



LOS ANGELES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

CROP REPORT - 1966



LOS ANGELES COUNTY-1966 CROP SUMMARY

(Exclusive of Livestock Production)

The total value of plant crop production in Los Angeles County increased to \$76,920,000 in 1966. When this figure is combined with 1966 livestock production of \$93,371,650, Los Angeles County should again rank among the nation's ten leading agricultural counties. Generally favorable growing conditions and somewhat better prices contributed to improved gross returns for growers of several major crops.

It should be pointed out that net returns realized from the harvest of most crops have failed to keep pace with the higher yields and gross receipts reported; the rising costs of labor, taxes and equipment being the major factors in this cost squeeze. Mechanization, as a result, is being stressed in many operations in an effort to lower unit production expense.

Ten crops returned one million dollars or more in 1966. They were - nursery stock (\$29,902,000), alfalfa hay (\$8,512,000), cut flowers (\$5,389,000), strawberries (\$3,970,000), lemons (\$3,770,000), carrots (\$2,038,000), sweet corn (\$1,776,000), valencia oranges (\$1,770,000), green onions (\$1,687,000), and navel oranges (\$1,232,000). Production of Chinese food vegetables as a group also exceeded one million dollars, returning \$1,525,000 last year.

Citrus crops returned \$6,974,000 in 1966, down from the \$7,280,000 reported the previous year. Although navel orange yield improved, reduced acreage and lower prices lowered returns to growers. Good lemon production and prices more than offset loss of producing acreage and resulted in a higher crop valuation.

The aggregate value of other fruits and nuts was \$6,296,000 despite a decline in acreage. Paced by a record Antelope Valley pear crop that returned \$586,000, almonds, peaches, and walnuts also showed gains over the previous year. Avocado production was very good - doubling last year's yield per acre. Continuing to benefit from use of improved varieties and cultural practices, an excellent crop of strawberries returned \$3,970,000.

Favorable weather and improved prices resulted in a higher total value for field crops as a group. Although alfalfa hay production stayed very close to last year's level, higher prices raised returns this year to \$18,512,000. Wheat, barley, and grain hay grew well and also registered gains. Somewhat below last season's record yield, a sugar beet harvest averaging 25.4 tons per acre produced a crop valued at \$552,000. Timely rains were again of particular benefit to growers of dry-farmed beans.

The total value of vegetable crop production was slightly lower in 1966 - returning \$15,512,200. With the exception of sweet corn, carrots, cabbage, and several bunch vegetables, production of most major vegetable crops was affected by curtailed plantings. High carrot quality resulted in less cullage and subsequent higher yields, while better prices and yields raised sweet corn and green onion returns. Over 20 varieties of vegetables were grown and harvested in Los Angeles County in addition to the 22 types individually listed. Grouped as miscellaneous vegetables in the report, they include leeks, rutabagas, parsley, daikon, peas, eggplant, celeriac, and sweet potatoes.

Los Angeles County's nursery stock and cut flower industry returned \$35,291,000 to the economy last year again assuring the County's place as the nation's number one producer of horticultural specialty crops. The recent slowdown in residential construction affected returns to growers of ornamental shrubs and trees. Reduced bedding plant and ground cover production was offset by higher prices as growers expanded shipping to out-of-county markets.

Bees continue to be Los Angeles County's most valuable insect, but last year produced a smaller honey and beeswax crop. Apiary products returned \$284,200 in 1966 - a decrease of 17%, but less than the average statewide decline of 30%. This was due to lack of late rains and a reduction in the number of colonies.

U. S. Department of Agriculture payments amounted to \$325,000 and are not included in the total returns reported. Valuation figures are based on delivery price at the market or on FOB price for commodities shipped out of state. All prices have been compared with Federal-State Market News quotations.

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

This and many prior Crop Reports have been prepared under the capable direction of Senior Agricultural Inspector Charles Yerxa.

