

IMPERIAL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

B. A. HARRIGAN  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

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ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1950

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HUGH T. OSBORNE - CHAIRMAN

E. E. CAVANAH

N. L. FIFIELD

JOHN LYDICK

J. R. SNYDER

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT - 1950

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
and  
The State Director of Agriculture

It is required by Sec. 65.5 of the Agricultural Code that the Agricultural Commissioner compile a report covering the acreage, production, and value of the agricultural products of the County. Herewith is submitted such a report for the County of Imperial.

I wish to emphasize that these values are Gross Values, F.O.B. Shipping Point and include the cost of production, harvesting, and preparation for market. The net income to farmers was not increased in proportion to the gross sales due to lower farm prices and increased costs of labor and all materials used in harvesting and handling the crops.

The members of our department, including office personnel, and District Inspectors have made an earnest endeavor to make this report as accurate as possible.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to farmers, packers, and shippers who have assisted in making this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

*B. A. Harrigan*  
B. A. HARRIGAN  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Imperial County

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FIELD CROPS

|                        |        |          |                         |
|------------------------|--------|----------|-------------------------|
| Alfalfa                | 21,333 | Carloads | \$ 6,399,900.00         |
| Alfalfa Meal           | 2,157  | "        | 2,911,950.00            |
| Barley                 | 619    | "        | 1,304,233.00            |
| Wheat                  | 550    | "        | 1,551,000.00            |
| Flax                   | 1,141  | "        | 6,706,798.00            |
| Milo                   | 383    | "        | 972,054.00              |
| Flax Straw             | 1,432  | "        | 240,576.00              |
| Flax Fiber             | 350    | "        | 525,000.00              |
| Screenings - Seed      | 74     | "        | 73,260.00               |
| Sugar Beets            | 15,477 | "        | 7,784,931.00            |
| Sugar Beet By-Products | 261    | "        | 594,475.00              |
| Grain Hay              | 518    | "        | 121,212.00              |
| Straw                  | 685    | "        | 106,860.00              |
|                        |        | Total... | <u>\$ 29,292,249.00</u> |

FRUIT AND NUTS

|                     |           |          |                        |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------|
| Grapefruit - Packed | 381       | Carloads | \$ 626,364.00          |
| Grapefruit - Juice  | 147       | "        | 58,880.00              |
| Orange - Juice      | 140       | "        | 78,240.00              |
| Tangerines          | 44        | "        | 121,000.00             |
| Lemons              | 14        | "        | 32,340.00              |
| Grapes              | 133       | "        | 418,950.00             |
| Honey               | 1,800,000 | Pounds   | 162,000.00             |
| Dates               | 447,000   | "        | 77,337.00              |
| Pecans              | 20,000    | "        | 10,000.00              |
|                     |           | Total... | <u>\$ 1,585,111.00</u> |

VEGETABLES

|                   |        |          |                         |
|-------------------|--------|----------|-------------------------|
| Lettuce           | 15,346 | Carloads | \$15,223,232.00         |
| Carrots           | 3,683  | "        | 2,883,789.00            |
| Carrots -- Topped | 406    | "        | 267,960.00              |
| Cabbage           | 548    | "        | 353,280.00              |
| Peas              | 104    | "        | 207,480.00              |
| Onions            | 1,534  | "        | 1,150,500.00            |
| Mixed Vegetables  | 481    | "        | 432,900.00              |
| Broccoli          | 126    | "        | 226,800.00              |
| Romaine           | 224    | "        | 197,120.00              |
|                   |        | Total... | <u>\$ 20,943,061.00</u> |

TRUCK CROPS

|                    |       |          |                         |
|--------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------|
| Cantaloupes        | 7,336 | Carloads | \$ 7,974,232.00         |
| Honeyballs         | 245   | "        | 273,420.00              |
| Mixed Melons       | 227   | "        | 238,350.00              |
| Tomatoes           | 1,940 | "        | 4,190,400.00            |
| Tomatoes - Cannery | 39    | "        | 17,940.00               |
| Squash             | 252   | "        | 529,200.00              |
| Squash - Banana    | 10    | "        | 6,000.00                |
| Cucumbers          | 107   | "        | 187,250.00              |
| Asparagus          | 13    | "        | 30,836.00               |
| Watermelons        | 1,811 | "        | 941,720.00              |
|                    |       | Total... | <u>\$ 14,389,348.00</u> |

ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

|                |                |          |                         |
|----------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|
|                | <i>130,896</i> |          |                         |
| Cattle         | 4,682          | Carloads | \$11,798,640.00         |
| Sheep          | 749            | "        | 2,808,750.00            |
| Wool           | 47             | "        | 970,080.00              |
| Hogs           | 95             | "        | 570,000.00              |
| Horses         | 440            | Head     | 66,000.00               |
| Dairy Cattle   | 9,795          | "        | 1,224,375.00            |
| Market Milk    | 1,768,566      | Gallons  | 1,325,994.00            |
| Dairy Products | 3,399,491      | Pounds   | 715,685.00              |
| Pasturage      | 136,230        | Head     | 932,850.00              |
| Poultry        | 8,025          | Dozen    | 99,294.00               |
| Turkeys        | 2,850          | Head     | 22,800.00               |
| Bees           | 18,000         | Colonies | 216,000.00              |
| Bees Wax       | 17,500         | Pounds   | 7,350.00                |
| Eggs           | 13,020         | Cases    | 164,052.00              |
|                |                | Total... | <u>\$ 20,921,870.00</u> |

