

CROP AND LIVESTOCK

LOS ANGELES COUNTY 1979 REPORT



COVER PHOTO: By E. Deming Williams

Deciduous Fruit Trees in Bloom....Peach, plum and cherry acreage continued to increase over the past five years in the Antelope Valley area of Los Angeles County. Many growers of deciduous fruit sell a large volume of their product at retail roadside stands as well as in the wholesale market.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



ANNUAL CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT
1979

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1979 CROP & LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Agricultural crops in Los Angeles County developed well under near normal rainfall and a minimum of weather problems during the 1979 season. Gross receipts for crop and livestock production increased to a figure of \$219,282,700--the highest total in over twenty-four years. Major crop categories showing substantial increases were: nursery stock \$104,671,000; vegetable crops \$34,537,000; and field crops \$23,342,000.

FRUIT CROPS

Deciduous fruit and nut production and sales demand were strong. A gross dollar figure of \$9,695,000 continued to show the influence of inflationary pressures in all fruit crop prices. Production and value were well above 1978 for avocados, \$1,205,000, and peaches, \$1,406,000. Strawberry yields showed a major reduction following loss of planted acreage and severe early frost damage resulting in a \$2,400,000 loss.

FIELD CROPS

Near normal yields of most field crops and higher prices in 1979 again forced field crop value to a record high of \$23,342,000. Extremely high unit prices for alfalfa hay throughout the year was a major factor in a \$5,800,000 increase in total field crop value.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Vegetable crops regained over half of the 2,000 acres lost in 1978 due to inclement weather with gross receipts reaching \$34,537,000. Higher prices along with some increases in production were the major influences in a higher gross dollar figure. Leading vegetable crops were--bean & alfalfa sprouts \$7,854,000. Dry onions \$4,802,000; radishes \$4,655,000 and sweet corn \$2,617,000.

NURSERY CROPS

Increasing demand for nursery stock grown in Los Angeles County has spiraled the total value to \$104,671,000 during 1979. Instrumental in the steady increase is greater demand by out of state customers. Gross value could have been even greater if it were not for the fact that the industry was unable to keep pace with demand in many categories of nursery stock. Leading categories were--ornamental trees and shrubs \$70,601,000. Indoor foliage plants \$10,046,000; bedding plants \$8,023,000 and ground covers \$5,721,000.

CUT FLOWERS

Price increases for most cut flowers and cut greens more than compensated for a slight but steady decline in acreage during the 1979 season; returning, \$4,414,000. Competition from foreign imports continued to influence returns to local producers.

APIARY PRODUCTS

Honey production was lower than in 1978 due to a lighter bloom on native and agricultural vegetation, thus restricting the abundance of nectar and pollen. However, price increases for honey, beeswax and pollination all made substantial gains resulting in a total of \$1,067,000.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Higher cattle prices were instrumental in maintaining the 1979 livestock and poultry production at near the previous year's level with a total of \$41,557,000. Dairy cattle continued to leave the County as indicated by decreased milk production. Broiler production was also down in the north county area but this loss was more than offset by expanded roaster and turkey flocks.

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. Special thanks is extended to Alfred G. Beresford Agricultural Inspector III who coordinated the compiling of this and many previous reports.

PAUL B. ENGLER
Agricultural Commissioner

WARNER L. ROTTMAN, DVM
Department of Health Services

April 17, 1980

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>									
Lemons	1979	232	3.3	766	Ton	\$	528.75	\$	405,000
	1978	336	4.9	1,646	"		236.25		389,000
Misc. Citrus (a)	1979	136							90,500
	1978	8							7,000
Total	1979	368							495,500
	1978	531							621,500

(a) Misc. Citrus now includes all orange varieties, grapefruit and limes.

