

INTRODUCTION

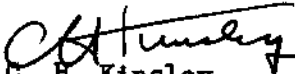
1939

We have attached hereto a statistical survey of Merced County agriculture. This is the first official survey which has been made by this office for a number of years because of lack of funds, making it impossible for us to carry on work of this character with the accuracy which we feel should characterize any statistics issuing from an official source. Chapter 317, Statutes of 1939, (however), requires that the commissioner compile reports of condition, acreage, production and value of agricultural products in his county. The statute also authorizes the commissioner to publish such statistics and requires that a copy thereof be transmitted to the Director of Agriculture.

In view of this legislative mandate, Senior Inspector E. M. Lilley of the Merced County Department of Agriculture was assigned the task of gathering, compiling, and checking the necessary data. This, we feel, Inspector Lilley accomplished in a very creditable manner, at the same time recognizing that an absolutely accurate report of this kind can only be compiled on the basis of more extensive surveys of the sources of information than we were able to give with the funds and manpower which we could spare from regulatory activities.

In studying this report one should always keep in mind the fact that it is not the compilation of the net income of agriculture in Merced County. For instance, we have computed the value of alfalfa hay produced in this county as being \$5,226,728.00 and the value of milk as \$4,510,000.00. However, the bulk of the alfalfa hay produced in Merced County was consumed by dairy cattle within the county and, therefore, became an item of cost in the production of the milk and beef resulting therefrom. We have, wherever possible, given the farm value or the value f.o.b. local shipping point. In some cases, however, it has been impossible to do this because of the fact that such commodities as wine grapes are frequently sold delivered at the winery. In the case of beef cattle, sheep and apiary products, any figures we might compile would be subject to criticism because of the semi-migratory character of such businesses.

Respectfully submitted,


C. H. Kinsley
Agricultural Commissioner

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS - MERCED COUNTY - SEASON 1939

<u>CROP</u>	<u>PRODUCING ACRES</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Almonds	3,108	1,720	Ton	\$360,340
Apples	19	2,470	Box	1,729
Apricots	979	5,385	Ton	67,312
Cherries	14	7.5	"	675
Chestnuts	3	1,500	Lbs.	90
Citrus	15	1,200	Box	1,080
Figs:				
Kadota	2,541	10,926	Ton	464,555
All Other	6,602	6,461	" (Dry)	711,180
Grapes:				
Raisin	9,220	71,916	"	593,307
Table:				
Ship't		1,120	"	21,280
Winery		15,256	"	137,304
Wine	3,522	12,122	"	146,676
Nectarines	89	320	"	5,800
Olives	64	96	"	4,800
Peaches:				
Cling #1	2,855	31,235	"	624,700
Cling #2	-----	4,685	"	14,055
Peaches:	2,975			
Freestone:				
Shipping		3,583	"	59,100
Canning		1,800	"	31,500
Dried		2,577	" (Dry)	*345,010
Pears	16	20	"	400
Pecans	13	2,100	Lbs.	210
Persimmons	11	25	Ton	1,375

281,970

* This figure includes drying cost of \$103,080.00

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS (Cont'd)

<u>CROP</u>	<u>PRODUCING ACRES</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Plums	124	316	Ton	\$ 10,195
Prunes	120	210	" (Dry)	11,550
Pomegranates	21	10	Ton	220
Quinces	2	3	"	75
Walnuts	1,198	780	"	136,500
TOTAL	36,988			\$3,750,818.00

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa	75,923	379,615	Ton	\$3,226,728
Seed	190	57,000	lbs.	9,120
Barley	86,092	990,058	Sacks	824,718
Beans:				
Black-Eye	7,120	46,280	"	192,062
Lima	100	1,200	"	3,360
Pinto	1,580	19,118	"	76,472
Bean Straw		5,000	Ton	10,000
Cotton	19,644	19,762	Bale	963,398
Seed		7,658	Ton	*229,740
Flax (Seed)	1,200	22,800	Bu.	45,600
Grain:				
Hay	12,500	18,750	Ton	131,250
Pasture	14,700			29,400
Milo	3,075	30,750	Sack	44,280
Oats	7,568	113,520	"	125,440
Peanuts	800	520	Ton	33,800
Permanent Pasture	12,637			215,925
Pasture				738,790
Rice	2,364	56,547	Sack	73,511
Rye	160	960	"	2,083

* Includes cost of ginning

FIELD CROPS (Cont'd)

