

CROP AND LIVESTOCK

LOS ANGELES COUNTY 1981 REPORT



COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS CENTENNIAL, 1881-1981

A 100 YEAR HEADSTART ON THE FUTURE

Paul B. Engler, Commissioner

" . . . It is time for us to kiss the earth again,
it is time to let the leaves rain from the skies,
let the rich life run to the roots again . . ."

Return—by Robinson Jeffers
1887-1962
American Poet

COVER PHOTO: By Gary Maxwell, Agricultural Inspector III,
Integrated Pest Management Specialist

A commercial strawberry field under Edison powerlines
reflecting the continuing pressure of urban encroachment
on prime agriculture land in Los Angeles County.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



ANNUAL CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT

1981

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Peter F. Schabarum Chairman

Edmund D. Edelman

Deane Dana

Kenneth Hahn

Michael D. Antonovich

Harry L. Hufford
Chief Administrative Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1981 CROP & LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Agriculture remains healthy in Los Angeles County. Various crops on the decline were balanced out by the stronger ones and agricultural income maintained a type of equilibrium in a period of otherwise economic slowdown. In 1981, the gross value of agricultural products was up 3.4% to \$270,975,400. While the continued recession may have a major negative effect on 1982 figures, we are confident agriculture will remain a viable industry in Los Angeles County.

The figures in this report are gross values, and in no way reflect net income to the producer who must take into account the costs of production, harvesting and preparation for the market place before a profit can be realized.

FRUIT CROPS

Deciduous fruit and nut crop gross value figures remained strong for 1981. With the exception of declining almond acreage, total growing area remained relatively constant. Peach and avocado acreage shows signs of gradual increase in the future. Higher production of avocados and pears were offset by lower prices. Higher peach production along with stronger prices resulted in a 34% increase in gross value for this crop. Strawberry acreage remained fairly constant with slightly higher production and somewhat weaker prices. Total fruit and nut crops generated \$13,005,200 for 1981.

FIELD CROPS

Gross receipts for field crops showed a decline of 29% for 1981. A combination of depressed prices for alfalfa and sugar beets, in addition to lower production for barley and wheat, with inadequate rainfall accounted for most of the decline. Field crops grossed \$19,548,400 in 1981.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Production acreage was up 810 acres in 1981 and Los Angeles County vegetable farmers enjoyed an excellent year. Good demand and strong prices resulted in a 36% increase in total gross receipts for vegetable crops. The leading vegetable crop in 1981 was dry onions which grossed \$12,616,000. Total value for all vegetable crops in 1981 was \$53,418,000.

NURSERY STOCK

Nursery stock gross receipts maintained status quo for the 1981 season. There was a slight increase of 2% for a total gross income of \$119,185,000. With a continuation of current economic trends, the 1982 season gross income may be down. With an improvement in the economy, we can expect this strong industry to meet the demands of the future with high quality plant material to remain as Los Angeles County's leading crop.

CUT FLOWERS

The cut flower and cut green industry has remained strong during the 1981 season in spite of a decline in total acreage. A strong market and prices has kept the industry strong and healthy. The last quarter of 1981 reflected the current economic slowdown and showed a weakening market.

APIARY

The 1981 season was a depressing one for Los Angeles County Bee Keepers. Poor forage for the bees resulted in an overall decrease of 55% in honey and beeswax production, down from \$611,000 to \$273,600. Pollination was significantly up with an additional 1,000 colonies in the county. Overall, the bee industry was down roughly 30% for the 1981 season. With the wet spring, 1982 promises to be much brighter for the Los Angeles County Bee Keeper.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Total livestock and poultry production in Los Angeles County totalled \$60,162,220 in 1981. This represented an increase of slightly less than 1%.

Horse and egg production showed significant increases in 1981 while the other categories remained constant.

