



AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

KINGS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 1981

KINGS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

** PERSONNEL **

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

M. HUGH HANDLEY

DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALERS

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CLERICAL

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X X

CROP REPORT COVER: The harvest of alfalfa seed in the Tulare
Lake Basin near Corcoran, California.

(Courtesy of J.G. Boswell Co.)



KINGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

M. HUGH HANDLEY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES

P. O. BOX C - 280 CAMPUS DRIVE

HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

(209) 582-3211

April 1, 1982

Mr. Richard E. Rominger, Director
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Kings

Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to submit this 1981 Agricultural Crop Report, which was compiled in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

The gross value of agricultural crops and products grown in Kings County during the calendar year 1981 was \$598,200,789., a 5.8% reduction in value from 1980.

Although yields were good for most crops during 1981, lower prices received by growers accounted for a decrease of more than 37 million dollars from 1980. Cotton alone (including lint and seed) reflected a decrease of nearly 50 million dollars from 1980. Depressed livestock prices indicated a lower value.

Seed alfalfa however, increased substantially in acreage and reflected nearly 11 million dollars increase over 1980. The value of wheat increased also due to increased acreage.

All figures in this report are gross returns and do not indicate net income, or profit received by growers.

This report would not have been possible without the many individuals who willingly provided the information. A special thanks to O.D. "Mac" McCutcheon, Kings County Farm Advisor and Burt Ray, California Crop Improvement Association for their assistance in our seed alfalfa story, and to Diane Reeves of my staff who compiled the report.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Hugh Handley
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

MHH:dod

SEED ALFALFA IN KINGS COUNTY
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

"The great interest in alfalfa growing throughout the country has created a much larger demand for alfalfa seed than our farmers have been able to supply. This has brought about the heavy importation of foreign seed, some of which has been shipped even to the Pacific Coast. With the enormous area devoted to alfalfa in this country, we should be exporting seed rather than importing it."

*-Report of the Secretary
1907 Yearbook of the Department
of Agriculture*

Times have changed. No longer does the United States import alfalfa seed to meet its demand. That role reversed itself with the beginning of large scale production of alfalfa seed in California during the late 1940's.

Before that time, seed produced in California was known as "California Common," and was not hardy enough to withstand the severe cold of Eastern winters. By 1948, researchers found if seed originating in the eastern United States was planted in California, one generation maintained its hardiness. California production of alfalfa for seed began to grow.

In 1950, nearly 8,000 acres of alfalfa were harvested in California. That number doubled each year until 1957 when 190,000 acres were harvested. Then it declined to its 1971 level of 91,000 acres where it has remained relatively stable. California now produces more than 40 per cent of the nation's alfalfa seed on less than 20 per cent of the total national acreage.

Seed alfalfa was produced in Kings County as early as 1925, but production wasn't steady until the 1950's. In 1950, only 300 acres of alfalfa seed were harvested. That number grew steadily, and in 1980, the county produced more than 20,000 acres, or nearly 30 per cent of California's total alfalfa seed acreage. It continued to increase in 1981 with almost 32,000 acres planted - a 60 per cent increase in just one year! Alfalfa seed production has become big business in Kings County with a 1981 value of over \$25 million.

Alfalfa comprised over 75 per cent of all seed production in Kings County during 1981. Two categories of seed are raised - certified and non-certified. The purpose of certified seed is to maintain varietal identity for improved crops. The California Crop Improvement Association, University of California Agricultural Extension Service Farm Advisors, and County Agricultural Commissioners all are involved in the seed certification process. 1981 was the 28th year of certified seed production in Kings County. It began in 1953 with 992 acres. Currently, about 85 per cent of the Kings County crop is certified.

Kings County has the second oldest pure seed organization in the state. It was founded by former Cooperative Extension Director H.R. Keller in 1931 with the help from a group of alert farmers and former Agricultural Commissioner L.O. Haupt.

The alfalfa seed industry should continue to grow in Kings County. The land is blessed with sufficient water and deep soils, and several processing plants are well established. Besides the demand on both foreign and domestic markets for Kings County alfalfa seed, a new market is developing. This is the demand from the home and restaurant trade for alfalfa sprouts—a demand that requires seed that is uniform and of highest quality.

The future for alfalfa seed is anyone's guess, but it appears to be bright.

