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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SAN BENITO COUNTY

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA

W. B. SAUNDERS
COMMISSIONER
AND
QUARANTINE OFFICER

COURT HOUSE

1949 REPORT ON CROPS

The following table shows total returns to farms in this county since 1928 and indicates that the total estimated gross income from Agriculture dropped for the 3rd straight year from peak of 1946.

1938	54,882,275
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
1948	18,160,623
1949	14,572,238

The year was a season of low temperatures and below normal rainfall. Water levels in the wells went down, as more than normal pumping for irrigation was required.

The season was one of low tonnage production of apricots and prunes, with pears and cherries above normal. Walnuts bore a heavy crop, but sunburn injury due to an extreme heat wave, and insect damage resulted in a great many cull nuts.

Row crops produced well but lettuce, produced and sold in the spring, brought red ink. The fall crop for those who planted, brought prices that recovered for producers some of the money lost in the spring.

Potatoes were again a profitable crop except for late sales, which was also true of onions. Sugar beets produced good tonnages of excellent sugar content, in contrast with the 1948 crop, which was very poor.

Cotton on the small acreage yielded about a bale to the acre, but with cotton acreage allotments in effect, the acreage for 1950 will be less.

Seed crops were satisfactory. The celery and cauliflower crops were disappointing from the farmers stand point and an early fall frost took most of the profit out of the fall pea crop. Beans for freezing were also effected by the frost.

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Grain was fairly good, altho both price and yield were down. Range conditions were only fair.

Livestock prices, especially beef, while below 1948 were still very good, as were sheep prices. Hog values dropped in the fall of the year.

Turkey growers had a very bad season due to disease and bad weather, and a lower sale pride.

The crops that made money were grain, livestock, dairy, seeds, cotton, potatoes, beets, Pears dropped from \$125.00 per ton to \$25.00. Walnut prices were very low and apples were in the red ink column.

Prune prices were higher but about at break even levels. Dried cots were good, but canning apricots were sold at no profit.

Grape tonnages were low due to the short rainfall and prices were very disappointing.

Net income dropped much more sharply than did the total gross return.

Many crops grown in San Benito County receive little or no financial support, from the national treasury and the general tax-payer. About two thirds of the gross income of the county is from crops that have no political standing.

It is interesting to note that if San Benito Fruit Nut and truck crops received the support prices that the political crops have been receiving, the increase in returns from those crops in San Benito County would have been about \$3,000,000.00. An added \$3,000,000.00 in the pockets of growers would mean a great deal to welfare of this County's citizens.

FRUIT AND NUT CROP

Crop	Acres	Gross Value
Apricots -----	4269 -----	1,453,270.00
Apples -----	147 -----	58,800.00
Almonds -----	28 -----	2500.00
Cherries -----	52 -----	66,000.00
Grapes -----	1638 -----	41,950.00
Peaches -----	45 -----	10,800.00
Pears -----	725 -----	152,800.00
Prunes -----	3539 -----	977,220.00
Walnuts -----	1566 -----	469,800.00
	TOTAL	3,232,340.00

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TRUCK CROP

Crop	Acre	Gross Value
Sugar beets -----	5258 -----	1,560,717.00
Garlic -----	520 -----	315,000.00
Lettuce -----	3136 -----	1,465,364.00
X Beans -----	2500 -----	450,000.00
Peas -----	420 -----	126,000.00
Seeds -----	1500 -----	450,000.00
Tomatoes -----	245 -----	40,425.00
Carrots -----	117 -----	108,305.00
Miscellaneous crops -----	500 -----	100,000.00
Flower, Squash, celery -	400 -----	80,000.00
Cotton -----	150 -----	67,500.00
Onions -----	400 -----	157,500.00
Spinach -----	500 -----	100,000.00
Potatoes -----	1041 -----	551,704.00
	TOTAL	<u>5,572,515.00</u>

GENERAL FARM PRODUCE

Crop	Acre	Gross Value
Barley -----	35,000 -----	860,538.00
Wheat -----	4000 -----	149,931.00
Oats -----	4200 -----	163,440.00
Hay -----	16,520 -----	585,304.00
Beef -----		2,040,000.00
Sheep -----		95,500.00
Hogs -----		73,600.00
Dairy -----		280,500.00
Broilers, eggs, meat -----		220,250.00
Turkeys -----		1,298,320.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$5,767,383.00</u>

SUMMARY

Fruit Crop -----	3,232,340.00
Truck Crop -----	5,572,515.00
General Crops -----	5,767,383.00
	<u>14,572,238.00</u>