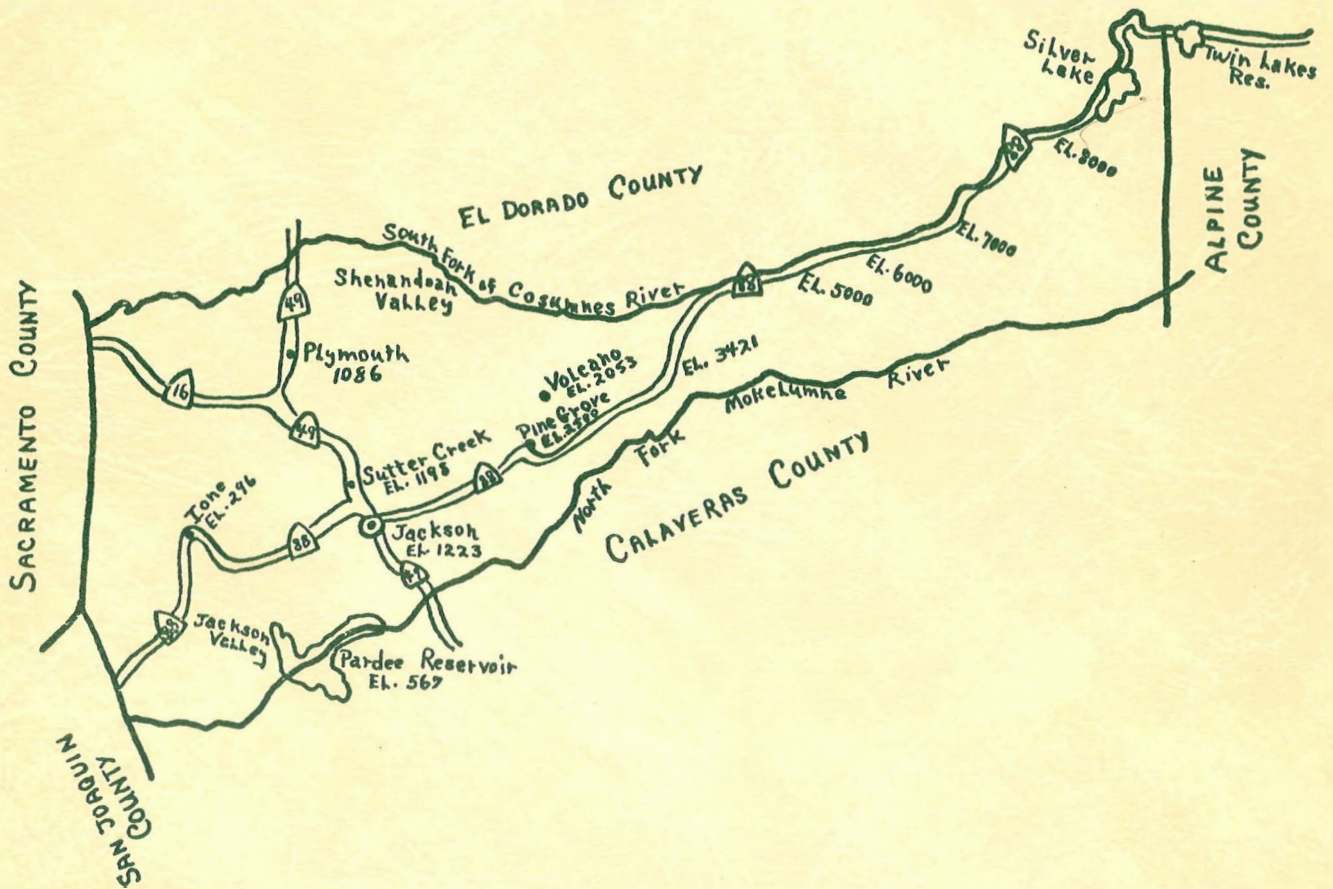


1955 AMADOR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



Department of Agriculture

P. O. Box 74

Jackson, California

AMADOR COUNTY

RAYMOND REBUFFO
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
COUNTY SEALER WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
P. O. BOX 74

JACKSON, CALIFORNIA



To: MR. W. C. JACOBSEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AMADOR COUNTY

