

IMPERIAL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

B. A. HARRIGAN
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1952

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

E. E. CAVANAH	-	CHAIRMAN
J.R. SNYDER		N.L. FIFIELD
H.T. OSBORNE		T.J. BOLEY

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT - 1952

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

PAH:rc

1952

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa	24,147	Carloads	\$ 14,488,200.00
Alfalfa Meal	1,727	"	3,626,700.00
Barley	657	"	1,836,315.00
Wheat	106	"	373,650.00
Milo Maize	47	"	154,630.00
Flax Straw	1,454	"	270,537.00
Flax Fibre	336	"	504,480.00
Flax Shive	265	"	15,905.00
Flax Seed	785	"	5,316,805.00
Screenings - Seed	19	"	25,080.00
Sugar Beets	16,104	"	9,243,696.00
Sugar Beet By-Products	1,027	"	1,282,224.00
Cotton	120,565	Bales	20,496,050.00
Cotton Seed	42,961	Tons	1,260,215.00
Cotton Seed Oil	900	"	216,000.00
Cotton Seed Cake	2,400	"	182,400.00
Lint	570	"	62,700.00
Cotton Seed Hulls	1,830	"	40,260.00
Grain Hay	304	Carloads	146,224.00
Straw	309	"	76,323.00
Castor Beans	69	"	790,740.00
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		Total	\$ 60,409,134.00

FRUIT AND NUTS

Grapefruit	210	Carloads	234,780.00
Oranges	50	"	59,800.00
Tangerines	26	"	193,440.00
Grapes	89	"	240,300.00
Lemons	19	"	59,251.00
Honey	2,400,000	Pounds	264,000.00
Dates	321,270	"	70,679.00
Pecans	25,000	"	11,250.00
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		Total....	\$ 1,133,500.00

VEGETABLES

Lettuce	15,653 Carloads	\$ 17,531,360.00
Carrots	7,108 "	7,051,136.00
Carrots - Topped	1,288 "	1,700,160.00
Cabbage	627 "	702,240.00
Peas	37 "	84,175.00
Onions	229 "	446,500.00
Broccoli	232 "	324,800.00
Romaine	183 "	140,544.00
Cabbage - Bulk	5,569 Tons	111,380.00
Greens	41 Carloads	45,920.00
Mixed Vegetables	125 "	171,875.00
Carrots - Cull	1,553 Tons	3,106.00
Total....		\$ 28,313,246.00

TRUCK CROPS

Cantaloupe s	3,830 Carloads	6,442,060.00
Mixed Melons	62 "	79,050.00
Watermelons	1,035 "	807,300.00
Tomatoes	1,602 "	2,486,304.00
Tomatoes - Cannery	14,711 Tons	382,486.00
Squash	289 Carloads	794,750.00
Cucumbers	42 "	109,200.00
Asparagus	18 "	70,200.00
Green Corn	150 "	279,000.00
Total....		\$ 11,450,350.00

ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

Cattle	7,310 Carloads	15,351,000.00
Sheep	1,511 "	5,666,250.00
Wool	22 "	352,000.00
Hogs	110 "	501,312.00
Dairy Cattle	12,752 Head	2,231,600.00
Market Milk	1,786,610 Gallons	1,447,154.00
Dairy Products	566,539 Pounds	323,973.00
Dairy Products	335,817 Gallons	443,562.00
Pasturage	295,500 Head	2,229,075.00
Poultry	19,393 Dozen	189,696.00
Turkeys	975 Head	5,362.00
Bees	21,000 Colonies	252,000.00
Bee Wax	30,000 Pounds	12,300.00
Eggs	12,987 Cases	208,441.00
Total....		29,213,725.00

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Fertilizer	845 Carloads	\$ 105,625.00
Mineral Products	17,745 "	14,999,915.00
Dry Ice	7,743 Tons	247,776.00
Ice	297,000 "	1,291,950.00

Total.... \$ 16,645,266.00

SEED AND CUT FLOWERS

Cut Flowers		\$ 12,000.00
Flower Seed	2,000 Pounds	4,500.00
Lettuce Seed	20,000 "	25,000.00
Onion Seed	60,000 "	60,000.00
Alfalfa Seed	2,500,000 "	600,000.00
Clover Seed	100,000 "	10,000.00
Sesbania Seed	125,000 "	10,000.00
Vegetable Seed	30,000 "	15,000.00
Barley Seed	6,200,000 "	248,000.00
Wheat Seed	175,620 "	87,810.00
Flax Seed	814,281 "	122,142.00

