

FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

John Wardle Dixon  
Agricultural Commissioner

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

For the

Year ending December 31, 1950

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sidney L. Gruff, District 4, Chairman

George E. Malm, District 1      E. M. Peckinpah, District 2

J. M. Cadwallader, District 3      Lew W. Clark, District 5

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 1 OF THE AGRICULTURAL  
CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Article 1 - COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Section 50 - COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - There shall be the office of county agricultural commissioner in each county. Such commissioner shall be in charge of the county department of agriculture.

Section 65 - RECORDS - The commissioner shall keep a record of his official acts and make an annual report to the Director of Agriculture on the condition of the agricultural interests in his county as to what is being done to eradicate or to control or to destroy pests and also as to quarantine against pests, and shall furnish from time to time to the director such information as he may require.

Section 65 - REPORT - The commissioner shall also make a monthly report to the Board of Supervisors if and when so required by said Board.

Section 65.5 - STATISTICS - The commissioner shall compile reports of the condition, acreage, production and value of the agricultural products in his county. The commissioner may publish such reports and shall transmit a copy thereof to the director.

EMPLOYEES

COMMISSIONER

Dixon, John Wardle

DEPUTY

Polson, John I. - - - - - Chief Inspector

SENIOR INSPECTORS

Cowan, Roy M. - - - - - Quarantine & Seed  
Cox, L. M. - - - - - Surveys & Pest Control  
Jones, Ralph M. - - - - - Standardization  
Rose, Edward M. - - - - - Standardization & Quarantine  
Sherwood, Harold Y. - - - - - Standardization

INSPECTORS (Permanent)

Brown, George J. - - - - - Apiary  
Cotton, Wm. E. - - - - - Standardization & Rodent Control  
Dunnegan, Verle - - - - - Survey & Quarantine  
Hatfield, Russell T. - - - - - Standardization & Apiary  
Hughes, Carl C. - - - - - Rodent & Weed Control  
Pool, Earl - - - - - Rodent Control  
Ray, John - - - - - Predatory Animal Control  
Schilling, Conrad - - - - - Quarantine & Seed  
Tellyer, James - - - - - Predatory Animal Control  
Ward Eulas - - - - - Rodent & Weed Control  
Pruett, Joe E. - - - - - Rodent & Weed Control

CLERK

Douglas, Irene  
Smith, Lucille

On Military Leave - Thomas Sharer

TO: The Director of Agriculture, California Department of Agriculture

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Fresno.

Gentlemen:

The following is a brief report of the activities of the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's office for the year, 1950. The work of this office is handled by Divisions, and, while the endeavors of the Senior Inspectors sometime over-lap, a specialist is always in charge.

John I. Polson, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, is in direct charge of the Weed and Rodent work. This is the largest division of the Department. It required seven permanent men and twenty seasonal employees to carry out its' functions.

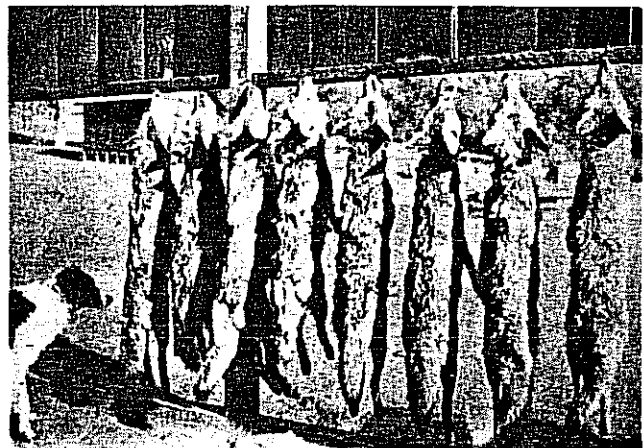
In 1950, this division took on additional duties in the Russian Knapweed eradication program which the Supervisors decided to undertake. Briefly, the plan is to attack the smaller patches of Knapweed, especially those near permanent plantings. Gradually, we are to take on larger pieces in the years to come. The farmer is to assume the cost of one-half of the material up to two acres, or the whole cost of material for two up to ten acres, and Fresno County will assume the cost of the other one-half up to two acres; and will apply the material; the owner relieving the County of all responsibility for damage to lands or crops which might occur in the application of these materials. In this work, we have used 39,618 gallons of Chlorate sprays, 5,493 gallons of Dinitro oil type of spray, and 60 gallons of Carbon BiSulphide. On Morning Glory control, 1,840 gallons of Carbon BiSulphide were used; and on Puncture Vine and annual weeds along the roads, we used 32,086 gallons of an oil Dinitro spray.

