

CROP AND LIVESTOCK

LOS ANGELES COUNTY 1978 REPORT



COVER PHOTO by AL BERESFORD

THRASHING DRY LIMA BEANS....once a major field crop in the early days of Los Angeles County agriculture, dry lima bean production still survives in the Playa del Rey area.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



ANNUAL CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT

1978

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kenneth Hahn Chairman

Edmund D. Edelman

James A. Hayes

Peter F. Schabarum

Baxter Ward

Harry L. Hufford
Chief Administrative Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1978 CROP & LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Despite the adverse impact of record rainfall, which delayed plantings and interrupted harvest, 1978 gross receipts from Los Angeles County crop and livestock production increased to \$204,000,000--the highest total recorded in twenty years.

Crop categories showing significant gains included: nursery stock, to \$92,820,000 and field crops, to \$17,456,000. All other fruit and vegetable categories showed substantial increases in gross returns as unit prices climbed despite declines in acreage planted.

FRUIT CROPS

For the second consecutive year, deciduous fruit and nut production and sales demand were above normal. High unit prices helped to offset lost dollar value in this category brought about by a decline in citrus and avocado acreage and production. The overall gross value of fruit crops, including strawberries, was \$12,036,700 dollars. Leading fruit crops were--peaches and nectarines, \$1,212,905; pears \$1,211,000 and berries \$6,845,000.

FIELD CROPS

Extremely heavy rainfall was beneficial to alfalfa hay, dry lima beans and rangeland production. Increased tonnage and higher unit prices in 1978 forced the field crop value to a record high of \$17,456,000-- a figure that is \$2,196,500 above the 1977 season. Gross figures for county field crops could have been even greater if late rainfall had not prevented planting of additional acreage.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Unusually inclement weather at time of winter and early spring vegetable planting tended to curtail the number of acres placed under cultivation. As a result the production of early harvested vegetables was greatly reduced. Nevertheless, above normal production together with record high unit prices of later-harvested commodities accounted for the still substantial gross value of \$33,656,700. A major loss of 2,565 acres occurred in carrots, dry onions and mustard greens. Leading vegetable crops were--bean & alfalfa sprouts \$6,875,000; sweet corn \$2,954,000; dry onion \$5,941,000; and radish \$2,830,000.

NURSERY CROPS

Nursery crops recorded a gain of over 10% for the fourth consecutive year. The total increase over the past four years amounts to \$34,629,000 dollars. Increased out of state demand for Los Angeles County nursery stock was one of the major factors in gross returns reaching the record high figure of \$92,820,000 dollars.

NURSERY CROPS (cont)

For the last two seasons most wholesale ornamental shrubs & trees nurseries have not been able to meet the consumers needs within or out of the state. Leading categories were--ornamental trees & shrubs \$60,060,000; indoor foliage plants \$11,937,000; bedding plants \$6,103,000; ground covers \$5,688,000.

CUT FLOWERS

Cut flowers and cut greens again held steady, returning \$4,511,000, despite some loss of acreage and delays in spring planting due to heavy rainfall. Price increases for most products, plus a slightly greater demand, were significant factors in preventing a substantial reduction in this category.

APIARY PRODUCTS

Apiary operators had a bumper year compared to 1977 as gross receipts reached \$1,319,000 dollars. Record rainfall stimulated native chaparral and agricultural growth to produce heavy bloom, which in return led to an unusually heavy honey flow.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Total livestock and poultry production of \$42,401,000 for 1978 was down 4% from 1977. Most all areas showed some decrease but increased prices minimized the overall reduction. The continuing exodus of dairy cows and laying hens from Los Angeles County was evident in lower milk and egg report values.

Valuation figures are based on delivery price at the market or on F.O.B. price for commodities shipped out of state. All prices have been compared to Federal-State Market News quotations.

Assistance received from the many individuals and agencies consulted is acknowledged and appreciated.