OTHER FRUITS & NUTS

Almonds	1979	400	.244	98	"	2,245.00	220,000
	1978	400	.50	200	"	3,000.00	600,000
Apples (b)	1979	32	2.2	70	"	447.00	31,300
	1978	32	3.9	125	"	438.50	54,800
Avocados	1979	710	2.2	1,562	"	771.50	1,205,000
	1978	710	1.5	1,065	"	788.50	840,000
Cherries	1979	49	1.1	54	"	839.00	45,300
	1978	43	1.1	47	"	804.25	37,800
Figs	1979	14	12.4	174	"	1,615.00	281,000
	1978	14	13.1	183	"	1,230.00	225,000
Peaches Freestone	1979	420	7.0	2,940	"	478.25	1,406,000
	1978	368	6.9	2,539	"	458.50	1,164,000
Pears (b) Bartlett	1979	260	8.1	2,106	"	520.00	1,095,000
	1978	290	8.4	2,436	"	497.00	1,211,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts	1979	410					484,000
	1978	412					437,000
Total	1979	2,295					4,766,600
	1978	2,269					4,569,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS (cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
<u>BERRIES</u>							
Strawberries	1979	436	12.9	5,624	Ton	\$ 788.00	\$ 4,432,000
	1978	538	20.1	10,814	"	633.00	6,845,000
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TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	1979	3,099					\$ 9,695,100
	1978	3,438					12,036,100

(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
<i>Barley</i>	1979	5,402	.29	1,567	Ton	\$ 109.75	\$ 172,000
	1978	6,260	.46	2,880	"	93.50	269,000
<i>Lima Beans</i> (c)	1979	--	--	--		--	--
	1978	380	.50	190	"	1,020.00	194,000
<i>Hay, Alfalfa</i>	1979	23,210	8.5	197,285	"	95.00	18,742,000
	1978	23,875	8.6	205,325	"	60.00	12,320,000
<i>Hay, Grain</i>	1979	2,390	1.5	3,585	"	60.00	215,000
	1978	4,790	2.0	9,580	"	52.00	498,000
<i>Pasture - Irrigated</i>	1979	1,040					390,000
	1978	1,050					365,000
<i>Range Land</i>	1979	180,000					901,000
	1978	180,000					720,000
<i>Sugar Beets</i> (d)	1979	2,200	31.0	68,200	"	32.00	2,182,000
	1978	3,200	28.0	89,600	"	28.00	2,509,000

FIELD CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit		Value	
			Per Acre	Total			Per Unit	Total
Wheat	1979	5,119	.16	773	Ton	\$	141.00	\$ 109,000
	1978	6,310	.32	2,019	"		96.50	195,000
Misc. Field Crops (e)	1979	775						504,000
	1978	210						386,000
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Total	1979	220,361						\$ 23,329,000
	1978	226,075						17,456,000

Acreage, production
& value of
Seed Crops

Alfalfa	1979	200(*)	89	17,800	Lbs.	\$.75	\$ 13,300
	1978	300(*)	89	26,700	"		.73	19,500

(c) Dry Lima Beans figures included in misc. field crops.

(d) No payments for Sugar Act received in 1979.

(e) Dollar amount shown for 1979 includes \$280,000 paid for sheep and cattle grazing on alfalfa and barley stubble; 1978 includes \$350,000 for such grazing. Milo, Safflower, Garbanzos, and Dry Lima Beans 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>							
<i>Bean & Alfalfa</i>	1979	--	--	14,000	Ton	\$ 561.00	\$ 7,854,000
	1978			13,480	"	510.00	6,875,000
<i>Beets, table</i>	1979	25	13.4	335	"	140.50	47,000
	1978	114	10.8	1,231	"	119.50	147,000
<i>Cabbage</i>	1979	50	5.7	285	"	282.00	80,400
	1978	161	16.5	2,656	"	191.50	509,000
<i>Carrots</i>	1979	240	21.0	5,040	"	166.25	838,000
	1978	142	24.2	3,437	"	254.50	875,000
<i>Cauliflower</i>	1979	7	6.8	48	"	210.00	10,100
	1978	24	10.8	259	"	119.50	31,000
<i>Chinese Food Vegetables</i>	1979	86	18.0	1,548	"	160.00	248,000
	1978	225	20.6	4,635	"	132.00	612,000
<i>Corn, sweet</i>	1979	1,586	5.0	7,930	"	330.00	2,617,000
	1978	1,979	4.8	9,499	"	311.00	2,954,000
<i>Lettuce, leaf</i>	1979	25	4.5	175	"	303.00	53,000
	1978	233	5.6	1,305	"	296.50	387,000
<i>Melons</i>	1979	--	--	--		--	--
<i>Cantaloupe & Misc. (f)</i>	1978	145	8.1	1,175	"	224.75	264,000
<i>Watermelon</i>	1979	165	10.0	1,650	"	196.50	324,000
	1978	130	10.0	1,300	"	200.00	260,000
<i>Mustard & other greens</i>	1979	534	5.5	2,937	"	311.00	913,000
	1978	671	5.0	3,355	"	242.00	812,000
<i>Onions, dry</i>	1979	1,728	22.5	38,880	"	123.50	4,802,000
	1978	1,717	20.0	34,340	"	173.00	5,941,000
<i>Pumpkins</i>	1979	112	11.3	1,266	"	90.00	114,000
	1978	198	15.7	3,108	"	96.00	298,000
<i>Radishes</i>	1979	1,532	10.7	16,392	"	284.00	4,655,000
	1978	1,227	9.2	11,288	"	250.75	2,830,000
<i>Rhubarb</i>	1979	11	4.3	48	"	487.50	23,400
	1978	13	5.1	66	"	419.50	27,700