GENTLEMEN:

THE ENCLOSED REPORT IS A COMPILATION OF THE ACREAGE AND THE ESTIMATED PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF AMADOR COUNTY FOR 1955 AS REQUIRED BY THE AGRICULTURAL CODE.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS EXPRESSED AS FARM VALUE. FARM VALUE IS THE RETURN TO THE PRODUCER OF FARM PRODUCTS AFTER DEDUCTING THE COSTS OF MARKETING AS: FREIGHT, COMMISSIONS, PACKING, CONTAINERS, ETC. THIS VALUE DOES INCLUDE THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DOES NOT REPRESENT NET PROFIT TO THE FARMER.

ALTHOUGH FARM PRICES WERE, IN GENERAL, DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1955 AS COMPARED TO 1954, THE TOTAL FARM INCOME FOR THE TWO YEARS WAS NEARLY THE SAME. THIS FACT IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY AN INCREASE IN MEAT BIRD PRODUCTION, MORE TRANSIENT CATTLE BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTY, A BUMPER CROP OF WALNUTS AND A GOOD CROP OF GRAPES. GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY PAYMENTS ARE NOT INCLUDED AS FARM INCOME.

I WISH TO THANK THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO COOPERATED IN MAKING THIS REPORT POSSIBLE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

RAYMOND REBUFFO
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

GENERAL INFORMATION

AMADOR COUNTY IS LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY IN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS; IT RANGES FROM AN ELEVATION OF 200 FEET AT IONE TO 8,500 FEET AT CARSON PASS. ITS ROLLING HILLS ARE PRIMARILY ADAPTED TO THE PRODUCTION OF LUMBER AND CATTLE. THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY PRODUCES NEARLY ALL OF THE SHEEP, HOGS, EGGS, TURKEYS, GRAPES, DECIDUOUS TREE CROPS, WINE AND SOME GRAIN. THE BALANCE OF THE GRAIN AND NEARLY ALL OF THE MILK ARE PRODUCED IN THE IONE AREA. INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WILL COME ABOUT ONLY WHEN IRRIGATION BECOMES A REALITY.

THE FAMED CLAY, SILICA SAND AND LIGNITE DEPOSITS ARE LOCATED IN THE IONE AREA. PROGRESSING UP THE FOOTHILLS, ONE ENCOUNTERS THE HISTORIC "MOTHER LODGE BELT" ON WHICH ARE LOCATED THE TOWNS OF JACKSON, SUTTER CREEK, AMADOR CITY, DRYTOWN AND PLYMOUTH. THIS AREA IS KNOWN FOR ITS HISTORY AS ONE OF THE RICHEST GOLD PRODUCING SPOTS IN THE WORLD. IN THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS, ONE FINDS PICTURESQUE BEAUTY AND THE HISTORIC GHOST TOWN OF VOLCANO. THE "HIGH COUNTRY" LENDS ITSELF TO EXCELLENT SUMMER AND WINTER SPORTS.

THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE COUNTY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EMPLOYMENT IS DERIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFICATIONS OF WORK IN ORDER OF THEIR IMPORTANCE: PUBLIC WORK (FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY EMPLOYMENT), LUMBERING, AGRICULTURE, HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER MANUFACTURING AND MINING.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION - 1955

LAND AREA (ACRES)	- 380,160	PASTURELAND	- - -	265,901 ACRES
ACRES IN FARMS	- - 294,402	CULTIVATED CROPS	- - -	2,020 ACRES
FARMS	- - - 372	COMMERCIAL FOREST	- -	127,000 ACRES

INCOME FROM INDUSTRIES

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER	- \$15,000,000	AGRICULTURE	- - - - -	\$2,342,185
LUMBERING (WHOLESALE)	- 7,200,000	MINING	- - - - -	800,000

HIGHLIGHTS OF FUNCTIONS PERFORMED DURING 1955

STANDARDIZATION: 2250 PACKAGES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE INSPECTED AND ALL WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH QUALITY AND PACKING STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY LAW. 980 DOZEN EGGS WERE INSPECTED IN RETAIL STORES FOR QUALITY AND SIZE REQUIREMENTS. 54 DOZEN WERE REJECTED FOR NOT BEING PROPERLY LABELED AS TO GRADE AND SIZE. 33 DOZEN WERE REJECTED FOR CONTAINING INEDIBLE EGGS. THE BALANCE OF THE EGGS WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

