

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Agricultural Commissioner**

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COUNTY OF GLENN

-----  
**1940**  
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P. V. HARRIGAN

P. V. HARRIGAN  
County Agricultural Commissioner

# COUNTY OF GLENN



WHEEL HALL BLDG.

OFFICE OF *Agricultural Commissioner*  
WILLOWS, CALIFORNIA

January 15, 1941

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors  
and W. B. Parker, Director,  
State Department of Agriculture

Gentlemen:

Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code of the State of California states: "The commissioner shall compile reports of the conditions, 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."

This is the fourth annual crop report compiled for Glenn County. This report has been made possible through the cooperation of growers, shippers, packers, the Glenn County Soil Conservation Association, local irrigation districts and other county offices.

An endeavor has been made to give a picture of the trend agriculture is taking.

The soil benefit payments are added on to the income to farmers. These payments are not expected to be returned to the government and, as a consequence, are listed as farm income.

May we here express our appreciation for the splendid cooperation which the agricultural department has received at all times from the County Board of Supervisors. Their willing assistance and advice helped in a great measure to make this report and the work represented possible.

Respectfully submitted,

  
P. V. Harrigan  
Agricultural Commissioner

The following goods from other counties in California were inspected and passed into Glenn County during the calendar year of 1940:

3,628	Ornamentals
590	Rose bushes
124	Cactus plants
14,656	Bulbs, corms and tubers
2,757	Bedding plants
147	Flats bedding plants
3,452	Vegetable plants
63	Flats vegetable plants
6,000	Onion sets
1	Sack seed potatoes
77	Berry plants
685	Strawberry plants
3,919	Packets flower and vegetable seed
35	Packets lawn seed
9	Sacks Kentucky bluegrass seed
7	Sacks Astoria bent lawn seed
1	Sack Bermuda grass seed
36	Sacks ladino clover seed
32	Sacks white clover seed
24	Sacks burr clover seed
10	Sacks sour clover seed
7	Sacks birdsfoot trefoil seed
6	Sacks strawberry clover seed
3	Sacks Alsike clover seed
1	Sack red clover seed
141	Sacks Sudan grass seed
20	Sacks ryegrass seed
19	Sacks Dallas grass seed
19	Sacks millet seed
11	Sacks orchard grass seed
2	Sacks Harding grass seed
2	Sacks Michel's grass seed
1	Sack canary grass seed
207	Sacks alfalfa seed
62	Sacks vetch seed
17	Sacks sorghum seed

The following goods from other states were inspected and passed into Glenn County during the calendar year of 1940:

2,375	Ornamentals
200	Rose bushes
58	Cactus plants
6,670	Bulbs, corms and tubers
7,919	Bedding plants
6,052	Vegetable plants
1	Sack seed potatoes
29	Berry plants
325	Strawberry plants
2,782	Packets flower and vegetable seed
1	Sack sugar beet seed
1	Sack cotton seed
7	Sacks alfalfa seed
1	Sack ladino clover seed
1	Sack Alsike clover seed
5	Sacks Michel's ryegrass seed
1	Sack crested wheatgrass seed
20	Sacks vetch seed
7	Sacks Atlas sorghum seed
2	Sacks milo seed
1	Sack rape seed
1	Sack Brome grass seed
43	Deciduous fruit trees
2	Deciduous nut trees
38	Grapevines

The following rejections were made on interstate shipments into Glenn County:

2	Rose bushes
800	Vegetable plants

The following farm products, by-products and livestock were shipped out of Glenn County during the calendar year of 1940:

1,021,352	Bushels (408,541 sacks)	rice
707,272	Bushels (314,343 sacks)	barley
134,422	Bushels (59,743 sacks)	wheat
37,107	Bushels (16,492 sacks)	miló
16,971	Bushels (5,657 sacks)	oats
45,538,000	Pounds	sugar
6,635,000	Pounds	molasses (stock)
1,878,814	Pounds	butterfat
2,818	Head	veal calves
139	Head	milk cows
6,088	Head	fat cattle
44	Head	feeder cattle
253,573	Dozen	chicken eggs
99,500	Turkey	eggs for hatching
1,693,591	Pounds	dressed turkeys
333,548	Pounds	live poultry
1,245,060	Pounds	wool
12,603	Pounds	sheep pelts
95,965	Head	lambs
10,739	Head	sheep
34,856	Head	hogs
19,750	Pounds	package bees
2,082	Pounds	beeswax
270	Tons	honey
314	Pounds	alfalfa seed
49,549	Pounds	ladino clover seed
396	Bags	rape seed
962	Pounds	Bermuda grass seed
328,834	Pounds	sunflower seed
250	Tons	alfalfa hay
408	Ornamentals	

