

*Office Copy*

# **AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT**

**County of Imperial**

---

**1949**

---

OFFICE OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

B. A. HARRIGAN  
Agricultural Commissioner

IMPERIAL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

B. A. HARRIGAN  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

\* \* \* \*

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31 - 1949

\* \* \* \*

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

N. L. FIFIELD - CHAIRMAN

E. E. CAVANAH

HUGH T. OSBORNE

JOHN LYDICK

J. R. SNYDER

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT - 1949

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
and  
The State Director of Agriculture

It is required by Sec. 65.5 of the Agricultural Code that the Agricultural Commissioner compile a report covering the acreage, production, and value of the agricultural products of the County. Herewith is submitted such a report for the County of Imperial.

I wish to emphasize that these values are Gross Values, F.O.B. Shipping Point and include the cost of production, harvesting, and preparation for market. The net income to farmers was not increased in proportion to the gross sales due to lower farm prices and increased costs of labor and all materials used in harvesting and handling the crops.

The members of our department, including office personnel, and District Inspectors have made an earnest endeavor to make this report as accurate as possible.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to farmers, packers, and shippers who have assisted in making this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

*B. A. Harrigan*  
B. A. HARRIGAN  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Imperial County

BAH:ne

1 9 4 9

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa	19,550	Carloads	\$ 6,671,537.00
Alfalfa Meal	872	"	1,373,400.00
Barley	900	"	1,741,500.00
Wheat	160	"	451,200.00
Flax	1,923	"	12,126,438.00
Milo	79	"	185,650.00
Flax Straw	1,224	"	212,845.00
Flax Fiber	331	"	482,480.00
Screenings - Seed	79	"	69,125.00
Sugar Beets	8,481	"	4,325,310.00
Sugar Beet By-Products	1,118	"	931,520.00
Grain Hay	687	"	164,880.00
Straw	300	"	58,500.00
			\$28,794,385.00

FRUIT & NUTS

Grapefruit - Packed	180	Carloads	\$ 174,600.00
Grapefruit - Juice	1,154	Tons	9,232.00
Orange - Juice	23	Carloads	6,384.00
Tangerines	21	"	40,950.00
Lemons	17	"	23,090.00
Grapes	61	"	222,345.00
Honey	1,480,000	Pounds	118,400.00
Dates	210,000	"	52,500.00
Pecans	22,000	"	11,000.00
			\$ 658,501.00

VEGETABLES

Lettuce	17,455	Carloads	\$25,973,040.00
Carrots	5,341	"	4,977,812.00
Cabbage	827	"	582,208.00
Cabbage - Sacked	8	"	7,680.00
Cabbage - Bulk	296	"	118,400.00
Peas	181	"	231,651.00
Onions	97	"	87,300.00
Mixed Vegetables	404	"	363,600.00
Broccoli	123	"	233,700.00
Romaine	128	"	102,400.00
			\$32,677,791.00

TRUCK CROPS

Cantaloupes	5,596	Carloads	\$5,551,232.00
Mixed Melons	543	"	488,700.00
Tomatoes	927	"	1,001,160.00
Tomatoes - Cannery	194	"	97,000.00
Squash	281	"	421,500.00
Squash - Banana	12	"	7,200.00
Cucumbers	72	"	144,000.00
Asparagus	5	"	16,250.00
Watermelons	1,976	"	899,080.00
		TOTAL.....	<u>\$8,626,122.00</u>

ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

Cattle	3,981	Carloads	\$10,032,120.00
Sheep	992	"	1,488,000.00
Wool	15	"	19,500.00
Hogs	110	"	577,500.00
Horses	624	Head	93,600.00
Dairy Cattle	6,823	"	818,760.00
Market Milk	1,820,123	Gallons	1,410,595.00
Dairy Products	5,083,001	Pounds	197,094.00
Pasturage	260,268	Head	892,272.00
Poultry	265,800	"	269,314.00
Turkeys	2,400	"	14,400.00
Bees	18,000	Colonies	162,000.00
Bees Wax	12,500	Pounds	5,000.00
Eggs	23,940	Cases	395,010.00
		TOTAL.....	<u>\$16,375,165.00</u>

MISC. ITEMS

Fertilizer	583	Carloads	\$ 58,300.00
Mineral Products	11,767	"	1,481,094.00
Dry Ice	9,750	Tons	585,000.00
Ice	310,000	"	1,240,000.00
		TOTAL.....	<u>\$3,364,394.00</u>

