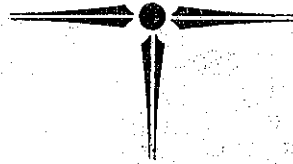


*Official Copy -
Not to be used*

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



1954

San Benito County
Department of Agriculture

WARD B. SAUNDERS, Agricultural Commissioner

H. C. DOAN, Agricultural Inspector

J. H. EDMONDSON, Agricultural Inspector

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA

A N N U A L R E P O R T

For the

Year Ending December 31, 1954

Agricultural Code: Duties of the Commissioner
SECTION 65.6 STATISTICS--The Commissioner shall
compile reports of the condition, acreage, pro-
duction and value of the agricultural products
in his county. The commissioner may publish such
reports, and shall transmit a copy to the Director.

In accordance with the Agricultural Code of the
State of California, this report is

Respectfully submitted,

Ward B. Saunders
Agricultural Commissioner

H. C. Doan
Agricultural Inspector

J. H. Edmondson
Agricultural Inspector

1954 REPORT ON CROPS

The office wishes to thank the producers, packers and buyers for furnishing the figures contained in this report.

However this report is only an estimate. Some changes may be necessary when complete returns are available. This is the story as we found it.

1950-----	\$15,880,884.00
1951-----	\$17,230,490.00
1952-----	\$19,005,389.00
1953-----	\$16,852,304.00
1954-----	\$16,113,207.00

The gross income for 1954 by crops follows. Remember these are gross figures and only represent sales and not net profit. In fact some crops were produced at a very small profit or none at all.

ROW CROPS

CROP	ACRES	UNITS	PRICE PER UNIT	GROSS VALUE
Sugar Beets	4,421	98,044 tons	\$ 13.70	\$1,343,202.00
Garlic	772	57,900 sacks	13.50	781,650.00
Potatoes	1,919	345,420 sacks	3.00	1,036,260.00
Spinach	623	4,109 tons	25.00	102,725.00
Onions	266	159,600 sacks	1.35	215,460.00
Broccoli	205	32,750 crates	2.75	90,062.00
Tomatoes	1,026	18,520 ton-ripe	21.00	388,920.00
Tomatoes	--	2,000 ton-green	35.00	70,000.00
Lettuce	1,157	287,750 crates	3.20	920,800.00
Seeds	2,280	acres	250.00	570,000.00
Strawberries	44	66,000 crates	2.25	148,500.00
Carrots	216	78,840 crates	3.70	291,708.00
Misc. Crops				241,360.00
TOTAL				\$6,200,647.00

Miscellaneous Crops are peas, lima beans, table beets, bell peppers, green onions, sweet corn, bush berries, squash, cotton and honey.

Seed Crops include the following: hybrid seed corn, mustard, turnip, radish, broccoli, celery, collards, squash, peppers, brussel sprouts, sweet peas, salisfy, onions, cabbage, tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, stock, verbena, calendula, zinnia, aster, larkspur and centaurea.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Apricots-Canned-----		7,915 tons--	\$105.00--	\$ 831,075.00
Apricots-Dried-----		1,025-----	860.00--	881,500.00
Apricots-Fresh-----		150-----	135.00--	20,250.00
Apricots-Baby Food & Juice--		1,060-----	92.50--	98,050.00
Apricots-TOTAL-----	4,232---	14,240-Fresh-----		<u>1,830,875.00</u>
Apples-----	217---	3,015-----	65.00--	<u>195,975.00</u>
Grapes-Wine-----	1,186---	2,991-----	30.00--	<u>89,730.00</u>
Pears-Bartlett-Can-	251---	3,311-----	68.00--	<u>225,148.00</u>
Pears-Bartlett-Baby Food----		475-----	45.00--	<u>21,375.00</u>
Pears-Others-----	485---	8,111-----	68.00--	<u>551,548.00</u>
Prunes-French-----	2,743---	6,000-----	190.00--	<u>1,140,000.00</u>
Prunes-Others-----	554---	750-----	275.00--	<u>206,250.00</u>
Walnuts-----	1,833---	1,350-----	440.00--	<u>594,000.00</u>
Peaches-Canned-----)				
Peaches-Dried-----)				
Cherries-----)				<u>74,450.00</u>
Pears-Dried-----)				
Almonds-----)				
TOTAL-----				<u>\$4,929,351.00</u>

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

<u>CROP</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Beef & Calves-----	15,000 head-	\$ 165.00----	\$2,475,000.00
Lambs-----	6,500 head-	16.20----	105,300.00
Wool-----	55,520 lbs.-	.50----	27,760.00
Butterfat-Manufactured-	207,960 lbs.-	.624---	129,767.00
Butterfat-Market-----	31,992 lbs.-	1.23----	39,350.00
Broilers-----	263,000 head-	.75----	197,250.00
Hens for Meat-----	75,000 head-	.63----	47,250.00
Eggs-----	735,871 doz.-	.34----	250,196.00
Turkeys-----	135,000 head-.26 & .28 lb.		711,942.00
Hogs-----	1,800 head-	40.00----	72,000.00
TOTAL-----			\$4,055,815.00