(Continued)

2,536	Deciduous fruit trees
20,037	Deciduous nut trees
2,015,740	Pounds almonds
716,000	Pounds black walnuts
487,344	Pounds English walnuts
101,878	Boxes navel oranges
1,676	Boxes Valencia oranges
118	Boxes grapefruit
5,479	Boxes lemons
3,230	Gallons olive oil
2,144,252	Pounds olives
131,914	Pounds processed olives
164,024	Pounds fresh apricots
146,356	Pounds dried apricots
13,661	Pounds apricot pits
310	Tons wine grapes
8,000	Pounds raisins
25,761	Boxes pears
538,669	Pounds dried peaches
344	Boxes plums
7,635	Pounds dried figs
2,583,832	Pounds dried prunes

EVALUATION OF COMMODITIES SHIPPED

SUGAR

Sugar	\$ 2,003,672.00	
Molasses	132,700.00	
		\$ 2,136,372.00

CATTLE

Butterfat	751,526.00	
Fat cattle	620,976.00	
Veal calves	39,452.00	
Milk cows	12,510.00	
Feeder cattle	2,970.00	
		1,427,434.00

SHEEP

Lambs	677,033.00	
Wool	410,870.00	
Sheep	21,478.00	
Sheep pelts	1,260.00	
		1,110,641.00

GRAIN

Rice	510,676.00	
Barley	259,333.00	
Wheat	100,368.00	
Milo	21,440.00	
Oats	7,071.00	
		898,888.00

TREE CROPS

Almonds	302,361.00	
English walnuts	53,608.00	
Black walnuts	9,308.00	
Oranges	207,108.00	
Lemons	10,958.00	
Grapefruit	177.00	
Dried prunes	97,514.00	
Pears	32,201.00	
Dried peaches	26,933.00	
Dried apricots	16,109.00	
Fresh apricots	4,920.00	
Wine grapes	3,100.00	
Raisins	400.00	
Plums	344.00	
Dried figs	229.00	
Apricot pits	155.00	
Olives	96,480.00	
Olive oil	9,690.00	
Processed olives	8,914.00	
		880,509.00

EVALUATION OF COMMODITIES SHIPPED

(Continued)

HOGS

Hogs	\$	435,700.00	\$	435,700.00
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POULTRY

Dressed turkeys	287,910.00	
Chicken eggs	63,393.00	
Live poultry	52,866.00	
Turkey eggs	14,925.00	
		419,094.00

HAY AND SEED

Ladino clover seed	96,002.00	
Alfalfa hay	22,500.00	
Sunflower seed	8,220.00	
Bermuda grass seed	173.00	
Alfalfa seed	50.00	
Rape seed	20.00	
		126,965.00

BEEES AND HONEY

Honey	21,600.00	
Package bees	12,508.00	
Beeswax	395.00	
		34,503.00

DECIDUOUS FRUIT AND NUT TREES AND ORNAMENTALS

Deciduous nut trees	3,006.00	
Deciduous fruit trees	380.00	
Ornamentals	102.00	
		3,488.00

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION  
(1939 payments)

Conservation payments	133,471.00	
Payments under price adjustment act:		
Rice parity	48,569.00	
Sugar beet	28,632.00	
Wheat parity	22,403.00	
		233,075.00

UNREPORTED RETURNS TO FARMERS

Estimated returns to farmers for produce - unreported		500,000.00
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GRAND TOTAL	\$	8,206,669.00
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## APIARY REPORT

6,351 colonies of bees in 204 apiaries were registered with this office during 1940.

895 colonies of bees in 8 apiaries were admitted, with proper certification, into Glenn County during the year.