PAUL B. ENGLER
Agricultural Commissioner

JOSEPH A. MARRON, D.V.M., M.P.H.
Department of Health Services

April 1, 1982

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	1981	150	9.0	1,350	Ton	\$ 110.00	\$ 148,500
	1980	155	5.0	775	"	331.50	256,900
Misc. Citrus	1981	101					130,400
	1980	99					169,500
TOTAL	1981	251					\$ 278,900
	1980	254					\$ 426,400
<u>OTHER FRUITS & NUTS</u>							
Almonds	1981	101	.060	6	Ton	\$1,250.00	\$ 7,500
	1980	395	.116	46	"	3,174.00	146,000
Avocados	1981	710	3.0	2,130	"	520.00	1,107,600
	1980	710	.7	497	"	1,880.00	934,400
Cherries	1981	50	.4	20	"	1,220.00	24,400
	1980	50	1.0	50	"	840.00	42,000
Figs	1981	12	8.5	102	"	2,590.25	264,200
	1980	10	15.0	150	"	1,895.00	284,200
Peaches Freestone	1981	501	7.3	3,657	"	561.75	2,054,000
	1980	500	7.0	3,500	"	434.75	1,521,600
Pears Bartlett	1981	260	3.0	803	"	480.00	385,400
	1980	260	3.0	780	"	545.50	425,500
Misc. Fruits & Nuts	1981	411					682,700
	1980	452					607,200
TOTAL	1981	2,043					\$ 4,525,800
	1980	2,377					\$ 3,960,900
<u>BERRIES</u>							
Strawberries	1981	405	24.9	10,092	Ton	\$ 812.50	\$ 8,200,500
	1980	401	22.6	9,063	"	854.00	7,739,800
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	1981	2,699					\$ 13,005,200
	1980	3,032					\$ 12,127,100

FIELD CORPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Barley	1981	5,013	.22	1,103	Ton	\$ 130.00	\$ 143,400
	1980	6,034	.32	1,931	"	110.00	212,400
Hay, Alfalfa	1981	20,327	7.9	160,986	"	85.00	13,683,800
	1980	22,916	8.0	183,328	"	104.00	19,066,100
Hay, Grain	1981	1,320	2.1	2,744	"	73.40	201,400
	1980	1,500	2.0	3,000	"	60.60	181,800
Pasture -Irrigated	1981	605					214,500
	1980	550					211,700
Range Land	1981	242,000					998,000
	1980	242,250					1,190,000
Sugar Beets (a)	1981	2,775	37.0	102,675	"	33.00	3,388,300
	1980	3,860	35.0	135,100	"	45.00	6,079,500
Wheat	1981	6,600	.15	990	"	128.25	127,000
	1980	6,945	.20	1,389	"	100.00	138,900
Misc. Field Crops (b)	1981	555					763,500
	1980	493					607,200
TOTAL	1981	279,195					\$ 19,519,900
	1980	284,548					\$ 27,687,600
Acreage, Production & Value of Seed Crops							
Alfalfa	1981	200(*)	89	17,800	Lbs. \$	1.60	\$ 28,500
	1980	190(*)	89	16,910	"	.80	13,500

(a) No payments for Sugar Act received in 1981.

(b) Dollar amount shown for 1981 includes money paid for sheep and cattle grazing on alfalfa and barley stubble. Dry lima beans, bean straw, corn silage, and Sudan hay are the only other commodities included in Misc. Field Crops.