VEGETABLE CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Squash, Summer	1979	88	5.9	519	Ton	\$ 349.00	\$ 181,000
	1978	89	6.2	552	"	297.00	164,000
Squash, Winter (f)	1979	--	--	--		--	--
	1978	113	12.0	1,356	"	80.50	109,000
Tomatoes, Market	1979	43	6.4	275	"	393.00	108,000
	1978	44	15.0	660	"	525.00	346,000
Turnips	1979	28	11.7	328	"	211.50	69,400
	1978	157	10.2	1,601	"	274.00	439,000
Misc. Vegetables	1979	1,594					11,600,000
	1978	1,296					9,776,000
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Total	1979	9,448					\$ 34,537,300
	1978	8,678					33,656,700

(f) Cantaloupe and misc. melons, winter squash are included in misc. vegetable figures.

NURSERY PRODUCTS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
Nursery Crops							
Bedding plants	1979		41	1,415,000	Flats	\$ 5.67	\$ 8,023,000
	1978		43	1,293,000	"	4.72	6,103,000
Cacti-Succulents	1979		10				196,000
	1978		11				175,000
Geranium cuttings	1979		93	4,800,000	Cuttings	.15	720,000
	1978		144	9,755,000	"	.11	1,073,000
Ground cover	1979		101	1,212,000	Flats	4.72	5,721,000
	1978		113	1,351,000	"	4.21	5,688,000
Turf (sod & stolon)	1979		32				410,000
	1978		45				355,000
Ornamental trees & shrubs	1979		1,768	41,047,000	Plants	1.72	70,601,000
	1978		1,765	38,500,000	"	1.56	60,060,000
Miscellaneous Bulbs, Roots, Dichondra seed & other specialties	1979		72				2,880,000
	1978		70				1,697,000
Vegetable plants	1979	5		496,800	Flats	3.57	1,774,000
	1978	8		500,000	"	3.02	1,510,000
Indoor plants foliage	1979	55		15,047,700	Pots	.65	10,046,000
	1978	66		23,873,500	"	.50	11,937,000
Indoor potted flowering	1979	30		1,350,000	"	2.32	3,132,000
	1978	30		1,402,500	"	2.15	3,018,000
Orchid plants	1979	7					1,168,000
	1978	5					1,204,000
Total	1979	97	2,117				\$ 104,671,000
	1978	109	2,191				92,820,000

CUT FLOWERS & DECORATIVES

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
Carnations	1979	17		8,867,000	Blooms	\$.105	\$ 931,000
	1978	17		10,550,000	"	.085	897,000
Christmas trees	1979		200	40,200	Trees	20.00	804,000
	1978		214	48,000	"	18.50	888,000
Chrysanthemums -Stand. & disbuds	1979	5		750,000	Blooms	.40	300,000
	1978	9		900,000	"	.40	360,000
-Pompon	1979	6	24	144,000	Bundle	3.60	518,000
	1978	9	30	187,400	"	3.50	656,000
Orchids, cut all varieties	1979	7					303,000
	1978	7					294,000
Miscellaneous (cut greens & other cut flowers)	1979		230				1,558,000
	1978		236				1,416,000
Total	1979	35	454				\$ 4,414,000
	1978	42	480				4,511,000

