than normal and the pack by the canneries greater than it had been for a number of years. Prices received by growers who stayed at home with their product gained considerable.

PLUMS - The plum market showed considerable improvement over the previous year especially on the President variety which is the principal shipping variety. Crates of plums averaged 13¢ higher this year.

PRUNES - Dried prunes showed little change, but many of the prunes of the sugar tragedy and giant varieties were shipped fresh resulting in higher returns than would have been obtained for the dried product.

WALNUTS - San Joaquin County produced the largest tonnage in history following a year of extremely light crops due to blight and frost damage. Many of our orchards listed as bearing are not in full bearing which accounts for a lower tonnage per acre than would be expected in older orchards.

GRAPES, TABLE - Table grape growers enjoyed a very favorable season. The shipping period extended over a longer time than usual, resulting in a more even distribution on the markets and maintaining a fair price average. Following the shipping season the balance on the vines were sold to the wineries at favorable prices.

GRAPES - WINE - Total valuation of wine grapes were considerably higher than the previous year due to higher tonnage and not higher prices. Tonnage increase amounted to approximately one ton per acre. Many new wineries were constructed, cooperative and otherwise, making it possible to harvest all of our grapes. Many of our vineyards, especially of the zinfandel variety were picked first for No. 1 quality which was shipped East and the balance sent to the winery.

CELERY - The celery season, which has just come to a close, has been very successful. Favorable weather, improved market conditions and a prorated of shipments have proven a great benefit to the industry.

CORN - Improved market conditions have been a great help to the corn men. Yields were reduced to as much as 40% due to a dry rot which was very severe this year in some fields.

GRAIN - Lack of rainfall during the early spring reduced our production considerably. Barley fields normally producing 15 to 30 sacks per acre harvested only 8 to 12 sacks per acre. However, farmers made more money because of increased prices. Crop control and drought throughout all of the United States accounted for price increase.

ALFALFA - Drought throughout the United States resulted in a much greater demand for alfalfa hay. Shipments were made by boat from the Port of Stockton to Eastern ports.

BEANS - Failure of the pinto bean crop in Colorado and New Mexico and a light crop in other sections of the United States resulted in increased prices for beans. Colored varieties especially showed considerable increase. White varieties showed some increase in sympathy with colored beans, but are not yet high enough to bring any great amount of prosperity to the bean men. Yields were abnormally low in some fields of our county, especially those fields in bloom during the unusually warm spell the last of August and first part of September.

POTATOES - Potato prices have been very low this year. Even though prices were low last year there was an increase in acreage in this county. Since potatoes are one of our leading crops, low prices cut down our total valuation of agricultural crops considerably.

SWEET POTATOES - Prices on sweet potatoes have been considerably lower than last year, ranging around \$30.00 a ton as against \$40.00 a ton last year. Increase in acreage over last year probably accounts for low prices. Total valuation is greater for this year than last year because of increased acreage.

MELONS - Melon prices showed some improvement over the previous year. This is especially true of honeydews. Drought conditions in Colorado were the principal cause for this increase.

ASPARAGUS - Total valuation of asparagus showed a big increase over the previous year. Price increases and new acreage coming into production accounted for this increase. Asparagus growers are quite optimistic and a large acreage of new fields are being planted.

ONIONS - Onion men have been more fortunate than the potato men. Although production per acre is considerably lower than the bumper crop of 1933, total valuation is high due to increased prices.

CARROTS - Carrots are one of our baby crops. Previous to this year they were listed under our vegetable acreage, but now are prominent enough to be placed by themselves. Most of them are raised on the West Side, south of Tracy.

TOMATOES - This was a big tomato year for San Joaquin County. There was three times as much acreage as the previous year. Crops were fairly light, but the demand was good and all tomatoes were harvested. Tomatoes account for a big increase in total valuation of our crops.

PEAS - Tracy is our big pea center. Total acreage was somewhat less than the previous year, but there was some increase in the price resulting in a higher valuation for the county.

LETTUCE - A big increase in the acreage over the previous year. Damp weather during the harvesting season resulted in losses due to slim molds in some cases. The quality was not what it should have been.

GRAIN SORGHUM - Prices on grain sorghum increased considerably in sympathy with other grains.

CLOVER - Ladino clover is becoming very popular throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley, as green pasture for all kinds of stock. San Joaquin County showed an increase of over 2000 acres.

SUNFLOWERS - Price increase and some increase in acreage.

SPINACH - The spinach crop was very light and some cases a failure due to lack of rain during the early spring.

