

A N N A L R E P O R T

For the

Year Ending December 31, 1953

SECTION 65.6 STATISTICS--The Commissioner shall compile reports of the condition, acreage, production and value of the agricultural products in his county. The Commissioner may publish such reports, and shall transmit a copy to the Director.

In accordance with the Agricultural Code of the State of California, this report is

Respectfully submitted,

Ward B. Saunders  
Agricultural Commissioner

H.C. Doan  
Agricultural Inspector

J.H. Edmondson  
Agricultural Inspector

1953 REPORT ON CROPS

The office wishes to thank the producers, packers and buyers for furnishing the figures contained in this report.

However this report is only an estimate. Some changes may be necessary when complete returns are available. This is the story as we found it.

1949-----	\$14,572,238.00
1950-----	\$15,880,884.00
1951-----	\$17,230,490.00
1952-----	\$19,005,389.00
1953-----	\$16,852,304.00

The gross income for 1953 by crops follows. Remember these are gross figures and only represent sales and not net profit. In fact some crops were produced at a very small profit or none at all.

ROW CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Sugar Beets---	3,093----	64,657 tons-----	\$ 14.00----	\$ 905,198.00
Garlic-----	640----	43,400 sacks-----	14.50----	629,300.00
Potatoes-----	1,947----	389,400 sacks-----	2.20----	865,680.00
Tomatoes-----	852----	16,699 tons-----	23.00----	384,077.00
Spinach-----	470----	4,700 tons-----	25.50----	119,850.00
Onions-----	279----	153,981 sacks-----	.90----	138,582.00
Broccoli -----	857----	115,785 crates-----	3.25----	376,301.00
Beans-----	523----	8,368 sacks-----	10.00----	83,680.00
Peas-----	80----	12,000 hampers-----	3.25----	39,000.00
Lettuce-----	239----	41,825 crates-----	2.50----	104,562.00
Seeds-----	1,500----	acre-----	250.00----	375,000.00
Cauliflower---	40----	9,000 crates-----	.90----	8,100.00
Strawberries--	151----	226,500 crates-----	2.45----	554,925.00
Cotton-----	200----	200 bales-----	165.00----	33,000.00
Misc. Crops-----				36,950.00
Total-----				\$4,654,205.00

Seed Crops include the following hybrid seed corn, mustard, turnip, radish, broccoli celery, collards, squash, peppers, brussel sprouts, sweet peas, salisfy, onions, cabbage, tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, stock, verbena, calendula, zinnia, aster, larkspur, and centaurea.

Miscellaneous crops are bunched green onions, bell peppers, cucumbers, squash, cabbage, sweet corn, bush berries, and honey.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Apricots-Canned-----		7,955 ton-	\$ 90.00---	\$ 715,950.00
Apricots-Dried-----		2,760-----	760.00---	2,097,600.00
Apricots-Frozen-----		320-----	80.00---	25,600.00
Apricots-Fresh-----		50-----	100.00---	5,000.00
Apricots-Total-----	4,184----	23,505 Fresh-----		<u>2,844,150.00</u>
Apples-----	201----	5,025-----	60.00---	<u>301,500.00</u>
Pears-Bartlett-----	243----	2,700-----	78.00---	<u>210,600.00</u>
Pears-Others-----	494----	6,885-----	60.00---	<u>413,100.00</u>
Grapes-----	997----	2,658-----	40.00---	<u>106,320.00</u>
Prunes-French-----	2,789----	4,725-----	200.00---	<u>945,000.00</u>
Prunes-Others-----	660----	845-----	260.00---	<u>219,700.00</u>
Walnuts-----	1,779----	1,050-----	500.00---	<u>525,000.00</u>
Peaches-Canning-----				<u>21,713.00</u>
Peaches-Dried-----				
Cherries-----				
Almonds-----				
Pears-Dried-----				
Total-----				<u>\$5,587,083.00</u>