RALPH W. LICHTY
Agricultural Commissioner

April 3, 1967

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FRUIT & NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1966

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
<u>CITRUS FRUITS</u>							
Oranges	1966	1,521	6.1	9,300	Ton	\$132.50	\$1,232,000
Navel & Misc.	1965	1,613	5.9	9,500	"	168.40	1,600,000
Oranges	1966	2,624	4.8	12,600	"	140.50	1,770,000
Valencia	1965	2,956	5.6	16,600	"	138.50	2,300,000
Lemons	1966	2,389	11.4	27,300	"	138.10	3,770,000
	1965	2,760	8.9	24,600	"	130.00	3,200,000
Grapefruit	1966	131	11.7	1,530	"	132.00	202,000
	1965	160	8.3	1,330	"	135.30	180,000
Total	1966	6,665					\$6,974,000
	1965	7,489					7,280,000
<u>OTHER FRUITS & NUTS</u>							
Almonds	1966	1,575	.19	310	"	\$660.00	\$ 204,000
	1965	1,577	.12	190	"	680.00	129,000
Apples	1966	63	2.0	127	"	130.70	16,600
	1965	63	.71	45	"	162.20	7,300
Avocados	1966	1,994	1.35	2,700	"	290.00	783,000
	1965	2,004	.65	1,300	"	500.00	650,000
Cherries	1966	21	.90	18.9	"	470.00	8,900
	1965	25	.68	16.9	"	380.00	6,400
Figs	1966	61	.30	18.3	"	580.00	10,600
	1965	66	.38	25.2	"	520.00	13,100
Grapes	1966	94	2.5	235	"	94.00	22,100
	1965	124	1.6	200	"	100.00	20,000
Olives	1966	564	.07	40	"	120.00	4,800
	1965	568	.14	80	"	125.00	10,000
Peaches	1966	354	5.8	2,050	"	212.70	436,000
Freestone	1965	377	3.6	1,370	"	186.40	255,000
Pears	1966	289	15.5	4,483	"	130.70	586,000
Bartlett	1965	285	10.0	2,838	"	198.00	562,000
Walnuts	1966	823	.35	290	"	490.00	142,000
	1965	882	.25	220	"	480.00	106,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts	1966	77					112,000
	1965	79*					41,200*
Total	1966	5,915					\$2,326,000
	1965	6,050					1,800,000

*Revised

FRUIT & NUT CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
<u>BERRIES</u>							
Strawberries	1966	450	18.0	8,100	Ton	\$490.00	\$ 3,970,000
	1965	500	14.4	7,200	"	432.00	3,110,000
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TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	1966	13,030					\$13,270,000
	1965	14,039					12,190,000

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1966

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Barley	1966	15,700	.82	12,900	Ton	\$ 53.50	\$ 690,000
	1965	15,500	.80	12,400	"	51.00	632,000
Beans, dry edible Blackeye	1966	200	.75	150	"	150.00	22,500
	1965	200	.58	116	"	200.00	23,200
Garbanzo	1966	480	.50	240	"	250.00	60,000
	1965	280	.41	115	"	270.00	31,000
Lima	1966	570	.50	285	"	330.00	94,000
	1965	700	.65	455	"	260.00	118,500
Cotton Lint	1966	30	528 lb.	33	Bale	.33 lb.	5,400
	1965	33	842 lb.	58	"	.26 lb.	7,600
Cotton Seed	1966			15	Ton	61.00	900
	1965			26	"	47.00	1,200
Hay, alfalfa	1966	38,000	7.0	266,000	"	32.00	8,512,000
	1965	40,600	7.0	284,000	"	27.40	7,782,000
Hay, grain	1966	8,500	1.90	16,200	"	31.00	502,000
	1965	8,300	1.98	16,400	"	29.50	484,000
Oats	1966	50	1.0	50	"	54.00	2,700
	1965	100	1.1	110	"	54.00	6,000

FIELD CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Pasture & range Irrigated	1966	5,000				\$186.00	\$ 930,000
	1965	5,100				155.00	791,000
Other	1966	200,000					680,000*
	1965	200,000					567,000*
Silage Sorghum	1966	300	15	4,500	Ton	7.00	31,500
	1965	500	20	10,000	"	6.50	65,000
Sorghum grain	1966	200	1.4	280	"	50.00	14,000
	1965	120	1.7	200	"	47.50	9,500
Straw	1966			4,000	"	20.00	80,000
	1965			5,000	"	20.00	100,000
Sugar beets**	1966	1,500	25.4	38,100	"	14.50	552,000
	1965	1,470	31.4	46,000	"	13.00	598,000
Wheat	1966	10,900	.40	4,400	"	62.00	273,000
	1965	6,200	.79	4,900	"	53.00	260,000
Total	1966	281,430					\$12,450,000
	1965	279,103					11,476,000