SUGAR BEETS - Total valuation of sugar beets was reduced greatly due to a reduction of about 4000 acres.

RICE - Escalon is the rice center of San Joaquin County. Price decreases due to foreign competition and a reduction of acreage account for a reduction in total valuation.

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE MAN HOURS OF LABOR REQUIRED
 FOR THE PRODUCTION AND HARVESTING OF ALL AGRICULTURAL
 CROPS FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR

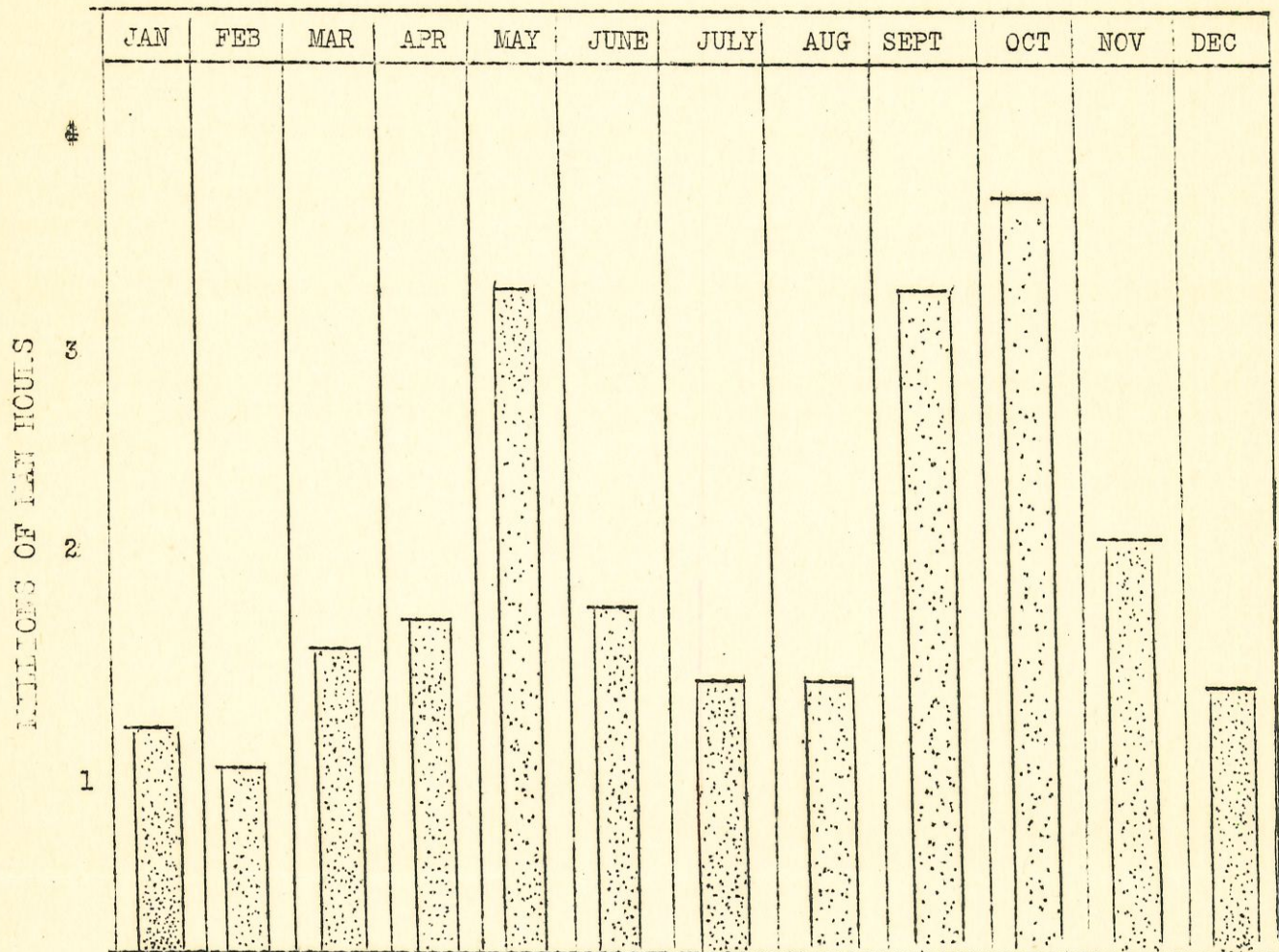


TABLE 1 - Showing the bearing, non-bearing and total acreage of tree crops in San Joaquin County including interplantings.