ANNUAL CROP REPORT
FOR YEAR 1981

KINGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

M. HUGH HANDLEY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

KINGS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LESLIE K. BROWN DISTRICT I
JOE HAMMOND DISTRICT II
EVON G. CODY DISTRICT III
DOYLE DAVIS DISTRICT IV
ABEL MEIRELLES DISTRICT V

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MILTON D. McCoy

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FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL				TOTAL
Barley	1981	90,000	1.55	139,500	Ton	\$ 128.00	\$ 17,856,000	
	1980	86,817	1.68	145,850	Ton	130.00	18,960,500	
Corn	1981	14,000	2.87	40,180	Ton	120.00	4,821,600	
	1980	10,100	3.41	34,440	Ton	139.00	4,787,160	
Cotton Lint	1981	309,000	2.17	670,530	495-lb. Bale	322.00	215,910,660	
	1980	285,965	1.99	569,070	495-lb. Bale	397.00	255,920,790	
Cotton Seed	1981			291,345	Ton	95.00	27,677,775	
	1980			247,261	Ton	150.00	37,089,150	
Cotton Planting Seed	1981			6,370	Ton	121.00	770,770	
	1980			4,945	Ton	170.00	840,650	
Hay Alfalfa	1981	46,300	6.22	287,986	Ton	72.00	20,734,992	
	1980	44,440	6.34	281,750	Ton	89.00	25,075,750	
Grain	1981	1,907	7.61	14,512	Ton	70.00	1,015,840	
	1980	1,700	2.13	3,621	Ton	45.00	162,950	
Pasture Irrigated	1981	12,000			Acre	105.00	1,260,000	
	1980	10,000			Acre	115.00	1,150,000	
Range	1981	218,000			Acre	2.00	436,000	
	1980	219,000			Acre	2.00	438,000	
Other	1981	45,000			Acre	18.00	810,000	
	1980	46,000			Acre	18.00	828,000	
Safflower	1981	30,509	.89	27,153	Ton	350.00	9,503,550	
	1980	31,750	.98	31,115	Ton	280.00	8,712,200	

Screenings	1981			3,510	Ton	50.00	175,500
	1980			3,950	Ton	66.00	260,700
Silage Corn	1981	11,500	20.85	239,775	Ton	14.50	3,476,738
	1980	10,100	19.45	196,445	Ton	15.00	2,946,675
Other	1981	5,700	14.28	81,396	Ton	14.00	1,139,544
	1980	4,040	8.8	35,552	Ton	15.00	533,280
Sorghum Grain	1981	12,950	2.06	26,677	Ton	95.00	2,534,315
	1980	6,060	1.96	11,878	Ton	131.00	1,556,020
Soybeans	1981	219	1.02	223	Ton	225.00	50,175
	1980	0	0	0	Ton	0	0
Straw	1981			14,455	Ton	25.00	361,375
	1980			10,275	Ton	36.00	369,900
Sugar Beets	1981	2,532	22.00	55,704	Ton	32.00	1,782,528
	1980	1,118	26.24	29,336	Ton	44.25	1,298,120
Wheat	1981	85,000	2.61	221,850	Ton	135.00	29,949,750
	1980	47,040	2.36	111,014	Ton	132.00	14,653,850
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1981	3,458					1,410,230
	1980	4,706 **					976,420 **
TOTAL	1981	888,075					\$341,677,342
	1980	808,836					378,527,295

a/ Dry Beans, Rice

** Revised

KINGS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
280 CAMPUS DRIVE
HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