Acreage, production
& value of
Seed Crops

Alfalfa	1966	1,150***	342	393,750	Lb.	\$.286	\$ 112,600
	1965	1,150***	295	339,300	"	.267	90,600

*Amount shown for 1966 includes \$280,000 paid for sheep and cattle grazing on alfalfa and barley stubble; 1965 amount includes \$275,000 for such grazing.

**Does not include estimated \$88,000 Sugar Act payments for 1966; or \$112,700 for 1965.

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

VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1966

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Asparagus	1966	15	1.6	24	Ton \$	320.00	\$ 7,700
	1965	25	1.8	44	"	300.00	13,200
Beans, snap	1966	150	5.0	750	"	340.00	255,000
	1965	175	5.8	1,015	"	300.00	305,000
Beets, table	1966	125	11.2	1,400	"	82.00	114,800
	1965	150	11.7	1,755	"	80.00	140,000
Cabbage	1966	570	16.0	9,120	"	84.00	766,000
	1965	650	15.0	9,750	"	70.00	683,000
Carrots	1966	950	27.5	26,125	"	78.00	2,038,000
	1965	1,000	22.5	22,500	"	83.00	1,868,000
Cauliflower	1966	200	15.0	3,000	"	64.00	192,000
	1965	300	13.7	4,110	"	72.00	296,000
Celery	1966	125	36.0	4,500	"	96.00	432,000
	1965	220	35.0	7,700	"	100.00	770,000
Chinese Food Veg.	1966	160					1,525,000
	1965	120					1,450,000
Corn, sweet	1966	2,900	5.1	14,800	"	120.00	1,776,000
	1965	2,600	5.2	13,500	"	114.00	1,539,000
Cucumbers	1966	30	7.0	210	"	150.00	31,500
	1965	80	8.0	640	"	135.00	86,400
Lettuce, leaf	1966	300	14.0	4,200	"	85.00	357,000
	1965	550	15.0	8,250	"	90.00	743,000
Melons Cantaloupe	1966	100	9.6	960	"	80.00	76,200
	1965	160	10.0	1,600	"	70.00	112,000
Watermelon	1966	120	13.5	1,620	"	42.00	68,000
	1965	140	10.0	1,400	"	35.00	49,000
Mushrooms	1966			860	"	1,040.00	895,000
	1965			820	"	1,000.00	820,000
Mustard & other greens	1966	1,000	11.5	11,500	"	85.80	987,000
	1965	1,050	11.5	12,075	"	80.00	966,000

VEGETABLE CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Onions, dry	1966	480	21.2	10,180	Ton	\$ 95.00	\$ 967,000
	1965	560	22.2	12,488	"	90.00	1,124,000
Onions, green	1966	750	18.0	13,500	"	125.00	1,687,000
	1965	800	15.6	12,480	"	110.00	1,373,000
Peppers	1966	30	10.0	300	"	220.00	66,000
	1965	40	12.0	480	"	180.00	86,700
Pumpkins	1966	160	11.2	1,800	"	50.00	90,000
	1965	170	9.5	1,615	"	35.00	56,500
Radishes	1966	1,150	8.0	9,200	"	105.00	966,000
	1965	1,200	7.6	9,120	"	100.00	912,000
Rhubarb	1966	80	8.5	680	"	180.00	122,000
	1965	110	7.0	770	"	170.00	131,000
Romaine	1966	50	14.0	700	"	80.00	56,000
	1965	120	15.0	1,800	"	85.00	153,000
Spinach	1966	120	11.2	1,340	"	190.00	255,000
	1965	150	10.8	1,620	"	177.75	288,000
Squash Italian & Summer	1966	180	6.3	1,140	"	170.00	194,000
	1965	250	6.0	1,500	"	160.00	240,000
Winter	1966	280	10.0	2,800	"	45.00	126,000
	1965	310	10.0	3,100	"	40.00	124,000
Tomatoes, market	1966	135	15.8	2,140	"	130.00	278,000
	1965	150	14.5	2,175	"	170.00	370,000
Turnips	1966	550	11.2	6,160	"	90.00	554,000
	1965	600	11.0	6,600	"	85.00	561,000
Misc. Vegetables	1966	700					630,000
	1965	700					665,000
Total	1966	11,410					\$15,512,200
	1965	12,380					15,924,800