RODENT CONTROL: 409 POUNDS OF POISONED GRAIN FOR GROUND SQUIRREL CONTROL AND 484 POUNDS OF WARFARIN RAT BAIT WERE MIXED, PACKAGED AND DISTRIBUTED. GROUND SQUIRRELS AND RATS DO ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURAL CROPS AS WELL AS HARBOR DISEASES THAT CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO ANIMALS AND HUMANS. 200 GROUND SQUIRRELS WILL CONSUME AS MUCH FORAGE AS WILL ONE STEER IN ONE YEAR. ONE RAT WILL EAT OR DESTROY \$2.00 WORTH OF FOODSTUFFS IN A YEAR.

GRASSHOPPER CONTROL: DURING THE YEAR THIS OFFICE HAD 250 CALLS FOR POISONED GRASSHOPPER BAIT. 11,468 POUNDS OF BAIT WAS MIXED, PACKAGED AND DISTRIBUTED. 37 CALLS WERE MADE RELATIVE TO SURVEYING FOR THIS PEST AND GIVING SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR ITS CONTROL.

PEST SURVEY & PEST CONTROL: 146 CALLS WERE MADE RELATIVE TO SURVEYING FOR AND GIVING CONTROL INFORMATION ON PLANT DISEASES, INSECT PESTS, WEEDS, BRUSH, POISON OAK, SCOTCH BROOM, HOUSE PESTS, ETC.

BRUSH CONTROL: 464.5 MILES OF STATE AND COUNTY ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS WERE SPRAYED FOR BRUSH CONTROL. BRUSH INHIBITS ROAD VISIBILITY ON CURVES AND WOULD IMPEDE TRAFFIC IF ALLOWED TO GROW OVER THE ROADWAY. THE FOLLOWING IS A YEARLY COMPARISON OF BRUSH CONTROL COSTS ON COUNTY ROADS SINCE 1953:

	<u>MILES SPRAYED</u>	<u>AVERAGE COST PER MILE (BOTH SIDES OF ROAD)</u>
1953	294	\$18.00
1954	358	13.48
1955	464	12.76

WEED CONTROL: 682.5 MILES OF COUNTY AND STATE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS WERE SPRAYED FOR THE CHEMICAL CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS DETRIMENTAL TO AGRICULTURE. WEEDS SPRAYED WERE AS FOLLOWS: PUNCTURE VINE, YELLOW STAR THISTLE, SANDBUR, COCKLE BUR, KLAMATH WEED, BULL THISTLE AND ARTICHOKE THISTLE. KLAMATH WEED BEETLES HAVE ELIMINATED OVER 80% OF THE ORIGINAL INFESTATION.

SCOTCH BROOM CONTROL: A TOTAL OF 53.5 ACRES OF SCOTCH BROOM AND ITS RELATED SPECIES WERE CONTROLLED ON 259 PROPERTIES. THE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF THE CONTROL OF SEEDLINGS, THE REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUAL OLD PLANTS AND THE SURVEY FOR NEW INFESTATIONS. A COUNTY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE GROWING OF BROOM WAS PUT INTO EFFECT DURING THE YEAR.

PLANT QUARANTINE: 2,617 PLANTS COMPRISING 133 SHIPMENTS FROM OUT OF STATE AND 10,231 PLANTS COMPRISING 56 SHIPMENTS FROM WITHIN THE STATE WERE INSPECTED AS TO PEST CONDITIONS REQUIRED BY PLANT QUARANTINE LAWS. NO VIOLATIONS WERE FOUND.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WORK IS PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING ALL WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT FOR ACCURACY, AND TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW PERTAINING TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. ACCURATE EQUIPMENT IS A PROTECTION TO THE BUYER AS WELL AS TO THE SELLER, AS EITHER PARTY COULD GAIN OR LOOSE IN A TRANSACTION INVOLVING INCORRECT WEIGHING OR MEASURING EQUIPMENT.

