

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



COUNTY
OF
SAN JOAQUIN



1943



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

YEAR 1943

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 46 percent increase over the previous year. This large increase is due primarily to the grape crop which increased 211 percent in value. Production was up 55 percent and prices up 115 percent. Other crops which show decided increases in value are walnuts with production up 103 percent and prices up 77 percent; asparagus production about the same and prices up 30 percent; pea production up 58 percent and higher prices; tomato production up 14 percent and prices up 50 percent; onion production up 19 percent and prices up 105 percent; and dairy products down slightly in production and up 30 percent in total value.

Three crops show decided decreases in value. They are clingstone peaches down 30 percent in production and 30 percent in total value; sugar beets down 63 percent in production and 51 percent in total value; and celery up 28 percent in production and down 28 percent in total value.

Other crops may show similar increases or decreases in total value, but due to the smaller value do not greatly reflect on the total agricultural income of the county.

The higher prices received by farmers were in most instances in line with higher production costs, particularly farm labor which on the average has increased 200 percent since the start of the war.

A. E. Mahoney

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

CROP SUMMARY
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
YEAR - 1943

The production and disposition of San Joaquin County crops changed considerably over the previous season. The various factors effecting this change are as follows:

1. Greater production of essential foods.
2. Diversion of products for more essential use.
3. Dehydration for economic handling and distribution.
4. Government restrictions and price ceilings.
5. Availability of labor, equipment, transportation and supplies.
6. Consumer demand for certain products not necessarily essential.
7. Weather conditions effecting crop production.
8. A short fruit crop in the Eastern part of the United States.

Each of these factors will be discussed under the particular commodity effected.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

ALMONDS The crop was 65 percent of normal with yields particularly light in the soft shell varieties. Rains during the blossoming period, brown rot and blight caused this reduction.

APRICOTS Brown rot and green rot were very severe. In some orchards the crop was a complete failure. For the county as a whole the crop was 15 percent of normal.

CHERRIES Rains during the blossoming period interferred with proper pollination. Early prospects were for an exceedingly light harvest, but the fruit sized well and the good prices received made it possible for the farmers to pay the high costs of picking a light crop.

CHESTNUTS The crop was normal and even the crop of individual trees was marketed because of the good prices.

FIGS Growers had a good year. All of the crop was harvested, including the culls which were used for preserves. The dry fall was exceptionally favorable for full harvest and little spoilage.

GRAPES, TABLE A strong consumer demand for table grapes resulted in a record shipment of Tokays which sold throughout the season at the ceiling price. Growers also had one of the best harvest seasons of record with no rains or other conditions to interfere with the harvest operations.

GRAPES, WINE There was a record crop and exceedingly high prices were paid. Most of the crop was sold within the State to the wineries. There was a heavy drop in interstate shipments due to the ceiling price placed on wine grapes for fresh shipment which was lower than the price paid by the wineries.

GRAPES, RAISIN Although there is quite a large acreage of raisin grapes in the county, a large portion of the crop has in the past been used for fresh consumption and wine purposes. The government required all of these grapes to be dried this year where it was possible to do so. Most of them were sent to commercial dehydrators with very little of the tonnage going to the wineries.

OLIVES The Mission variety was low in yields. Other varieties were normal. Most of the crop is used in oil manufacture.

PEACHES, CLINGSTONE The crop was 70 percent of normal. A poor set and brown rot caused this reduction.

PEACHES, FREESTONE The crop was about the same as the clingstone varieties with more variation in yield of the different varieties. Less tonnage was sent to the canneries than in past years. About 100 carloads of Elberta peaches from the Lodi District were shipped East.

PLUMS Plum growers had a good year. The short crop of fruit in the Eastern part of the United States created a strong demand for California fruit.

WALNUTS There was an exceedingly good crop of walnuts with very little blight present this year.

FIELD CROPS

ALFALFA HAY The acreage of alfalfa hay continues to drop and unless a large acreage is planted this coming year there will be a serious shortage in this area. Many of the older fields were held over this past season, but this cannot continue without replacements. Considerable difficulty was encountered in getting hay transported due to the shortage of trucks.

BEANS The government requested 40,000 acres of beans in the county this past season, but farmers fell far short of this goal. Tomatoes and other crops have taken much of the land formerly planted to beans. Yields were not up to average on some varieties. Hot weather during the filling stage caused small sizes.

CORN, FIELD Yields were very good. Most of the plantings were of the Hybrid variety which is replacing the King Phillip. This is better adapted to harvesting by machine. The husks are not so tightly formed around the ear.

GRAIN SORGHUM Yields were normal and the acreage below normal.

