

Arizona Agriculture's Greatest Year

Cash Farm Income
Was \$423,000,000

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The year 1952 may well mark the end of a twenty-year rise in Arizona's agricultural income.

Arizona's cash farm income in 1952 totaled \$423,000,000. This is nineteen times that of 1932, and \$44,000,000 greater than in 1951.

Water

As 1952 ended, the Salt River Valley had in prospect the most plentiful gravity water supply in recent years. Combined storage on the Salt and Verde Rivers totaled 1,368,000 acre-feet, compared to 382,000 acre-feet in 1951 and a long-time average of 549,700. The San Carlos Project was not so fortunate, having only 2,090 acre-feet as compared to a long-time average of 125,800.

In spite of increased acreage in crops, total pumpage continued at about the same rate as in 1951. More adequate gravity water supplies and heavier rainfall during normal irrigation periods served to reduce the amount of pump water required. However, water tables continued to drop at the rate of 6 to 10 feet per year in the heavily over-pumped areas of the state.

Land Development

Approximately 1,300,000 acres were in crops in Arizona during 1952. Con-

Cash Income From Arizona Farm and Ranch Production (In Millions of Dollars)

Commodity	1952	1951	Average 1942-1951
Cotton lint and cottonseed	\$208.0	\$195.0	\$ 64.7
Cattle and calves	81.0	62.0	39.8
Lettuce and other vegetable crops	62.2	54.0	35.6
Dairy products	17.0	13.5	9.5
Commercial feed grains	12.0	8.0	6.5
Alfalfa and other hay	16.0	15.0	8.6
Sheep, lambs and wool	6.0	6.0	4.3
Eggs, chickens and turkeys	5.2	6.0	4.4
Seed crops	3.0	4.0	3.8
Citrus fruit	2.5	4.0	4.3
Miscellaneous crops	7.4	8.0	8.0
Miscellaneous livestock and livestock products	1.7	1.8	1.9
Federal government payments	1.4	1.7	1.7
Total cash income	\$423.4	\$379.0	\$193.1

siderable new acreage was brought into cultivation in Pinal, Maricopa, Yuma, Pima, and Cochise Counties during the year. With the exception of the Yuma area, most of the new land was developed by pump irrigation.

In Yuma, the principal additions were in reclamation projects, receiving water from the Colorado River. The principal areas of expansion there were in the Wellton-Mohawk and Yuma-Mesa Divisions of the Gila Project and in the Colorado River Indian Reservation at Parker. Yuma County now has 162,000 acres of irrigated land, over twice that of five years ago.

Cotton

Cotton again set the pace for Arizona agriculture during 1952. Income from this crop totaled \$208,000,000, nearly half of the state's total agricultural income.

During the past two years cotton plantings in Arizona have increased by nearly 400,000 acres. In 1952 666,000 acres were in cotton, 620,000 in short-staple varieties, and 46,000 in long-staple varieties.

Arizona again led the nation in yields. Estimated yield for short-staple cotton was 746 pounds per acre, nearly three times the national average. American-Egyptian yield was a record 468 pounds per acre.

Cotton prices dropped from near the 40 cents per pound level at the beginning of the season to near the 30 cent level at the end. Prices in

the 28-29 cent bracket appear probable for 1953-54 and with 1953 costs at virtually the same level as in 1952, only the more efficient operators can expect a profit.

Cattle

Cattle prices declined sharply during 1952, most grades dropping about \$10 per hundred pounds during the year, with the top of the market during January, 1953 being near \$25. Increased supplies were largely responsible for the price decline.

As 1952 ended there were about 86,000 cattle on feed in Arizona. This represented about the same number as a year earlier, but at the end of 1952 virtually no replacements were going into Arizona feedlots. This pointed to a possible local shortage of fat cattle in the Spring of 1953.

Vegetables

The 1951 fall lettuce season in Arizona was probably the most outstanding on record from a financial standpoint for a complete season's operations. Prices were very attractive, \$6.00 to \$7.00 per crate during most of the season.

In contrast to the highly profitable fall season, the 1952 spring season was only fair.

Carlot shipments of vegetables were as follows: total 45,000; lettuce 22,000; cantaloup 9,600; carrots 4,500; watermelons 2,300; honeydew melons 1,584; cabbage 770; cauliflower 712; and celery 532.