Total.... \$ 1,194,452.00

Soil Improvement Payments Total.... 186,830.00

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Percent (Approx)</u>
Alfalfa	\$14,488,200	\$13,906,547	\$ 581,653	4%
Sugar Beets	9,243,696	8,416,940	826,750	10%
Cotton	20,496,050	6,339,600	14,156,450	225%
Cotton Seed	1,260,215	684,648	575,567	84%
Castor Beans	790,740	374,400	416,340	111%
Lettuce	17,531,360	10,986,400	6,544,960	60%
Carrots	7,051,136	6,750,190	300,946	4%
Broccoli	324,800	212,400	112,400	52%
Sheep	5,666,250	4,767,922	898,328	18%
Pasturage	2,229,075	1,020,699	1,208,376	119%
Cantaloupes	6,442,060	5,135,320	1,306,740	26%
Tomatoes	2,486,304	2,149,031	337,273	15%
Squash	794,750	394,000	400,750	101%
Green Corn	279,000	139,200	139,800	100%
Mineral Products	14,999,915	7,103,730	7,896,185	110%
Lettuce Seed	25,000	10,000	15,000	150%

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

Field Crops	\$60,409,134.00
Fruit and Nuts	1,133,500.00
Vegetables	28,313,246.00
Truck Crops	11,450,350.00
Animal Industries	29,213,725.00
Misc. Items	16,645,266.00
Seed and Cut Flowers	1,194,452.00
Sugar	4,545,290.00
Soil Improvement Payments	186,830.00
TOTAL.....	<u>153,091,793.00</u>

ACREAGE 1952

Field Crops	431,216 Acres
Permanent Crops	3,571 "
Vegetable Crops	61,509 "

Area In Irrigated District	619,193 Acres
1942 Inclusion	276,542 "
Gross Area of District	895,735 "

Number of Farms	4,838 Farms
Average Area per Farm	106.41 Acres

ASSESSED VALUATION

-1910-	-1952-
\$12,148,180.00	\$ 60,566,243.00

CROP AND LIVESTOCK VALUES

-1942-	-1952-
\$44,348,971.00	\$ 153,091,793.00

Total valuations as listed in the 1952 Agricultural Report increased sharply over 1951 figures. Markets on most agricultural products were strong throughout the entire year.

Sheep and cattle pasturage was abundant and the total number of cattle pastured and fed in feed yards increased over previous years.

Production of alfalfa meal remained about steady with no increase as the demand for hay continued through most of the year.

Alfalfa seed production showed no increase over 1951 production - approximately 2,500,000 lbs. of seed was harvested during the 1952 season.

Decreased acreage planted to flax was apparently due to a great increase in the acreage of cotton. Flax yields were above the average of last year.

Truck crops were favored with better market prices during the year with substantial increases in returns. Markets and demand were strong during the entire season.

Cotton acreage increased to 85,000 acres for the year. Yields were generally good - reporting an over-all average for the area of 1.4 bales per acre. Adequate ginning facilities were available and no difficulty was encountered in harvesting the current crop.

- PEST CONTROL -

Insect pests affecting truck and vegetable crops proved to be a major problem. Cotton, sugar beets and fall vegetable crops required almost continuous application of insecticides. Insecticide permits issued by the Agricultural Department indicated that 334,359 acres were treated by the application of 9,719,725 pounds of insecticide dust. 1,500,000 gallons of spray including defoliant, pre-harvest and weed control were applied during the season.

Grasshoppers continued to be serious pests in some areas of the Valley. Very satisfactory control was had through the use of flake bran and chlordane applied at the rate of 10 lbs. per acre by airplane. Federal government supplies were exhausted and all necessary materials were then purchased by the County. Actual material costs excepting handling and labor

were paid by the users. 128 tons of bait were mixed and distributed. This program will be continued through 1953. This bait proved satisfactory when applied for crickets damaging young lettuce and corn plants.

- HIGHWAY TRUCK CHECKING STATIONS -

Four inspection and checking stations, one on Highway 99, one on Highway 80, one on Highway 111, west of Niland and one at Ocotillo are manned and operated by the Agricultural Department. These stations are operated twenty-four hours per day throughout the year and have proven to be of great value in checking produce moving to markets. Records of trucks have also been of value in the checking of stolen property by law enforcing agencies.

- PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL -

A cooperative arrangement for predatory animal control between the State and Federal Department and Imperial County has been very beneficial to livestock 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 Bureau's heavy duty trucks and personnel. Light scales, pumps and meters are checked by County Deputies throughout the year.

