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California Department of Food and Agriculture

Agricultural Commissioners' Crop Reports

Imperial County

1907-1920

(information from different sources not consistent with
later crop reports)

California County Agricultural Commissioners' Reports from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This collection consists of annual crop and livestock data from each of the 58 California Counties. The collection covers 1915-1981; digitization of the rest of the collection is forthcoming.

This digitization project was funded by the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics,
<http://giannini.ucop.edu/>.

The work was completed by the staff of the Giannini Foundation Library, University of California, Berkeley, <http://are.berkeley.edu/library/>. **Please contact the Library to consult the originals.**

From Appendix "B"

Statistics. Before 1907, all the statistics for Imperial County were included with those of San Diego County, of which it was a part until August 15, 1907.

General Statistics.

	1907-8	1908-9	1909-10
Area- acres	2,560,000	2,560,000	2,560,000
Acres assessed	571,712	731,520	621,953
Total value of All Property	-	\$7,161,382	\$9,603,566
Expended, Roads	\$8,125	\$15,775	\$48,798
Expended, Bridges	\$9,850	\$25,305	\$26,012
Public Roads, miles	350	875	1,250
Value Co. blgs.	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Irrigating Ditches cost - - -	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
Electric Power plant	\$25,000	\$28,475	\$70,640
No. Acres Irrigated	175,343	181,645	207,360
El Tel & Tel lines			
50 m.	\$24,044	75 m. \$42,511	271 m. Telegraph \$38,448
			84 m. Telephone \$ 2,000
			34 m. El. Trans. \$31,800

1

List above compiled from the Reports of the California State Agricultural Society, 1908 - 1909 - 1910.

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In 1911, all agricultural reports were compiled by the California State Board of Agriculture, and the year of 1910 was classified differently, as per abstract below:

1910.

Approximate Land, acres - - -	2,616,960
Number of Farms	1,322
Land in Farms, "	223,662
Improved Land in Farms"	176,069

Total Value of all Farm Property,
 (including domestic animals,
 poultry and bees, \$2,539,207) \$23,646,067 1

All Assessed Property
 in Imperial County - - - - - \$12,148,180 2

Population of incorporated cities and towns.

El Centro, County Seat - - - -	1,610
Imperial, - - - - -	1,267
Brawley, - - - - -	881
Calexico, - - - - -	797
Holtville, - - - - -	729

Total Population for the Valley - - - - - 13,591 3

1 California State Board of Agriculture, 1911-12, pp.300-301.
 13th United States Census Bulletin, Dept. of Commerce, 1910.

2 California State Board of Agriculture, 1911-12, p.22 (State Controllers Dept.

2 " " " " " " p.20

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General Statistics. (Continued.)

Value of Products	1907-8		1908-9		1909-10	
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
Butter, lbs.	1,248,000		1,584,250	\$316,850	2,738,425	\$988,349
Poultry & Eggs		\$3,000		\$3,275		\$47,357
Live Stock Total	No. 112,961	Value \$581,992	No. 72,935	Value \$491,351	No. 75,027	Value \$1,729,072
Wool-lbs.	155,870		175,780	\$17,578	140,000	\$70,000
Cotton	-		-		Lbs. 4,500,000	Value \$685,000
Cotton Seed	-		-		Lbs. 9,000,000	Value \$90,000
Fruit & Veg.	-		Lbs. 3,720,000	Value \$53,000	-	Value \$222,840
Cantaloupes	Acres 1200	Value \$327,790	Acres 8,000	Car-loads 1,859	Crates 120,000	Value \$250,000

Compiled from the Reports of the California State Agricultural Society, 1908 - 1909 - 1910.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY

PACIFIC SYSTEM

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

No.

J. R. DOWNS, COMMERCIAL AGENT

RIVERSIDE, CAL.

D-204

November
Nineteen
1913.

Mr. F. W. Waite,

Mr. W. H. Langsdale,

El Centro, Calif.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to conversation recently in regard to data you wish for Imperial Valley: Mr. Stubbs furnishes me with the following which I hope will be of some benefit to you:

IMPERIAL VALLEY CAR LOAD SHIPMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS
ENDING OCTOBER ~~XXX~~ 1913.