<u>CROP</u>	<u>PRODUCING ACRES</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Silage:				
Corn and Sorghum	5,700	68,400	Ton	205,200
Sudan:				
Seed	532	5,320	Sack	10,640
Pasture	13,950			167,400
Stubble	106,160			53,080
Sweet Potatoes	3,857	403,675	Crate	504,594
Seed		1,125	Ton	33,750
Culls		4,820	"	14,460
Wheat	<u>10,500</u>	89,250	Sack	<u>163,683</u>
TOTAL:	386,352			\$8,153,484

VEGETABLE CROPS

Asparagus	70	9,100	Crate	\$ 13,923
Beans K.W.	143	14,300	"	32,175
Caneberries	200	160,000	"	64,000
Cantaloupes	1,030	160,150	"	147,690
Carrots	75	128,216	Doz. Bu.	10,257
Casabas	95	523	Ton	3,138
Celery	4	1,100	Crate	660
Cucumbers	12	1,920	Lug	672
Eggplant	26	33,180	"	10,949
Garlic	37	7,400	"	7,400
Honeydews	207	1,449	Ton	10,143
Lettuce	48	8,400	Crate	5,040
Peas	250	18,750	Hamper	9,375
Persians	10	50	Ton	600
Peppers - Bell	93	57,660	Crate	27,100
Elephant Ears (Yams)	3	7,000	Lbs.	280
Potatoes	321	53,286	Sack	47,957

VEGETABLE CROPS (Cont'd)

<u>CROP</u>	<u>PRODUCING ACRES</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Onions	225	54,657	Sack	34,445
Spinach	185	27,750	Crate	15,263
Strawberries	65	76,440	"	55,037
Squash - Italian	27	5,700	Lug	2,423
Sweet Corn	250	17,500	Sack	30,625
Tomatoes:				
Shipping	1,097	642,500	Lug	391,925
Cannery		6,000	Ton	42,000
Watermelons	<u>645</u>	5,676	"	<u>39,732</u>
TOTAL:	5,118			\$ 1,002,809

NURSERY STOCK

Acres - 68

	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Value</u>
Fruit & Nut Trees	322,000	\$32,200
Rooted Grape Vines	355,000	4,260
Strawberry Plants	1,500,000	10,500
Ornamentals	75,000	14,550
Rose Bushes	90,000	9,000
Cactus	8,000	800
Citrus:		
Navel Oranges	<u>1,800</u>	<u>2,250</u>
TOTAL:	2,351,800	\$ 73,560

DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND BEES

Dairy Cattle - 81,929

Milk - 12,000,000 lbs. Butter fat -----	\$4,510,000
Cows - Bulls - Calves - 45,000 ----- (Sold for beef and breeders)	815,000
Beef Cattle - 60,000 -----	1,072,000

DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND BEES (Cont'd)

Sheep:

Lambs & Ewes -- 53,250 ----- \$252,938

Wool -- 480,000 lbs. ----- 105,000

Hogs -----23,000 ----- 322,000

Turkeys ---205,000 ----- 482,776

Poults --- 300,000 sold ----- 105,000

Eggs ----- 200,000 ----- 30,000

Chickens -- 79,236 Cases eggs ----- 437,383

Baby chicks -- 500,000 ----- 40,000

Meat: Broilers, Roasters, Fryers ----- 106,538

Bees:

Honey ---8000 colonies -- 360,000 lbs.----- 10,800

Beeswax ----- 5,400 lbs. 1,188

TOTAL: ----- \$8,290,673

SUMMARY

Fruit and Nut Crops -----	\$3,750,818
Field Crops -----	8,133,484
Vegetable Crops -----	1,002,809
Nursery Stock -----	73,560
Dairy Cattle -----	5,325,000
Beef Cattle -----	1,072,000
Sheep -----	357,938
Hogs -----	322,000
Turkeys -----	617,776
Chickens -----	583,971
Bees -----	11,988
GRAND TOTAL:	<u>\$21,251,344.00</u>

CLASSIFICATION MERCED COUNTY ACREAGE

<u>Land Farmed</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Fruit and Nut Crops -----	36,988
Field and Vegetable Crops -----	270,670
Pasture Land -- Not Arable -----	545,290
Arable Land Not Farmed (Mostly Pastured)	311,252
Sloughs - Rivers - Ponds - Brush	
Building Sites - Railroads	
Roads - Canals - Ditches -----	<u>55,000</u>
TOTAL 1905 Sq. Miles -	1,219,200 acres