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ANNUAL CROP REPORT
FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

Year Ending December 31, 1957

Agricultural Code: Duties of the Commissioner
SECTION 65.6 STATISTICS--The Commissioner shall
compile reports of the condition, acreage, pro-
duction 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 this provision of the Agricultural
Code of the State of California, this report is

Respectfully submitted,

Ward B. Saunders
Agricultural Commissioner

H. C. Doan
Agricultural Inspector
Agricultural Inspector

J. H. Edmondson
Agricultural Inspector

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1957 REPORT ON CROPS - SAN BENITO COUNTY

The office wishes to thank the producers, packers and buyers for furnishing the figures contained in this report. This is the story as we found it.

1953-----	\$16,852,304.00
1954-----	16,113,207.00
1955-----	16,914,097.00
1956-----	18,016,688.00
1957-----	16,186,989.00

The gross income for 1957 by crops follows. Remember these are gross figures and only represent sales and not net profit. In fact some crops were produced at very small profit or none at all.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SAN BENITO COUNTY

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA

COURT HOUSE

W. B. SAUNDERS
 COMMISSIONER
 QUARANTINE OFFICER
 SEALER OF
 WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

1957
FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	ACRES-UNITS	UNITS	PRICE PER UNIT	GROSS VALUE
Apricots-Canned-----	12,539	tons	\$100.00-	\$1,253,900.00
Apricots-Fresh-----	30	tons-	240.00-	7,200.00
Apricots-Dried-----	993	tons-	800.00-	794,400.00
Apricots- Total-----	3,967-18,000	Tons Fresh basis--		<u>2,055,500.00</u>
Apples-----	185- 3,000	tons-50.00 & 60.00		<u>186,250.00</u>
Grapes-Wine-----	907- 2,280	tons-45.00 & 70.00		<u>182,410.00</u>
PEARS-Bartlett-Canned & Processed----	255- 3,260	tons-	58.00-	<u>189,080.00</u>
Pears-Other-----	478- 8,125	tons-40.00 & 70.00		<u>457,054.00</u>
Prunes-French-----	2,469- 5,500	tons	175.00-	<u>962,500.00</u>
Prunes-Sugar & Imperial--	511- 1,000	tons	275.00-	<u>275,000.00</u>
Prunes-Sub Standard-----	181	tons	60.00-	<u>10,680.00</u>
Walnuts-----	1,988- 1,272	tons	540.00-	<u>686,880.00</u>
Peaches-Canned	} 2,500.00			
Peaches-Dried		500.00		
Cherries	} 10,000.00			
Almonds		880.00		
TOTAL-----				<u>\$5,019,234.00</u>

ROW CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Sugar Beets-----	3,668---	83,005 tons----	\$ 14.06--	\$1,167,050.00
Garlic-----	443---	36,326 CTW-----	10.50--	381,423.00
Potatoes-----	2,129--	388,325 CTW-----	2.40--	931,980.00
Tomatoes--Canned--	1,927--	42,394 tons----	22.50--	953,865.00
Lettuce-----	654-----		300.00--	196,200.00
Seed Crops-----	1,991-----		287.00--	571,417.00
Misc. Crops -----	1,126-----			542,721.00
<u>TOTAL-----</u>				<u>\$4,744,656.00</u>

Miscellaneous crops are peas, lima beans, table beets, bell peppers, onions, sweet corn, bush berries, cauliflower, cotton squash, strawberries and broccoli.

Seed crops include seed beans, hybrid seed corn, mustard, tomatoes, radish, broccoli, celery, squash, peppers, brussel sprouts, sweet peas, salisfy, onions, cabbage, tomatoes, lettuce , parsley, carrots, stock zinnia, aster, Barkspur and centaurea.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

² CROP	⁵ UNITS	³ PRICE PER UNIT	⁶ GROSS VALUE
Beef & Calves-----	18,000 head-----	\$175.00-----	\$3,150,000.00
Lambs-----	7,050 head-----	23.00-----	162,150.00
Wool-----	70,500 lbs.-----	.57-----	40,185.00
Dairy Products-----			410,000.00
Broilers & Chickens-----			516,516.00
Eggs-----	42,584 cases-----	12.00-----	511,008.00
Turkeys-----	187,950 head-----	.20 lb.-----	751,800.00
Hogs-----	1,500 head-----	44.00-----	66,000.00
<u>TOTAL-----</u>			<u>\$5,607,659.00</u>

HAY AND GRAIN

¹ CROP	² ACRES	⁵ UNITS	³ PRICE PER UNIT	⁶ GROSS VALUE
BARley-----	21,000-----	252,000-100# sacks--	\$ 2.15-----	\$ 541,800.00
Wheat & Oats--	788-----	7,880-100# sacks--	3.00-----	23,640.00
Hay-All-----	10,000-----	10,000 tons-----	25.00-----	250,000.00
<u>TOTAL-----</u>				<u>\$ 815,440.00</u>

TOTALS

FRUIT & NUT CROPS-----				\$5,019,234.00
ROW CROPS-----				4,744,656.00
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY-----				5,607,659.00
HAY & GRAIN-----				815,440.00
<u>1957 TOTAL-----</u>				<u>\$16,186,989.00</u>

1957 CROP REVIEW

FRUIT & NUT CRO PS

Apricots

The 1957 crop was a moderate one. Cool and rainy weather during the blooming period resulted in a light crop in some orchards. The Hemskirke apricot crop was almost a complete failure--primarily due to the extremely heavy crop of 1956. The growing season, after the blooming period, was favorable, and the fruit was of a good quality. The prices offered for canning fruit dropped from an average of \$122.50 in 1956 to \$100.00 this year after an opening price of \$80.00 was offered. The dried apricot prices offered to the growers at the start of the season were \$.35 per pound, this is down \$.15 or about 30% below the \$.50 paid in 1956. Prices advanced to \$.40 on good quality dried apricots and the bulk of the crop was sold at that figure.