--0--

- In tons of 2000 pounds. -

Barley	11330	Corn	3300	Hay	32540
Cotton	1920	Meal	930	Honey	470
Wheat	270	Grain	210	Onions	200
Tomatoes	116	B. Corn	50	Apricots	40
Potatoes	30	Beans	20	Raisins	15
Cattle	1100	Hogs	545	Sheep	342

FOLLOWING IS ESTIMATE NUMBER OF ANIMALS LOADED PER CAR.

Horses and Mules 28---Cattle 28---Hogs 78---Sheep 120

A. M. Nelson
 Development Agent
 Imperial County
 Courthouse
 El Centro, Cal.

BUTTER PRODUCTION IN IMPERIAL COUNTY

All statistics herein have been compiled from official reports of the California State Dairy Bureau.

IMPERIAL COUNTY is second among the 58 counties of California in butter production.

IMPERIAL COUNTY makes one-tenth of the butter made in the state.

IMPERIAL COUNTY makes six times more butter than is produced by the six other Southern California counties combined.

IMPERIAL COUNTY increased its butter production 236 % and rose from seventh to second place during the last six years.

Year	IMPERIAL COUNTY		SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	Butter Production		Butter Production, 1916	
	Pounds	Rank	County	Pounds
1911	3,585,941	Seventh	Los Angeles	167,286
1912	4,110,736	Sixth	Orange	75,000
1913	5,393,328	Fifth	Riverside	229,692
1914	5,710,387	Fourth	San Bernardino	98,300
1915	6,734,516	Third	San Diego	441,409
1916	6,780,552	Second	Ventura	29,321

Six other So. California counties	1,035,008
Imperial County	6,780,552
Total production, So. Cal. 1916	7,815,560

CALIFORNIA BUTTER PRODUCTION 1911-1916
Comparative Figures, Leading Dairy Counties

County	1911		1916		PER CENT GAIN
	Pounds	Rank	Pounds	Rank	
Humboldt	5,248,332	First	5,588,804	Third	8
Stanislaus	5,166,515	Second	9,930,021	First	193
Tulare	3,956,533	Third	4,877,839	Fourth	20
Fresno	3,305,644	Fourth	4,204,416	Fifth	11
Kings	3,552,542	Fifth	3,960,949	Seventh	12
Merced	3,102,332	Sixth	4,030,062	Sixth	30
IMPERIAL	2,385,941	SEVENTH	6,780,552	SECOND	235

Gain, 1915-16, Stanislaus, 6,701 lbs.; Imperial, 446,256; Humboldt, 0.

"Opportunities for profit in dairying are greater in IMPERIAL VALLEY than in any district that I know of in the United States" -- E. H. Webster, former chief of the Dairy division, United States Department of Agriculture, former director of Kansas experiment station, and former associate editor of Hoard's Dairyman.

A. M. Nelson
Development Agent,
Imperial County,
El Centro, Cal.

CALIFORNIA COTTON PRODUCTION - 1916

The Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce, reports the 1916 California cotton crop as 43,664 bales.

Of this number, 39,028 bales were produced in Imperial County and 4,636 bales in Riverside County.

In Imperial Valley, besides the 39,028 bales ginned on the American side, 24,147 bales were ginned on the Mexican side, making a total valley production of 63,175 bales.

With the 4,636 bales ginned in Riverside County, the California and Baja California total is 67,821 bales. Up to 1916, the Mexican cotton was ginned on the American side and the production included in the California statistics by the Census bureau. For relative purposes, the production of 67,811 bales may be compared with the following record of California cotton production as furnished this office by the Director of the Census: 1909, 183 bales; 1910, 5,986 bales; 1911, 9,790 bales; 1912, 8,215 bales; 1913, 22,838 bales; 1914, 49,835 bales and 1915, 28,551 bales.

The 1916 California production of 43,664 bales moved the state from 13th to 12th place in cotton producing rank.

In average yield per acre and average price per pound, received by growers for short staple cotton, the American standard, California again in 1916 led all cotton producing states. It was the only state whose growers averaged 20 cents per pound. The Bureau of Crop Estimates also reported that the average price of Durango cotton, which yields as heavily as short staple and composed 30 per cent of the crop, was 26 cents per pound.