FIELD CROPS - Cont'd

M. HUGH HANDLEY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

M. HUGH HANDLEY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

CROP	YEAR	UTILIZATION	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION		VALUE	
			BEARING	NON BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL TONS	PER TON	TOTAL
Almonds - Meats	1981	Dried	4,535	496	.42	1,909	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,818,000
	1980	Dried	4,847	41	.524	2,540	3,033.00	7,703,820
Almonds - Hulls	1981					3,169	52.00	164,790
	1980					4,216	50.00	210,800
Apricots	1981	Fresh				198	700.00	138,600
		Processed				262	272.00	71,264
		Total	121	72	3.8	460		209,864
	1980	Fresh				181	634.00	114,754
	Processed				239	280.00	66,920	
	Total	91	102	4.61	420		181,674	
Grapes Raisin Varieties	1981	Fresh				779	400.00	311,600
		Dried				2,797	1,300.00	3,636,100
		Crushed				11,961	200.00	2,392,200
		Total	2,154	231	7.21	15,537		6,339,900
	1980	Fresh				959	571.00	547,589
		Dried	(4 to 1 dry away = 864)				3,454	1,162.00
Crushed					14,775	145.00	2,142,375	
	Total	2,239	65	8.57	19,188		6,703,515 **	
Wine Varieties	1981	Crushed	1,029	210	6.04	6,215	230.00	1,429,450
	1980	Crushed	1,122	37	7.9	8,864	210.00	1,861,440
Table Varieties	1981	Fresh	52	28	6.40	333	1,046.00	348,318
	1980	Fresh	50	16	6.45	323	775.00	250,325
Total - All Grapes	1981		3,235	469				8,117,668
	1980		3,411	114				8,815,280 **
Nectarines	1981	Fresh	665	278	8.72	5,799	299.00	1,733,901
	1980	Fresh	463	290	10.21	4,727	260.00	1,229,020

Olives	1981		1,162	5	1.20	1,394	\$ 623.00	\$ 868,462
	1980		1,162	5	1.92	2,231	450.00	1,003,950
Peaches Clingstone	1981	Processed	1,163	113	15.90	18,492	182.00	3,365,544
	1980	Processed	1,149	137	18.39	21,130	160.00	3,380,800
Freestone	1981	Fresh				7,697	393.00	3,024,921
		Processed				667	127.00	84,709
		Total	865	421	9.67	8,364		3,109,630
	1980	Fresh Processed Total	847	450	9.60	7,481	497.00	3,718,057
						650	119.00	77,350
						8,131		3,795,407
Total - All Peaches	1981		2,028	534		26,856		6,475,174
	1980		1,996	587		29,261		7,176,207
Pistachios	1981		2,842	32	.33	938	3,200.00	3,001,600
	1980		2,792	89	.605	1,689	4,000.00	6,756,000
Plums	1981	Fresh	993	213	6.36	6,315	592.00	3,738,480
	1980	Fresh	1,116	403	5.01	5,591	705.00	3,941,655
Walnuts	1981	Dried	3,583	744	1.61	5,769	960.00	5,538,240
	1980	Dried	4,485	375	1.29	5,786	897.00	5,190,040
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1981		398	203				730,015
	1980		306	164				630,370
TOTAL	1981		19,562	3,046				34,396,194
	1980		20,669	2,170				\$ 42,738,819 **

a/ Kiwi, Pecans, Persimmons, Pomegranates, Quince, Apples, Prunes

**Revised

KINGS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
280 CAMPUS DRIVE
HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS - Cont'd.

M. HUGH HANDLEY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

KINGS COUNTY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 280 CAMPUS DRIVE
 HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

VEGETABLE CROPS

M. HUGH HANDLEY
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

CROP	YEAR	UTILIZATION	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
				PER ACRE	TOTAL			TOTAL	TOTAL
Cantaloupes	1981	Fresh	1,709	253	432,377	70 lb. Crate	\$ 9.23	\$ 3,990,340	
	1980	Fresh	1,661	230	382,030	70 lb. Crate	8.82		3,369,505
Lettuce	1981	Fresh	2,980	675	2,011,500	43 lb. Carton	4.06		8,166,690
	1980	Fresh	3,500	674	2,359,000	43 lb. Carton	3.57		8,421,630
Onions	1981	Fresh	320	17.00	5,440	Ton	75.00		408,000
	1980	Fresh	515	15.25	7,854	Ton	59.00		463,385.
Peppers, Chili	1981	Dried	530	2.00	1,060	Ton	1,120.00		1,187,200
Tomatoes	1981	Processed	600	24.0	14,400	Ton	50.80		731,520.
	1980	Processed	839	26.6	22,317	Ton	47.70		1,064,521.
Watermelons	1981	Fresh	106	20	2,120	Ton	120		254,400
	1980	Fresh	180	14	2,520	Ton	164		413,280.
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1981		1,023						4,030,849
	1980		1,491	**					4,971,088 **
TOTAL	1981		7,268					\$ 18,769,000	
	1980		8,186						18,703,410.

a/ Includes Cauliflower, Broccoli, Carrots, Peppers, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Brussel Sprouts, Stringbeans, Cucumbers, Squash, Garlic, Bell Peppers, Sweet Corn, Asparagus, Fresh Market Tomatoes.

