

CROP REPORT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



OFFICE OF
AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSIONER

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT - LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 1943

Los Angeles County plant crops produced and sold in 1943 are valued at \$99,073,300. Adding \$936,000 for apiary products the total comes to \$100,009,300, which is greater than any previous year. This figure is an increase of \$20,333,200 above 1942 and \$34,448,381 over 1941. Livestock production figures are not included in this total.

Tremendously increased costs of production cut deeply into total returns. We have no data to measure the great increase in costs of labor, pest control materials, fertilizers, shock, transportation, and the multitude of other items the farmers had to pay for.

Labor supply was more nearly adequate throughout most of 1943 than in 1942 due largely to the importation of Mexican Nationals.

Quarterly vegetable crop surveys were carried on as a function of the County Civilian Defense Organization to provide information for farmers as to actual and intended plantings. Each of the county's commercial 1,400 truck crop farmers was interviewed in the course of these surveys.

The turnover of proprietorship of vegetable farms was considerably less than in 1942 while acreage and production were increased.

Prices of nearly all vegetables varied greatly during the year, especially those which were in surplus during midsummer. No account is taken in the report of unharvested crops lost because of poor prices.

The sale of farm produce directly from roadside stands to the consumer increased considerably during the year. Vegetable bedding plants were raised in great quantities by nurseries for sale to home gardeners.

Victory garden and other non-commercial vegetable production was a most important county wide source of food supply. Estimates made by county agricultural inspectors in June indicated a probable production from 270,000 such gardens equivalent to the quantity of vegetables that 2,700 commercial crop acres would produce. This is slightly over 5 per cent of the total crop acreage of vegetables in the county. At commercial valuation the total non-commercial garden production would have been worth \$1,122,000.

Among vegetable crops seven returned more than \$1,000,000 each. Headed by celery with a value of \$4,703,000, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, dry onions and market spinach were in this bracket. Value of all vegetable crops was \$24,044,000 compared with \$19,122,500 the preceding year.

The f.o.b. value of citrus totaled \$45,808,500 compared to \$31,907,900 or 44 per cent more than the year before. Lemons and grapefruit were worth nearly twice as much as in 1942 and Valencia oranges gained more than \$6,000,000.

Basis for arriving at valuation was on delivery price at the wholesale market on all crops except citrus. For this commodity the report is made on total f.o.b. price and represents the return to Los Angeles County, including the cost of picking, hauling and packing. Soil building and benefit payments made by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration office are separately included in this report.

In arriving at totals, price, acreage, and yield, averages have been checked with the state crop statistician's office and prices were compared with Federal-State Market News Service quotations. The farm advisor's office, several hundred farmers, growers' associations and land companies, and dealers were interviewed before final determination of figures used. Efforts of the many persons and agencies who furnished crop information are greatly appreciated.

