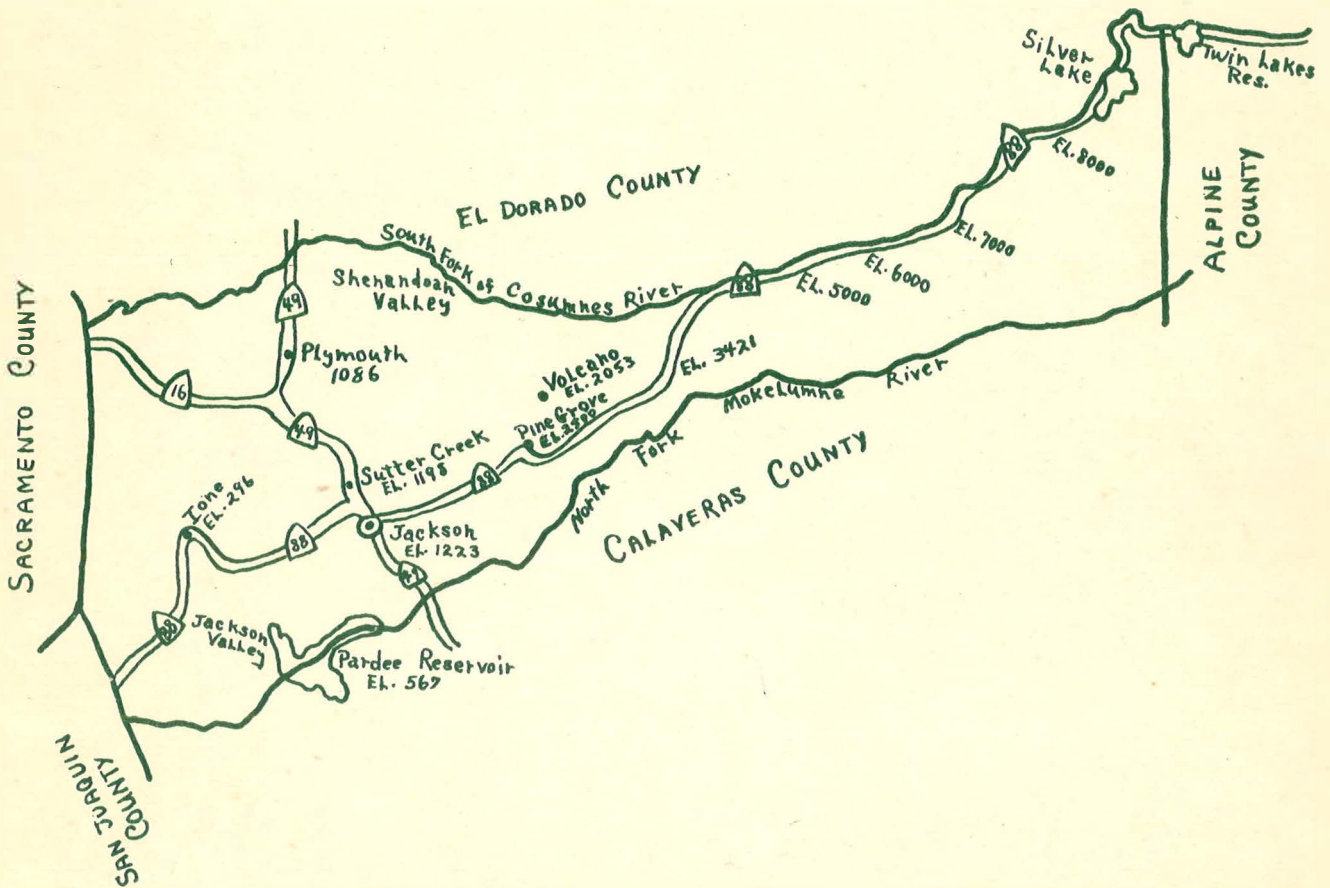


1954 AMADOR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



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 THE YEAR 1954 AS REQUIRED BY THE AGRICULTURAL CODE.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION VALUE 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.

