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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SAN BENITO COUNTY

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA

**W. B. SAUNDERS
COMMISSIONER
AND
QUARANTINE OFFICER**

COURT HOUSE

1950 Report on Crops

Farm and ranch crop gross receipts in San Benito county climbed to \$15,880,844 last year.

The rise ended a three-year steady decline in agriculture income and was more than a million and a quarter dollars over 1949.

Beef prices were the highest ever recorded. Hog and sheep price advances contributed to the gross income upswing.

Agriculture income had steadily dropped from the 1946 all-time peak of \$19,940,640 until last year's advance.

OPTIMISTIC

These optimistic facts and figures were contained in the 1950 crop report of Ward B. Saunders county agricultural commissioner.

Nine fruit and nut crops contributed \$5,348,615. More than thirteen truck and field crops gross receipts were \$4,537,829. General farm produce, including livestock, brought farmers and ranchers \$5,994,000.

The following table shows total returns to farms and ranches in this county since 1941:

1941	.....	\$ 6,633,546
1942	.....	11,354,355
1943	.....	13,156,903
1944	.....	16,181,847
1945	.....	16,860,236
1946	.....	19,940,640
1947	.....	19,389,454
1948	.....	18,160,623
1949	.....	14,572,238
1950	.....	15,880,844

GOOD YEAR

"It would seem that 1951 will be a fairly good year from a farm standpoint," Saunders predicted.

"Cotton in the Panoche valley last year brought \$18,500 with 50 acres planted. This year the acreage has been increased to almost 700 acres and the crop prospect is good.

"The 1950 season was one of below normal rainfall and resulted in lowered irrigation water levels. Temperatures for the most part were cool during the summer except for two hot periods.

"An early spring frost injured a few apricots and a late frost injured prunes, walnuts and grapes in one area.

"Early fall rains and warm winter weather with little frost delayed dormancy in fruit trees. It made sugar beet harvest difficult and delayed some harvesting until spring.

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GRAIN YIELDS

"Grain yields were fair and prices advanced as did hog and sheep values. Beef prices were the highest on record.

In his review of the year Saunders included an evaluation of crops.

"Apricot yields were good with better prices than 1949," he recalled. "Prune tonnages were below normal but prices were better."

"Pear prices recovered from a very low red ink price of 1949 but walnut prices and quality were good. The average yield was the highest ever produced in the county, but the acreage was small.

LETTUCE DOWN

"Lettuce and garlic acreages were down as were prices. Onion acreage was up but prices were unsatisfactory. Potato acreage was also up but both price and yield were low."

"Some damage occurred from grasshoppers for the first time in a number of years," he concluded.

Looking forward to the current year, Saunders predicted a smaller apricot crop, about the same tonnage of prunes and a spotty pear yield.

"Increased spinach planting and a larger tomato acreage will take the place of some sugar beets. Strawberry plantings have increased to over 100 acres, the largest for the county since 1938," he noted.

COTTON, TOO

"Cotton plantings will be between 600 and 700 acres, more than 10 times last year's seedings.

"Beef cattle have the best prospect in the history of the industry. Grasshoppers in the Panoche valley have been effectively curbed through early treatment."

Complete breakdown of last year's gross income, compiled by Saunders, follows:

FRUIT and NUT CROP

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Apricots	4310.....	\$1,725,675.00
Apples	152.....	114,000.00
Almonds	28.....	6,160.00
Cherries	52.....	44,000.00
Grapes	1684.....	150,000.00
Peaches	39.....	17,550.00
Pears	588.....	643,530.00
Prunes	3593.....	1,901,700.00
Walnuts	1649.....	746,000.00
TOTAL		\$5,348,615.00

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TRUCK CROP

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Sugar Beets	7,400.....	\$1,761,200.00
Garlic	772.....	458,490.00
Lettuce	887.....	310,450.00
Beans	1740.....	340,640.00
Peas	144.....	54,344.00
Seeds	675.....	202,500.00
Tomatoes	194.....	87,000.00
Carrots	150.....	111,150.00
Miscellaneous Crops	500.....	100,000.00
Broccoli, Flower, Squash	240.....	76,800.00
Cotton	50.....	18,500.00
Onions	630.....	283,500.00
Spinach	741.....	133,380.00
Potatoes	1502.....	599,875.00
TOTAL		\$4,537,829.00

GENERAL FARM PRODUCE

CROP	ACRES	GROSS VALUE
Barley	35,000.....	\$ 962,500.00
Wheat	3,200.....	115,200.00
Hay	17,200.....	430,000.00
Beef		2,448,000.00
Sheep		114,600.00
Hogs		88,320.00
Dairy		316,280.00
Broilers, eggs, meat		514,500.00
Turkeys		1,005,000.00
TOTAL		\$5,994,400.00

SUMMARY

Fruit Crop	\$5,348,615.00
Truck Crop	4,537,829.00
General Crops	5,994,400.00
TOTAL	\$15,880,844.00