CROP	ACREAGE	INTERPLANTINGS	TOTAL ACREAGE	BEARING ACREAGE	NON BEARING
Almonds	3,883	138	4,021	3,646	375
Apricots	1,695	115	1,811	1,782	29
Apples	31		31	31	
Chestnuts	148	68	216	162	54
Chorries	4,300	212	4,512	4,264	248
Figs	1,026	21	1,047	1,047	
Nectarines	102		102	93	9
Olives	287		287	287	
Peaches, Free	3,186	188	3,374	3,096	278
Peaches, Cling	3,104	340	3,444	3,323	121
Pears	663	12	675	674	1
Plums	1,543	245	1,788	1,735	53
Prunes	1,177	363	1,540	1,538	2
Walnuts	7,281	2,660	9,941	8,884	1,057
Grapes, Table	19,198	37	19,235	19,120	115
Grapes, Juice	35,860	328	36,188	35,545	643
Grapes, Raisin	609	14	623	607	16
Hazelnuts	3		3	1	2
Quinces	5		5	5	
Persimmons	7		7	7	
Berries	31	11	42	42	
Misc'l Orchards	454		454		
Nurseries	80		80		

TABLE 2 - Field Crop Acreage in San Joaquin County.

CROP	ACREAGE	INTERPLANTINGS OR DOUBLE CROPS	TOTAL ACREAGE
Strawberries	153	8	161
Celery	4,915		4,915
Corn	31,091	690	31,781
Grain	202,452	68	202,520
Hay	28,836	60	28,893
Alfalfa	44,037	176	44,213
Beans	28,617	5,990	34,607
Potatoes	14,330	23	14,353
Sweet Potatoes	1,065		1,065
Melons	2,098		2,098
Vegetables	2,152	104	2,256
Asparagus	17,058		17,058
Onions	1,645	28	1,673
Cotton	363		363
Carrots	655	18	673
Tomatoes	6,088	264	6,352
Peas	724	300	1,024
Lettuce	728	137	865
Grain Sorghum	4,489	506	4,995
Clover	4,706	9	4,715
Sudan Grass	2,346	909	3,255
Sunflowers	3,838	73	3,911
Spinach	601	83	684
Squash	93		93
Sugar Beets	5,231		5,231
Pumpkins	266	78	344
Rice	1,330		1,330
Hops	69		69
Misc'l crops	807		807
Pasture	250,571		250,571

TABLE 3 - Production and value of specified fruit crops.

CROPS	BEARING ACREAGE	PER ACRE	PRODUCTION		PER UNIT	FARM VALUE	
			TOTAL	UNIT		TOTAL	
Almonds	3,646	.75	2,734.50	Ton	\$170.00	\$464,865.00	
Apricots	1,782	1.00	1,782.00	Ton	53.00	94,446.00	
Apples	31			Acre	100.00	3,100.00	
Chestnuts	162	1.75	283.50	Ton	150.00	42,525.00	
Cherries	4,264	2.50	10,660.00	Ton	89.00	948,740.00	
Figs	1,047	1.50	1,570.50	Ton	50.00	78,525.00	
Nectarines	93	4.00	372.00	Ton	32.00	11,904.00	
Olives	287	1.50	430.50	Ton	68.00	29,274.00	
Peaches, Free	3,096	7.00	21,672.00	Ton	32.00	693,504.00	
Peaches, Cling	3,326	8.00	26,608.00	Ton	30.00	798,240.00	
Pears	674	3.00	2,022.00	Ton	32.00	64,704.00	
Plums	1,735	141.00	244,635.00	Crate	.65	158,012.00	
Prunes	1,538	1.25	1,922.00	Ton	65.00	124,962.00	
Walnuts	8,884	.51	4,550.00	Ton	200.00	910,000.00	
Grapes, Table	19,120	159,086	3,041,724.00	Crate	.685	2,083,580.00	
		2.765	52,866.00	Ton	12.31	650,780.00	
Grapes, Juice	35,545	127.758	4,541,158.00	Boxes	.54	2,452,225.00	
		3.076	109,537.00	Ton	12.00	1,312,044.00	
Grapes, Raisin	607	5.00	3,035.00	Ton	20.00	60,700.00	
Berries	31			Acre	100.00	3,100.00	
Misc'l. Orchards	454			Acre	100.00	45,400.00	
Nurseries	80			Acre	1,000.00	80,000.00	

Total Fruit Crops \$11,110,630.00