Apples

A larger than usual apple crop had a depressing effect on prices which were about \$15.00 a ton less than the 1956 price. The crop in the county was somewhat larger than last year's.

Grapes

The grape crop was 80% of normal and there was some loss due to decay, caused by the early fall rains. The sugar percentage however was higher than usual as the result of warmer growing weather.

Pears

There was a sharp break in cannery prices for Bartlett pears. The price agreed upon by the Pear Growers Association and the canneries was \$58.00 per ton for first quality pears. However, two major canneries first declared that they would only buy 35% of the growers crops. After some fruit was lost by dropping from the trees, some canneries increased their buying and bought the growers total crop. One other packer accepted

delivery, but at a \$40.00 per ton price. Hardy pear growers had more difficulty in selling their crops. One grower was only able to sell about 60% of his crop, two hundred and fifty tons dropped to the ground and rotted. Winter pear growers as a whole fared better. Winter Nelis were sold mostly to baby food processors at \$40.00 a ton while D'Anjou and Comice pears are reported to have brought growers \$60.00 to \$70.00 per ton. It is estimated that a total of 380 tons of Hardy pears and 100 tons of Bartlett pears were not harvested.

Prunes

The prune crop was of the best quality that has been produced in many years. Many orchards produced fewer prunes, but the prunes produced were 20 to 30 percent larger and of good sugar content. In spite of the fact that the prune crop was better generally, 181 dried tons were not harvested due to poor quality. Prices of prunes have been low in spite of a thirty thousand ton smaller crop. The unsold 1956 crop of prunes has been given as the reason for the lowered prices. However, prices have advanced from the opening, from 2 to 3 cents a pound.

Walnuts

The county's crop was below the 1956 tonnage. This was a result in some orchards of a large crop in 1956 and a greater than normal loss of nuts from sunburn and walnut blight. Some loss was also reported from mold, which developed following the early October rains. Prices are up as usual when the supply is down. The smaller pecan crop, which competes with walnuts has also been a strengthening factor in the walnut price structure.

ROW CROPS

Sugar Beets

The crop of sugar beets in 1957 was some what better in sugar content and in total tons produced per acre than in 1956. Growers would like to plant more acres than allotments provide for in 1956.

Garlic

The acreage dropped about 20% from last year. Prices were slightly lower however.

Beans

Seed beans are grown in increasing amounts and in some years are a very satisfactory rotation crop that is desirable.

Potatoes

The potato acreage has been increasing during recent years. As the acreage increases growing problems have also increased. Considerable loss occurred due to tuber moth worm damage this year. Control measures which were effective in killing the worms during years of cool weather failed to protect the potatoes during our warmer summer weather in 1957. High temperatures destroy the value of D.D.T. in less than 21 days. The interval between dustings must be shortened if high temperatures occur. Damage from soil fungi also was more severe than usual.

Peas

Fall pea prices were disappointing and probably reflect the growing use of machine harvested frozen peas.

Lettuce

Plantings were down 50% from 1956. After a rather poor spring and early summer market, prices jumped to a very high point in early fall.

Tomatoes

The planted acres were less in 1957 than the record planting in 1956. A total of 1927 acres were planted for processing and 179 for seed, for a total of 2106. It is estimated that an average of 22 tons per acre were harvested, which is a very good ^{YIELD} average.

Seed Production

Vegetable and flower seed growing has for many years been an

important part of our farm production and these seeds are shipped all over the world.

Cotton

Acreage is small because the acreage is restricted due to government regulations. A much larger amount would be grown if growers were allowed to plant all the acres they would like to devote to the crop.

Miscellaneous Crops

Pepper yields were good, but prices were only fair. Small acreages of string beans and cucumbers were fairly satisfactory. The onion growers had some marketing trouble. Strawberry prices slumped badly, prices for freezer berries dropping to 8 cents per pound. There was a considerable loss of fruit from rot due to the late spring rains. Prices picked up later in the season.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & GRAIN

Grain

The barley and wheat crop yields were below normal due to the lack of rain early in the year. It appeared at one time that the crop would be a complete failure, but late spring rains revived the crop. Grain prices however were lower.

Cattle

The cattle producers also experienced a short feed year but, the late spring rains benefited some of the ranges.

Sheep

Wool and lamb prices were higher than in 1956

Poultry

The number of fryers grown in the county increased but prices went down. Egg production was up and prices increased slightly.

Turkeys

Turkey prices were some lower as was the numbers of turkeys raised.

Hogs

Hog prices improved but not many hogs are raised in the county.

1958 CROP PROSPECTS

FRUIT

The unfavorable weather conditions indicate that the 1958 crop of Apricots will not be large. The Apple crop will be about the same as last year. There will be a somewhat smaller Prune crop. There will probably be fewer Pears, but an increase in Walnut tonnage.

ROW CROPS

Allotments may restrict Sugar Beet growing below the 1957 acreage. Garlic acreage will be about the same as in 1957. There will probably be some reduction in Potato planting. Tomatoe production will be about the same. The prices growers will receive for the 1958 tomatoe crop are uncertain at this time. The acreage of Strawberries will go up due to one grower planting 60 acres. Lettuce planting will drop again in 1958 and no increase in Broccoli, Spinach or Cauliflower is likely.

FIELD CROPS

Grain production is likely to go up as growing conditions as of this date March 1, 1958 are the most favorable in years.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle and Sheep growers appear to have a good year in prospect with good feed conditions and the higher market prices.