FIELD CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PRICE PER UNIT</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Barley---	21,000---	296,310-100# sacks---	\$ 2.40----	\$ 711,144.00
Wheat----	2,012---	20,120-100# sacks---	2.92----	58,750.00
Hay-----	10,000---	7,500 tons-----	21.00----	157,500.00
TOTAL-----				\$ 927,394.00

SUMMARY

<u>CROPS</u>	<u>GROSS VALUE</u>
Row Crops-----	\$ 6,200,647.00
Fruit & Nut Crops-----	4,929,351.00
Livestock & Poultry-----	4,055,815.00
Field Crops-----	927,394.00
<u>TOTAL-----</u>	<u>\$16,113,207.00</u>

1954 CROP REVIEW

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

The Apricot crop was well below average, but prices were up, both for cannery sale and to the dried fruit trade. Some dried Apricots sold at \$.45 per pound, the highest price on record. However the total returns to the growers were well below 1953.

The Apple prices were up slightly, but were below parity prices.

The Bartlett Pear yields were better than in 1953, but some crops failed to size properly. The Winter Pear crop returned more total dollars than in 1953.

Wine Grape prices were disappointing, the price dropping 25%.

Prune yields were better, but small sizes made total returns from French Prunes unsatisfactory.

Total Walnut tonnage was up, and prices were down moderately. Yields on some acreages suffered from walnut blight damage.

Canning Peach yields were higher in 1954 than in 1953, but the 20% surplus disposal by dropping the fruit on the ground, and tree removal reduced the crop.

Cherry yields were poor, but prices were good.

Dried Peach tonnage was small, but Dried Pear tonnage while small was greater than in 1953.

ROW CROPS

Sugar Beet acreage was higher as were the yields.

Garlic acreage and yields were up moderately.

Potato acreage was about the same as in 1953, but prices were better.

Tomato acreage increased. Some growers benefited by the fairly good shipping tomato market. Yields were comparable to 1953.

Spinach acreage was up slightly. About the same yields and prices as in 1953.

Onion yields were somewhat better with price up some.

Broccoli acreage dropped, as did the price.

Most of the Beans grown in the county are for seed purposes and yields were not too satisfactory due to growing and harvesting difficulties.

Lettuce acreage was considerably higher, but prices were only fair.

Strawberry acreage went down. Unfavorable weather and soil conditions reduced the crop this year.

Peas and Lima Beans are grown, but acreages are not large.

Cotton yield was up from a small acreage.

Small acreage of Bell Peppers, Squash, Sweet Corn, Bush Berries and Bunching Onions were grown, and prices were fairly good.

FIELD CROPS

Barley acreage was down and prices and yields also dropped, as was the Wheat crop acreage, yield and price. This was the result of dry weather early in the year.

Hay yield per acre was down due to unfavorable weather.

It is likely that some increase in planting and a near normal rainfall will give the county some increased crops in 1955 and prices are not apt to change very much.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Beef production was maintained and price strengthened somewhat.

Wool and Lambs: Total returns to the county were down slightly from 1953. Some improvement in 1955 is likely.

Milk and Milk Products dropped in price. Surplus dairy products in government hands is a depressing factor in the market.

The total number of Broilers raised was 107,000 less than in 1953 and the price also dropped per bird.

Egg prices were lower, better prices by midsummer are predicted.

Turkey prices and numbers were down in the county, a very large national production resulted in burdensome supplies.

WEATHER

The Winter of 1953-1954 was much warmer than normal and was the second winter of above normal winter temperatures. The rainfall was much below normal until January, but the January, February, and March rains brought the total to 11.18 compared to a long time average of 12.81 inches. This shortened the growing season for grain and range plant growth and resulted in shorter feed, grain, and hay yields.

Spring temperatures were moderate but the summer was cool except for some hot days that caused some damage to seed, walnut, prune and lettuce crops.

PEST CONTROL

Fruit pests were troublesome. Walnut Blight caused more losses than usual and Walnut Aphis were more difficult to control. Increasing in importance as pests of prunes, apples, pears and apricots were the Red Spiders. Leaf Hoppers were abundant on prunes. Mealy Bug on apricots were reported for the first time in the county.

Melaxuma in walnuts caused some trouble and Fan Leaf and Mosaic diseases were located in county vineyards.

A number of orchardists have been experimenting with Carbon-bi-sulphide to control Oak Root Fungus. The results to date are promising after three years use. However, this is too short a period of trial to be certain of complete success.

Systox, one of the newer pest control materials was very effective for Aphis control on vegetable seed crops. This material also showed some promise as a control for Stem Nematode of garlic. The use of 2-4-D sprays for the control

of weeds in grain crops was extensive and effective. This material also proved very satisfactory in killing Loco Weed. A new formulation of 2-4-D appears promising for the control of Canadian Thistle.