MISC. ITEMS

|                  |         |          |                         |
|------------------|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| Fertilizer       | 1,081   | Carloads | \$ 108,100.00           |
| Mineral Products | 12,681  | "        | 9,349,155.00            |
| Dry Ice          | 8,000   | Tons     | 240,000.00              |
| Ice              | 279,000 | "        | 1,213,650.00            |
| Schist           | 135     | Carloads | 27,000.00               |
| Pumice Stone     | 841     | "        | 117,740.00              |
|                  |         | Total... | <u>\$ 11,055,645.00</u> |

SEED AND CUT FLOWERS

|                  |            |          |                        |
|------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|
| Cut Flowers      |            |          | \$ 30,000.00           |
| Flower Seed      | 3,500      | Pounds   | 7,000.00               |
| Lettuce Seed     | 65,000     | "        | 65,000.00              |
| Onion Seed       | 80,000     | "        | 80,000.00              |
| Alfalfa Seed     | 12,000,000 | "        | 2,160,000.00           |
| Clover Seed      | 400,000    | "        | 40,000.00              |
| Sesbania Seed    | 200,000    | "        | 15,000.00              |
| Vegetable Seed   | 60,000     | "        | 35,000.00              |
| Barley Seed      | 1,500,000  | "        | 45,000.00              |
| Wheat Seed       | 500,000    | "        | 24,000.00              |
| Flax Seed        | 2,257,000  | "        | 338,550.00             |
| Castor Bean Seed | 250,000    | "        | 62,500.00              |
|                  |            | Total... | <u>\$ 2,902,050.00</u> |

|                           |          |               |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Soil Improvement Payments | Total... | \$ 198,000.00 |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------|

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

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Field Crops               | \$ 29,292,249.00         |
| Fruit and Nuts            | 1,585,111.00             |
| Sugar                     | 4,648,890.00             |
| Vegetables                | 20,943,061.00            |
| Truck Crops               | 14,389,348.00            |
| Animal Industries         | 20,921,870.00            |
| Misc. Items               | 11,055,645.00            |
| Seed and Cut Flowers      | 2,902,050.00             |
| Soil Improvement Payments | <u>198,000.00</u>        |
| GRAND TOTAL...            | <u>\$ 105,936,224.00</u> |

ACREAGE 1950

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Field Crops     | 351,928 Acres |
| Permanent Crops | 3,612 "       |
| Vegetable Crops | 49,251 "      |

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|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Area in Irrigated District | 612,658 Acres |
| 1942 Inclusion             | 272,330 "     |
| Gross Area of District     | 884,990 "     |

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|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Number of Farms       | 4,779 Farms |
| Average Area per Farm | 103 Acres   |

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ASSESSED VALUATION

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| -1910-          | -1950-          |
| \$12,148,180.00 | \$51,085,184.00 |

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CROP AND LIVESTOCK VALUES

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| -1940-          | -1950-            |
| \$26,805,353.00 | \$ 105,936,224.00 |

The total valuations as listed in the 1950 Agricultural Crop Report indicate an increase over 1949. Markets were generally stronger on most farm produce and livestock.

Pasturage of sheep and cattle and the consumption of local feed added materially to revenue received by Alfalfa and Grain growers in the County.

Dehydrating of increased acreage of Alfalfa reduced Alfalfa Hay tonnage. Alfalfa Meal production was more than doubled over the 1949 records.

Alfalfa Seed production, from approximately 150,000 acres, materially reduced hay production as an average of one cutting of Alfalfa was lost. Seed production totaled 12,000,000 pounds. Yields varied greatly, but on the whole the production was satisfactory.

Flax acreage and production decreased over 1949. Yields were generally satisfactory.

The returns from truck crops show a sharp decrease compared with the returns of 1949. Early harvested crops were sent to weak markets and it was due only to better demand late in the season that returns saved some growers from serious losses.

Cantaloupe shipments increased sharply with quality exceptionally good. Markets were steady and F.O.B. returns were above the level of 1949.

#### PEST CONTROL

Imperial County was troubled with the usual variety of insect pests affecting truck and vegetable crops. Lygus and Stink Bugs working on alfalfa seed plantings caused serious damage to some fields. The entire acreage of alfalfa seed plantings, approximately 150,000 acres, was treated with insecticides twice and in some areas three times. Records from permits issued by the County Agricultural Department show approximately 6,000,000 pounds of various insecticides were used on crops in this County during the year. All applications for use of insecticides were handled through the Agricultural Department under a permit system.

Severe infestations of grasshoppers in scattered areas in the County required applications of poison bait. Excellent results were obtained through the use of Chlordane, oil and flake bran applied by airplane at the rate of five to seven pounds per acre. Bran for this material was furnished by the Federal Government with mixing and distribution by the County Agricultural Department. This program will be followed next year as infestations become apparent.

Treatment of Red Scale infestations were carried on by the County through the facilities of the County Agricultural Department. This is follow-up work and results have been very encouraging. Oil emulsion spray has been used in this work.

#### HIGHWAY TRUCK CHECKING STATIONS

Two inspection and checking stations, one on Highway 99 and one located on Highway 80 are manned and operated by the Agricultural Department. These stations are operated twenty-four hours per day throughout the year and have proved to be of great value in checking produce moving to markets. Records of trucks have also proven to be of value in checking of stolen property by law enforcing agencies.

#### PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

A cooperative arrangement between the State and Federal Department and Imperial County has proven of great benefit to cattlemen and poultry raisers in the County. Trappers work in this area late in the Fall and early Spring of each year when coyotes are a serious menace to sheep during the lambing period.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The County Agricultural Commissioner is also Sealer of Weights and Measures in Imperial County. This work is carried on by personnel from the Agricultural Department. Great tonnage of produce moving by truck from this area makes necessary regular testing of all heavy duty scales. This has been greatly augmented by the cooperation of the State Bureaus heavy duty trucks and personnel. Light scales, pumps and meters are checked by County Deputies throughout the year.