GRAIN Yields were normal. Barley acreage was down considerably over the previous season and wheat was about the same. The price of barley was almost double that of the previous season.

HAY There was a larger acreage of wild and grain hay than in past seasons influenced by the high prices paid for hay.

PASTURE Frequent spring rains provided excellent pasture conditions in all of the county ranges. The acreage of irrigated pasture

is now reaching a peak and it is not expected to change materially in the next few years. Some of the older plantings are being plowed up and planted to more profitable crops.

POTATOES Production of potatoes did not show much change although a greater percentage of the crop was harvested earlier than normal. A good deal of the crop was purchased for the armed forces under U.S. No. 1 grade specifications. This caused an unusually large supply of No. 2's and egg size potatoes some of which were dumped. Potato week put on by the San Francisco merchants under the sponsorship of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and other similar campaigns by other cities helped to move this surplus. A large acreage of potatoes for seed purposes was grown this past season.

RICE Growers had a good season mainly due to the open fall weather which facilitated harvesting operations. Cool weather during the spring months was not favorable for the germination of the rice fields and most of them were weedier than normal as it was necessary to hold the water low to aid germination.

SPEARMINT AND PEPPERMINT These crops are grown for the oils. The entire planting in this County is handled by one grower on the Delta soils. It is the only large planting in California and the still for recovering the oil from the mint is known as the largest in the world.

SUGAR BEETS The acreage dropped from almost 19,000 acres to less than 8,000. The heavy losses sustained by the growers of the previous season due to high labor costs and the prospects of another poor season accounted for most of this reduction. Several fields were abandoned due to climatological conditions. The yields and sugar content of the harvested acreage were normal.

SUNFLOWERS The crop and yields were normal.

SWEET POTATOES The acreage was above normal. Yields and quality were satisfactory. The market took all number 2 grade, increasing the harvested tonnage.

VEGETABLE CROPS

ASPARAGUS Production of market asparagus showed an increase over the previous season due primarily to better weather conditions and a longer market season. Labor troubles and market deals took many acres of cannery asparagus out of production resulting in a decrease in cannery deliveries. Actually out of a total of 36,938 acres of "grass" 2 years old and over, only about 26,000 acres were cut for cannery. About 4000 acres uncut was 2 year old "grass" which is usually cut a short time for market only and the balance was old beds and poor fields on which labor was more of a problem, or fields cut all season for market.

CELERY Growers had a poor season. The market was slow and prices were within a narrow range. The acreage was slightly larger than the previous season, but this was not a criterion in basing production figures. The government requested growers to plant mostly the Pasqual or Utah variety because of the greater vitamin content. Consequently,

70 percent of our acreage and 80 percent of our production was of this type. It is heavier yielding than the self-blanching varieties. Western Celery Mosaic was severe, particularly in the Golden Detroit variety.

CARROTS The government requested a large planting of carrots and growers increased the acreage many fold. For a time during the summer and fall months, farmers were unable to dispose of their crop and some fields were abandoned and others sold a part of their crop for stock feed. The War Food Administration eased this situation by purchasing a large tonnage.

MELONS This is a non-essential crop and growers conformed to the government request and planted a small acreage. Local demand for the crop resulted in a good market and all of the crop was harvested.

ONIONS The Texas crop was short which created a strong demand for California onions. San Joaquin County growers have about one good year in three and this was the year they would have hit exceedingly high prices. However, ceiling prices held a check on any excessive profits.

PEAS Market peas on the Tracy upland made a very good crop and most of the crop was sold on an acre basis to the shippers before harvest. A few late peas were not picked, and were harvested for dry peas. Peas for canning and freezing turned out very good crops, some running as high as two tons per acre. Part of the acreage planted for canning was not harvested in time and was threshed for dry peas.

SPINACH Continuous spring rains resulted in a heavy weed growth and caused a leaf spot to develop so that some fields and portions of others were not harvested.

STRAWBERRIES Since the evacuation of the Japanese, this crop has continued to diminish in acreage. No new plantings have been made and under the present trend no commercial plantings of strawberries will remain in the county.

TOMATOES There was a marked change in tomato production over the previous season. The acreage was less, but total production greater. Also, there was a changeover from the pear variety to the Pearson variety, the acreage one-half of the other in each instance. The season was comparable to the 1942 season in that the crop was later than normal in maturing and heavy frosts caused an abrupt finish to harvesting operations. However, in the face of such conditions, yields per acre were the heaviest of record.

SEED CROPS

There was a large increase in the acreage devoted to the production of seed crops. Yields and income per acre varied considerably due to the many factors which effect seed crop production.