OF ALL EQUIPMENT TESTED, GASOLINE PUMPS WERE FOUND TO BE IN THE GREATEST ERROR DURING 1955. A TOTAL OF TEN PUMPS WERE FOUND TO BE GIVING FROM ONE PINT TO ONE QUART OF GASOLINE IN EXCESS ON EACH FIVE GALLONS OF DELIVERY. A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE LOSS TO STATION OPERATORS ON A YEAR'S BASIS ON THESE PUMPS IS \$1,000.

THE FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR:

	<u>TOTAL TESTED</u>	<u>CORRECT</u>	<u>CORRECT AFTER ADJUSTED</u>	<u>OUT OF ORDER</u>
COUNTER SCALES	15	15		
SPRING SCALES	25	24		1
COMPUTING SCALES	47	38	8	1
PLATFORM SCALES	63	57	3	3
VEHICLE SCALES	2	2		
HOPPER SCALES	2	2		
PERSON WEIGHERS	5	4	1	
CATTLE SCALES	26	19	5	2
MEAT BEAMS	5	4		1
WEIGHTS	199	196		3
GAS TRUCK METERS	4		4	
RETAIL GAS PUMPS	123	94	26	3

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - 1955

CROP	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION TOTAL UNITS	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL FARM VALUE
<u>FRUIT & NUT CROPS</u>				
APPLES	38	28 TONS	\$120.00	\$ 3,360.00
ALMONDS	11	-- FROSTED OUT		
GRAPES (WINE)	712	2,136 TONS	48.00	102,528.00
PEACHES	30	50 TONS	60.00	3,000.00
PRUNES (DRY)	122	24 TONS	320.00	7,680.00
WALNUTS	223	97 TONS	600.00	58,200.00
MISC.	17	-----		2,900.00
	<u>1,153</u>			<u>\$ 177,668.00</u>
<u>VEGETABLE CROPS</u>				
MISC.	50			12,000.00
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>				
WHEAT	220	3,300 CWT.	3.50	11,550.00
BARLEY	106	1,590 CWT.	2.00	3,180.00
OATS	150	2,400 CWT.	3.00	7,200.00
SUDAN	43	731 CWT.	4.00	2,924.00
WHEAT		195 CWT.		* FED ON RANCHES
OATS		1,520 CWT.		" " "
BARLEY		1,815 CWT.		" " "
HAY (OATS, ETC.)	3,400	3,400 TONS		" " "
* IRRIGATED PASTURE	250			" " "
* RANGE PASTURE	265000			" " "
	<u>269,169</u>			<u>\$ 24,854.00</u>

* SHOWN AS LIVESTOCK INCOME.

PRODUCT	PRODUCTION TOTAL UNITS	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL FARM VALUE
	<u>APIARY</u>		
HONEY	40,000 LBS.	\$.11	\$ 4,400.00
	<u>DAIRY PRODUCTS</u>		
MILK FAT	75,000 LBS. GRADE A	1.02	76,500.00
	75,000 LBS. GRADE B	.82	61,500.00
			138,000.00
	<u>POULTRY PRODUCTS</u>		
EGGS	393,000 DOZENS	.44	172,920.00
FRYERS	186,000 BIRDS	.78	145,080.00
HENS (CULL OUTS)	7,860 HENS	.60	4,716.00
TURKEYS (LIVE)	400 BIRDS	6.38	2,552.00
MISC. (RABBITS, ETC.)			2,000.00
			327,268.00
	<u>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS</u>		
HOGS & FEEDER PIGS	1,583 HEAD	17.50	\$ 27,702.50
BEEF CALVES	8,415 HEAD	90.00	757,350.00
STEERS	1,485 HEAD	180.00	267,300.00
COWS & BULLS	2,025 HEAD	106.00	214,650.00
FEEDER CATTLE *	6,025 HEAD	40.00	241,000.00
PUREBRED STOCK	30 HEAD	250.00	7,500.00
DAIRY CATTLE	150 HEAD	100.00	15,000.00
CALVES & VEALERS	300 HEAD	30.00	9,000.00
SHEEP & LAMBS	6,500 HEAD	13.60	88,400.00
WOOL & MOHAIR	46,200 LBS	.515	23,793.00
KID GOATS	900 HEAD	7.00	6,300.00
			1,657,995.50
TOTAL PLANT INDUSTRY			214,522.00
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY			2,127,663.50
GRAND TOTAL			2,342,185.50