THE OVERALL VALUE OF 1954 CROPS INCREASED \$400,000 OVER THE 1953 VALUE. THIS INCREASE WAS DUE TO SLIGHTLY HIGHER PRICES RECEIVED FOR BEEF CATTLE AND AN INCREASE IN MEAT BIRD PRODUCTION. PRICES RECEIVED FOR MOST FARM PRODUCTS WERE BELOW 1953 RETURNS. LOWER PRICES WERE RECEIVED FOR MILK, EGGS, HOGS, LAMBS, GRAIN, MEAT BIRDS AND TURKEYS.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

RAYMOND REBUFFO
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

RR:RM

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 LODE 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

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	- - - -	\$2,355,000
LUMBERING	- - - - -	6,375,000	MINING	- - - -	473,000

4550
710
326

HIGHLIGHT OF FUNCTIONS PERFORMED DURING 1954

STANDARDIZATION: 4550 PACKAGES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE INSPECTED AND NEARLY ALL WERE FOUND TO COMPLY TO PACKING, LABELING, AND QUALITY STANDARDS AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW. TWO PRODUCE PEDDLERS WERE REPRIMANDED FOR SELLING SUB-STANDARD FRUIT. 710 DOZENS OF EGGS WERE INSPECTED IN RETAIL STORES FOR QUALITY AND SIZE REQUIREMENTS. 20 DOZEN OF THESE EGGS WERE REJECTED FOR BEING MIS-LABELED. BALANCE OF EGGS WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

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PLANT QUARANTINE: 4,788 PLANTS COMPRISING 188 SHIPMENTS FROM OUT OF STATE AND 6,517 PLANTS COMPRISING 77 SHIPMENTS FROM WITHIN THE STATE WERE INSPECTED AS TO PEST CONDITIONS AS REQUIRED BY QUARANTINE LAWS OF THIS STATE. ALL SHIP-MENTS WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH PLANT QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS.

RODENT CONTROL: 484 POUNDS OF GROUND SQUIRREL POISONED GRAIN AND 592 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.

GRASSHOPPER CONTROL: THE GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION DURING THE PAST YEAR WAS HEAVY; HOWEVER, PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ABLE TO HOLD DAMAGE IN YARDS, VINEYARDS, ETC. TO A MINIMUM. DURING THE YEAR THIS OFFICE HAD 1,250 CALLS FOR AND DISTRIBUTED 64,113 POUNDS OF POISONED BAIT FOR GRASS-HOPPER CONTROL.

PEST SURVEY AND PEST CONTROL: 200 CALLS WERE MADE RELATIVE TO SURVEYING FOR AND GIVING CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS ON INSECT PESTS, PLANT DISEASES, WEEDS, BRUSH, POISON OAK, SCOTCH BROOM, RODENTS, HOUSEHOLD PESTS, ETC.

SCOTCH BROOM CONTROL: 36.5 ACRES OF SCOTCH BROOM AND ITS RELATED SPECIES WERE CONTROLLED ON 222 PROPERTIES. THE CONTROL PROGRAM CONSISTED OF THE REMOVAL OF OLD PLANTS, THE CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF SEEDLINGS AND SURVEY FOR NEW INFESTATIONS. INACCESSIBLE AREAS WERE SURVEYED BY AIR.

BRUSH CONTROL: 358 MILES OF COUNTY AND STATE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS WERE SPRAYED FOR BRUSH CONTROL. THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN INAUGURATED BECAUSE IT IS CHEAPER TO CHEMICALLY CONTROL BRUSH THAN TO CUT IT OUT BY HAND AS HAD BEEN THE PRACTICE IN THE PAST.