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HAROLD J. RYAN

Agricultural Commissioner

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COMMODITY	BEARING ACREAGE	YIELD	UNIT	VALUE
CITRUS FRUIT*				
Oranges, Navel & Misc.	13,620	3,180,000	Boxes <i>~33</i>	\$ 9,800,000 <i>3.08</i>
Oranges, Valencia	30,300	6,600,000	Boxes <i>>18</i>	24,200,000 <i>3.67</i>
Lemons	12,100	3,115,000	Boxes <i>>57</i>	10,935,000 <i>3.51</i>
Grapefruit	1,190	365,000	Boxes <i>307</i>	842,000 <i>>31</i>
Limes	120	700,000	Pounds <i>5800</i>	31,500 <i>0.45</i>
Total	57,330			\$45,808,500
OTHER FRUITS & NUTS				
Almonds	1,000 <i>>90</i>	290,000	Pounds	116,000 <i>0.40</i>
Apples	480 <i>100</i>	48,000	Boxes (45#)	96,000 <i>2.00</i>
Apricots	900 <i>>20</i>	198,000	Lugs (25#)	297,000 <i>1.50</i>
Avocados**	3,240 <i>116</i>	375,000	Flats (13#)	525,000 <i>1.40</i>
Figs	400 <i>1150</i>	460,000	Flats (1 layer-6#)	193,200 <i>.42</i>
Grapes	4,600 <i>3</i>	14,000	Tons	1,190,000 <i>85.00</i>
Olives	1,590 <i>1.2</i>	2,000	Tons	320,000 <i>160.00</i>
Peaches-cling	190 <i>400</i>	76,000	Boxes (20#)	64,600 <i>.85</i>
Peaches-free	860 <i>325</i>	279,500	Boxes (20#)	433,200 <i>1.55</i>
Pears	790 <i>150</i>	118,500	Standard boxes(50#)	397,000 <i>3.35</i>
Persimmons	250 <i>175</i>	43,800	Lugs (25#)	72,300 <i>1.65</i>
Plums	300 <i>>10</i>	75,000	4 bskt. crates (27#)	131,300 <i>1.75</i>
Walnuts	17,900 <i>3.54</i>	63,400	Cwt.	1,230,000 <i>19.50</i>
Misc. Fruits	380			48,000 <i>125.00</i>
Total	32,880			\$5,113,600
BERRIES				
Bushberries	650 <i>500</i>	325,000	Crates(12-1/2 pt)	568,800 <i>1.75</i>
Strawberries	460 <i>375</i>	172,500	Crates(12 pts)	422,600 <i>2.45</i>
Total	1,110			\$991,400
FIELD CROPS				
Alfalfa hay	46,000 <i>585</i>	269,100	Tons	6,997,000 <i>26.00</i>
Beans-dry	23,400 <i>12</i>	283,900	Cwt.	2,039,400 <i>7.20</i>
Bean straw		10,000	Tons	120,000 <i>12.00</i>
Beets-sugar	250 <i>10.4</i>	2,609	Tons	23,700 <i>9.00</i>
Flax	750 <i>10.9</i>	8,200	Bushels	27,000 <i>3.30</i>
Grain-barley	25,000 <i>9.5</i>	237,500	Cwt.	534,400 <i>2.25</i>
Grain-oats	500 <i>9.5</i>	4,750	Cwt.	11,900 <i>2.50</i>
Grain-wheat	26,000 <i>5.6</i>	143,000	Cwt.	336,000 <i>2.35</i>
Grain-hay	43,000 <i>1.5</i>	64,500	Tons	1,806,000 <i>28.00</i>
Popcorn	500 <i>8.0</i>	4,000	Cwt.	44,000 <i>11.00</i>
Silage corn	2,000 <i>9.0</i>	18,000	Tons	108,000 <i>6.00</i>
Miscellaneous	3,000			220,000 <i>73.33</i>
Total	170,400			\$12,267,400

* Figures for crop year November 1, 1942 to October 31, 1943.