PAUL B. ENGLER
Agricultural Commissioner

ROBERT J. SCHROEDER, DMV
Department of Health Services

April 1, 1979

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FRUIT & NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value		
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total	
<u>CITRUS FRUITS</u>								
Oranges	1978	40	4.7	188	Ton	\$	239.35	\$ 45,000
Navel	1977	84	8.25	693	"		133.35	92,400
Oranges	1978	123	5.9	726	"		238.30	173,000
Valencia	1977	140	8.4	1,176	"		123.25	145,000
Lemons	1978	336	4.9	1,646	"		236.25	389,000
	1977	397	9.5	3,772	"		105.25	397,000
Grapefruit	1978	24	2.1	50	"		150.00	7,500
	1977	14	6.7	94	"		120.00	11,300
Misc. Citrus	1978	8						7,000
	1977	6						14,000
Total	1978	531						621,500
	1977	641						659,700
<u>OTHER FRUITS & NUTS</u>								
Almonds (a)	1978	400	.50	200	"		3,000.00	600,000
	1977	410	.50	205	"		1,698.00	348,000
Apples (b)	1978	32	3.9	125	"		438.50	54,800
	1977	32	3.5	112	"		300.00	33,600
Avocados	1978	710	1.5	1,065	"		788.50	840,000
	1977	948	1.1	1,043	"		780.50	814,000
Cherries	1978	43	1.1	47	"		804.25	37,800
	1977	39	1.1	43	"		800.00	34,400
Figs	1978	14	13.1	183	"		1,230.00	225,000
	1977	14	8.7	122	"		1,901.65	232,000
Peaches	1978	368	6.9	2,539	"		458.50	1,164,000
Freestone	1977	368	6.6	2,429	"		400.00	972,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS (cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
<i>OTHER FRUITS & NUTS (Cont'd)</i>							
Pears (b)	1978	290	8.4	2,436	Ton \$	497.00	\$ 1,211,000
Bartlett	1977	290	15.0	4,350	"	250.00	1,088,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts	1978	412					437,000
	1977	416					343,000
Total	1978	2,269					4,569,600
	1977	2,517					5,095,000
 <i>BERRIES</i>							
Strawberries	1978	538	20.1	10,814	"	633.00	6,845,000
	1977	524	22.4	11,738	"	679.00	7,970,000
 <hr/>							
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	1978	3,438					\$ 12,036,100
	1977	3,682					13,724,700

(a) High unit price is due to crop losses in other growing areas in California

(b) High unit prices are due to large amounts sold at retail

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Barley	1978	6,260	.46	2,880	Ton \$	93.50	\$ 269,000
	1977	9,827	.60	5,896	"	71.00	419,000
Lima Beans (c)	1978	380	.50	190	"	1,020.00	194,000
	1977	247	.46	114	"	759.00	86,500
Hay, Alfalfa	1978	23,875	8.6	205,325	"	60.00	12,320,000
	1977	23,895	7.9	188,770	"	51.00	9,627,000

FIELD CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Hay, Grain	1978	4,790	2.0	9,580	"	52.00	498,000
	1977	5,990	2.3	13,777	"	54.50	751,000
Pasture - Irrigated	1978	1,050					365,000
	1977	1,420					284,000
Range Land	1978	180,000					720,000
	1977	175,000					481,000
Sugar Beets (d)	1978	3,200	28.0	89,600	"	28.00	2,509,000
	1977	3,700	35.0	129,500	"	23.00	2,978,000
Wheat	1978	6,310	.32	2,019	"	96.50	195,000
	1977	7,600	.66	5,016	"	60.00	301,000
Misc. Field Crops (e)	1978	210					386,000
	1977	284					332,000
Total	1978	226,075					\$ 17,456,000
	1977	227,963					15,259,500

Acreage, production
& value of
Seed Crops

Alfalfa	1978	300(*)	89	26,700	Lbs. \$.73	\$	19,500
	1977	100(*)	89	8,900	"	.70		6,230

(c) High unit price reflects the fact that most lima bean harvest was sold as certified seed.

(d) No payments for Sugar Act received in 1978

(e) Dollar amount shown for 1978 includes \$350,000 paid for sheep and cattle grazing on alfalfa and barley stubble; 1977 includes \$337,250 for such grazing. Milo, Safflower, Garbanzos, and Sudan grass are the only other commodities included in misc. acreage figure.

