

Office Copy - Not to go Out

49

SAN BENITO COUNTY CROPS WORTH RECORD 16 MILLION DOLLARS DURING PAST SEASON

By WARD B. SAUNDERS
(San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner)

© The gross agricultural crop returns in San Benito County in 1944 amounted to \$16,187,847.00. This exceeds the 1943 returns of \$13,401,718.00 by a little less than three million dollars.

The apricot crop brought the largest return from a record crop, and was estimated to be \$3,060,000.00. Other million dollar crops were prunes, \$1,162,077.00; lettuce, \$1,084,000.00; sugar beets, \$1,162,077.00; cattle \$1,500,000.00 and turkeys \$1,200,000.00.

There has been a decline in total fruit acreage for the last ten years, the greatest reduction being in peach, prune and pear plantings. Moderate increase in plantings have been made of apricots and walnuts.

The most of the acreage formerly devoted to fruit production is now in beets, tomatoes, lettuce, with some acres planted to onions, peas and carrots.

The largest car loadings on record of lettuce was sent out of Hollister in 1944—1541 cars being shipped for the year.

Beet acreage was high in 1944 and returns were satisfactory in most cases except for those who were unable to harvest until after the early fall rains.

The tomato crop was a disappointment to many growers. Cool weather retarded the growth of the plants and delayed the fruit from ripening, resulting in very low yields.

Acre returns were good for garlic

and onion and were satisfactory crops generally. Some onion plantings that were uncontracted by the divers were plowed up on account of unsatisfactory prices.

Certified seed potatoes were grown for the second year in San Benito County in 1944. It would seem probable that this crop could be expanded greatly as the demand for disease free seed potatoes is very good.

In the livestock field, cattle producers had a good price and a fair feed year, while hog producers cut down their operations due to a very unsatisfactory feed price situation. Turkey production climbed and in general was a satisfactory enterprise.

The 1945 prospects indicate about half of the apricot tonnage, some increase in pears and prunes, with not much change in walnuts. Some increase in beet acreage is being planted with no major changes in other crops of this class. Celery is being planted this year in increasing amounts and may assume a more important position in the years to come.

In spite of a rather short rainfall feed conditions are fair and grain and hay production is not expected to be greatly reduced from last year.

PS

		GROSS VALUE
Barley	18,000	\$ 447,480.00
Hay	24,000	450,000.00
Wheat	2,500	106,250.00
Beef and Calves		\$1,500,000.00
Hogs		186,200.00
Sheep		240,000.00
Eggs		200,000.00
Turkeys		1,200,000.00
Poultry Meat		247,000.00
Total		\$5,365,230.00

TRUCK CROPS

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Beets (Sugar)	4302	\$1,162,077.00
Carrots	668	267,300.00
Cauliflower	315	117,620.00
Garlic	450	630,000.00
Lettuce	5421	1,084,200.00
Onions	424	190,800.00
Peas	435	136,843.00
Potatoes	600	360,000.00
Seeds	1100	440,000.00
Spinach	600	90,000.00
Tomatoes	2553	382,295.00
Misc. (squash, beans, etc)	600	180,000.00
Total		\$5,994,740.00

TREE CROPS

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Almonds	53	\$ 9,600.00
Apples	182	109,200.00
Apricots	5004	3,060,000.00
Cherries	49	7,750.00
Grapes	1669	400,560.00
Peaches	99	25,595.00
Pears	782	441,130.00
Prunes	4371	1,329,000.00
Walnuts	774	450,000.00
Total		\$5,832,875.00

Tree Crops	5,832,875.00
Truck Crops	5,994,740.00
Grain, Poultry, Livestock	5,365,230.00
Total All Crops	\$16,181,847.00