

# 1959 Arizona Farm Income \$414.4 Million

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Cash receipts from farming and ranching in Arizona during 1959 totaled \$414.4 million, below the record of 1958 but still substantially above the average for the previous 10 years.

Decreases in cotton prices, poor vegetable markets, and late-season declines in cattle prices were the major factors responsible for the lower income.

Income by commodities was as follows: cotton lint and cottonseed — \$142 million; cattle and calves — \$97 million; vegetables and melons — \$63 million; dairy products — \$27 million; feed grains — \$15.3 million; hay — \$19 million; citrus fruit — \$7.2 million; sheep, lambs, and wool — \$5 million; poultry and eggs — \$5.2 million; seed crops — \$4 million; miscellaneous crops — \$14.6 million; miscellaneous livestock products — \$2.5 million; and federal government payments — \$2.6 million.

**Agriculture is second only to manufacturing as a source of income to Arizona. In spite of rumors of the declining importance of agriculture, these data show that over the past fifteen years agriculture in Arizona has maintained its relative importance as a source of income to the state.**

## Over-Pumping Continues

Total usage of water for irrigation during 1959 was approximately 6.6 million acre-feet. Over-pumping of ground water reserves continued, and water tables continued to fall. Surface water supplies at the end of 1959 were the best in recent years as heavy rains added to stored water supplies and deep snows in northern Arizona promise more runoff to come.

Speculative sales of farm and ranch property are becoming of importance throughout the state as investors are purchasing acreage for long-term value appreciation. On January 1, 1960, leasing methods for state-owned agricultural lands were changed, with the new rental

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rates being based on productivity of land and availability of water, with bonus rents charged for land carrying a cotton allotment.

## Cotton Yields Rise Slightly

Cotton yields during 1959 averaged 942 pounds per acre, slightly above the 931 pounds in 1958 but well below the 1037 pounds in 1957 and the record of 1108 in 1956. Heavy insect damage late in the season, prolonged rains, and excessive humidity all contributed to lower yields.

Growers were offered a choice between Plan "A" (regular acreage allotment and 80 per cent supports) or Plan "B" (increase of 40% in acreage over regular allotments and 65 per cent supports). A total of 24 percent of Arizona's cotton farms elected Plan "B", resulting in an increase of 32,186 acres over normal allotments. The pink bollworm infestation was apparently successfully controlled, although control measures will continue through 1960.

Costs of production of cotton continue to rise. Estimated per acre costs for producing, harvesting, and ginning upland cotton during 1960 are as follows: Salt River Project — \$186.72; 200-foot lift areas — \$205.22; and 350-foot pump lift areas — \$229.22.

Acreage, yield, and production of all hay increased during 1959. Hay prices held up well during the summer and rose sharply in the late fall. Costs of producing, harvesting, baling and hauling hay continue to rise and for 1960 per-acre costs are estimated for a five-ton yield as follows: Salt River Valley — \$102.30; 200-foot pump lift areas — \$122.02; and 300-foot lift areas — \$142.38 per acre. Although alfalfa production appears unprofitable in deep lift areas, many farmers, faced with declining cotton yields, are becoming convinced of the profitability of including alfalfa in a sound rotation program.

## More Feed Grains

Production of feed grains in Arizona increased during 1959 as both acreage and yields were up. Use of hybrid sorghums and mixed plantings for silage are resulting in substantial yield increases for this crop. As was true for other crops, per acre costs of producing and harvesting feed grains are expected to be higher in 1960, ranging from \$52.85 to \$75.60 for barley, and \$60.47 to \$90.47 for grain sorghum.

Vegetable production continued to shift to newer areas in the state. Both the acreage and volume of production were larger than the previous year but low prices, resulting from an excess of supply in relation to demand, resulted in disastrously low returns.

Returns to citrus growers for the 1958-

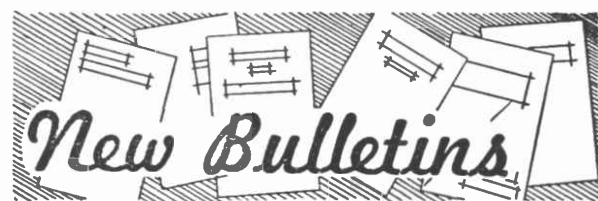
59 crop were lower than the record returns of the previous year, but in general the season was a good one.

A late season price break in beef cattle resulted in price declines of 5 to 6 cents per pound for slaughter animals and a decline of 6 to 8 cents occurred in stocker and feeder steers and calves. Record numbers of cattle were on feed during most of the year, with the number on Jan. 1, 1960, being 265,000. Beef cattle numbers in the U.S. are still increasing and 102 million head are predicted for 1960. Good range conditions and abundant feed will help offset lower cattle prices in 1960.

## Milk Surplus A Problem

Production of milk in Arizona continued to increase and surpluses over fluid milk demand are beginning to present a problem. Although milk prices held up well early in the year they declined rapidly in late fall months.

The poultry industry, too, continued to expand, but prices were generally low. Egg production in Arizona still lags behind consumption and more than half of our eggs must be shipped in from out-of-state.



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