**Revised

SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL			TOTAL	TOTAL
Certified Seed								
Alfalfa	1981	26,693	656	17,510,608	lb.	\$ 1.25	\$ 21,888,260	
	1980	18,610	594	11,054,340	lb.	\$ 1.30	\$ 14,370,640	
Barley	1981	2,451	3,440	8,431,440	lb.	.10	843,145	
	1980	4,027	3,500	14,094,500	lb.	.105	1,479,925	
Safflower	1981	816	1,780	1,452,480	lb.	.22	319,545	
	1980	0	0	0	lb.	0	0	
Wheat	1981	6,468	5,200	33,633,600	lb.	.11	3,699,695	
	1980	6,902	5,300	36,580,600	lb.	.120	4,389,670	
Cotton	1981	660	1,880	1,240,800	lb.	.069	85,615	
Other Seed								
Lettuce	1981	1,236	419	517,884	lb.	2.29	1,185,955	
	1980	1,103	470	518,410	lb.	1.80	933,140	
Uncertified Alfalfa	1981	5,206	785	4,086,710	lb.	1.22	4,985,785	
	1980	2,047	594	1,215,918	lb.	1.27	1,544,215	
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1981	607					601,305	
	1980	404					80,745	
TOTAL	1981	42,901					\$ 32,423,350	
	1980	31,990 **					21,865,195 **	

a/ Flower, Eggplant, Onion, Snap Bean, Watermelon

	YEAR	Acres	NURSERY PRODUCTS **		Unit	Per Unit	Total
			Quantity	Sold			
Dec. Fruit & Nut Trees	1981	4	100		Plant	\$6.00	\$ 600
	1980	4	0		Plant	6.00	0
Vegetable & Flower Plants in Flats, Bulbs	1981	2	2,300		Plant	1.52	3,496
	1980	2	2,150		Plant	1.25	2,688
Total	1981	6	2,400				4,096
	1980	6	2,150				2,688

** Revised

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

M. HUGH HANDLEY
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE	
		NO. OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT			TOTAL	TOTAL
Cattle & Calves	1981	119,652	829,914	Cwt.	\$ 57.40	\$ 47,637,060	
	1980	130,800	770,455	Cwt.	69.00	53,161,395	
Sheep & Lambs	1981	25,123	27,635	Cwt.	56.30	1,555,850	
	1980	30,042	30,943	Cwt.	63.00	1,949,410	
Hogs & Pigs	1981	1,200	264,000	lb.	.48	126,720	
	1980	1,192	262,240	lb.	.409	107,255	
Turkeys	1981	1,530,000	30,600,000	lb.	.41	12,546,000	
	1980	1,761,000	35,483,784	lb.	.409	14,512,870	
Fish - Catfish	1981		264,000	lb.	1.70	448,800	
	1980		348,000	lb.	1.50	522,000	
Miscellaneous <u>a/</u>	1981	480,000				716,930	
	1980	492,050 **				664,440 **	
TOTAL	1981					\$ 63,031,360	
	1980					70,917,370	

a/ Geese, Fryers, Other Chickens
 **Revised

INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK & POULTRY (In Number of Head)

ITEM	January 1, 1981	January 1, 1982
Milk Cows 2 Years and Over	65,565	63,117
Cattle and Calves On Feed	7,646	6,126
Other Cattle and Calves	63,161	50,579
Total	136,372	119,822
Sheep and Lambs	31,741	39,608
Hogs and Pigs	470	480
Hens and Pullets	168,975	269,000

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
Milk Market	1981	7,718,000	Cwt .	\$ 13.33	\$102,881,000
	1980	7,889,000	Cwt .	12.39	97,745,000
Manufacturing	1981	21,400	Cwt .	12.55	268,570
	1980	31,500	Cwt .	11.96	377,000
Wool	1981	339,441	lb .	.98	332,650
	1980	272,187	lb .	.88	239,525
Eggs, Chicken - Market	1981	242,600	Doz .	.66	160,115
	1980	711,167	Doz .	.62	440,925
TOTAL	1981				\$103,642,335
	1980				98,802,450