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

<u>CROP</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Beef & Calves-----	14,333 head-	\$ 150.00-----	\$2,149,950.00
Lambs-----	5,500 head-	21.00-----	115,500.00
Wool-----	46,750 lbs.-	.60-----	28,050.00
Butterfat-Manufactured--	158,000 lbs.-	.93-----	146,940.00
Butterfat-Market-----	110,000 lbs.-	1.43-----	157,300.00
Broilers-----	370,000 head-	.84-----	310,800.00
Hens for Meat-----	35,000 head-	1.18-----	41,300.00
Eggs-----	1,235,000 doz.-	.58-----	716,300.00
Turkeys-----	243,000 head-	.28 &.35 lb.--	1,485,130.00
Hogs-----	2,500 head-	50.00-----	125,000.00
Total-----			\$5,276,270.00

FIELD CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Barley----	22,000----	352,000 sacks-----	\$ 2.75-----	\$ 968,000.00
Wheat-----	3,293-----	46,102 sacks-----	3.40-----	156,746.00
Hay-----	10,000----	10,000 tons-----	21.00-----	210,000.00
Total-----				\$1,334,746.00

### SUMMARY

<u>CROPS</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Row Crops-----	\$ 4,654,205.00
Fruit & Nut Crops-----	5,587,083.00
Livestock & Poultry-----	5,276,270.00
Field Crops-----	1,334,746.00
Total-----	\$16,852,304.00

### 1953 CROP REVIEW

Heavy spring frosts were the cause of considerable expense and some crop losses for Apricot growers and some Prune, Peach, and Walnut losses were reported. The cannery strike before all the Apricots were picked for canning resulted in a considerable loss of fruit and almost difficult harvesting problem. Early dried sales prices were equal to 1952 crop price, \$.40, but dropped to \$.30 when supplies increased due to the cannery shut down. Sales to canneries were higher than in 1952.

Apple prices were up due to below normal national Apple crop. Dryer and vinegar Apple prices were relatively high. There was a good crop but the county acreage is small and is going down.

Almond prices were up but crop from the small county acreage was very small.

Grape prices were up from last year about \$5.00 per ton to \$40.00 for black wine varieties. Some special whites sold at \$80.00. Acreage is going down.

The Peach crop was small, some losses were reported from frost.

Pear prices were up to \$68.00 for Hardies and Bartletts. D'Anjou prices were lower than in 1952, but Winter Nellis prices were up from \$50.00 to \$60.00 this year.

Prune tonnage and price were about the same as 1952. A very low opening price was raised to the 1952 prices.

Grain yields and acreage were down due to the long dry period in February and March.

The lower Cattle prices of course effected cattlemen's income, but as one cattleman expressed it "I can still make money at present prices."

Hog prices were up, reflecting the smaller number of hogs raised in 1953 in the United States.

Turkey growers had a good year except where disease losses were high.

Egg producers had a very good year.

Broiler producers margin of profit was very narrow.

Sheep prices dropped but were still close to parity levels.

Wool prices were satisfactory.

In the Row Crop Field:

Tomatoes in most cases were satisfactory. An average per acre yield of 19.6 tons is a new record for the county.

The Sugar Beet crop was good. Both tonnage per acre and sugar content were high. Total acreage was below the large acreage of a few years ago.

Garlic acreage was about the same with considerable variation in yields. Prices also varied a great deal. Ten cents a pound for drying was the contracted price. Uncontracted Garlic sold mostly for 15 to 16 cents for field run and late sales ran up to 35 to 40 cents.

Strawberry yields were cut down by the losses from rot from the wet ground due to late spring rains. Prices were up from 1952.

Onion yields were reduced by root rots and close grading by contract buyers.

Broccoli acreage was up, production going to freezers.

Bean acreage was down.

Small acreages of Cotton, Peas, Lettuce, Cauliflower, Green Onions, Squash, Cucumbers, Bush Berries, and Sweet Corn were grown. All of these crops were sold at a fairly satisfactory price.

#### 1954 PROSPECTS

To date, April 1, the rainfall is nearly normal and there has been some water in the creeks to replenish the underground water supplies.

The prospects for Grain and Hay crops are good and Range Feed will probably be fair. Some lowering of prices is likely.



Some improvements in Cattle prices is likely.

Hog prices will probably be lower.

Lamb prices about the same as in 1953.

Milk prices may be lower if lower support prices become effective as announced.

Turkey prices probably comparable to 1953.

Egg prices may be lower as a result of increased production.

Sugar Beet, an increased acreage will be planted, no material price change likely.

Garlic acreage up moderately.

Bean acreage increase likely.

Lettuce, some increase in acreage.