Predatory Animal Control, also headed by Deputy Commissioner Polson, caught:

145 coyotes,  
46 wildcats,  
59 foxes,  
31 badgers,  
113 skunks,  
27 raccoons,  
9 opossums, and  
1 bear.

In the Rodent Control work, 222,941 acres were treated, using 1,796 baits of Strychnine and 18,010 baits of Sodium Fluro Acetate ("1080"), and 14,570 pounds of Carbon BiSulphide.

Thirty-three properties were treated for rats.



## HOW FRESNO COUNTY RANKS WITH OTHER COUNTIES IN VALUE COMPARISONS

### DECIDUOUS FRUITS & NUTS

Peaches - Freestone	1
Plums	3
Persimmons	5
Pomegranates	1
Figs	1
Nectarines	1
Olives	2

### TRUCK CROPS

Bush Berries	1 (?)
Watermelons	4 (?)
Cantaloupes	2
Honey Dews	4
Persian	1
Carrots	4

### GRAPES

Grapes	1
Raisins	1

### FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa	1
Barley	1
Wheat	1
Rice	4
Cotton	2

### LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Beef Cattle	3
Dairy Cattle	2
Hogs	3
Sheep	5
Hens	3
Fryers & Roasters	3
Turkeys	1

Honey Production	4
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### COUNTIES USED IN VALUE COMPARISONS

Fresno  
 Lake  
 El Dorado  
 Santa Barbara  
 Orange  
 Solano  
 Alameda  
 Colusa  
 San Joaquin  
 Yuba  
 San Diego  
 Marin  
 Sacramento  
 Placer  
 Tuolumne  
 Glenn  
 Napa  
 Humboldt  
 Del Norte  
 Merced  
 Tulare  
 Madera  
 Yolo  
 Kern  
 Kings  
 Stanislaus  
 Monterey  
 Sonoma  
 Ventura  
 Santa Clara  
 Imperial  
 Modoc  
 San Bernardino  
 Contra Costa  
 Lassen  
 Santa Cruz

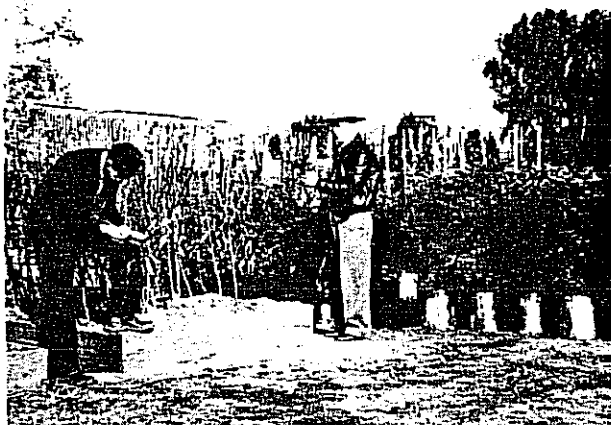
The Standardization work, headed by Senior Inspector Harold Y. Sherwood, and assisted by Senior Inspector Ralph M. Jones, is the next largest division. They watch and enforce proper grading of fruits, vegetables and nuts going to market. A total of 2,032 man days were spent in this work. They inspected 1,483,777 containers in trucks and 17,640 carloads, containing approximately 17,200,000 containers; of this number 17,404 containers failed to meet the requirements demanded by the law. There were eleven citations and four prosecutions, all four were found guilty. No record was made of the number of times packing was stopped and corrections made in the pack of fruit, nor of the number of containers re-packed on such occasions. The latter would run into large figures.