Also, listed under seed crops are two crops which in the past were not segregated from field crop production although many of these were used for seed. These are Red Kidney beans and seed potatoes which are now grown under a supervised certification plan and are produced by the farmer expressly for seed purposes.

THE TREND OF PERMANENT CROPS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
YEAR - 1943

CROP and VARIETY	NON-BEARING ACREAGE	BEARING ACREAGE	CROP and VARIETY	NON-BEARING ACREAGE	BEARING ACREAGE
ALMONDS			GRAPES (Table)		
Drake	15	605	Concord		16
I X L	14	219	Emperor		301
Jordanola	487		Malaga		92
Ne Plus	163	257	Ribier		164
Nonpareil	934	2,190	Tokay	810	17,389
Peerless	57	142	Other		801
Texas	819	1,830			
Other	5	124	Total	810	18,763
Total	2,494	5,367	GRAPES (Wine)		
APPLES			Alicante Bouschet	17	7,115
	3	33	Burger	69	544
APRICOTS			Carignane	164	6,377
Blenheim & Royal	205	849	Golden Chasselas	14	536
Tilton	36	925	Mission	27	1,419
Other		10	Petite Sirah	12	564
Total	241	1,784	Zinfandel	500	14,725
			Other	91	501
			Total	894	31,781
CHERRIES			NECTARINES, (All)		
Bing	57	1,582		52	166
Black Republican	2	99	OLIVES, (All)		
Chapman	4	163		13	350
Lambert	4	269	PEACHES, (Cling)		
Royal Ann	29	1,073	Gaume	340	659
Tartarian	5	845	Halford	647	421
Other	6	147	Palora	280	1,274
Total	107	4,178	Peak	76	152
CHESTNUTS (All)			Phillips	73	829
	3	181	Tuscans		155
FIGS (All)			Walton	23	80
		510	Other	445	300
FILBERTS			Total	1,884	3,870
		6	PEACHES, (Free)		
GRAPES (Raisin)			Elberta	120	589
Muscat		214	J. H. Hale	30	362
Thompson Seedless	20	750	Lovell	24	641
Zante Currant		26	Muir	16	401
Total	20	990	Salway	4	55
			Other	144	1,087
			Total	338	3,135

CROP and VARIETY	NON-BEARING ACREAGE	BEARING ACREAGE	CROP and VARIETY	NON-BEARING ACREAGE	BEARING ACREAGE
PEARS (All)	9	135	WALNUTS		
PERSIMMONS, (All)	2	12	Concord	1	18
PLUMS			Eureka	116	2,118
Burbank		51	Franquette	275	1,725
Climax		19	Mayette	81	455
Duarte	17	30	Payne	150	4,767
Grand Duke		35	Other	<u>17</u>	<u>256</u>
Kelsey		137	Total	640	9,339
President	23	229	WALNUTS, (Black)	207	517
Santa Rosa	25	188	(includes roadside trees)		
Tragedy	26	307			
Wickson		31			
Other	<u>5</u>	<u>230</u>			
Total	98	1,261			
PRUNES					
French		244			
Imperial		59			
Robe de Sargeant		90			
Sugar	1	479			
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>17</u>			
	2	889			

The outstanding feature of this report is the large acreage of non-bearing almonds and clingstone peaches. These two crops have been heavily planted the past few years. Plantings of many other crops have been small and not sufficient to maintain a balance between removals and new plantings.

There is also a distinct trend away from certain varieties. New plantings have been of old standard types which have proved themselves in this area or are of new improved varieties superior in qualities to some of the old varieties.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1943