The acre return in California was \$80, one third more than the average of the next ranking cotton state and nearly three times the average acre return of the United States. The following table is compiled from the revised reports of the Bureau of Crop Estimates as published in the Monthly Crop Report for June, 1917:

STATE	Average Yield Per Acre	Average Price Per pound	Average Return per Acre
California	400	20.	\$ 80.00
Virginia	310	19.5	60.45
Missouri	236	19.	42.75
North Carolina	215	19.2	41.28
Arkansas	209	19.1	39.91
Tennessee	206	19.2	39.55
Louisiana	170	19.	32.30
Georgia	165	19.3	31.84
South Carolina	160	19.3	30.88
Texas	157	19.	29.83
Oklahoma	154	18.7	28.79
Mississippi	135	19.4	24.25
Florida	105	18.5	19.43
Alabama	79	19.2	15.16
UNITED STATES	156	19.1	29.79

A. M. Nelson
 Development Agent
 Imperial County
 El Centro, Cal.

INCREASE IN CROP ACCREAGES AND
 PROPERTY VALUES IN IMPERIAL COUNTY

The following table is compiled from official reports of the State Board of Equalization, which are based on the annual census of county assessors:

	1910	1912	1914	1916	1917
Total Assessed Property Value	\$12,148,180	\$19,067,433	\$25,739,973	\$30,744,665	\$33,062,582
Alfalfa(acree)	32,703	85,000	109,653	95,562	99,123
Barley	43,573	116,000	71,915	83,540	60,658
Cotton	6,538	8,000	38,810	44,116	85,785 #
Cantaloupes	1,111	5,500	11,801 x	13,043 x	14,765 12776
Milo	4,327	-----	12,482	52,207	79,935 @
Cattle (number)	14,063	42,238	43,896	61,920	77,143
Hogs	34,292	52,320	20,262	48,262	59,002
Sheep	14,825	21,508	11,972	35,843	49,596
Poultry(Doz.)	2,844	4,341	5,187	41,446	10,630

Cotton--Approximately 55,000 acres on Mexican side.

@ Milo----Census began before cotton planted. Changes since indicate cotton acreage about 70,000 acres; water company census indicates milo acreage as 115,000.

X Cantaloupes--Includes other melons. Cantaloupe acreage, 1916, 8,500

Other figures from the 1917 census are as follows:

Wheat	2,937 acres	Date palms	20,545 trees
Oats	265	Apricots	12,838 "
Potatoes	348	Fig	6,605 "
Rice	365	Olive	5,910 "
Onions	240-337	Peach	2,726 "
Lettuce	822-815	Pear	8,163 "
Beans	580	Lemons	1,491 "
Asparagus	728	orange	6,048 "
Tomatoes	480	Grape fruit	46,152 "
Grapes	1,500	Strawberries	95 acres
Melons other than Cantaloupes	1,285	Mules	3,560
		Horses	11,270
		Bees (hives)	12,465
		Ostriches	2,011

Peas 785
 Squash 185

A Bird's-Eye Comparison of Imperial Valley

	1900	1910	1916
Population	0	13,591	40,000
Assessed Valuations	0	\$12,148,180	\$30,744,665
Value of Products	0	\$ 5,000,000	\$20,000,000
Value of School Property	0	\$270,978	\$1,056,518

Copy

A. M. Nelson
Development Agent
Imperial County,
El Centro, Cal.

July 1, 1917.

IMPERIAL VALLEY

The Chief General Farming District of Southern California, Excelling in Production of Staple Crops.

FIELD CROPS

- Alfalfa--114,491 acres, 1917, increase of 20% in year. First in California. More than 10% of state production. More than twice rest of So. California. Longest growing season. Backbone of permanent fertility of Imperial Valley soil.
- Barley--83,540 acres 1916. First in So. Cal. Threshing in April begins national grain harvest. Crop of barley and milo from same land same year.
- Milo---106,354 acres 1917. Gain of 100% in year. First in Cal. Equal to state corn crop 1916. Chief hog feed of S. West.
- Cotton--70,000 in Imperial County 1917. 50,000 acres in valley south of line. Chief Durango cotton center of U.S. No boll weevil, no harvest-time rains, longest growing season. U.S. Department of Agriculture says California cotton (95% of which is produced in valley) brings higher average price per pound and yields higher average per acre than any other state. In 1909 but 324 acres devoted to cotton.

