

1947

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SAN BENITO COUNTY

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA

COURT HOUSE

W. B. SAUNDERS
COMMISSIONER
AND
QUARANTINE OFFICER

Gross Receipts Fail To Surpass All-Time High Established In 1946

Fruit, truck crops and general farm produce brought a total of \$19,389,454 to farmers and orchardists of San Benito county last year.

Seven crops brought in more than a million dollars apiece in 1947, compared to five crops which exceeded the million-dollar mark in 1946.

Last year's gross farm receipts were \$551,186 less than the all-time high of \$19,940,640 established in 1946.

These facts and figures were revealed today in the annual report of Ward B. Saunders, county agricultural commissioner for San Benito county.

Saunders' report showed that seven crops grown in this county in 1947 sold for more than one million dollars each. Beef led with gross receipts last year of \$2,800,000. In 1946, apricots led the parade with \$3,284,150, while beef was second with \$2,722,160.

Last year's seven top-money crops, and the gross receipts from each, were beef, \$2,800,000; lettuce, \$2,550,600; sugar beets, \$2,156,685; apricots, \$1,604,225; prunes, \$1,397,640; turkeys, \$1,311,900, and barley, \$1,186,288.

The five million-dollar crops grown in this county in 1946 were apricots, \$3,284,150; beef, \$2,722,160; prunes, \$1,935,360; barley, \$1,393,562, and sugar beets, \$1,195,875.

Even though last year's gross receipts failed to top the 1946 total, they still were \$2,529,218 above the receipts of two years previously—the year 1945—when crops brought in \$16,860,236, Saunders reported.

Returns from the sale of fruit crops were down sharply last year—from \$7,638,890 in 1946 to \$4,434,397 in 1947. This drop in returns was due largely to the fact that nearly all crops except fruit are supported at 90 per cent of parity, the agricultural commissioner explained.

"The difference of three and one-half million dollars in income to an area the size of San Benito county is readily apparent," Saunders asserted. "For example, had the fruit crop been supported by the general taxpayers and consumers' dollars—as sweet potatoes and peanuts are—fruit farmers would have three and one-half million more dollars in their pockets."

Figures for last year's receipts show that the prices received by livestock and grain growers of this county are the highest on record.

Irrigated crops show an increase in sugar beets and lettuce, both crops returning in excess of two million dollars, Saunders pointed out.

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"As we review the 1947 crop year," the county agricultural official declared, "we realize that there have been some very good gross crop returns in past years. Many farmers have paid off mortgages and have set up reserves to carry them over just such a year as 1498 is likely to be."

The following table shows the gross return to farms since 1938, and indicates that the 1947 total returns were about five times the dollar value of the 1938 crop:

YEAR	GROSS CROP RETURNS
1938	\$ 4,882,275
1939	5,650,200
1940	6,047,490
1941	6,633,546
1942	11,354,355
1943	13,156,903
1944	16,181,847
1945	16,860,236
1946	19,940,640
1947	19,389,454

Crops this year will show a large decrease in returns, Saunders predicted. Just how much the irrigated crops will suffer will depend on the effect and extent of the power shortage and how much water is stored in the county's underground reservoirs, he added.

This year's fruit crop probably will not be affected as badly from either the water or power shortage as will 1949 crops, the agriculturist asserted.

Figures for 1947's fruit, truck crops and general farm produce, as compiled by Saunders, follow:

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Apricots	5110	\$1,604,225.00
Apples	193	131,240.00
Almonds	53	10,600.00
Cherries	54	12,960.00
Grapes	1709	89,722.00
Peaches	77	25,410.00
Pears	795	649,800.00
Prunes	4395	1,397,640.00
Walnuts	1282	512,800.00
TOTAL		\$4,434,397.00

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TRUCK CROPS

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Sugar Beets	7073	\$2,156,685.00
Celery	84	80,240.00
Broccoli	200	68,500.00
Cauliflower	550	214,500.00
Garlic	650	374,000.00
Lettuce	4251	2,550,600.00
Beans	650	126,750.00
Peas	1040	350,000.00
Potatoes	725	317,187.00
Spinach	300	45,000.00
Seeds	1800	640,000.00
Tomatoes	2350	477,050.00
Miscellaneous Crops	600	50,000.00

TOTAL \$7,450,512.00

GENERAL FARM CROPS

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Barley	30,982	\$1,186,288.00
Wheat	3,500	207,854.00
Oats	3,300	227,000.00
Hay	12,650	379,500.00
Beef		2,800,000.00
Hogs		192,000.00
Sheep		323,000.00
Dairy		440,000.00
Poultry, Eggs & Meat		537,000.00
Turkeys		1,311,900.00

TOTAL \$7,504,542.00

SUMMARY

Fruit Crops	\$4,434,397.00
Truck Crops	7,450,512.00
General Farm Crops	7,504,542.00

TOTAL \$19,389,454.00