710 colonies of bees in 12 apiaries were moved from other counties in California to Glenn County to registered seasonal locations.

402 colonies in 9 apiaries were certified to move from Glenn County to other counties in California.

576 colonies in 11 apiaries were moved out of Glenn County to registered seasonal locations in other counties.

1,440 colonies in 67 apiaries were inspected during the calendar year of 1940.

29 colonies of bees in 13 apiaries were found to be infected with American Foulbrood and were destroyed by burning.

19,750 pounds of package bees, 270 tons of honey and 2,082 pounds of beeswax were shipped out of Glenn County during 1940.

## POISON DISTRIBUTED

1,840 pounds of poisoned grain were distributed throughout Glenn County during 1940 for the control of squirrels.

2,150 rat baits were given out.

3,166 ounces of ant poison were put out in the control of ants.

## INSPECTIONS AND CALLS

During the calendar year of 1940, 5,765 calls were made on pest control; orchard and garden inspections; nursery stock and quarantine inspections; rodent, weed and seed inspections; and weights and measures work.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REPORT

The following were tested and sealed without correction:

95	Counter scales
34	Spring scales
40	Computing scales
117	Platform scales
25	Heavy capacity scales
865	Weights
124	Retail measuring pumps and meters
4	Wholesale meters

TOTAL 1,304

The following were tested and sealed after correction:

10	Counter scales
4	Spring scales
28	Computing scales
68	Platform scales
23	Heavy capacity scales
13	Weights
42	Retail measuring pumps and meters

TOTAL 188

The following were tested and found to be out of order:

12	Counter scales
8	Spring scales
25	Platform scales
12	Computing scales
9	Heavy capacity scales
8	Weights
43	Retail measuring pumps and meters

TOTAL 117

403 certificates were issued during the calendar year of 1940, and 508 establishments were visited.

NATURAL ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Population . . . . . 12,195  
 Water resources . . Sacramento River and Stony Creek  
 Total area . . . . . 880,000 acres  
 Total irrigable area. . . . . 169,600 acres  
 Irrigation districts. . . . . 5

Forest acreage

National forest . . . . . 221,000 acres  
 (93,000 acres of standing timber  
 with an estimated 2 billion board feet)  
 221,000 acres

Field crop acreage

Barley for grain . . . . . 72,000 acres  
 Ladino clover . . . . . 21,000  
 Wheat for grain . . . . . 17,250  
 Rice . . . . . 16,000  
 Alfalfa . . . . . 10,000  
 Grain sorghums. . . . . 5,500  
 Oats . . . . . 2,837  
 Sugar beets. . . . . 1,460  
 Flax . . . . . 200  
 146,247 acres  
 Native grass pasture. . . . . 500,000  
 Grain hay and wild pasture. . . 10,000  
 510,000 acres

Fruit and nut acreage

Almonds . . . . . 3,904 acres  
 Prunes . . . . . 1,713  
 Citrus . . . . . 851  
 Apricots. . . . . 701  
 Walnuts . . . . . 521  
 Olives . . . . . 413  
 Peaches . . . . . 262  
 Pears. . . . . 203  
 Figs . . . . . 174  
 Grapes . . . . . 149  
 8,891 acres

Livestock

Sheep. . . . . 198,154 head  
 Dairy cattle . . . . . 13,764  
 Beef cattle. . . . . 6,847  
 Hogs . . . . . 17,130  
 Horses and mules . . . . . 1,318  
 Poultry and turkeys . . . . . 73,841

## CROP SUMMARY

The year 1940 has been most unusual from a moisture factor, influencing crop returns to a great extent.

January started out with 8.20 inches of rainfall; followed by 6.58 inches in February, and 2.62 inches in March. During the month of December, 9.15 inches of rain fell, giving a total of 33.08 inches for the calendar year.

Heavy rains damaged the almond crop during the blossoming period to such an extent that the crop yield was 900,000 pounds under that of 1939. However, the decrease in yield was offset by an increased price return which brought an additional \$36,000 over last year's crop.