The control of ground squirrels has been continued and the eradication area extended somewhat. The use of Meythl bromide gas has proven very satisfactory in the eradication sections, where the work is largely patrol work. The light weight of this material has reduced labor costs, which are the biggest item of cost in this type of work.

The injury to crops from pocket gophers has been on the increase and the control by the use of baits has been successful in many places.

Badgers digging holes in alfalfa and pasture ground have caused trouble, and trapping was required.

C. M. U. a soil sterilizing chemical has proved a very satisfactory material but the cost limits its use.

1955 OUTLOOK

Up to March the rainfall was about normal, but there has been little run off to replenish underground supplies. The weather was good for crop seeding. While the cold winter weather was beneficial to fruit trees, it has slowed plant growth, both seeded and range. The rainfall during the month of March has been below normal and a short feed year is in prospect.

The 1955 prospect for fruit crops appears to be good at this time. Apricot bud set is good and a larger crop in 1955

under normal spring conditions is probable. The Apple and Pear crops likely will be down somewhat. The Prune crop will be somewhat smaller, but with better sizes. The Grape crop will remain about the same, and increasing Walnut plantings will probably mean some increase in crop tonnages.

Row crop prospects are as follows: Sugar Beet acreage will be down, Garlic acreage the same. Potato acreage will be up slightly. Tomato acreage will probably be up. Spinach and Broccoli acreage will be down. No change is expected in Pea acreage. No change in Onion acreage is likely. Lettuce acreage will remain the same as in 1954. Cotton, Lima Beans, Field Beans and Strawberry acreage will be less in 1955.

The price levels will probably remain about the same in 1955 as in 1954 unless some extensive crop damage or a war demand develops.

1954 ANNUAL WORK REPORT

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

NURSERY INSPECTION

Complete Nursery Inspections----- 8

INSECT PESTS

Properties inspected in insect pest survey----- 10

Man hours spent in insect pest surveys----- 56

PLANT QUARANTINE INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS

Shipments passed----- 173

Plants passed----- 6,286

Shipments rejected----- 1

Plants rejected----- 10

PLANT QUARANTINE INTRASTATE SHIPMENTS

Shipments passed-----	126
Plants passed-----	417,283
Shipments rejected-----	16
Plants rejected-----	35

WEED CONTROL

Acres sprayed-----	588
Miles of road patrolled for weeds-----	9,373
Gallons of Diesel Oil and Sinox used-----	12,573
Quarts of 2-4-D used-----	1,362
Pounds of Sodium Chlorate used-----	10,837
Pounds of T. C. A. used-----	177
Man hours spent in weed control-----	3,637
Cost of Operation-----	\$13,089.69

RODENT AND PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

Acres treated-----	197,602
Pounds of poisoned bait used-----	12,454
Pounds of Carbon Bisulphide used-----	3,725
Hours of County labor-----	2,869
Hours of Ranch labor-----	1,213
Hours of horse hire-----	2,491
Cost of Operation-----	\$ 8,763.73

CONTROL OF RODENT BORN DISEASE

Acres treated-----	68,901
Pounds of poisoned baits used for squirrels-----	967
Pounds of Carbon Bisulphide used for squirrels-----	4,805
Residences called on for rats-----	281
Pounds of poisoned baits used for rats-----	427
Quarts of poisoned water used for rats	109
Man hours of county labor used in Plague Operations--	1,283
Man hours of ranch labor used in Plague Operations--	72
Horse hours used in Plague Operations-----	114
Cost of Rodent Borne Disease Operations-----	\$ 3,138.73

APIARY INSPECTION

Apiaries registered in county-----	2
Colonies registered in county-----	45
Apiaries entering county-----	28
Colonies entering county-----	2,822
Apiaries leaving county-----	21
Colonies leaving county-----	2,506
Apiaries burned because of American Foulbrood infection-----	2
Colonies burned because of American Foulbrood infection-----	32

FRUIT, NUT, VEGETABLE, EGG AND HONEY STANDARDIZATION

Containers for which clearances were issued-----	35,760
Dozens of eggs inspected-----	1,525
Dozens of eggs rejected-----	44

FIELD & ORCHARD INSPECTION AND PEST CONTROL

Man hours spent in Field & Orchard Inspection & Pest Control-----	778
Permits issued for the use of injurious materials---	264
Acres treated by aircraft in county-----	26,383
Acres treated by ground operations in county-----	5,914
Estimated total acreage treated by other than Pest Control Operators-----	23,576

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

SCALES

Sealed without correction-----	141
Sealed after correction-----	108
Found "out of order"-----	29

WEIGHTS

Sealed without correction-----	178
Sealed after correction-----	5

LIQUID PUMPS AND METERS

Sealed without correction-----	87
Sealed after correction-----	18
Found "out of order"-----	4

LIQUID CAPACITY MEASURES

Sealed without correction-----	283
--------------------------------	-----

PACKAGES INSPECTED

Found light-----	32
Found correct-----	30
Found heavy-----	<u>1</u>

<u>TOTAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES</u>	<u>916</u>
-----------------------------------	------------