

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



COUNTY
OF
SAN JOAQUIN



1942



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

YEAR 1942

This report is a compilation of the condition, acreage, production and value of the crops of San Joaquin County as provided by Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code of the State of California.

The total value of all crops including livestock, dairying and poultry shows a 33 percent increase over the previous year. This is due primarily to higher prices, although bumper crops, an increase in acreage of more intensified crops, and increased numbers of poultry and livestock have helped increase the total valuation.

Farm labor has taken a large share of the income from agriculture; wages having more than doubled in many instances. In the past year, Stockton and adjoining areas have become important centers of defense projects and production and have drawn heavily on farm labor. Farmers found it necessary to pay competitive wages which started advancing early in the season and continued to do so throughout the harvest season. This worked a severe hardship on farmers particularly those growing crops on which prices had been established before wages increased.

In addition to labor, other farming costs have advanced so that even though the total valuation of crops shows a decided increase it does not indicate that all farmers are getting the benefit of higher prices.

A. E. Mahoney

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

CROP SUMMARY FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
YEAR 1942

This past season is characterized as one of abundant rainfall and relatively cool weather. Cool rainy weather in the spring months benefited grain, hay and pasture crops and supplied plenty of subsoil moisture for later crops, but interfered with the normal farm practices. Preparation of the soil and planting of most crops was very much delayed. Continuous spring rains resulted in an excessive weed growth and row crops such as sugar beets were handled with great difficulty.

Cool weather during the summer and early fall months greatly benefited the harvesting of our fruit crops. These crops, even though later than normal in ripening, matured gradually which was of utmost importance in getting them harvested because of the labor shortage. Consequently, small losses were suffered in our fruit crops with the exception of cherries.

Freedom from rains and temperature extremes during the fall months facilitated the harvesting of the fall crops. Grape growers were particularly fortunate in this respect. However, killing frosts on November 4th, 5th and 6th definitely put a finish to tomato harvest and other crops subject to freezing temperatures.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

ALMONDS Growers harvested one of the largest crops in the history of the County. Excellent weather prevailed during the blossoming and setting period of the crop.

APRICOTS The crop was spotted and particularly light in the Escalon District. Practically all of the crop was dried.

CHERRIES There was an exceedingly large crop and a serious shortage of labor. Approximately 5000 tons remained unharvested. The unharvested portion of the crop was due to three factors, a labor shortage, low prices and small sizes all of which were inter-related. The greatest losses occurred in the early varieties although the later varieties also suffered a substantial loss. Volunteer labor materially helped in saving a portion of the crop.

CHESTNUTS The crop was good and the demand exceeded the supply.

GRAPES, TABLE Tokay grape growers had an excellent year, even in the face of difficulties. There was a great deal of inexperienced labor and wages were high, but fortunately the quality of the grapes was good so that no serious difficulty occurred in maintaining quality standards. Prices were better than they have been for years.

GRAPES, WINE The crop was below normal. The winery crush was very light influenced by the light Tokay grape crop, the below normal wine grape crop, and the government order requiring that raisin type grapes be dried except where it was impossible to do so.

OLIVES A greater portion of the crop was used for oil manufacture.

This was primarily due to the scarcity of labor during the period when olives must be picked for canning purposes. Processors also were not as active as the previous year when they lost money because of the high prices they paid for fruit which they could not satisfactorily sell at the high prices the industry had set for the processed commodity.

PEACHES, CLINGSTONE There was a large crop; about 4000 tons more harvested than in any recent year. Mild weather prevailed during the harvest period causing the crop to mature uniformly so that orchardists were able to get all of their crop harvested with the limited labor supply.

PEACHES, FREESTONE The government ordered a higher percentage of the freestone crop dried than normal, and this was enforced by allowing canners to purchase a smaller tonnage. Student labor was of great assistance in the dry yards. The demand for market freestones strengthened as the season progressed influenced by the increased use of peaches for home canning.

PLUMS Growers had an excellent season. There was a good crop and all of it was harvested at good prices.

WALNUTS Walnut blight and walnut codling moth seriously effected the crop which was about 60 percent of normal. Walnuts of the Payne variety were particularly light in yields.

FIELD CROPS

ALFALFA Yields were below normal due to the cool season. In warm seasons many farmers secure six cuttings a year as compared to this past season when not more than five cuttings were secured. Increase in livestock numbers without an increase in alfalfa acreage has resulted in a scarcity of alfalfa hay.

BEANS Yields were normal although the acreage was down due principally to a replacement of land ordinarily planted to beans being used for tomatoes.

CORN, FIELD Yields were normal. Acreage was below normal. Some ear rot and rat damage occurred but not sufficient to seriously effect the yields.