** Figures for crop year October 1, 1942 to September 30, 1943.

COMMODITY	ACREAGE	YIELD	UNIT	VALUE
VEGETABLES				
Asparagus	1,500 ¹⁰⁰	165,000	Pyramid crate (30#)	\$ 594,000 3.60
Beans-snap	1,950 ¹⁰⁰	292,500	Bushel hamper (30#)	570,400 1.95
Beans-green lima	1,750 ¹³⁰	227,500	Bushel hamper (32#)	477,800 2.10
Beets-table	1,400 ²²⁵	315,000	Crates (4 doz)	504,000 1.60
Broccoli	550 ¹⁷⁵	96,300	Crates (42#)	264,700 2.75
Cabbage	5,800 ⁸	46,400	Tons	1,763,000 38.00
Carrots	4,350 ²²⁵	978,800	Crates (6 doz)	2,202,000 2.25
Cauliflower	400 2,700	1,080,000	Pony crates (12 hds)	1,728,000 1.60
Celery	700 2,200	1,650,000	Half crates	4,703,000 2.85
Corn-green	3,550 ⁹⁰	319,500	Crates (6 doz)	639,000 2.00
Cucumbers-Pickle	350 ⁵⁹	2,070	Tons	85,800 41.50
Cucumbers-table	800 ⁴⁰⁰	320,000	Lugs (30#)	384,000 1.20
Eggplant	170 ¹⁰⁰	17,000	Crates (60#)	32,300 1.90
Endive (chicory)	500 ³⁰⁰	250,000	Crates (4 doz)	262,500 1.75
Lettuce	880 ¹⁵⁰	130,500	Crates (5 doz)	293,600 2.25
Melons-cantaloupes	950 ²⁶	237,500	Crates	534,400 2.25
Melons-watermelons	190 ⁷	1,330	Tons	53,200 40.00
Melons-others	180 ³⁰⁰	54,000	Crates	121,500 2.25
Mustard greens	320 ⁴⁰⁰	136,000	Crates (40#)	149,600 1.10
Onions-dry	1,050 ⁴⁷⁰	577,500	Sacks (50#)	1,010,500 1.75
Onions-green	600 ²⁰⁰	120,000	Crates	462,000 3.85
Parsley	180 ⁶⁶⁰	117,000	Crates (6 doz)	198,900 1.70
Parasnips	300 ⁷⁰⁰	210,000	Lugs (26#)	357,000 1.70
Peas	350 ⁸⁰	28,000	Bushel hamper (28#)	78,400 2.80
Peppers-green	190 ¹²⁵	23,800	Crates (50#)	78,400 3.30
Peppers-dry	360 ²¹⁸	258	Tons	119,900 46.45
Potatoes-sweet	900 ¹⁶⁰	135,000	Crates (50#)	371,300 2.75
Potatoes-white	2,500 ²³⁰	575,000	Sacks (100#)	1,035,000 1.80
Radishes	600 ³⁴⁰	204,000	Crates (6 doz)	357,000 1.75
Rhubarb	350 ¹⁰⁰⁰	350,000	Flats (20#)	297,500 85
Romaine	450 ²⁶⁰	112,500	Crates (55#)	208,000 1.85
Rutabagas	330 ²⁷⁵	90,800	Sacks (100#)	263,000 2.90
Spinach-canning	400 ⁴⁹	1,960	Tons	52,500 26.81
Spinach-market	2,550 ³⁰⁰	765,000	Crates (40#)	1,109,000 1.45
Squash-Italian	480 ²⁷⁰	132,000	Lugs (30#)	119,000 90
Squash-summer	670 ²⁶⁰	167,500	Lugs (30#)	167,500 1.00
Squash-winter	1,900 ⁶	11,400	Tons	313,500 27.50
Tomatoes-canning)	4,900 ⁶	16,200	Tons	486,000 30.00
Tomatoes-market)	4,900 ⁶	682,000	Lugs (32#)	989,000 1.45
Turnips	1,150 ³²⁵	373,800	Crates (3 doz)	373,800 1.00
Misc. Vegetables	500	468		234,000
Total	50,800			\$24,044,000

COMMODITY	ACREAGE	VALUE
<u>NURSERY STOCK & CUT FLOWERS</u>		
Cut flowers	900	\$ 3,000,000
Nursery stock		7,500,000
Total		<u>10,500,000</u>
TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS		\$98,724,900

Payments made by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration through the Los Angeles County Agricultural Conservation Association have not been included in the values above given in this report. While payments are not complete, the estimate for 1943 totals is:

Bean loan		\$ 14,900
Incentive payment to vegetable and potato growers		55,000
Parity payment - wheat growers		19,000
Range conserving practices		1,300
Soil building practices		227,000
Sugar act payments to beet growers		<u>31,200</u>
Total		\$ 348,400

GRAND TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS \$99,073,300

APIARY PRODUCTS

Honey	6,000,000 Pounds	\$ 900,000
Beeswax	80,000 Pounds	<u>36,000</u>
Total		\$ 936,000