WEED CONTROL: 351 MILES OF COUNTY AND STATE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS WERE SPRAYED FOR THE CONTROL OF KLAMATH WEED, PUNCTURE VINE, COCKLE BUR, SAND BUR AND YELLOW STAR THISTLE. KLAMATH WEED BEETLES ARE NOW WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, AND TO DATE HAVE ELIMINATED OVER 50% OF KLAMATH WEED. THE CHEMICAL CONTROL OF THIS WEED WOULD HAVE COST WELL OVER \$100,000 OVER A PERIOD OF THREE OR FOUR YEARS. BEETLES WERE IMPORTED AND RE-DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY FOR \$1,000 OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

IN MOST SMALL COUNTIES, THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER IS ALSO THE SEALER OF 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.

THE FOLLOWING EXPERIENCES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE COURSE OF WORK ARE GOOD EXAMPLES OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT IS IN ERROR. ONE GASOLINE STATION OPERATOR WAS GIVING AWAY \$200.00 WORTH OF GASOLINE PER YEAR. A BUTCHER WAS GIVING AWAY AS MUCH AS \$15.00 WORTH OF MEAT PER DAY BY USING A SCALE THAT WAS IN ERROR. THREE CATTLE SCALES WERE FOUND TO WEIGH INCORRECT. TWO SCALES WERE IN FAVOR OF THE BUYER AND ONE IN FAVOR OF THE SELLER. A STORE WAS BEING SHORTED ON THE WEIGHT OF MERCHANDISE PURCHASED. THE SELLER'S WAREHOUSE WAS CHECKED AND NO PACKAGES WERE FOUND TO BE SHORT WEIGHT. FURTHER CHECKING REVEALED THAT MERCHANDISE WAS BEING STOLEN IN TRANSIT.

ALTHOUGH WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES MAY BE CORRECT, THIS DOES NOT ALWAYS GUARANTEE THAT THE BUYER OR THE SELLER IS RECEIVING CORRECT WEIGHT OR MEASURE BECAUSE THERE ARE A MINORITY IN SOCIETY WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNFAIR PRACTICES TO MAKE A GAIN.

THE FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING 1954.

TOTAL CALLS -- 183

	<u>TOTAL TESTED</u>	<u>CORRECT</u>	<u>CORRECT AFTER ADJUSTED</u>	<u>OUT OF ORDER</u>
COUNTER SCALES	22	20	2	
SPRING SCALES	26	26		
COMPUTING SCALES	67	55	10	2
PLATFORM SCALES	88	78	7	3
LIVESTOCK SCALES	18	13	2	3
VEHICLE SCALES	1	1		
MEAT BEAMS	7	7		
WEIGHTS	236	230	5	1
GASOLINE TRUCK METERS	2		2	
RETAIL PUMP METERS	117	81	34	2

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ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - 1954

CROP	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION TOTAL UNITS	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL FARM VALUE
<u>FRUIT & NUT CROPS</u>				
APPLES	38	38 TONS	\$ 120.00	\$ 4,560.00
ALMONDS	11	1.5 TONS	420.00	630.00
GRAPES (WINE)	712	712 TONS	60.00	42,720.00
PEACHES	30	15 TONS	100.00	1,500.00
PRUNES (DRY)	122	49 TONS	240.00	11,760.00
WALNUTS	223	56 TONS	400.00	22,400.00
MISC.	<u>17</u>	12 TONS	- - -	<u>2,900.00</u>
	1,153			\$ 86,470.00
<u>VEGETABLE CROPS</u>				
MISC.	46			12,800.00
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>				
WHEAT	380	7,220 CWT.	\$ 3.60	25,992.00
BARLEY	519	7,785 CWT.	2.25	17,516.00
OATS	149	1,490 CWT.	2.50	3,725.00
SUDAN SEED	59	1,121 CWT.	11.00	12,331.00
OATS	115	1,150 CWT.		* FED ON RANCHES
BARLEY	119	1,785 CWT.		" " "
HAY (OAT, ETC.)	3,500	3,500 TONS		" " "
* IRRIGATED PASTURE	200			
* RANGE PASTURE	<u>265,000</u>			
	270,041			<u>\$ 59,564.00</u>