Egg Inspection work, under the charge of Inspector Russell T. Hatfield, was greatly increased this year. There were:  
339 premises visited,  
60,239 dozens of eggs inspected,  
34 violation notices issued, involving  
5,384 dozens. There were three citations and one prosecution. The latter ended in a conviction. Most of the violations were for improper marking; however, we did find 3,444 dozens that contained eggs unfit for human use. Also, we found, under ultra-violet light, 3,000 dozens affected with Pseudomonas bacteria. These were sent out of the County to the packer who had consigned them to Fresno.



The Division of Plant Quarantine and Nursery Inspection is under Senior Inspector Roy M. Cowan. Inspectors in this division have this year, twice inspected each nursery in Fresno County. Wherever disease or insect pests were found, the plants so infested or infected, were treated or destroyed under the supervision of the inspectors. All plants sent into Fresno County from Nurseries in other areas were also inspected. These numbered 1,248,499. All these were individually examined. Of them, 2950 plants were found to be infected or infested and were either sent back out of the County or were destroyed.



Our certified seed deal in Fresno has been rapidly growing, and has a much greater future. Mr. Cowan has taken charge of this work. He inspected the fields, checked the harvesters, and examined the seed after it had been cleaned, in order for the State to give it a California Crop Improvement Association Certificate. We were re-embursed for our expenses in this work. There were 3,715 acres, producing 5,318,380 pounds of certified seed, with an F.O.B. value of \$923,211.00. Common field seed of all kinds, there were 5,640 acres, which produced 6,564,900 pounds with a value of \$452,874.00. Vegetable seeds of all kinds were grown on 1882½ acres, and produced 722,283 pounds, with a value of \$668,380.00. 160,400 pounds of seed were condemned and made to be re-cleaned before sale. Mr. Cowan forced the cleaning of 13,400 tons of Barley infested with Russian Knapweed. He quarantined 1,017 bales of alfalfa infested with Knapweed, issued one Citation for a party who moved some of this hay. He also compelled the grinding of 1200 tons of seed screenings through a 3/64 inch screen in order to destroy the viability of the Russian Knapweed and the Hoary Cress seed which it contained.



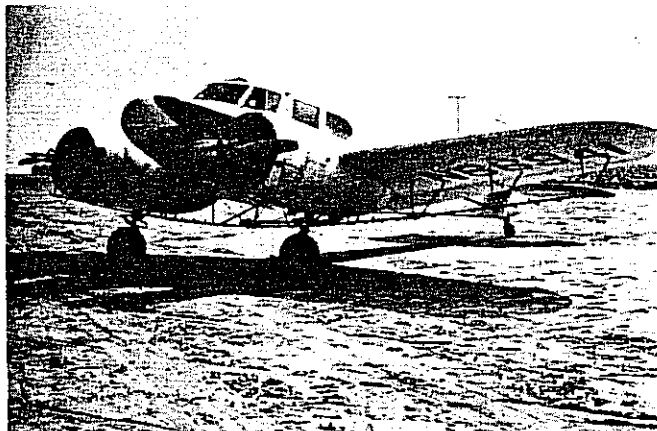
The Bee Inspection work is under the direction of Inspector George J. Brown. The bee work is far more important to the agriculture of Fresno than the amount of revenue which they bring in directly to the apiarist or that is paid in taxes to the County. If it were not for the bees, our crops would go unpollinated, and therefore, the crops would not set. American Foul Brood Disease has to be watched lest it wipe out the industry. In our inspection work, we endeavor to search out and check the small backyard hives and the neglected and abandoned apiaries. There are in Fresno County 22,439 colonies of these. We individually inspected 9,143 hives. We found 141 of them to be diseased with this American Foul Brood. These were destroyed. But the wax was saved. Bees wax is one of the strategic materials used in the war work.