(*) Included in harvested acreage shown for alfalfa hay.

VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
<i>Sprouts</i>	1978	--	--	13,480	Ton	\$ 510.00	\$ 6,875,000
<i>Bean & Alfalfa</i>	1977	--	--	8,913	"	500.00	4,457,000
<i>Beets, table</i>	1978	114	10.8	1,231	"	119.50	147,000
	1977	137	10.5	1,439	"	159.00	229,000
<i>Cabbage</i>	1978	161	16.5	2,656	"	191.50	509,000
	1977	175	13.4	2,345	"	185.00	434,000
<i>Carrots</i>	1978	142	24.2	3,437	"	254.50	875,000
	1977	1,400	24.5	34,300	"	113.00	3,876,000
<i>Cauliflower</i>	1978	24	10.8	259	"	119.50	31,000
	1977	25	11.9	298	"	82.50	23,000
<i>Chinese Food Vegetables</i>	1978	225	20.6	4,635	"	132.00	612,000
	1977	249	20.5	5,105	"	117.00	597,000
<i>Corn, sweet</i>	1978	1,979	4.8	9,499	"	311.00	2,954,000
	1977	1,926	6.2	11,941	"	247.00	2,949,000
<i>Lettuce, leaf</i>	1978	233	5.6	1,305	"	296.50	387,000
	1977	235	5.5	1,293	"	245.00	317,000
<i>Melons</i>							
<i>Cantaloupe & Misc.</i>	1978	145	8.1	1,175	"	224.75	264,000
	1977	317	8.8	2,790	"	124.75	348,000
<i>Watermelon</i>	1978	130	10.0	1,300	"	200.00	260,000
	1977	65	10.0	650	"	180.00	117,000
<i>Mushrooms (f)</i>	1978	--	--	--		--	--
	1977	--	--	1,250	"	2,000.00	2,500,000
<i>Mustard & other greens</i>	1978	671	5.0	3,355	"	242.00	812,000
	1977	989	4.4	4,352	"	289.25	1,259,000
<i>Onions, dry</i>	1978	1,717	20.0	34,340	"	173.00	5,941,000
	1977	2,532	27.1	68,617	"	141.50	9,709,000
<i>Pumpkins</i>	1978	198	15.7	3,108	"	96.00	298,000
	1977	159	14.6	2,321	"	116.00	269,000
<i>Radishes</i>	1978	1,227	9.2	11,288	"	250.75	2,830,000
	1977	1,152	10.5	12,096	"	200.25	2,422,000

VEGETABLE CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Rhubarb	1978	13	5.1	66	"	419.50	27,700
	1977	13	5.7	74	"	351.25	26,000
Squash, Summer	1978	89	6.2	552	"	297.00	164,000
	1977	103	3.3	340	"	579.50	197,000
Squash, Winter	1978	113	12.0	1,356	"	80.50	109,000
	1977	85	10.1	859	"	69.50	60,000
Tomatoes, Market (c)	1978	44	15.0	660	"	525.00	346,000
	1977	50	9.9	495	"	351.50	174,000
Turnips	1978	157	10.2	1,601	"	274.00	439,000
	1977	189	12.2	2,306	"	229.00	528,000
Misc. Vegetables	1978	1,296					9,776,000
	1977	1,779					9,008,000
Total	1978	8,678					\$ 33,656,700
	1977	11,580					39,499,000

(c) High unit price is due to large amounts sold at retail

(f) Mushroom figures are now included in Misc. Vegetables figures.