The price returns from apricots, turkeys and barley brought lesser incomes. While the apricot price was high, the crop was very light. Fewer turkeys were marketed than in 1939 and, while the barley yield was favorable, war conditions had a depressing effect on the barley market.

Highlights of 1940 were in the cattle and sheep business, which combined brought an additional \$300,000 income to the county over the year previous.

### Sugar

The Holly Sugar Corporation at Hamilton City has milled 175,000 tons of beets. Glenn County acreages make up thirteen percent of this total. While the sale of sugar grossed \$2,136,372, Glenn County farmers received approximately \$280,000 of this amount.

The Holly Sugar Corporation is the largest employer of labor in the county. Indirect benefits from having the sugar factory in the county are many. The employment of local residents and the maintenance of large livestock feeding yards to utilize the beet pulp are direct benefits.

### Cattle

The most significant farm income in the order of financial importance may be credited properly to the cattle industry. The sale of feeder cattle, fat cattle, milk cows, veal calves and butterfat brought a gross return of \$1,427,434.

The high prices received for milk cows sold and from butterfat produced have been definite factors in bringing about this favorable report.

## CROP SUMMARY (Continued)

### Sheep

The sheep industry is a very close second in importance. Wool, sheep pelts, sheep and lambs brought a gross return of \$1,110,641. There was a very definite increase in the price of wool over a year ago. Lambs have remained at nearly the same price.

Glenn County is considered the number one sheep producing county in California. Wild grasses and clover, which are brought up by rainfall, produce a high quality and inexpensive feed.

### Grain

Barley, wheat, rice, oats and milo brought a gross return of \$898,888. The income from 16,000 acres of rice was nearly twice as great as the income from 72,000 acres of barley. When taken on an acreage basis, rice is much the more valuable crop.

While rice is an irrigated crop, it necessitates a great deal of additional labor and expense. Although barley is a much easier crop to handle in some respects, it has been grown in the county and on the same land from 50 to 60 years. This has had a tendency to reduce the yield per acre. Crop rotation is necessary on land that has been used so long for barley growing.

### Tree Crops

The 8,900 acres of tree crops brought an income of \$880,500 for the year 1940. This small acreage produced nearly as much income as the total grain acreage.

The tree crops producing highest incomes were: almonds, with over \$300,000; oranges, with over \$200,000; olives followed with over \$114,000.

In the past four years, approximately 90,000 almond trees have been planted, indicating that orchardists are optimistic about the future of the almond industry. Orange groves are not farmed exclusively, but as a part of general farm practices. Olives, with over 400 acres, which are planted principally along roadsides and property lines, may be credited with producing the greatest income per acre utilized.

There is much soil suitable for growing tree crops, and previous success is a recommendation for continued planting.

### Hogs

The income from hogs was a little over \$435,000. Unlike dairy cattle and sheep, their only income value is in meat production.

## GRASSES

Local farmers long have felt the need of getting certain types of new grasses established, grasses which would be suitable for winter pasture, both on irrigated and on range land.

The local wild grasses, such as foxtail, alfilaria and burr clover, make very satisfactory pasture, but their growth is entirely dependent upon volunteer reseeding from year to year. Weather changes and occasional dry spells have not been entirely satisfactory in producing uniform pasture.

Last year, crested wheatgrass was experimented with quite extensively, but with unsatisfactory results.

Several acres of Michel's grass, which is a cross between crested wheat and ryegrass, have been planted. Early indications give promise that this grass may prove successful. However, more time is needed, including the warm summer season, before final approval can be given.

Dallas grass is so successful in its growth that it actually becomes a nuisance in some districts. However, there are certain classes of soil which are not favorable to growing other crops but would yield a fair return in pasture if planted to Dallas grass. This grass is recommended only on submarginal land.

## LADINO CLOVER

The 1939 figures for ladino clover showed approximately 21,000 acres in the county. There is some fluctuation in this acreage, but an increasing amount is being planted.

Ladino is a shallow rooted plant, getting much of its root growth near the top of the ground. It has been very successful on alkali types of soils. Because of its shallow growth, heavy pasturing in certain soils during wet weather does inestimable damage; however, the clay and gravelly soils seem to stand pasturing when either wet or dry. Some farmers irrigate with the stock in the field, apparently doing little damage to the stand.