TOTAL ALL PLANTS CROPS
1979

Acres
235,611

Value
\$176,658,700

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
		Total		Per Unit	Total
Honey	1979	1,500,000	Lbs.	.50	\$ 750,000
	1978	2,400,000	"	.43	1,032,000
Beeswax	1979	25,000	"	1.88	47,000
	1978	40,000	"	1.55	62,000
Pollination	1979	15,000	Colonies	18.00	270,000
	1978	15,000	"	15.00	225,000
Total	1979				\$ 1,067,000
	1978				1,319,000

GRAND TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS 1979

\$177,725,700

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY: INVENTORY, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Species	Year	Inventory	Production		Unit	Value	
			No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Per Unit	Total
<u>CATTLE & CALVES</u>						\$	\$
Dairy	1979	4,500	--	--	--	--	--
Cows	1978	6,500	--	--	--	--	--
Cull Cows	1979	--	1,500	1,500,000	Cwt.	49.80	747,000
	1978	--	2,100	2,100,000	"	36.60	769,000
Calves	1979	850	4,200	--	Head	69.00	290,000
	1978	900	6,000	--	"	32.33	194,000
Heifers	1979	1,800	1,800	--	"	550.00	990,000
	1978	1,100	1,000	--	"	500.00	500,000
Beef							
Feeder							
Calves	1979	3,850	6,000	1,200,000	Cwt.	76.70	920,000
	1978	1,000	2,000	400,000	"	52.50	209,000
Fed Steers	1979	7,500	15,000	4,500,000	"	67.70	3,047,000
& Heifers	1978	8,000	14,000	4,200,000	"	51.50	2,163,000
<u>SHEEP & LAMPS</u>							
Breeding	1979	44,000	--	--	--	--	--
Stock	1978	34,000	--	--	--	--	--
Fat Lambs	1979	38,000	42,000	3,360,000	Cwt.	66.50	2,234,000
	1978	30,500	32,000	2,560,000	"	60.70	1,554,000
<u>HOGS & PIGS</u>							
Slaughter	1979	5,000	7,000	840,000	"	45.90	386,000
Hogs	1978	3,200	4,200	504,000	"	48.30	243,000
<u>BROILERS & FRYERS</u>							
	1979	60,000	652,000	2,608,000	Lb.	.295	769,000
	1978	190,000	1,022,000	4,088,000	"	.283	1,157,000
<u>OTHER CHICKENS</u>							
Hens	1979	--	270,000	945,000	"	.100	94,500
	1978	--	175,000	613,000	"	.070	43,000
Laying Hens	1979	270,000	--	--	--	--	--
	1978	265,000	--	--	--	--	--
Roasters	1979	818,000	2,470,000	16,055,000	Lb.	.400	6,422,000
	1978	649,000	2,415,000	15,698,000	"	.380	5,965,000

SUMMARY

1975-1979, Inclusive

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
<i>Citrus Fruits</i>	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 1,147,100	\$ 659,700	\$ 621,500	\$ 495,500
<i>Misc. Fruits & Nuts</i>	2,621,000	3,415,000	5,095,000	4,569,600	4,766,600
<i>Berries</i>	3,468,000	4,724,000	7,970,000	6,845,000	4,432,000
<i>Field Crops</i>	13,332,000	16,016,700	15,265,730	17,475,500	23,342,300
<i>Vegetables</i>	20,873,900	26,632,600	39,499,000	33,656,700	34,537,300
<i>Nursery Stock</i>	58,191,000	70,370,000	82,123,000	92,820,000	104,671,000
<i>Cut Flowers</i>	4,277,000	4,290,000	4,646,000	4,511,000	4,414,000
<i>Total Plant Crops*</i>	\$105,082,900	\$126,595,400	\$155,258,430	\$160,499,300	\$176,658,700
<i>Apiary Products</i>	662,000	383,900	623,800	1,319,000	1,067,000
<i>Total Plant Crops* & Apiary Products</i>	\$105,744,900	\$126,979,300	\$155,882,230	\$161,818,300	\$177,725,700
<i>Livestock & Poultry</i>	46,827,000	47,216,000	44,283,000	42,401,000	41,557,000
<i>GRAND TOTAL</i>	\$152,571,900	\$174,195,300	\$200,165,230	\$204,219,300	\$219,282,700

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

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