NURSERY PRODUCTS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
<i>Nursery Crops</i>							
Bedding plants	1978		43	1,293,000	Flats	\$ 4.72	6,103,000
	1977		47	1,508,300	"	4.70	\$ 7,089,000
Cacti-Succulents	1978		11				175,000
	1977		13				189,000
Geranium cuttings	1978		144	9,755,000	Cuttings	.11	1,073,000
	1977		90	8,100,000	"	.11	891,000
Ground cover	1978		113	1,351,000	Flats	4.21	5,688,000
	1977		110	1,192,106	"	3.72	4,435,000
Turf (sod & stolon)	1978		45				355,000
	1977		38				277,000
Ornamental trees & shrubs	1978		1,765	38,500,000	Plants	1.56	60,060,000
	1977		1,685	31,120,800	"	1.64	51,038,000
Miscellaneous Bulbs, Roots, Dichondra seed & other specialties	1978		70				1,697,000
	1977		80				1,200,000
Vegetable plants	1978	8		500,000	Flats	3.02	1,510,000
	1977	12		657,600	"	2.95	1,940,000
Indoor plants foliage	1978	66		23,873,500	Pots	.50	11,937,000
	1977	64		21,090,600	"	.50	10,545,000
Indoor potted flowering	1978	30		1,402,500	"	2.15	3,018,000
	1977	41		1,863,700	"	1.78	3,317,000
Orchid plants	1978	5					1,204,000
	1977	5					1,202,000
Total	1978	109	2,191				\$ 92,820,000
	1977	122	2,063				82,123,000

CUT FLOWERS & DECORATIVES

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
Carnations	1978	17		10,550,000	Blooms	\$.085	\$ 897,000
	1977	17		12,036,000	"	.09	1,083,000
Christmas trees	1978		214	48,000	Trees	18.50	888,000
	1977		211	57,850	"	14.85	859,000
Chrysanthemums -Stand. & disbuds	1978	9		900,000	Blooms	.40	360,000
	1977	9		962,000	"	.36	346,000
-Pompon	1978	9	30	187,400	Bundle	3.50	656,000
	1977	9	36	187,500	"	3.40	638,000
Orchids, cut all varieties	1978	7					294,000
	1977	7					280,000
Miscellaneous (cut greens & other cut flowers)	1978		236				1,416,000
	1977		240				1,440,000
Total	1978	42	480				\$ 4,511,000
	1977	42	487				4,646,000

TOTAL ALL PLANTS CROPS
1978

Acres
240,913

Value
\$160,499,300

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production		Unit	Value	
		Total			Per Unit	Total
Honey	1978	\$ 2,400,000		Lbs.	\$.43	\$ 1,032,000
	1977	1,020,000		"	.40	480,000
Beeswax	1978	40,000		"	1.55	62,000
	1977	17,000		"	1.40	23,800
Pollination	1978	15,000		Colonies	15.00	225,000
	1977	12,000		"	10.00	120,000
Total	1978					\$ 1,319,000
	1977					623,800

GRAND TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS 1978

\$161,818,300

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY: INVENTORY, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Species	Year	Inventory	Production		Unit	Value			
			No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Per Unit	Total		
<u>CATTLE & CALVES</u>									
Dairy	1978	6,500	--	--	--	\$	--	\$	--
Cows	1977	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cull Cows	1978	--	2,100	2,100,000	Cwt.	36.60			769,000
	1977	--	3,300	3,300,000	"	24.70			815,000
Calves	1978	900	6,000	--	Head	32.33			194,000
	1977	750	8,500	--	"	14.50			123,000
Heifers	1978	1,100	1,000	--	"	500.00			500,000
	1977	1,250	1,200	--	"	350.00			420,000
Beef									
Feeder Calves	1978	1,000	2,000	400,000	Cwt.	52.50			209,000
	1977	2,700	3,700	740,000	"	33.70			249,000
Fed Steers & Heifers	1978	8,000	14,000	4,200,000	"	51.50			2,163,000
	1977	9,500	18,500	5,550,000	"	38.90			2,159,000
<u>SHEEP & LAMBS</u>									
Breeding Stock	1978	34,000	--	--	--	--			--
	1977	33,200	--	--	--	--			--
Fat Lambs	1978	30,500	32,000	2,560,000	Cwt.	60.70			1,554,000
	1977	30,000	31,500	2,480,000	"	50.50			1,252,000
<u>HOGS & PIGS</u>									
Slaughter Hogs	1978	3,200	4,200	504,000	"	48.30			243,000
	1977	3,200	4,200	504,000	"	40.90			206,000
<u>BROILERS & FRYERS</u>									
	1978	190,000	1,022,000	4,088,000	Lb.	.283			1,157,000
	1977	215,000	1,075,000	4,300,000	"	.268			1,152,000
<u>OTHER CHICKENS</u>									
Hens	1978	--	175,000	613,000	"	.070			43,000
	1977	--	312,000	1,092,000	"	.081			88,000
Laying Hens	1978	265,000	--	--	--	--			--
	1977	472,000	--	--	--	--			--
Roasters	1978	649,000	2,415,000	15,698,000	Lb.	.380			5,965,000
	1977	171,000	2,041,000	13,267,000	"	.357			4,736,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY (Cont.)