During 1940, 119,000 pounds of ladino clover seed were harvested. There are many clover growers who have had their fields certified as Cal-approved. Poor stands rapidly are being eliminated as seed producers.

## SOILS

For some years following the introduction of rice, the abundance of water, necessary in growing this crop, had a tendency to build up a high water table, and for a number of years, several thousand acres generally had been regarded as worthless soil.

Washing the land by farming it to rice can be credited with reclaiming much of the land which formerly carried a high alkaline content.

Investigation has shown, however, that the soil did not lose its vital mineral elements, but that the contributory factor in the form of salt brought about a farm problem which had not been solved. It now appears, with limited exceptions, that with proper surface draining, ladino clover and several of the grasses can be planted on much of the soil which hitherto has been classed as too alkaline, or unfit for general farming.

A great deal of credit can be given to Captain Steele and the veterans at the Spaulding Ranch for their interest exhibited in planting several acres of garden vegetables in that area. The vegetables produced were of a high quality, and many first prizes were taken at the county fair. This experiment has lent itself to prove that proper washing of the top surface eliminates new deposits of alkali, thus making the land useable for certain kinds of crops.

## INSECT PESTS

A move has been launched for the control of mosquitoes. Information has been brought out showing that this pest is much more serious and costly than formerly was supposed.

Recent research authorities contend that, in thickly infested areas, milk production has been reduced greatly; egg laying in poultry is hampered; young chicks have been known to be destroyed; ewes often leave their young.

The mosquito has been proven to be the carrier of the germ producing big head in domestic rabbits, and suspicion points strongly to this agent as responsible for the spread of heart-worm in dogs; also, a type of sleeping sickness, known as Equine Encephalomyelitis, is believed to be spread from horse to horse and to other animals and, occasionally, to humans.

The female mosquito feeds entirely upon blood, while the male subsists on the juices of plants. The shade of ladino clover and other forage grasses offer havens of refuge during hot days, and myriads of mosquitoes nearly always can be found where grass is growing luxuriantly.

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

1,609 pieces of weighing and measuring equipment have been tested and approved in Glenn County during the past year. These weighing devices vary in size from the small prescription scales, capable of registering weights in fractions of a grain, up to stock and vehicle scales weighing in tens of thousands of pounds. Whatever the use, each type of scale has a tolerance and must pass certain rigid requirement tests.

The most common type of scale in use is the portable platform scale. This scale has capacities varying from 300 to 1,000 pounds and, therefore, has found favor with ranchers and businessmen alike.

Glenn County is to be congratulated upon the progressive attitude taken by the owners of scales in general. Old, out-moded scales rapidly are being replaced with new, modern equipment. An inaccurate scale which is subject to condemnation is likewise a very expensive piece of machinery.

A stable foundation for scales to rest upon is of the utmost importance. Scales that are out of plumb are very likely to weigh incorrectly. Weather conditions, changing from cold and dampness to hot, dry temperatures, greatly affect the accuracy of the weighing equipment, thus necessitating constant checking and re-checking.

Another service offered by the Department of Weights and Measures is the checking of package goods offered for sale through retail establishments. Such items as beans, cheese, peas, rice, prunes, etc., are checked frequently to see that their weights correspond with those printed on the packages.

## THE GLENN COUNTY FAIR

This report would not be complete without a few words pertaining to the Glenn County fair. This splendid institution is growing yearly, and the 1940 season was acclaimed the most successful fair yet attempted.

In matter of years, the Glenn County fair is still young, having been reorganized in 1937 after a lapse of several years. \$16,000 in prizes was awarded, and it was with keen interest that so many participated.

Much credit must be given to the fair directors for their tireless effort, and the willingness with which all went about the various tasks of assembling together a wide collection of Glenn County's varied farm products.

## THE GLENN COUNTY FAIR (Continued)

The displays of fruits, nuts, garden truck, apiary exhibits, as well as livestock, tend to reflect the hundreds of hours of man power and planning so necessary in helping to make the fair a success.

It is with much anticipation that all look forward to the fair in 1941, which will be held on a new location, southeast of Orland, where new and modern buildings are in process of construction.