We continued our pest survey work under the direction of Senior Inspector L. M. Cox. It is important that we find new infestations of pests as early as possible. We have surveyed the citrus plantings near our orange and lemon orchards to see that the Red Scale does not invade that area. A few dollars spent this way will save thousands if we can keep Red Scale out of our commercial plantings. We have looked for Citrus White Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, European Corn Borer, Colorado Potato Beetle, Japanese Beetle, Red and Yellow Scales, Beet Leafhoppers, Russian Knapweed, Halogeton, Austrian Field Cress and Russian Thistle, Quick Decline in Citrus, Cotton Boll Weevil and Pink Boll Worm.

Pest Control work, also under Senior Inspector L. M. Cox, has been very active. The last legislature made it mandatory that all applications of 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, Parathion, EPN, Arsenicals in dust form, or TEPP when applied by thermal aerosol, must be applied only after a permit has been granted by this Office after our examination of the premise. We made 82 such examinations, refusing 11, and granting 71. Pest Control Applicators working under our inspection applied:

Sulphur	46,223,500 pounds
DDT compounds	5,532,636 pounds
Toxaphene & Chlordane	218,925 pounds
TEPP & HETP	140,660 pounds
Parathion	277,050 pounds
EPN	618,600 pounds
2,4-D	19,527 pounds
Other Chemicals	25,000 pounds.

The above figures do not include the proper commercial dilutants necessary for application. Much of the observations and inspections were made from the air in planes furnished by the trade. We have found the Operators working in Fresno County very cooperative.



Respectfully submitted,

*John Wardle Dixon*  
 JOHN WARDLE DIXON,  
 Agricultural Commissioner.



1950 ANNUAL CROP REPORT FOR FRESNO COUNTY  
 CROP ACREAGE - PRODUCTION AND VALUE  
 Compiled by  
 THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S STAFF

CROP	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION	VALUE F.O.B. FARM
	Bearing	Non Bearing		
<u>DECIDUOUS FRUITS &amp; NUTS</u>				
Apples	61	36	15,250 bx.	\$ 23,850.00
Apricots	1,051	18	1,051 ton	336,320.00
Berries Bush	600		2,400 ton	384,000.00
Figs	15,965	973		
Fresh			11,720 flats	23,440.00
Dried			13,923 ton	4,303,580.00
Olives	1,265	192	3,795 ton	738,340.00
Peaches				
Clingstones	836	92	8,778 ton	548,625.00
Freestone	7,983	1,269		
Fresh			32,426 ton	3,728,990.00
Dried			4,593 fr. ton	1,377,900.00
Persimmons	58	0	120 ton	30,000.00
Pomegranites	300	0	36 ton	63,000.00
Prunes	311	33	377 dry ton	92,365.00
Almonds	613	708	3,233 lbs.	808.00
Pecans	41	3	41,000 lbs.	410.00
Walnuts	1,005	407	804,000 lbs.	128,640.00
TOTAL	30,089	3,731		\$11,780,268.00

CITRUS FRUITS

Grapefruit	36		28,800 bxs.	\$ 14,400.00
Lemons	207		41,226 bxs.	82,452.00
Orange - Navel & Misc.	2,722	233	1,110,000 bxs.	1,776,000.00
Orange * Valencia	785	17	150,720 bxs.	250,195.00
TOTAL	3,750	250		\$ 2,123,047.00

GRAPES

Table Varieties	16,771	1,561	117,397 ton	\$10,477,833.00
Wine Varieties				
Crush	11,203	891	421,167	30,913,658.00
Raisin Varieties	133,740	5,015		
Fresh			346,050 ton	22,977,950.00
Dried			90,000 dry ton	23,400,000.00
TOTAL	161,714	7,467		\$87,769,441.00