(*) 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>	1981	--	--	14,200	Ton	\$ 633.00	\$ 8,989,800
<i>Bean & Alfalfa</i>	1980	--	--	14,200	"	591.50	8,400,000
<i>Beets, Table</i>	1981	32	11.2	358	"	175.50	62,800
	1980	28	11.2	314	"	172.75	54,200
<i>Cabbage</i>	1981	37	12.4	459	"	173.75	79,800
	1980	24	12.1	290	"	153.00	44,400
<i>Carrots</i>	1981	81	25.0	2,025	"	280.00	567,000
	1980	50	26.0	1,300	"	300.00	390,000
<i>Chinese Food Vegetables</i>	1981	84	10.5	882	"	299.25	264,000
	1980	92	10.2	935	"	285.00	266,500
<i>Corn, Sweet</i>	1981	1,528	6.1	9,321	"	419.50	3,909,500
	1980	1,493	6.9	10,260	"	330.00	3,385,800
<i>Lettuce, Leaf</i>	1981	248	5.4	1,339	"	440.50	589,700
	1980	71	5.2	367	"	420.50	154,300
<i>Watermelon</i>	1981	360	10.0	3,600	"	239.75	863,000
	1980	260	10.0	2,600	"	219.25	570,000
<i>Mustard & Other Greens</i>	1981	595	5.5	3,272	"	328.25	1,074,300
	1980	547	6.9	3,774	"	264.25	997,300
<i>Onions, Dry</i>	1981	1,007	33.3	33,533	"	376.25	12,616,000
	1980	456	25.0	11,400	"	279.50	3,186,000
<i>Pumpkins</i>	1981	94	16.2	1,524	"	135.25	206,000
	1980	92	21.4	1,969	"	135.25	260,400
<i>Rhubarb</i>	1981	12	4.3	52	"	677.00	35,200
	1980	12	4.2	50	"	632.50	31,600
<i>Squash, Summer</i>	1981	69	5.6	389	"	590.75	229,800
	1980	115	4.3	495	"	402.00	199,000
<i>Tomatoes, Market</i>	1981	42	5.5	231	"	514.25	118,800
	1980	38	6.6	251	"	469.00	117,700
<i>Turnips</i>	1981	43	8.8	378	"	291.75	110,300
	1980	24	8.6	206	"	285.50	58,800
<i>Misc. Vegetables</i> (c)	1981	3,024					23,702,000
	1980	3,144					21,020,900

VEGETABLE CROPS (CONT.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Per Unit	Total
TOTAL	1981	7,256				\$ 53,418,000
	1980	6,446				\$ 39,136,900

(c) Confidentiality is maintained for products which are produced by three or less growers within Los Angeles County. Agricultural products represented in this category include cauliflower, cucumbers, beans (garbanzo), beans (snap), celery, leeks, miscellaneous melons, mushrooms, parsley, peas, radishes and winter squash.

NURSERY PRODUCTS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
<i><u>NURSERY CROPS</u></i>							
Bedding Plants	1981		51	1,879,000	Flats	\$6.19	\$ 11,640,000
	1980		43	1,404,000	"	6.10	8,557,000
Cacti-Succulents	1981		8	877,000		.34	299,000
	1980		10	--		.31	255,000
Geranium Cuttings	1981		92	2,840,000	Cuttings	.21	604,000
	1980		94	4,453,000	"	.16	702,000
Ground Cover	1981		101	1,191,000	Flats	5.06	6,026,000
	1980		104	1,209,000	"	4.90	5,932,000
Turf (Sod & Stolon)	1981		49				358,000
	1980		32				431,000
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	1981		1,911	36,684,053	Plants	2.24	82,172,000
	1980		1,838	38,303,885	"	2.17	83,255,000
Miscellaneous Bulbs, Roots, Dichondra Seed & Other Specialities	1981		70				2,772,000
	1980		72				3,080,000
Vegetable Plants	1981	5		334,422	FLats	4.34	1,452,000
	1980	5		465,000	"	3.89	1,810,000
Indoor Plants Foliage	1981	41		13,002,800	Pots	.72	9,362,000
	1980	53		15,140,000	"	.62	9,384,000
Indoor Potted Flowering	1981	18		923,000	Pots	2.72	2,510,000
	1980	22		640,000	"	3.15	2,015,000
Orchid Plants	1981	5					1,990,000
	1980	7					1,242,000
TOTAL	1981	69	2,282				\$119,185,000
	1980	87	2,193				\$116,663,000