Species	Year	Inventory	Production		Unit	Value		
			No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Per Unit	Total	
<u>TURKEYS</u>	1978	20,700	626,000	11,268,000	Lb.	\$.423	\$4,766,000	
	1977	30,500	749,000	13,482,000	"	.334	4,503,000	
<u>OTHER LIVESTOCK</u> (Ducks, Poults, Goats, Rabbits, Chicks)	1978	--	--	--	--	--	728,000	
	1977	--	--	--	--	--	690,000	
<u>HORSES</u>	1978	60,000	4,500	--	Head	550.00	2,475,000	
	1977	56,500	4,250	--	"	450.00	1,913,000	
<i>Total</i>	1978						20,766,000	
	1977						18,306,000	
Product	Year		Production	Unit		Value		
						Per Unit	Total	
<u>MILK</u>								
<i>Market</i>	1978		1,750,000	Cwt.		\$ 10.504	\$18,382,000	
	1977		2,011,000	"		10.106	20,323,000	
<i>Manufacturing</i>	1978		--	"		--	--	
	1977		3,300	"		7.09	23,000	
<u>WOOL</u>	1978		357,000	Lb.		.77	275,000	
	1977		312,000	"		1.00	312,000	
<u>EGGS</u>	1978		5,411,000	Dozen		.447	2,418,000	
	1977		9,637,000	"		.494	4,760,000	
<u>WORMS</u>	1978		280,000	Lb.		2.00	560,000	
	1977		280,000	"		2.00	560,000	
<i>Total</i>	1978						\$21,635,000	
	1977						25,977,000	
GRAND TOTAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTION 1978								\$42,401,000

SUMMARY

1974-1978, Inclusive

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
<i>Citrus Fruits</i>	\$ 2,588,800	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 1,147,100	\$ 659,700	\$ 621,500
<i>Misc. Fruits & Nuts</i>	3,503,000	2,621,000	3,415,000	5,095,000	4,569,600
<i>Berries</i>	3,600,000	3,468,000	4,724,000	7,970,000	6,845,000
<i>Field Crops</i>	14,324,100	13,332,000	16,016,700	15,265,730	17,475,500
<i>Vegetables</i>	15,027,000	20,873,900	26,632,600	39,499,000	33,656,700
<i>Nursery Stock</i>	59,921,000	58,191,000	70,370,000	82,123,000	92,820,000
<i>Cut Flowers</i>	4,224,000	4,277,000	4,290,000	4,646,000	4,511,000
<i>Total Plant Crops*</i>	\$103,187,900	\$105,082,900	\$126,595,400	\$155,258,430	\$160,499,300
<i>Apiary Products</i>	969,400	662,000	383,900	623,800	1,319,000
<i>Total Plant Crops* & Apiary Products</i>	\$104,157,300	\$105,744,900	\$126,979,300	\$155,882,230	\$161,818,300
<i>Livestock & Poultry</i>	54,212,000	46,827,000	47,216,000	44,283,000	42,401,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$158,369,300	\$152,571,900	\$174,195,300	\$200,165,230	\$204,219,300

**U.S. Department of Agricultural Payments not included in these totals to conform to state-wide tabulation system for county crop reports.*

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

155 W. WASHINGTON BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90015

