

IMPERIAL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

E. A. HARRIGAN
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1953

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

E. E. CAVANAH - CHAIRMAN

J.R. SNYDER

N.L. FIFIELD

H.T. OSBORNE

T.J. BOLEY

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT - 1953

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

BAH:cs

1 9 5 3

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa	25,221	Carloads	\$ 8,575,140.00
Alfalfa Meal	1,526	"	2,289,000.00
Barley	1,861	"	4,561,311.00
Wheat	37	"	114,552.00
Milo Maize	167	"	438,041.00
Flax Straw	826	"	148,785.00
Flax Fibre	330	"	495,000.00
Flax Seed	349	"	2,130,944.00
Flax Shive	7	"	15,000.00
Screenings-Seed	40	"	52,800.00
Sugar Beets	18,579	"	9,623,922.00
Sugar Beet By-Products	17,000	Tons	850,000.00
Sugar	32,500	"	5,460,000.00
Cotton	164,289	Bales	27,107,685.00
Cotton Seed	6,771	Tons	338,550.00
Cotton By-Products	2,437	"	2,107,224.00
Grain Hay	137	Carloads	32,058.00
Straw	63	"	11,466.00
			<hr/>
Total.....			\$ 64,351,478.00

FRUIT AND NUTS

Grapefruit	264	Carloads	271,920.00
Oranges	71	"	59,640.00
Tangerines	27	"	97,200.00
Lemons	17	"	18,292.00
Grapes	123	"	415,125.00
Honey	1,890,000	Pounds	207,900.00
Dates	318,500	"	63,700.00
Pecans	23,000	"	11,500.00
			<hr/>
Total.....			\$ 1,145,277.00

VEGETABLES

Lettuce	18,293	Carloads	\$ 14,634,400.00
Carrots	6,748	"	7,004,912.00
Cabbage	313	"	150,240.00
Peas	55	"	134,750.00
Onions	415	"	224,100.00
Froccoli	165	"	264,000.00
Romaine	133	"	106,400.00
Mixed Vegetables	48	"	61,200.00
Cabbage (Eulk)	5,748	Tons	114,960.00
Carrots (Cull)	1,058	"	5,290.00

Total \$ 22,740,252.00

TRUCK CROPS

Cantaloupes	4,892	Carloads	\$ 9,930,760.00
Mixed Melons	118	"	177,000.00
Watermelons	1,908	"	1,364,220.00
Tomatoes	2,344	"	3,164,400.00
Squash	401	"	902,250.00
Cucumbers	25	"	31,250.00
Asparagus	37	"	149,184.00
Green Corn	51	"	74,970.00

Total \$ 15,793,989.00

ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

Cattle	8,113	Carloads	\$ 12,494,020.00
Sheep	1,939	"	6,689,550.00
Wool	33	"	660,000.00
Hogs	93	"	418,500.00
Dairy Cattle	6,606	Head	312,550.00
Market Milk	2,603,724	Gallons	2,109,065.00
Dairy Products	426,891	Pounds	214,150.00
Dairy Products	360,038	Gallons	405,356.00
Pasturage	365,615	Head	2,367,850.00
Poultry	17,846	Dozen	103,821.00
Turkeys	1,600	Head	14,000.00
Bees	21,000	Colonies	252,000.00
Bees Wax	38,500	Pounds	15,785.00
Eggs	7,833	Cases	134,565.00
Meat & Packing House Prod.	1,822	Tons	1,457,600.00

Total..... \$ 27,648,812.00

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Fertilizer	929 Carloads	\$ 116,125.00
Mineral Products	13,417 "	12,397,214.00
Dry Ice	6,973 Tons	223,136.00
Ice	237,600 "	<u>1,033,524.00</u>
Total.....		\$ 13,769,999.00

SEED AND CUT FLOWERS

Cut Flowers		\$ 9,000.00
Flower Seed	9,000 Pounds	18,000.00
Lettuce Seed	35,000 "	35,000.00
Onion Seed	142,000 "	142,000.00
Alfalfa Seed	3,500,000 "	700,000.00
Clover Seed	88,000 "	5,300.00
Sesbania Seed	200,000 "	14,000.00
Vegetable Seed	25,000 "	25,000.00
Barley Seed	2,000,000 "	70,000.00
Wheat Seed	25,000 "	1,000.00
Flax Seed	1,470,000 "	<u>132,300.00</u>
Total.....		\$ 1,151,600.00
Soil Improvement Payments	Total.....	157,037.00

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Alfalfa	\$ 8,575,140	\$14,488,200
Sugar Beets	9,623,922	9,243,696
Cotton	27,107,685	20,496,050
Lettuce	14,634,400	17,531,360
Carrots	7,004,912	7,051,136
Broccoli	264,000	324,800
Sheep	6,689,550	5,666,250
Pasturage	2,367,850	2,229,075
Cantaloupes	9,930,760	6,442,060
Tomatoes	3,164,400	2,486,304
Squash	902,250	794,750
Green Corn	74,970	279,000
Mineral Products	12,397,214	14,999,915
Lettuce Seed	35,000	25,000

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

Field Crops	\$64,351,478.00
Fruit and Nuts	1,145,277.00
Vegetables	22,740,252.00
Truck Crops	15,793,989.00
Animal Industries	27,648,812.00
Misc. Items	13,769,999.00
Seed and Cut Flowers	1,151,600.00
Soil Improvement Payments	157,037.00

TOTAL \$ 146,758,444.00

ACREAGE 1953

Field Crops	440,051 Acres
Permanent Crops	3,402 "
Vegetable Crops	66,616 "

Area In Irrigated District	618,849 Acres
1942 Inclusion	280,447 "
Gross Area of District	899,372 "

Number of Farms	4,998 Farms
Average Area per Farm	101 Acres

ASSESSED VALUATION

-1910-	-1953-
\$12,148,180.00	\$70,355,680.00

CROP AND LIVESTOCK VALUES

-1943-	-1953-
\$58,544,562.00	\$146,758,444.00

A small decrease is noted in the total valuation as listed in the 1953 Agricultural Report. Markets on many agriculture products were lower during the harvesting season and this condition was reflected directly in the total valuations.