CUT FLOWERS & DECORATIVES

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
Carnations	1981	19		10,326,875	Blooms	\$.140	\$ 1,446,000
	1980	17		11,475,000	"	.145	1,721,000
Christmas Trees	1981		181	50,510	Trees	24.70	1,248,000
	1980		187	40,470	"	24.00	971,000
Chrysanthemums - Standard	1981	8		641,200	Blooms	.50	321,000
	1980	8		782,000	"	.50	391,000
- Pompon	1981	10	9	131,234	Bundle	5.00	626,000
	1980	10	31	165,000	"	5.00	825,000
Orchids, Cut All Varieties (d)	1981	--		--	--	--	--
	1980	7					371,000
Miscellaneous (Cut Greens & Other Cut Flowers)	1981		165				1,390,000
	1980		230				1,558,000
TOTAL	1981	37	355				\$ 5,031,000
	1980	42	448				\$ 5,837,000

(d) Orchid figures are now included in Miscellaneous (Cut Greens and Other Cut Flowers).

		Acres	Value
TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS	1981	291,893	\$210,187,600
	1980	296,796	\$201,451,600

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
		Total		Per Unit	Total
Honey	1981	480,000	Lbs.	.54	\$ 259,200
	1980	1,200,000	"	.48	576,000
Beeswax	1981	8,000	"	1.80	14,400
	1980	20,000	"	1.75	35,000
Pollination	1981	16,000	Colonies	22.00	352,000
	1980	15,000	"	20.00	300,000
TOTAL	1981				\$ 625,600
	1980				\$ 911,000

GRAND TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS - 1981 \$ 210,813,200
 1980 \$ 202,362,600

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY: INVENTORY, PRODUCTION & VALUE

Species	Year	Inventory	Production		Unit	Value	
			No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Per Unit	Total
<u>CATTLE & CALVES</u>							
Dairy	1981	3,800	--	--	--	\$	--
Cows	1980	3,800	--	--	--	--	--
Cull Cows	1981	--	800	800,000	Cwt.	42.40	339,200
	1980	--	1,300	1,300,000	"	46.20	600,600
Calves	1981	1,400	4,100	--	Head	60.20	246,800
	1980	1,200	3,600	--	"	71.60	258,000
Heifers	1981	1,800	1,700	--	"	560.00	952,000
	1980	1,100	1,100	--	"	600.00	660,000
Beef							
Feeder Calves	1981	4,500	6,400	1,280,000	Cwt.	60.20	771,000
	1980	3,500	5,400	1,080,000	"	71.60	773,000
Fed Steers & Heifers	1981	15,500	36,500	10,950,000	"	63.10	6,910,000
	1980	16,000	31,000	9,300,000	"	68.30	6,352,000
<u>SHEEP & LAMBS</u>							
Breeding Stock	1981	49,000	--	--	--	--	--
	1980	44,000	--	--	--	--	--
Fat Lambs	1981	43,000	50,000	4,000,000	Cwt.	56.30	2,252,000
	1980	41,000	42,000	3,360,000	"	63.00	2,116,800
<u>HOGS & PIGS</u>							
Slaughter Hogs	1981	5,200	10,000	1,000,000	Cwt.	48.00	576,000
	1980	5,300	11,000	1,320,000	"	40.90	540,000
<u>BROILERS & FRYERS</u>							
	1981	127,000	3,228,000	12,912,000	Lb.	.34	4,390,000
	1980	500,000	4,400,000	17,600,000	"	.32	5,600,000
<u>OTHER CHICKENS</u>							
Hens	1981	--	492,000	1,722,000	Lb.	.12	206,600
	1980	--	310,000	1,085,000	"	.09	97,600
Laying Hens	1981	492,000	--	--	--	--	--
	1980	510,000	--	--	--	--	--
Roasters	1981	736,000	2,799,000	18,194,000	Lb.	.350	6,367,900
	1980	878,000	2,868,000	18,642,000	"	.410	7,643,220
<u>TURKEYS</u>							
	1981	14,600	689,200	12,405,600	Lb.	.410	5,086,300
	1980	45,000	878,000	15,804,000	"	.410	6,480,000
<u>OTHER LIVESTOCK</u>							
(Ducks, Poults, Goats, Rabbits, Chicks)	1981	--	--	--	--	--	770,000
	1980	--	--	--	--	--	766,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY (CONT.)