GRAIN SORGHUM Yields were normal and acreage below normal.

GRAIN Yields were good on all grains. There was a large increase in barley acreage due primarily to a large acreage of summer fallowed land being available for planting brought about by a prolonged wet season of the previous year which prevented farmers from getting their crops planted.

PASTURE Feed on range lands remained excellent throughout the season. The acreage of irrigated pasture has been steadily climbing for the past ten years. Dairymen in this county are relying more and more upon irrigated pastures as their principal source of feed.

POTATOES The acreage was about the same as the previous year. Yields and prices were good.

RICE Seasonal conditions were unfavorable for rice growers and they had difficulty in getting the crop harvested because of the late maturity.

SUGAR BEETS Growers had a very poor season. Climatological and labor conditions were serious. Excessive rainfall in the spring months interfered with the normal operations, caused an excessive weed growth and promoted the growth of seedling diseases. Several thousand acres were plowed under as a result. The lateness of the season and scarcity of labor also has resulted in losses to growers by increasing the costs of harvesting and lowering the sugar content of the beets.

SUNFLOWERS The crop and yields were normal.

SWEET POTATOES Growers had an excellent season.

VEGETABLE CROPS

ASPARAGUS Total production of market "grass" was down and cannery "grass" up. Unfavorable climatological conditions during the early spring held back the growth and interfered with harvest operations on market asparagus. The production of cannery asparagus was greater than the year before when a strike paralyzed the industry for a couple of weeks, but yet was far short of what was anticipated due to the shortage of labor. Approximately 4300 acres was not cut at all and many fields were cut only a part of the season.

CELERY Yields were slightly below normal and prices were exceptionally good. Late blight was prevalent in some fields of the Utah variety. Other diseases were nominal.

MELONS The acreage was about one-half of normal. The demand was good and all of the melons were harvested which accounts for an increase in yields over those listed in previous years.

ONIONS Poor prices on the early onions along with the labor shortage caused quite a loss in this crop. Growers of late onions fared better. A large portion of this crop has been taken to the dehydrators.

PEAS The acreage of market peas was very much reduced and those for canning and freezing increased. Yields were variable.

SPINACH The acreage was normal but yields were low.

TOMATOES The acreage was the largest in history of the County. Harvested yields per acre were down although total production was above last year. The season was later than normal and due to the shortage of labor, the large acreage and lack of facilities at the canneries for handling such a large tonnage thousands of tons were unharvested. When heavy frosts hit on the 4th, 5th and 6th of November, a survey showed that 120,000 tons were on the vines. Just what portion of this was ripe and unharvested due to the labor shortage was not ascertained although it is safe to estimate that at least one-half of this tonnage would have been harvested had plenty of labor been available.

THE TREND OF PERMANENT CROPS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
Year 1942

The downward trend in acreage of many permanent crops in San Joaquin County under the influence of better prices to growers has now approached an equilibrium and it is expected that no decided decreases will occur in any of these crops for a number of years. Outstanding in this respect has been the acreage of cherries, chestnuts, table grapes other than tokay, pears, plums, prunes, and wine grapes.

The acreage of apricots, figs, raisin grapes, tokay grapes, olives and freestone peaches has remained about stationary.

Increases have occurred in almonds, nectarines, clingstone peaches and walnuts.

In the case of wine and tokay grapes, heavy removals have occurred in the Southern part of the County. In the Lodi District, wine grape acreage has remained about stationary and Tokay grape acreage has increased.

CROP	REMOVALS 1942	NEW PLANTINGS 1942	NON-BEARING 1942	BEARING 1942
Almonds	8.5	319.5	2,653.5	4,760.5
Apricots	8.0	88.0	309.0	1,718.0
Cherries	20.0	31.0	126.0	4,173.0
Chestnuts			13.0	171.0
Figs				510.0
Filberts				6.0
Grapes, Raisin	6.0	20	25.0	991
Grapes, Tokay		167	799.0	17,349.5
Grapes, Other Table	3.0		2.0	1,381
Grapes, Wine	141.0	296.0	942.5	31,792.5
Nectarines		3.0	61.0	157.0
Olives			1.0	351.0
Peaches, Cling	13.0	430.0	2,156.0	3,484.0
Peaches, Free	17.0	57.0	434.0	3,068.0
Pears	1.0		9.0	135.5
Persimmons			2.5	11.5
Pomegranates				1.0
Plums	8.0	20.0	61.0	1,265.0
Prunes			7.0	883.0
Quinces				8.0
Walnuts	19.0	12.0	759	9,355
Walnuts, Black		24.0	218	487.0