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
<u>Nursery Crops</u>							
Deciduous fruit & nut trees	1966		4	60,000	Plant	\$.85	\$ 51,000
	1965		10	150,000	"	.85	127,000
Vegetable plants - greenhouse grown	1966	10		1,100,000	Flat	.85	935,000
	1965	10		1,190,000	"	.80	952,000
Ornamental trees & shrubs	1966		1,300				19,430,000
	1965		1,300				19,700,000
Bedding plants & ground cover	1966	50	60	1,420,000	Flat	2.55	3,621,000
	1965	40	70	1,465,000	"	2.30	3,370,000
Indoor decorative plants	1966	60					4,100,000
	1965	68					4,410,000
Cactus & succulents	1966		22				396,000
	1965		20				375,000
Bulbs, cuttings roots, dichondra etc.	1966		414				1,369,000
	1965		407				1,525,000
Total	1966	120	1,800				\$29,902,000
	1965	118	1,807				30,459,000
<u>Cut Flowers & Decoratives</u>							
Carnations	1966	45		25,000,000	Bloom	\$.057	\$ 1,425,000
	1965	50		35,000,000	"	.056	1,960,000
Chrysanthemums Standard & Disbuds	1966	20		2,800,000	"	.21	588,000
	1965	30		4,350,000	"	.22	957,000
Pompon	1966	50	100	370,000	Bundle	2.50	925,000
	1965	30	120	360,000	"	2.50	900,000
Gladiolus	1966		12	30,000	Doz.	1.45	44,000
	1965		15	47,000	"	1.50	70,000
Roses	1966	8		3,600,000	Bloom	.08	288,000
	1965	8		3,600,000	"	.075	270,000
Miscellaneous (Orchids, daisies, stocks & about 20 other varieties)	1966		305				2,119,000
	1965		312				2,125,000
Total	1966	123	417				\$5,389,000
	1965	118	447				6,282,000

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production		Value	
		Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Honey	1966	1,870,000	Lb.	\$.125	\$ 233,800
	1965	2,600,000	"	.11	286,000
Beeswax	1966	31,200	"	.47	14,800
	1965	43,500	"	.46	20,000
Pollination	1966	7,500	Colony	4.75	35,600
	1965	7,500	"	4.75	35,600
Total	1966				\$ 284,200
	1965				341,600
TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS					\$76,920,000

S U M M A R Y
1962-1966, Inclusive

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Citrus Fruits	\$ 9,550,000	\$10,200,000	\$ 9,700,000	\$ 7,280,000	\$6,974,000
Other Fruits	1,893,500	2,123,600	1,699,000	1,800,000	2,326,000
Berries	3,720,000	4,450,000	4,250,000	3,110,000	3,970,000
Field Crops	11,050,800	14,209,500	11,639,500	11,566,600	12,562,600
Vegetables	14,163,800	15,317,200	16,115,700	15,924,800	15,512,200
Nursery Stock	31,120,000	30,160,000	30,075,000	30,459,000	29,902,000
Cut Flowers	<u>7,112,000</u>	<u>6,915,000</u>	<u>6,896,000</u>	<u>6,282,000</u>	<u>5,389,000</u>
Total Plant Crops*	\$78,610,100	\$83,375,300	\$80,375,200	\$76,422,400	\$76,635,800
Apiary Products	<u>633,500</u>	<u>337,200</u>	<u>306,000</u>	<u>341,600</u>	<u>284,200</u>
Total Plant Crops & Apiary Products	\$79,243,600	\$83,712,500	\$80,681,200	\$76,764,000	\$76,920,000

*U.S. Department of Agriculture Payments deleted from these totals in order to conform to statewide tabulation system for county crop reports.