LIVESTOCK

- Cattle--61,920 head in 1916. First in So. California. Over twice number in second cattle county. Green feed all year round. No barns needed. Importance of dairy cattle indicated by following butter production figures:-
- Butter--6,780,552 pounds made in 1916. Second among 58 counties of California. Makes one-tenth butter of state. Makes six times more butter produced six other S. Cal. counties combined. Increased its production 235% in six years.
- Swine--48,262 in 1916. First in California. State reports show next county 17,222. 10,000 more other So. Cal. counties.
- Sheep--35,843 shown in assessor's report. Exceeds total other So. Cal. counties. Rain free lambing season.
- Poultry--11,446 dozens in 1916. Greatest turkey producing district on Pacific Coast.
- Ostriches--2,000 largest herd in America.

SOME OTHER CROPS

- Cantaloupes--13,040 acres 1917, almost twice acreage of second cantaloupe state, Arkansas, which has 6,900 acres. Cal. acreage 17,300 greatest in U.S., all but 4,000 acres in Imperial valley. 4,617 cars shipped 1916.
- Miscellaneous-- Table grapes, 1,200 acres, shipped early in June. Asparagus, 536 acres, twelfth of state acreage, earliest in market. Dates, superior varieties, 22,000 trees. Grape-fruit, superior flavor, 70,000 non-bearing trees. Increasing acreage of lettuce, tomatoes, peas, onions and beans-- earliest into eastern markets.

COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS--IMPERIAL COUNTY

July 1, 1917

Abbreviations: RM - Regular Meeting. AM-
Annual Meeting. Mem. - No. of Members.

BRAWLEY: Brawley Chamber of Commerce
RM 2d and 4th Fridays. AM 2d Friday in March. Mem. 122
Officers Pres., W.P. Casey Vice-pres., Harry Staub
Secty., E.F. Morris Treas., 1st National bank
Directors W.H. Best J. Nevills T. Edgar
C.F. Boarts J.D. Reavis W.P. Casey
Harry Staub

CALEXICO: Calexico Chamber of Commerce
RM Friday nights. AM February Mem. 128
Officers Pres., Frank D. Hevener Vice-pres., C.T. Wardlaw
Secty., Frank W. Roach Treas. H.H. Griswold
Directors Frank D Hevener W.T. Aitken C.T. Wardlaw
Sidney McHarg L.M. Jones

EL CENTRO: El Centro Chamber of Commerce Mem. 160
RM Thursday nights AM 1st Fri after 1st Mon. in Jan.
Officers Pres. F. B. Fuller 1st Vice Pres., C.W. Barton
2d Vice Pres., M.O. King Exec. Secty., Jos. F. Seymour
Com'l Secty., W. H. Compton Treas., T.T. Cook
Directors F.B. Fuller G.W. Barton T.T. Cook
Jos. F. Seymour Jr. M.O. King W.S. Fawcett
Clifford Coggins A.L. Richmond G.W. Anderson
W.E. Clements J.L. Travers

HOLTVILLE: Holtville Commercial Club
RM 2d Thursday AM 1st Tuesday in Feb. Mem. 70
Officers Pres. M.G. Blanchard 1st Vice Pres., L.F. Shaw
2d Vice-P., Warren Currier Treas. R. W. Hoover
Secty. Will H. Rogers
Directors M.G. Blanchard Fred Jarboe L.F. Shaw
Warren Currier R.G. Webster Jas. T. Coyle
B.R. Crandall C.H. Eckert

IMPERIAL: Imperial Ad Club
RM Last Friday of month AM 1st Wed. of Oct. Mem. 89
Officers Pres., N. A. Mackey Vice-Pres., C.W. Waite
Secty., C. Houston Smith Treas. O.W. Larson
Directors N.A. Mackey L.J. Thomas I.J. Harris
Chas. W. Waite Allison Peck O.W. Larson

COUNTY: Board of Supervisors.
Chairman, - G.P. Shaw, Holtville; W.F. Beal, Brawley;
P.E. Carr, Calexico; W.H. Brooks, El Centro; J. T.
Rice, Imperial. Development Agent for Board, A.M.
Nelson, Courthouse, El Centro.
County Farm Bureau, Courthouse, El Centro.
President, W.H. Packard, Vice pres. S.O. Robinson.
Secty., A.M. Nelson Treasurer, C.F. Boarts
Associated Chambers of Commerce (P. I. Dougherty, Adviser
Jos. F. Seymour, chairman, El Centro)

IMPERIAL COUNTY.