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1942

CROP	PRODUCTION				F.O.B VALUE	
	ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds	4,760	.69	3,284	Ton	\$400.00	\$1,313,600.
Apples	31			Acre	100.00	3,100.
Apricots (Dried)	1,718	.47	807	Ton	350.00	282,450.
(Canning)		.37	635	Ton	60.00	38,100.
Cherries (Royal Ann)	1,069	4.91	5,249	Ton	122.00	640,378.
Other (Fresh)	3,104	318.00	987,072	15 lb. lug	1.33	1,312,806.
Cherries (Processed)		.21	652	Ton	122.00	79,544.
Chestnuts	171	1.17	200	Ton	300.00	60,000.
(Dried)		.25	128	Ton	180.00	23,040.
Figs (Fresh)	510	200.00	102,000	Crate	.90	91,800.
(Canning)		.59	300	Ton	80.00	24,000.
Juice (Shipping)	31,792	1.58	50,231	Ton	30.00	1,506,930.
Grapes (Wine)		1.84	58,497	Ton	30.00	1,754,910.
Tokay (Fresh)	17,350	238.00	4,129,300	28 lb pkg.	1.21	4,996,453.
Grapes (Wine)		3.86	66,971	Ton	30.00	2,009,130.
All Other (Fresh)		22.00	51,590	28 lb pkg.	1.21	62,424.
Grapes (Wine)	2,345	4.00	9,380	Ton	30.00	281,400.
(Raisin)			200	Ton	112.50	22,500.
Misc'l Orchards	400			Acre	100.00	40,000.
Nectarines	157	300.00	47,100	30 lb box	.70	32,970.
Olives	351	2.25	790	Ton	125.00	98,750.
Peaches (Fresh)		260.00	797,680	20 lb crate	.85	678,028.
Free (Cannery)	3,068	1.32	4,050	Ton	40.00	162,000.
(Dried)		.35	1,074	Ton	260.00	279,240.
Peaches (Cannery)	3,484	9.28	32,332	Ton	60.00	1,939,920.
Cling (Dried)		.08	279	Ton	240.00	66,960.
Pears	135	5.00	675	Ton	60.00	40,500.
Plums (Fresh)	1,265	211.00	266,915	28 lb crate	1.71	456,425.
(Canning)		.41	519	Ton	35.00	18,165.
Prunes (Fresh)		55.00	48,565	28 lb crate	1.47	71,391.
(Dried)	883	.50	442	Ton	140.00	61,880.
Walnuts	9,355	3.35	3,274	Ton	300.00	982,200.
Zante Currants	26	1.61	42	Ton	170.00	7,140.
					TOTAL	\$19,438,134.

FIELD CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1942

CROP	PRODUCTION				F.O.B VALUE	
	ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa Hay	43,846	6.00	263,076	Ton	\$ 19.00	\$4,998,444.
Barley	102,693	15.00	1,540,395	cwt	1.35	2,079,533.
Beans	24,782	17.50	433,685	cwt	6.00	2,602,110.
Bean Straw	10,000	1.00	10,000	Ton	6.00	60,000.
Corn, Grain	17,280	1.25	21,600	Ton	38.00	820,800.
Corn Husks			100	Ton	500.00	50,000.
Flax	285	9.00	2,565	cwt	5.50	14,108.
Grain Sorghum	7,078	20.00	141,560	cwt	1.65	233,574.
Hay, Grain	17,357	1.70	29,507	Ton	15.00	442,605.
Hay, Wild	15,683	1.45	22,740	Ton	10.00	227,400.
Oats	13,135	8.00	105,080	cwt	1.55	162,874.
Pasture, Range	210,000			Acre	1.00	210,000.
Clover	23,831			Acre	30.00	714,930.
Sudan Grass	2,992			Acre	20.00	59,840.
Stubble	150,000			Acre	1.00	150,000.
Potatoes	7,783	225.00	1,751,175	cwt	2.30	4,027,703.
Pumpkins (Canning)	500	20.00	10,000	Ton	5.00	50,000.
(Stock)	369	25.00	9,225	Ton	3.00	27,675.
Rice	2,892	32.00	92,544	cwt	3.00	277,632.
Silage, Corn	1,966	12.00	23,592	Ton	5.00	117,960.
Spearmint	125	30.00	3,750	lbs	4.00	15,000.
Peppermint	789	40.00	31,560	Oil	5.00	157,800.
Sugar Beets	18,769	15.00	281,535	Ton	8.50	2,393,048.
Sunflowers	1,863	11.00	20,493	cwt	5.00	102,465.
Sweet Potatoes	1,608	93.00	149,544	50 lb crate	2.00	299,088.
Wheat	24,193	11.00	266,123	cwt	1.90	505,634.
TOTAL						\$20,800,223.