Tomatoes, an acreage increase.

Onions smaller acreage.

Strawberries, less acreage.

Cotton, less acreage.

Broccoli, smaller acreage.

Seed Crops, no change probable.

Apricots: The sale of canned Apricots has been fairly good and 1954 prices should be as good as 1953. It would appear that some market development work should be attempted by Apricot growers. The Apricot juice market could be expanded for which smaller and defective appearing fruit could be used.

Dried fruit sales have dragged somewhat. The March weather has not been good growing weather for Apricots and a large crop is very unlikely.

Apples: Prices are dependent on the total crop in the United States. Last year the 92 million bushel crop was 20 million bushels below average and prices in 1954 are not likely to be as high as they were in 1953.

Almonds, Cherries and Peaches: Production in San Benito County was small. The crops of these varieties likely to be larger in 1954 than in 1953.

Pear: Bartlett prices were up due to small crop. Shipping varieties may have a better outlook if the export markets pick up, which seems likely at present.

Prunes: Present packer quotations are very good and sales have been satisfactory. Market development work seems to have benefited growers a good deal.

Walnuts: Crop under normal spring conditions will be larger than in 1953. Frost damage reduced the 1953 crop.

1953 ANNUAL WORK REPORT  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Nursery Inspections

Complete Nursery Inspections----- 6

Insect Pests

Properties inspected in insect pest surveys----- 73

Man hours spent in insect pest surveys----- 108

Plant Quarantine Interstate Shipments

Shipments passed----- 145

Plants passed----- 4,027

Shipments rejected----- 11

Plants rejected----- 232

Plant Quarantine Intrastate Shipments

Shipments passed----- 111

Plants passed----- 105,982

Shipments rejected----- 13

Plants rejected----- 180

Weed Control

Acres sprayed----- 610

Miles of road patrolled-for weeds----- 12,039

Gallons of Diesel Oil and Sinox used----- 10,386

Quarts of 2-4-D used----- 1,152

Pounds of Sodium Chlorate used----- 2,673

Pounds of C.M.U. used----- 35

Pounds of T.C.A. used----- 75

Man hours spent in weed control----- 2,841

Cost of Operation----- \$9,949.36

Rodent and Pest Animal Control

Acres treated-----	173,055
Pounds of poisoned baits used-----	11,733
Hours of county labor-----	1,575
Hours of ranch labor-----	1,358
Hours of horse hire-----	1,819
Cost of Operation-----	\$5,333.71

Control of Rodent Borne Disease

Acres treated for squirrels-----	156,060
Pounds of poisoned baits used for squirrels-----	5,337
Pounds of Carbon Bisulphide used for squirrels-----	14,620
Residences called on for rats-----	326
Pounds of poisoned baits used for rats-----	455
Quarts of poisoned water used for rats-----	29
Man hours of county labor used in Plague operations-----	4,455
Man hours of ranch labor used in Plague operations-----	669
Horse hours used in Plague operations-----	1,224
Cost of Rodent Borne Disease Operations-----	\$9,185.62

Apiary

Apiaries registered in County-----	3
Colonies registered in county-----	257
Apiaries entering county-----	16
Colonies entering County-----	1,234
Apiaries leaving county-----	18
Colonies leaving County-----	1,022

Fruit, Nut, Vegetable, Egg and Honey Standardization

Packages for which clearances were issued-----	14,389
Stores visited for inspection-----	33
Dozen of eggs inspected-----	1,840
Dozen of eggs rejected-----	135

Pest Control

Permits issued for the use of injurious materials-----	205
Acres dusted & sprayed by aircraft in County-----	24,855
Pounds of dust applied by aircraft in County-----	615,620
Gals. of actual liquid material applied by aircraft---	11,809

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Scales

Sealed without correction-----	84
Sealed after correction-----	137
Found "out of order"-----	43

Weights

Sealed without correction-----	237
Sealed after correction-----	3
Found "out of order"-----	10

Liquid Pumps and Meters

Sealed without correction-----	53
Sealed after correction-----	22
Found "out of order"-----	13

Liquid Capacity Measures

Sealed without correction-----	283
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Packages Inspected

Found light-----	5
Found correct-----	27
Found heavy-----	9

<u>Total Weights and Measures</u> -----	<u>926</u>
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