Species	Year	Inventory	Production		Unit	Value	
			No. of Head	Total Liveweight		Per Unit	Total
<u>HORSES</u>	1981	87,000	9,800	--	Head	\$720	\$ 7,056,000
	1980	83,000	6,200	--		"	700
Total	1981						\$35,923,800
	1980						\$36,227,220

Product	Year	Production		Unit	Value	
					Per Unit	Total
<u>MILK</u> Market	1981	1,321,750		Cwt.	\$ 13.05	\$17,249,000
	1980	1,430,000			"	13.03
<u>WOOL</u>	1981	300,000		Lb.	.93	279,000
	1980	500,000			"	.88
<u>EGGS</u>	1981	9,354,500		Doz.	.55	5,145,000
	1980	5,591,000			"	.49
<u>WORMS</u>	1981	782,700		Lb.	2.00	1,565,400
	1980	783,000			"	2.00
Total	1981					\$24,238,400
	1980					\$23,379,000

GRAND TOTAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTION 1981

\$60,162,200

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LEADING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

(Over One Million Dollar Value)

1. Ornamental Trees and Shrubs	\$82,172,000
2. Milk	17,249,000
3. Alfalfa, Hay	13,683,800
4. Onions, Dry	12,616,000
5. Indoor Plants	11,872,000
6. Bedding Plants	11,640,000
7. Sprouts (Edible)	8,989,800
8. Strawberries	8,200,500
9. Beef	7,681,000
10. Ground Cover	6,026,000
11. Eggs	5,145,000
12. Broilers and Fryers	4,390,000
13. Corn, Sweet	3,909,500
14. Sugar Beets	3,388,300
15. Sheep and Lambs	2,252,000
16. Peaches	2,054,000
17. Orchid Plants	1,990,000
18. Vegetable Plants	1,452,000
19. Carnations, Cut	1,446,000
20. Christmas Trees	1,248,000
21. Avocados	1,107,600
22. Mustard and Other Greens	1,074,300

SUMMARY

1977-1981 Inclusive

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
<i>Citrus Fruits</i>	\$ 659,700	\$ 621,500	\$ 495,500	\$ 426,400	\$ 278,900
<i>Misc. Fruits & Nuts</i>	5,095,000	4,569,600	4,767,600	3,960,900	4,525,800
<i>Berries</i>	7,970,000	6,845,000	4,432,000	7,739,800	8,200,500
<i>Field Crops</i>	15,265,730	17,475,500	23,215,000	27,687,600	19,548,400
<i>Vegetables</i>	39,499,000	33,656,700	29,872,200	39,136,900	53,418,000
<i>Nursery Stock</i>	82,123,000	92,820,000	104,671,000	116,663,000	119,185,000
<i>Cut Flowers</i>	4,646,000	4,511,000	4,414,000	5,837,000	5,031,000
<i>Total Plant Crops</i>	\$155,258,430	\$160,499,300	\$171,880,600	\$201,451,600	\$210,187,600
<i>Apiary Products</i>	623,800	1,319,000	1,067,000	911,000	625,600
<i>Total Plant Crops* & Apiary Products</i>	\$155,882,230	\$161,818,300	\$172,947,600	\$202,362,600	\$210,813,200
<i>Livestock & Poultry</i>	44,283,000	42,401,000	41,557,000	59,606,220	60,162,200
GRAND TOTAL	\$200,165,230	\$204,219,300	\$214,504,100	\$261,968,820	\$270,975,400

**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

3400 LA MADERA AVE.

EL MONTE, CALIF. 91732