VEGETABLE CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1942

CROP	PRODUCTION				F.O.B VALUE	
	ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Asparagus (Fresh)	34,742	21.00	729,582	30 lb crate	\$ 2.29	\$1,670,543.
(Cannery)		.79	27,446	Ton	116.50	3,197,459.
Beets (Table)	88	5.00	440	Ton	18.00	7,920.
Broccoli	101	200.00	20,200	42 lb crate	2.00	40,400.
Cantaloupes	123	200.00	24,600	crate	2.00	49,200.
Carrots (Market)	778	250.00	194,500	75 lb crate	22.00	389,000.
(Dehydrator)	250	25.00	6,250	Ton	25.00	156,250.
Casabas	288	8.00	2,304	Ton	20.00	46,080.
Celery '42-'43 Season	5,831	200.00	1,166,200	$\frac{1}{2}$ crate 60 lbs	4.00	4,664,800.
Corn, Sweet	542	90.00	48,780	65 lb crate	1.00	48,780.
Cucumbers	80	4.50	360	Ton	45.00	16,200.
Garlic	30	4,700.00	141,000	lb	.045	6,345.
Honeydews	125	8.00	1,000	Ton	25.00	25,000.
Lettuce	88	300.00	26,400	Crate	2.20	58,080.
Onions (Early)	1,306	300.00	391,800	50 lb	.70	274,260.
(Late)	900	400.00	360,000	sacks	1.00	360,000.
Peas (Fresh)	938	70.00	65,660	Hamper	1.39	91,267.
(Processed)	1,370	.93	1,274	Ton	54.00	68,796.
Persians	86	8.00	688	Ton	30.00	20,640.
Spinach	1,638	3.00	4,914	Ton	25.00	122,850.
Squash	150	7.00	1,050	Ton	25.00	26,250.
Strawberries	45	1,100.00	49,500	12 basket crate	1.25	61,875.
Tomatoes (Pear)	12,718	7.50	95,385	Ton	20.00	1,907,700.
Round (Cannery)	9,976	7.50	74,820	Ton	18.00	1,346,760.
(Fresh)	700	400.00	280,000	32 lb. lug	1.35	378,000.
Truck Garden	1,810			Acre	150.00	271,500.
Watermelons	716	15.00	10,740	Ton	20.00	214,800.
TOTAL						\$15,520,755.

SEED CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1942

CROP	PRODUCTION				F.O.B VALUE	
	ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa	706	325	229,450	lb	\$.24	\$ 55,068.
Asparagus Roots	45			Acre	200.00	9,000.
Beet	250	600	150,000	lb	.15	22,500.
Canadian Field Peas	140	10	1,400	cwt	3.00	4,200.
Canary Grass	90	6	540	cwt	4.00	2,160.
Carrot	1,079	350	377,650	lb	.30	113,295.
Carrot Stecklings	20	10	200	Ton	18.00	3,600.
Chard	5	600	3,000	lb	.18	540.
Endive	2	146	292	lb	.30	88.
Leek	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	158	395	lb	.50	198.
Lettuce	106	250	26,500	lb	.30	7,950.
Millet	285	16	4,560	cwt	1.70	7,752.
Nursery	80			Acre	1,200.00	96,000.
Onion	247	300	74,100	lb	.50	37,050.
Parsnip	6	500	3,000	lb	.12	360.
Pea	161	800	128,800	lb	.05	6,440.
Sudan	100	4	400	cwt	4.00	1,600.
					TOTAL	\$ 367,801.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1942
APIARY PRODUCTS

Honey	335,380 lbs.	@	.1172	\$	39,307.00
Bees Wax	5,200 lbs.	@	.43		2,236.00
Package Bees	3,275 lbs.	@	.66		2,161.00
Queen Bees	10,500 bees	@	.5875		6,169.00
Pollenization	5,200 Colonies	@	.50		<u>2,600.00</u>
				\$	52,473.00

LIVESTOCK

Beef Cattle and Calves				\$	7,227,870.00
Hogs					1,289,540.00
Sheep and Wool					<u>1,741,040.00</u>
				\$	10,258,450.00

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk and Milk Products				\$	6,519,406.00
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POULTRY

Chickens	1,271,339 lbs.	@	.26	\$	330,548.00
Eggs	3,501,261 doz	@	.34		1,190,429.00
Turkeys	2,527,600 lbs	@	.315		<u>796,194.00</u>
				\$	2,317,171.00

SUMMARY

Fruit and Nut Crops				\$	19,438,134.00
Field Crops					20,800,223.00
Vegetable Crops					15,520,755.00
Seed Crops					367,801.00
Apiary Products					52,473.00
Livestock					10,258,450.00
Dairy Products					6,519,406.00
Poultry Products					<u>2,317,171.00</u>

GRAND TOTAL \$75,274,413.00