CROP		1919.	1920.	1921.
Corn	acres	2,682		
	bushels	51,111		
Oats	acres	544		
	bushels	16,805		
Wheat	acres	25,711		
	bushels	543,755		
Barley	acres	18,225		
	bushels	478,051		
Grain sorghums	acres	65,421		
	bushels	1,672,080		
Rough rice	acres			
	bushels			
Dry edible beans	acres	2		
	bushels	32		
Alfalfa	acres	48,508		
	tons	96,430		
Small grains cut hay	acres	7,362		
	tons	6,634		
Annual legumes as hay	acres	287		
	tons	396		
Silage crops	acres	1,252		
	tons	12,802		
Corn for forage	acres	1,004		
	tons	1,989		
Grain Sorghums for forage	acres	2,395		
	tons	4,415		
Root crops, forage	acres	2		
	tons	9		
Potatoes	acres	8		
	bushels	228		
Tomatoes	acres			
	tons			
Lettuce	acres			
	crates			
Spinach	acres			
	tons			
Cabbage	acres			
	tons			
Cauliflower	acres			
	crates			
Sweet potatoes	acres			
	bushels			
Strawberries	acres			
	crates			
Other berries	acres			
	crates			
Cantaloupes	acres			
	crates			
Melons	acres			
	tons			
Celery	acres			
	crates			
Cotton	acres	56,938		
	bales	26,343		

Fruits & Nuts.

IMPERIAL COUNTY (CONTINUED) -2-

CROP	1919	1920	1921
Apples, non bearing trees -	266	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	148	- - - -	- - - -
bushels harvested -	39	- - - -	- - - -
Peaches non bearing trees -	1,142	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	688	- - - -	- - - -
bushels harvested -	449	- - - -	- - - -
Pears, non bearing trees -	2,838	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	779	- - - -	- - - -
bushels harvested -	376	- - - -	- - - -
Plums non bearing trees -	443	- - - -	- - - -
& Prunes " " -	190	- - - -	- - - -
bushels harvested -	168	- - - -	- - - -
Apri- non bearing trees -	208	- - - -	- - - -
cots " " -	1,868	- - - -	- - - -
bushels harvested -	1,786	- - - -	- - - -
Figs non bearing trees -	-	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	-	- - - -	- - - -
tons harvested -	-	- - - -	- - - -
Olives, non bearing trees -	-	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	-	- - - -	- - - -
tons harvested -	-	- - - -	- - - -
Oranges non bearing trees -	1,428	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	2,512	- - - -	- - - -
boxes harvested -	1,719	- - - -	- - - -
Lemons, non bearing trees -	208	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	478	- - - -	- - - -
boxes harvested -	418	- - - -	- - - -
Grape- non bearing trees -	-	- - - -	- - - -
fruit, " " -	-	- - - -	- - - -
boxes harvested -	-	- - - -	- - - -
Almonds non bearing trees -	-	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	-	- - - -	- - - -
pounds harvested -	-	- - - -	- - - -
Walnuts non bearing trees -	2	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	400	- - - -	- - - -
pounds harvested -	16,000	- - - -	- - - -
Grapes, non bearing vines -	28,600	- - - -	- - - -
" " " " -	246,684	- - - -	- - - -
pounds harvested -	1,871,591	- - - -	- - - -
Avacades, -	-	- - - -	- - - -
non bearing trees -	-	- - - -	- - - -

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C. Statistics

Imperial County - the 12th of the 59 Counties in California.

...

In 1900, no census report.

In 1910, Imperial County's agricultural statistics were:¹

Value of crops and livestock products . . . \$ 2,394,818.00

In 1920,²

Value of crops and livestock products . . . \$20,195,367.00

Therefore, in January 1920, it became the 12th of the fifty nine (59) agricultural counties of California. The gross amount may be inflated somewhat, but that was equally true all over the state and in the United States after the World War.

In 1910, Number of Farms . . 1322 (1)

In 1920, Number of Farms . . 2843 (2)

In 1910, Value all farm property (1) \$23,648,067.00

In 1920, Value all farm property (2) \$69,171,454.00

¹
13th U. S. Census Bulletin, Department of Commerce, 1910.

²
U. S. Census, Department of Commerce Pamphlet, 1920,
50 Agricultural leading counties U. S. Released for newspapers,
November 1921.

NOTE:- For further statistics See Appendix "B".