CROP SUMMARY

* (PLANT INDUSTRY)

APPLES: CROP SPOTTED DUE TO FROST DAMAGE TO BLOSSOMS ON SOME VARIETIES. QUALITY IN GENERAL WAS GOOD BUT FRUIT SIZE WAS SMALLER DUE TO LOW GROUND MOISTURE AND LACK OF FALL RAINS. EUROPEAN RED MITE CAUSED SEVERE DEFOLIATION ON SOME TREES. CODLING MOTH AND APPLE SCAB NOT TROUBLESOME WHERE PEST CONTROL PROGRAMS WERE FOLLOWED.

ALMONDS: CROP FROSTED OUT.

WINE GRAPES: GRAPES CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST ACREAGE OF DECIDUOUS CROPS. PRODUCTION WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY WITH THE CROP MATURING LATE DUE TO COOL EARLY SUMMER. FOR THE EXCEPTION OF GRAPES GROWN AND USED BY LOCAL WINERY, MOST OF THE CROP WAS SOLD TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES FOR HOME WINE MAKING WITH THE EXTRA TONNAGE GOING TO WINERIES. GRAPES ARE PRODUCED UNDER DRYLAND CONDITIONS AND HAVE EXCELLENT QUALITIES FOR THE MAKING OF DRY WINES AND ARE SOLD AT PREMIUM PRICES.

PEACHES: DUE TO EARLY FROST THE CROP WAS VERY SPOTTED. FOR THE EXCEPTION OF DRIED PEACHES, ALL PRODUCTION IS SOLD LOCALLY.

PRUNES: FROST DAMAGE IN SOME AREAS DURING THE EARLY JACKET STAGE OF THE FRUIT RESULTED IN THE AVERAGE OVERALL CROP OF 40% OF NORMAL PRODUCTION. QUALITY AND PRICE WERE GOOD.

WALNUTS: PRODUCTION HEAVIEST IN MANY YEARS. EXTREME HEAT IN LATE AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER CAUSED CONSIDERABLE SUNBURNING OF WALNUTS. PRICE WAS GOOD. TREND IS TOWARDS THE PLANTING OF MORE WALNUTS. NO SERIOUS INSECT OR DISEASE PROBLEMS.

VEGETABLES: COUNTY NOT ADAPTED TO VEGETABLE PRODUCTION UNLESS IRRIGATION IS ESTABLISHED. PRESENT PRODUCTION IS LIMITED TO SMALL ACREAGES OF DIVERSIFIED CROPS FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

FIELD CROPS: FOR THE EXCEPTION OF WHEAT IT IS BECOMING UNECONOMICAL TO GROW SMALL ACREAGES OF FIELD CROPS. THERE HAS BEEN A REDUCTION IN THE ACREAGES PLANTED TO WHEAT, BARLEY AND OATS. MOST FARMERS FEEL THAT THEY CAN BUY GRAIN FOR FEED CHEAPER THAN THEY CAN GROW IT ON SMALL ACREAGES. THEIR LAND CAN BE BETTER UTILIZED FOR GRAIN HAY OR PASTURE. PRICE RETURNS FOR WHEAT AND BARLEY WERE DOWN AND RETURNS FOR OATS WERE UP. MOST OF THE WHEAT AND ABOUT HALF OF THE BARLEY AND OATS ARE SOLD AND THE BALANCE IS FED TO LIVESTOCK ON RANCHES.

* FOR THE EXCEPTION OF VEGETABLES, ALL OTHER CROPS ARE GROWN WITHOUT IRRIGATION.

CROP SUMMARY

(ANIMAL INDUSTRY)

AMADOR COUNTY IS PRIMARILY ADAPTED TO RAISING LIVESTOCK, CONSEQUENTLY, BETTER THAN 90% OF THE AGRICULTURAL INCOME IS DERIVED FROM THIS TYPE OF FARMING.