CROP	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE	
		PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds	5,367	.42	2,254	Ton	\$660.00	\$1,487,640.
(Fresh)		10.00	17,840	25 lb lug	2.50	44,600.
Apricots (Canning)	1,784	.14	250	Ton	95.00	23,750.
(Dried)		.01	25	Ton	640.00	16,000.
(Fresh)	3,105	167.00	518,535	15 lb lug	3.75	1,944,506.
Cherries Processed (Royal Ann)	1,073	2.09	2,242	Ton	180.00	403,560.
Chestnuts	181	1.11	202	Ton	400.00	80,800.
(Fresh)		89.00	45,390	8 lb flat	1.50	68,085.
Figs (Canning)	510	1.09	556	Ton	120.00	66,720.
(Dried)		.47	240	Ton	200.00	48,000.
Juice (Shipping)		.65	20,658	Ton	80.00	1,652,640.
Grapes (Wine)	31,781	4.13	131,256	Ton	80.00	10,500,480.
Tokay (Fresh)		319.00	5,547,091	28 lb pkg.	1.95	10,816,827.
Grapes (Wine)	17,389	6.58	114,420	Ton	80.00	9,153,600.
All (Fresh)		34.00	80,376	28 lb pkg.	1.95	156,733.
Other (Wine)	2,364	3.30	7,801	Ton	80.00	624,080.
Grapes (Raisin)		.52	1,230	Dry Ton	163.00	200,490.
Misc'l. Orchards	400				100.00	40,000.
Nectarines	166	211.00	35,026	30 lb box	2.00	70,052.
Olives	350	1.50	525	Ton	170.00	89,250.
(Fresh)		214.00	670,890	20 lb crate	1.75	1,174,058.
Peaches (Cannery)	3,135	.93	2,916	Ton	50.00	145,800.
(Free) (Dried)		.19	596	Ton	440.00	262,240.
Peaches (Cannery)		5.60	21,672	Ton	64.00	1,387,008.
(Cling) (Dried)	3,870		32	Ton	300.00	9,600.
Pears	135	5.00	675	Ton	75.00	50,625.
(Fresh)		171.00	215,631	28 lb crate	3.30	711,582.
Plums (Canning)	1,261	.10	126	Ton	55.00	6,930.
(Fresh)		79.00	70,231	28 lb crate	3.00	210,693.
Prunes (Dried)	889	.25	220	Ton	200.00	44,000.
Walnuts	9,357	.71	6,643	Ton	520.00	3,454,360.
Zante Currants	26	1.30	34	Ton	215.00	7,310.
					Total	\$44,952,019.

FIELD CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1943

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE	
		PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa Hay	40,542	6.00	243,252	Ton	\$ 22.00	\$5,351,544.
Barley	78,541	15.00	1,178,115	Cwt.	2.30	2,709,665.
*Beans, Dry	22,303	16.00	356,848	Cwt.	6.93	2,472,957.
Bean Straw	15,000	1.00	15,000	Ton	10.00	150,000.
Corn, Grain	16,144	1.25	20,180	Ton	50.00	1,009,000.
Corn Husks			200	Ton	600.00	120,000.
Flax	130	15.00	1,950	Bu.	3.25	6,338.
Grain Sorghum	6,324	20.00	126,480	Cwt.	2.50	316,200.
Guayule	661	Not in production				
Hay, Grain	21,804	1.70	37,067	Ton	18.00	667,206.
Hay, Wild	22,411	1.45	32,496	Ton	13.00	422,448.
Oats	12,400	8.00	99,200	Cwt.	2.80	277,760.
Pasture, Range	210,000			Acre	1.00	210,000.
Clover	25,686			Acre	35.00	899,010.
Sudan Grass	2,433			Acre	20.00	48,660.
Stubble	125,000			Acre	1.00	125,000.
*Potatoes, Market	7,760	185.00	1,435,600	Cwt.	1.85	2,655,860.
Pumpkins (Canning)	250	14.00	3,500	Ton	7.00	24,500.
Pumpkins (Stock)	239	20.00	4,780	Ton	3.00	14,340.
Rice	2,681	32.00	85,792	Cwt.	3.50	300,272.
Silage, Corn	1,670	12.00	20,040	Ton	5.00	100,200.
Spearmint	30	67.00	2,010	lbs.	3.50	7,035.
Peppermint	690	36.00	24,840	oil	5.00	124,200.
Sugar Beets	7,250	15.00	108,750	Ton	10.80	1,174,500.
Sunflowers	1,563	11.00	17,193	Cwt.	7.50	128,948.
Sweet Potatoes	1,606	123.00	197,538	50 lb crate	2.50	493,845.
Wheat	23,237	10.00	232,370	Cwt.	2.40	557,688.
Total.						\$20,367,176.

