

# INDEX-1958

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that of Los Angeles County. Since 1950, Tulare has exceeded Los Angeles. In general, fruit and nuts have been the main crops of Tulare which is one of the few counties whose output of this group has increased in value since the war. Consequently, Tulare's record fruit and nut crop of 1957 accounted for as much as 34% of the total value of the southern California fruit and nut crop.

The expansion of the livestock industry in Tulare County is most striking. The value of the industry's output in the last three years was more than 2.5 times as great as in 1945 and nearly six times the 1941 figure. Tulare still ranks second to Los Angeles in livestock but its share in the southern California output has increased to 14%. The value of Tulare's field crops—influenced heavily by cotton—expanded until 1951, then tended to fall, more sharply than that of Kern or Imperial counties. But Tulare remains the third largest producer of field crops in southern California. Tulare is a comparatively unimportant producer of vegetables.

Kern County exceeds Los Angeles County in value of total farm output—prewar it was less than half as much—

mainly because of expansion in field crops and in vegetables. In the last three years Kern County has accounted, on average, for nearly 30% of the total southern California output of field crops and 20% of the vegetables. Also, Kern County produces nearly half the southern California cotton crop and derives a third or more of its agricultural income from cotton. However, there is no marked upward trend in total agricultural returns or in the values of any of the four product groups in Kern County.

Orange County ranked third among the 12 southern counties prewar and then exceeded Kern, but the value of its farm production today is only half that of Kern County. The relative decline of Orange County in farm value is linked with the fruit and nut sector, particularly with oranges. Until 1956 oranges were the chief product and the source of two thirds of its agricultural income. The value of the orange crop never recovered the high end-of-war levels, but the subsequent contraction has been more than offset by a rapid and continuous increase in the output of livestock products, especially dairy products and eggs.

San Bernardino County which also derived two thirds of its prewar farm income from fruit and nuts—mainly citrus fruits—has experienced a similar devel-

opment. The contraction in the fruit and nut crops was even more severe than in Orange County and the present dollar value of those crops is little more than in 1941. However, livestock production expanded earlier and more rapidly, and the recent output of this group of products was worth more than twice as much as the fruit and nut crops. Much of this expansion was in eggs and San Bernardino County is now by far the largest egg producer in southern California.

Ventura and Riverside counties also specialized heavily in fruit and nuts prewar, but like Tulare, have more than maintained the value of these crops during the postwar period and recently obtained record dollar returns from them. Ventura County has become the second largest fruit producing county, producing about half as much as Tulare; and Riverside County has also become relatively more important. Nevertheless, the extent of this specialization, especially in the case of Riverside County, has declined. The outputs of livestock—mainly cattle and calves—in both counties and of vegetables in Riverside County have grown rapidly and livestock has replaced fruit as Riverside's major product group. In Ventura County—though there has been a sudden recent expansion in the small

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