APIARY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	
				PER UNIT	TOTAL
Honey	1981	4,563,800	lb .	.51	\$ 2,327,538
	1980	3,439,391	lb .	.50	1,719,695
Beeswax	1981	91,276	lb .	1.98	180,726
	1980	62,000	lb .	1.68	104,160
Pollination	1981	91,276	Col .	19.16	1,748,848
	1980	62,000	Col .	17.00	1,054,000
TOTAL	1981				\$ 4,257,111
	1980				2,877,855

KINGS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
280 CAMPUS DRIVE
HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230

M. HUGH HANDLEY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER-SEALER

1981 CROP SUMMARY

Field Crops	\$341,677,342	Seed Crops	\$ 32,423,350
Fruit and Nut Crops	34,396,194	Vegetable Crops	18,769,000
Livestock and Poultry	63,031,360	Nursery Products	4,096
Livestock and Poultry Products	103,642,335	Apiary Products	4,257,112
GRAND TOTAL		\$598,200,789	

5 YEAR COMPARISON OF ACREAGE AND CROP VALUES

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Field Crops	\$ 228,007,000	\$ 167,082,000	\$ 289,011,630 **	\$ 378,527,295	\$341,677,342
Acreage	815,934	828,525	816,001	808,836	888.075
Fruit and Nut Crops	22,087,195 **	26,847,180	37,515,140 **	42,738,819 **	34,396,194
Acreage	19,150	19,508	20,330**	20,664	19,562
Livestock and Poultry	35,358,900	48,965,000	75,283,225 **	70,917,370	63,031,360
Livestock and Poultry Products	69,095,500	74,641,000	88,839,600	98,802,450	103,642,335
Seed Crops	22,721,500	13,840,845	25,740,260	21,865,195 **	32,423,350
Acreage	40,898	37,965	37,541	31,990 **	42,901
Vegetable Crops	7,442,000	9,852,000	18,466,000 **	18,703,410	18,769,000
Acreage	3,815	5,985	9,733	8,186	7,268
Nursery Products	60,000	114,000	119,000	2,688 **	4,096
Apiary Products	1,088,900	1,844,000	2,174,000	2,877,855	4,257,112
TOTALS	\$ 385,860,895	\$ 343,186,025	\$ 537,148,855 **	\$ 635,233,678	598,200,789

**Revised

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS - 1981

Cotton Lint	\$215,910,660	Almonds	\$ 3,818,000
Milk, Market	102,881,000	Plums	3,738,480
Cattle and Calves	47,637,060	Certified Wheat Seed	3,669,695
Wheat	29,949,750	Corn Silage	3,476,738
Cotton Seed	27,677,775	Pistachios	3,001,600
Certified Alfalfa Seed	21,888,260	Sorghum Grain	2,534,315
Alfalfa Hay	20,734,992	Honey	2,327,538
Barley	17,856,000	Sugar Beets	1,782,528
Turkeys	12,546,000	Pollination	1,748,848
Safflower	9,503,550	Nectarines	1,733,901
Lettuce	8,166,690	Sheep & Lambs	1,555,850
Grapes	8,117,668	Irrigated Pasture	1,260,000
Peaches	6,475,174	Chili Peppers	1,187,200
Walnuts	5,538,240	Lettuce Seed	1,185,954
Uncertified Alfalfa Seed	4,985,785	Other Silage	1,139,544
Corn	4,821,600	Grain Hay	1,015,840
Cantaloupe	3,990,340		

General Kings County Information

County Seat	Hanford
County Population	73,738
Population per Square Mile	52.9
Total Assessed Value	\$1,699,400,000
Land Area (Square Miles)	1,395
Total Acres	893,504
Number of Farms (1978)	1151
Total Cropland (Acres)	613,373
Irrigated Cropland (Acres)	556,446
Total Agricultural Work Force	7,190

Public Ownership of Land (Acres):

Federal	30,974 (3.5%)
State	3,452 (.4%)
County & City	9,951 (1.1%)
School & Special Districts	4,426 (.4%)

Agricultural production ranked 10th among California counties based on 1980 total value.

Railroads - Santa Fe, Southern Pacific

Major Roads - Interstate 5, Highway 41, Highway 43 & Highway 198

Water Sources - Kings River, Tule River, Kaweah River, Kern River
& California Aquaduct

Elevation - 225 to 250 feet above sea level (800 feet in the Kettleman Hills)

Average length of growing season: 257 days

Average date of first fall frost: November 18

Average date of last spring frost: March 3

Average climate: 196 sunny clear days, 74 partly cloudy days, 95 cloudy days