*See Seed Crops

VEGETABLE CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1943

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE	
		PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
*Asparagus (Fresh)	36,938	24.00	886,512	30 lb crate	\$ 3.36	\$2,978,680.
(Cannery)		.70	25,856	Ton	149.80	3,873,229.
Beets (Fresh)	220	6.00	1,320	Ton	60.00	79,200.
(Table) (Processed)	200	10.00	2,000	Ton	20.00	40,000.
Broccoli	180	100.00	18,000	Crate	2.50	45,000.
Cabbage	250	300.00	75,000	Crate	1.75	131,250.
Cauliflower	100	400.00	40,000	Crate	1.50	60,000.
Carrots (Fresh)	1,553	10.00	15,530	Ton	40.00	621,200.
(Processed)	1,100	15.00	16,500	Ton	20.00	330,000.
Celery '43-'44 season	5,950	250.00	1,487,500	60 lb crate	2.00	2,975,000.
Corn, Sweet	707	150.00	106,050	65 lb crate	2.25	238,613.
Garlic	30	125.00	3,750	ewt.	8.00	30,000.
Lettuce	160	200.00	32,000	Crate	2.50	80,000.
Cantaloupes	102	153.00	15,606	Crate	2.50	39,015.
Casabas	357	8.00	2,856	Ton	20.00	5,712.
Melons Honeydews	70	6.00	420	Ton	20.00	8,400.
Persians	93	6.00	558	Ton	30.00	16,740.
Watermelons	859	12.00	10,308	Ton	27.00	278,316.
Onions Early	900	550.00	495,000	50 lb.	1.75	866,250.
Late	800	500.00	400,000	sk.	1.75	700,000.
(Fresh)	2,000	125.00	250,000	30 lb hamper	3.50	875,000.
Peas (Processed)	1,800	2.28	4,104	Ton	73.00	299,592.
(Dry)	400	1.00	400	Ton	100.00	40,000.
Spinach	1,500	3.00	4,500	Ton	25.00	112,500.
Squash	439	7.00	3,073	Ton	25.00	76,825.
Strawberries	40	1000.00	40,000	12 basket crate	2.75	110,000.
Tomatoes (Fresh)	850	400.00	340,000	32 lb lug	1.75	595,000.
(Pear)	6,500	9.90	64,350	Ton	29.50	1,898,325.
Cannery (Round)	13,150	9.90	130,185	Ton	27.50	3,580,088.
Truck Garden	1,371			Acre	150.00	205,650.
				Total		\$21,189,585.

* 5,464 acres planted 1942 not included.

SEED CROPS
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - 1943

CROP	ACREAGE	PRODUCTION			F.O.B. VALUE		
		PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL	
Alfalfa	476	300.00	142,800	lb. \$.38 \$	54,264.	
Asparagus roots	79			Acre	250.00	19,750.	
Beans	Red Kidney	1,370	16.00	21,920	cwt.	10.50	230,160.
	Garden Var's.	843	8.00	6,744	cwt.	8.50	57,350.
Beets, Table	89	500.00	44,500	lb.	.22	9,790.	
Cabbage	30	500.00	15,000	lb.	.85	12,750.	
Canadian Field Peas	156	10.00	1,560	cwt.	3.50	5,460.	
Canary Grass	1,227	10.00	12,270	cwt.	8.00	98,160.	
Cantaloupe	23	150.00	3,450	lb.	.50	1,725.	
Carrot	1,431	200.00	286,200	lb.	.45	128,790.	
Honeydew	30	170.00	5,100	lb.	.50	2,550.	
Lettuce	10	750.00	7,500	lb.	.30	2,250.	
Mustard, Table	2	830.00	1,660	lb.	.15	249.	
Nursery	80			Acre	1200.00	96,000.	
Onion	629	300.00	188,700	lb.	1.00	188,700.	
Potato	900	185.00	166,500	cwt.	3.85	641,025.	
Radish	10	310.00	3,100	lb.	.15	465.	
Salsify	1/2	410.00	205	lb.	1.00	205.	
Squash	249	300.00	74,700	lb.	.35	26,145.	
Vetch	95	10.00	950	cwt.	6.00	5,700.	
Total						\$1,581,488.	

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

YEAR - 1943

APIARY PRODUCTS

Honey	459,500	lbs.	@	.12	\$	55,140.00
Bees Wax	16,070	lbs.	@	.43		6,910.00
Package Bees	2,384	lbs.	@	.87		2,074.00
Queen Bees	13,180	bees	@	.92		12,126.00
Pollenization	5,600	colonies	@	.50		<u>2,800.00</u>
					\$	79,050.00

LIVESTOCK

Beef cattle and calves					\$	7,129,145.00
Hogs						1,430,415.00
Sheep and Wool						<u>1,973,120.00</u>
					\$	10,532,680.00

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk and Milk Products					\$	8,456,890.00
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POULTRY

Chickens	1,314,067	lbs.	@	.28	\$	367,939.00
Eggs	4,186,852	doz.	@	.40		1,674,641.00
Turkeys	2,763,480	lbs.	@	.33		<u>911,948.00</u>
					\$	2,954,528.00

SUMMARY

Fruit and Nut Crops					\$	44,952,019.00
Field Crops						20,367,176.00
Vegetable Crops						21,189,585.00
Seed Crops						1,581,488.00
Apiary Products						79,050.00
Livestock						10,532,680.00
Dairy Products						8,456,890.00
Poultry Products						<u>2,954,528.00</u>
Grand Total					\$	<u>\$110,113,416.00</u>

