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COUNTY FARM INCOME 13 MILLION DOLLARS

1943 Banner Year For San Benito County Agriculture

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County Agricultural Commissioner

San Benito county farmers contributed nearly 13 million dollars in farm products to the nation's food supply during the past year.

Estimates of the dollar value of the 1943 farm crop show a gross return of \$12,899,203—by far the highest in San Benito county history.

Most valuable crop of the year was prunes which netted a gross of \$1,419,495, despite the fact that many orchards have been pulled out during the past few years.

The apricot crop was the smallest in many years and could have contributed another two million dollars had the crop been normal.

Highest paying truck crop was lettuce, with a return of \$1,004,500. Beets were a close second with \$912,000, and tomatoes third at \$822,500.

In the livestock class, cattle value for the year climbed to \$1,260,000. Barley led all grain crops with a gross value of \$688,818.

Growing conditions for the most part were good, although grain suffered from excessive moisture with some frost damage during the blooming period—a condition seldom encountered in this county. Excessive rain during the blooming period caused a serious loss of apricots.

Although the sugar beet acreage was sharply reduced from the previous year, the yield in tonnage and sugar content was the highest in years. The lettuce crops were good, with the highest acreage in the history of local plantings.

ESTIMATED SAN BENITO COUNTY CROP VALUES, 1943 FRUIT AND NUTS

	ACRES	VALUE
Apricots	4970	\$ 529,560
Almonds	53	3,500
Apples	182	168,000
Grapes	1642	184,000
Pears	788	331,000
Prunes	4934	1,419,495
Peaches	76	31,900
Walnuts	1200	720,000
Cherries	55	5,550
TOTAL		\$3,393,510

TRUCK CROPS

Garlic	250	\$ 252,000
Lettuce	4018	1,004,500
Onions	200	60,000
Spinach	400	80,000
Tomatoes	4700	822,500
Peas	600	270,000
Carrots	779	257,000
Beets	3258	912,000
Squash	200	66,400
Beans	726	65,340
Corn	574	31,570
Seeds	1100	330,000
Alfalfa	1548	169,230
TOTAL		\$4,780,590

HAY AND GRAIN

Barley	17940	\$ 688,818
Wheat	2603	122,445
Oats	1022	20,440
Volunteer Hay	22300	301,400
TOTAL		\$1,133,103

LIVESTOCK

Beef and Calves	\$1,260,000
Hogs	285,000
Sheep	375,000
Dairy	598,000
TOTAL	\$2,518,000

POULTRY

Eggs	\$ 240,000
Turkeys	624,000
Poultry Meat	210,000
TOTAL	\$1,074,000

GRAND TOTAL

\$12,899,203
NOTE — I wish to thank the growers and producers, the packers and others who helped to provide the information used in compiling the above data. W. B. SAUNDERS