SEED AND CUT FLOWERS

Cut Flowers		\$ 35,500.00
Flower Seed	2,500 Pounds	5,000.00
Lettuce Seed	55,000 "	55,000.00
Onion Seed	50,000 "	50,000.00
Alfalfa Seed	5,000,000 "	950,000.00
Clover Seed	550,000 "	55,000.00
Sesbania Seed	300,000 "	21,000.00
Vegetable Seed	21,000 "	21,000.00
Barley Seed	600,000 "	18,000.00
Wheat Seed	200,000 "	8,000.00
Flax Seed	1,500,000 "	270,000.00
	TOTAL....	\$1,488,500.00

Soil Improvement Payments	\$244,606.00	
	TOTAL.....	\$244,606.00

R E C A P I T U L A T I O N

Field Crops	\$28,794,385.00
Fruit and Nuts	658,501.00
Vegetables	32,677,791.00
Truck Crops	8,626,122.00
Animal Industries	16,375,165.00
Misc. Items	3,364,394.00
Seed and Cut Flowers	1,488,500.00
Soil Improvement Payments	<u>244,606.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL.....	\$92,229,464.00

ACREAGE 1949

Field Crops	353,794 Acres
Permanent Crops	3,862 "
Vegetable Crops	48,110 "

\*\*\*\*\*

Area in Irrigated District	612,658 Acres
1942 Inclusion	272,330 "
Gross Area of District	884,990 "

\*\*\*\*\*

Number of Farms	4,776 Farms
Average Area Per Farm	105 Acres

\*\*\*\*\*

ASSESSED VALUATION

-1910-	-1949-
\$12,148,180.00	\$50,628,565.00

\*\*\*\*\*

CROP AND LIVESTOCK VALUES

-1939-	-1949-
\$35,279,624.00	\$92,229,464.00



Total valuations as listed in the 1949 Agricultural Crop Report indicate a decrease from 1948. This decrease was due to generally lower prices on farm produce and to lower acreage production of vegetable and truck crops resulting from severe freezing damage early in January.

Fewer numbers of sheep and cattle were fed in the County this year with less revenue to alfalfa growers for pasturage.

Conversion of alfalfa to meal instead of making hay, reduced hay shipments materially. Indications are that the dehydrating industry will increase during the next year.

Approximately 33,000 acres of alfalfa was diverted from hay and meal production to producing seed. Seed yields were good with a production of 5,000,000 pounds of clean seed.

Flax acreage increased over 1948 plantings, but weed growth and unfavorable growing conditions during January and February greatly reduced yields at harvest time.

Returns from most truck crops were fair. The lettuce deal, due to seasonal conditions, was the exception. Markets were steady and F.O.B. prices were a near high record from January to April when the season closed.

Cantaloupes were of exceptionally good quality throughout the entire deal. Returns were fair although not as good as anticipated.

#### PEST CONTROL

Imperial County was troubled with the usual variety of insect pests affecting truck and vegetable crops, plus a few that heretofore have caused little damage in this area. Lygus and Stink Bug working on alfalfa seed plantings caused serious damage to some fields. The entire acreage of alfalfa seed plantings, approximately 33,000 acres, was treated with insecticides twice and in some areas three times. Records from permits issued by the County Agricultural Department show that over 3,000,000 pounds of various insecticides were used on crops in this County during the year. All applications for use of insecticides are handled through the Agricultural Department under a permit system.



Severe infestations of grasshoppers in scattered areas in the County required applications of poison bait. Late in the season excellent results were obtained through the use of Chlordane, oil and flake bran applied by plane at the rate of five to seven pounds per acre. Bran for this material was furnished by the Federal Government with mixing and distribution by the County Agricultural Department. This program will be followed next year as infestations become apparent.

Treatment of Red Scale infestations were carried on by the County through the facilities of the County Agricultural Department. This is follow-up work started last year and results have been very encouraging. Oil emulsion spray has been used in this work.

#### HIGHWAY TRUCK CHECKING STATIONS

Two inspection and checking stations, one on Highway 99 and one on Highway 80 are manned and operated by the Agricultural Department. These stations are operated twenty-four hours per day throughout the year and have proved to be of great value in checking produce moving to markets. Records of trucks have also proven to be of value in checking of stolen property by law enforcing agencies.

#### PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

A cooperative arrangement between the State and Federal Department and Imperial County has proven of great benefit to cattlemen and poultry raisers in the County. Trappers work in this area late in the Fall and early Spring of each year when coyotes are a serious menace to sheep during the lambing period.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The County Agricultural Commissioner is also Sealer of Weights and Measures in Imperial County. This work is carried on by personnel from the Agricultural Department. Great tonnage of produce moving by truck from this area makes necessary regular testing of all heavy duty scales. This has been greatly augmented by the cooperation of the State Bureaus heavy duty trucks and personnel. Light scales, pumps and meters are checked by County Deputies throughout the year.