APIARY: THIS COUNTY IS NOT ADAPTED TO RAISING BEES COMMERCIALY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SPRING AND SUMMER HONEY-FLOW. MOST OF THE INCOME FROM HONEY IS FROM TRANSIENT BEEKEEPERS WHO MOVE BEES INTO THE COUNTY FOR A FIVE TO SIX MONTH PERIOD.

DAIRYING: DAIRYMEN ARE NOT MAKING A "FAIR SHARE" OF PROFIT AS THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION ARE VERY NEAR THE PRICES RECEIVED FOR MILK. ABOUT 25% OF THE GRADE A MILK PRODUCED HAD TO BE SOLD AS GRADE B BECAUSE IT WAS SURPLUS MILK AND COULD NOT BE UTILIZED WITHIN THE MARKET AREA. GRADE A MILK PRICES WERE ABOUT THE SAME AS FOR 1954 AND RETURNS FOR GRADE B MILK WERE SLIGHTLY LOWER.

POULTRY: FARMERS PRODUCING EGGS AND TURKEYS EXPERIENCED A SLIGHTLY BETTER YEAR IN 1955 THAN IN 1954 FROM THE PRICE STANDPOINT. THERE WAS NO INCREASE IN THE PRODUCTION OF EGGS FOR 1955. PRICES RECEIVED FOR MEAT BIRDS WERE THE SAME AS FOR 1954 AND PRODUCERS MADE VERY LITTLE IF ANY PROFIT FROM THIS ENTERPRISE. THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE PRODUCTION OF MEAT BIRDS FOR 1955 AND THE TREND IS FOR AN INCREASE IN 1956.

HOGS: PRODUCTION CONSTANT. OF THE 1583 HEAD OF HOGS GROWN, ABOUT 30% WERE FAT HOGS AND THE BALANCE WERE WEANER AND FEEDER PIGS. PRICES RECEIVED FOR HOGS WERE DOWN DURING 1955.

SHEEP: PRODUCTION CONSTANT. POOR RANGE CONDITIONS IN SPRING OF 1955 DUE TO COLD WEATHER RESULTED IN LIGHTER WEIGHT LAMBS GOING TO MARKET AND A LIGHTER WOOL CLIP PER ANIMAL. PRICE OF LAMB WAS DOWN SLIGHTLY. FARMERS RECEIVED 10¢ PER LB. LESS FOR WOOL THAN IN 1954; HOWEVER, THIS AMOUNT WAS MADE UP BY THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY PROGRAM ON WOOL.

BEEF CATTLE: THIS IS THE LARGEST FARMING ENTERPRISE IN THE COUNTY AND RETURNED TO THE FARMERS ABOUT 65% OF THE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL INCOME FOR 1955. ECONOMICALLY, CATTLEMEN ARE FACING TRYING TIMES DUE TO POOR RANGE CONDITIONS DURING THE WINTER AND SPRING OF 1955 WHICH RESULTED IN THE NEED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF FEEDING HIGH PRICED HAY, LOWER PRICES RECEIVED FOR CATTLE AND INCREASING COSTS OF PRODUCTION. THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN CATTLE PRODUCTION AND THERE HAVE BEEN MORE FEEDER CATTLE COMING INTO THE COUNTY.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ARE WORKING OUT PRACTICES TO RECLAIM BRUSHLAND BY BURNING BRUSH AND SEEDING THE BURNED OVER AREA WITH PASTURE GRASS MIXES BY AIRPLANE. ORIGINAL GRASS-LAND IS BEING IMPROVED TO PRODUCE MORE FEED BY FERTILIZING, USING BETTER PASTURE GRASSES, WEED AND BRUSH CONTROL, AND BY USING OVERALL GOOD RANGE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

RECAPITULATION

1948	- - - - -	\$ 2,274,698.00
1949	- - - - -	2,358,153.00
1950	- - - - -	2,713,765.00
1951	- - - - -	3,960,864.00
1952	- - - - -	2,948,328.00
1953	- - - - -	1,987,049.00
1954	- - - - -	2,355,499.00
1955	- - - - -	2,342,185.00