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>F.O.B. FARM VALUE</u>
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>				
Alfalfa	151,290	9,985,118	ton	\$ 19,970,280.00
Barley	449,881	14,088,781	100 # sack	40,770,469.00
Cotton	166,200	255,950	bale	39,270.375.00
Cotton Seed		120,380	ton	13,241,800.00
Corn				
White	300	9,000	100 # sack	38,700.00
Yellow	9,000	270,000	100 # sack	1,026,000.00
Grain				
Hay	19,000	33,400	ton	567,800.00
Stubble	253,245			316,556.00
Milo	8,000	160,000	100 # sack	416,000.00
Pasture				
Range	1,916,600			2,874,900.00
Permanent	52,500			782,250.00
Rice	14,651	657,095	100 # sack	2,956,928.00
Safflower	6,714	4,089	ton	6,850.00
Sugar Beet	250	7,688	ton	98,012.00
Wheat	56,609	1,132,180	100 # sack	4,302,284.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 126,639,204.00</b>

TRUCK CROPS

Asparagus	400	496	ton	\$ 109,616.00
Beans	120	13,920	30 # bush.	29,232.00
Broccoli	90	11,250	pony crate	36,000.00
Cantaloupes	13,893	1,875,555	jumbo crate	5,626,665.00
Cauliflour	50	9,600	37 # pony crate	12,480.00
Carrots	495	167,616	(6 doz) crates	448,261.00
Celery	100	70,000	16 in. crate	384,000.00
Corn - Sweet	200	20,000	(5 doz) crates	25,000.00
Cucumbers				
Fresh	50	16,000	48 # lugs	20,800.00
Garlic	45	13,500	100 # sack	28,687.00
Lettuce				
Spring	750	171,765	western crate	601,177.00
Fall	130	1,590	western crate	3,816.00
Onions	240	128,600	50 # sack	83,590.00
Peas	133	23,100	30 # bushel	30,030.00
Peppers - Bell	100	40,000	25 # bushel	78,000.00
Persian Melons	810	102,714	flats	66,513.00
Potatoes	1,175	245,800	100 # sack	614,500.00
Potatoes - Sweet	500	60,000	30 # bushel	168,000.00
Spinach	50	19,250	18 # bushel	12,512.00
Strawberries	180			
Fresh		1,286,280	12 basket crate	416,897.00
Processed		982,420	lbs.	116,559.00
Tomatoes	250	74,821	32 # lugs	164,606.00
Watermelons	2,000	6,000	ton	300,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 9,376,941.00</b>

NURSERY STOCK AND SEED PRODUCTION

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>F. O. B. FARM VALUE</u>
<u>CERTIFIED FIELD CROP SEED</u>				
Alfalfa				
Buffalo	910	737,920	lbs.	\$ 405,856.00
Calif. Comm # 49	60	17,200	lbs.	12,556.00
Ranger	1,290	676,280	lbs.	371,954.00
Barley				
Arrivat	93	343,700	lbs.	10,655.00
Atlas # 46	60	240,000	lbs.	7,440.00
Calif. Mariout	995	2,540,000	lbs.	98,740.00
Milo				
Double Dwarf # 36	160	362,500	lbs.	14,500.00
Wheat				
Ramona # 44	147	400,780	lbs.	21,510.00
TOTAL	<u>3,715</u>	<u>5,318,380</u>		<u>\$ 943,211.00</u>

COMMON FIELD CROP SEED

Alfalfa				
Common	4,020	1,497,500	lbs.	\$ 269,550.00
Barley				
Atlas # 46	645	2,500,000	lbs.	61,250.00
Calif. Mariout	320	1,120,000	lbs.	27,440.00
Fenugreek	270	405,000	lbs.	20,250.00
Melilotus		320,000	lbs.	12,800.00
Oats	20	40,000	lbs.	15,080.00
Rice	93	410,000	lbs.	24,600.00
Sudan	22	22,400	lbs.	1,904.00
Sunflower	250	250,000	lbs.	20,000.00
TOTAL	<u>5,640</u>	<u>6,564,900</u>		<u>\$ 452,874.00</u>