Sheep and cattle pasturage was available and the number of head wintered in this area remained at a normal figure. The number of head of cattle fed out in feed yards indicated a slight increase over last year.

Production of alfalfa hay and meal were above normal. Weak markets prevailed generally throughout the year. Shipments of alfalfa hay to drought areas late in the year steadied the market as well as moving much of the hay held in storage. Very little old hay remained unsold when first cuttings of alfalfa were ready.

Alfalfa seed production increased with a production of 3,500,000 lbs. for the crop. Yields were generally satisfactory although seed prices at harvest time were rather low.

Flax acreage decreased for the year. Yields were good with satisfactory markets. Acreage reduction could be traced to the acreage of cotton and sugar beet plantings.

Cotton acreage increased to a total of 112,898 acres for the year. Yields were good with an over all average of 1.54 bales per acre.

- PEST CONTROL -

Insect pests affecting truck and vegetable crops proved to be a major problem. Cotton, sugar beets and fall vegetable crops required almost continuous application of insecticides. Insecticide permits issued by the Agricultural Department indicated that 285,111 acres were treated by the application of 7,217,775 pounds of insecticide dust. 1,221,020 gallons of spray including defoliant, pre-harvest and weed control were applied during the season.

Grasshoppers continued to be serious pests in some areas of the Valley. Very satisfactory control was had through the use of flake bran and cholrdane applied at the rate of 10 lbs. per acre by airplane.

Federal government supplies were exhausted and all necessary materials were then purchased by the County. Actual material costs excepting handling and labor were paid by the users. 91 tons of bait were mixed and distributed. This program will be continued through 1954. This bait proved satisfactory when applied for crickets damaging young lettuce and corn plants.

- HIGHWAY TRUCK CHECKING STATIONS -

Four inspection and checking stations, one on Hwy 99, one on Hwy 80, one on Hwy 111, west of Niland and one at Ocotillo are manned and operated by the Agricultural Department. These stations are operated twenty-four hours per day throughout the year and have proven to be of great value in checking produce moving to markets. Records of trucks have also been of value in the checking of stolen property by law enforcing agencies.

- PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL -

A cooperative arrangement for predatory animal control between the State and Federal Department and Imperial County has been very beneficial to livestock 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 Weight 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 Bureau's heavy duty trucks and personnel. Light scales, pumps and meters are checked by County Deputies throughout the year.

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
CROP SURVEY: MARCH 15, 1954

<u>FIELD CROPS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>GARDEN CROPS (Cont'd)</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Alfalfa	138,474	Onions	819
Barley	95,598	Cauliflower	11
Oats	661	Broccoli	174
Wheat	1,497	Cucumbers	26
Bermuda	608	Beets	10
Flax	34,077	Mixed Vegetables	19
Sudan	120	Egg Plant	1
Field Corn	699	Beans	55
Hubam Clover	144	Chili Peppers	1
Sugar Beets	58,543	Persian Melons	135
Permanent Pasture	387	Okra	29
Cotton	3,216	Chicory	35
Horse Beans	28	Turnips	4
Flowers	137	Garlic	35
Cane	4	Chinese Lilies	6
Milo	181	TOTAL	<u>31,580</u>
Castor Beans	3		
TOTAL	<u>334,377</u>		
<u>PERMANENT CROPS</u>		TOTAL AREA CROPPED	368,934
Asparagus	259	PREPARED FOR CROP	53,633
Tangerines	234	BETWEEN CROP	<u>44,947</u>
Dates	178	TOTAL AREA FARMED & FARM-	
Grapes	851	ABLE	467,514
Pecans	112	AREA OCCUPIED BY HOMES,	
Lemons	20	FEEDLOTS, CORRALS, ETC.	11,493
Grapefruit	966	AREA OCCUPIED BY CITIES,	
Oranges	324	AIRPORTS, ETC.	<u>15,000</u>
Strawberries	6	AREA TO WHICH WATER IS	
Mixed Citrus	9	FURNISHED	494,007
Nursery	18	OCCUPIED BY RIVERS, DRAINS,	
TOTAL	<u>2,977</u>	CANALS, ROADS & RAILROADS	59,236
		COVERED BY SALTON SEA	29,500
		UNDEVELOPED RAW LANDS	<u>38,618</u>
<u>GARDEN CROPS</u>		TOTAL ACREAGE IN IRRIGATED	
Lettuce	4,270	AREA OF DISTRICT	621,361
Cantaloupes	10,968	EAST MESA, WEST MESA AND	
Honeydews	10	PILOT KNOE MESA	<u>281,340</u>
Honeyballs	3	TOTAL GROSS ACREAGE OF	
Watermelon	4,828	DISTRICT	902,701
Peas	80		
Carrots	4,037		
Tomatoes	3,577		
Cabbage	478		
Squash	1,410		
Sweet Corn	559		

Note: Of the total area reported as farmed, there were 96,653 acres on which more than one crop had been grown or was being grown.