COMMON VEGETABLE SEED

Cabbage	4	1,730	lbs.	\$ 779.00
Carrot	316	160,767	lbs.	112,903.00
Coriander	10	20,000	lbs.	5,000.00
Dill	10	10,220	lbs.	3,066.00
Leek	5	983	lbs.	983.00
Lettuce	1,434	348,583	lbs.	388,675.00
Onion	80	64,000	lbs.	51,200.00
Parsnip	15	16,500	lbs.	5,775.00
TOTAL	<u>1,874</u>	<u>622,783</u>		<u>\$ 568,381.00</u>

NURSERY STOCK

Citrus		2,500	trees	\$ 5,000.00
Grapes		500,000	rootings	25,000.00
TOTAL				<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>

	<u>NO. BREEDING STOCK</u>	<u>POUNDS PROD.</u>	<u>DOZEN PROD.</u>	<u>F.O.B. FARM VALUE</u>
<u>LIVE STOCK</u>				
Beef cattle & calves	108,000	51,840,000		\$13,824,000.00
Milk cows & two year old heifers	61,604	17,850,000		4,424,975.00
Butter Fat		9,036,000		6,144,480.00
Hogs	30,964	6,418,400		1,558,319.00
Sheep & lambs	159,120	6,400,380		1,600,124.00
Wool		884,000		512,720.00
<u>POULTRY</u>				
Hens	1,240,000	4,960,000		1,488,000.00
Fryers & roasters		9,240,000		1,872,000.00
Eggs				
Consumers			10,416,100	5,728,855.00
Hatch			345,472	348,739.00
Rabbits	3,814	366,112		91,528.00
Turkeys		24,195,816		7,016,786.00
Eggs			220,030	750,302.00
TOTAL				\$45,360,828.00

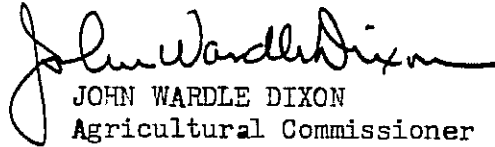
	<u>COLONIES</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
<u>APIARY</u>				
Bees	22,439			
Alfalfa Pollenation	4,035			10,887.00
Plum and Almond Pollenation	500			550.00
Honey Production		1,173,120	lbs.	105,580.00
Wax Production		20,000	lbs.	9,000.00
TOTAL				\$ 126,017.00

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

DECIDUOUS FRUITS & NUTS	\$ 11,780,268.00
CITRUS FRUITS	2,123,047.00
GRAPES	87,769,441.00
FIELD CROPS	126,639,204.00
TRUCK CROPS	9,376,941.00
CERTIFIED FIELD CROP SEED	943,211.00
COMMON FIELD CROP SEED	452,874.00
COMMON VEGETABLE SEED	568,381.00
NURSERY STOCK	30,000.00
LIVE STOCK & POULTRY	45,360,828.00
APIARY	126,017.00
TOTAL 1950 FRESNO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL VALUE REPORT	\$285,169,167.00

This is a report of what the Farms in Fresno have contributed to the County's economy, also it reports the work which this office has undertaken in directing and policing the Agricultural activities as directed in the California Agricultural Code. We have endeavored to give a picture of the Pests, Diseases and Weeds which affect our production.

The figures used in this report are the best which our department could obtain and it is our hope that they are substantially correct. In each case where estimates were made we have contacted several sources whom we consider qualified in giving us a true picture of the crops and their value.



JOHN WARDLE DIXON  
Agricultural Commissioner  
County of Fresno  
Fresno, California