* SHOWN AS LIVESTOCK INCOME

PRODUCT	PRODUCTION TOTAL UNITS	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL FARM VALUE
	<u>APIARY</u>		
HONEY *	45,000 LBS.	\$.11	\$ 4,950.00
	<u>DAIRY PRODUCTS</u>		
MILK FAT	75,000 LBS. GRADE A	1.09	81,750.00
	75,000 LBS. GRADE B	.87	65,250.00
			147,000.00
	<u>POULTRY PRODUCTS</u>		
EGGS	393,000 DOZENS	.42	165,060.00
FRYERS	120,000 BIRDS	.78	93,600.00
HENS (CULL OUTS)	7,860 BIRDS	.50	3,930.00
TURKEYS	3,150 BIRDS	5.00	15,750.00
MISC. (RABBITS, ETC.)			2,000.00
			280,340.00
	<u>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS</u>		
HOGS & FEEDER PIGS	1,560 HEAD	21.00	32,760.00
BEEF CALVES	5,550 HEAD	90.00	499,500.00
STEERS	3,550 HEAD	190.00	674,500.00
COWS & BULLS (BEEF)	2,025 HEAD	106.00	214,650.00
FEEDER CATTLE *	4,000 HEAD	45.00	180,000.00
DAIRY CATTLE	150 HEAD	80.00	12,000.00
CALVES & VEALERS	400 HEAD	32.00	12,800.00
SHEEP & LAMBS	6,500 HEAD	15.00	97,500.00
WOOL & MOHAIR	53,120 POUNDS	.63	33,465.00
KID GOATS	900 HEAD	8.00	7,200.00
			\$ 1,764,375.00
TOTAL PLANT INDUSTRY			158,834.00
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY			2,196,665.00
GRAND TOTAL			\$ 2,355,499.00

* GAIN WHILE IN COUNTY

CROP SUMMARY

* (PLANT INDUSTRY)

APPLES: GOOD CROP SET. APPLE SCAB AND CODLING MOTH WERE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHERE A GOOD PEST CONTROL PROGRAM WAS NOT CARRIED OUT. FRUIT SIZE WAS SMALL DUE TO NO EARLY FALL RAINS THAT GENERALLY HELP IN SIZING LATE MATURING VARIETIES. PRICES WERE GOOD AND ALL OF PRODUCTION WAS SOLD LOCALLY.

ALMONDS: A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE CROP WAS KNOCKED OUT BY FROST DURING BLOSSOM TIME.

WINE GRAPES: THIS CROP CONSTITUTES THE LARGEST ACREAGE OF DECIDUOUS CROPS. PRODUCTION WAS ABOUT HALF A CROP DUE TO VINES PRODUCING BUT FEW BLOSSOMS. THIS CONDITION WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A LARGE CROP IN 1953 PLUS A DRY YEAR WHICH RESULTED IN FALL CONDITIONS OF 1953 UNFAVORABLE TO FRUIT BUD FORMATION. ALL GRAPES ARE SOLD TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES FOR HOME WINE MAKING AS THESE GRAPES HAVE EXCELLENT DRY WINE MAKING QUALITIES AND RETURN PREMIUM PRICES. TWO SPOTTED PACIFIC MITE WAS TROUBLESOME IN SOME AREAS.

PEACHES: CROP WAS SPOTTED DUE TO FROST DAMAGE DURING BLOSSOM TIME IN SOME AREAS.

PRUNES: GROWING CONDITIONS WERE FAVORABLE AND A GOOD CROP WAS HARVESTED. FRUIT SIZE WAS GOOD AND SUGAR CONTENT HIGH. PRICE SAME AS FOR 1953.

WALNUTS: PRODUCTION WAS ABOUT NORMAL. WALNUT BLIGHT CAUSED A LOSS OF ABOUT 10% OF THE CROP. A FEW FILBERT WORMS WERE FOUND IN BLIGHTED NUTS. APHIDS WERE KEPT UNDER CONTROL BY SEVERAL SPECIES OF LADYBIRD BEETLES. CROP QUALITY IN MOST CASES WAS GOOD AND PRICE WAS DOWN SLIGHTLY.

VEGETABLES: COUNTY NOT ADAPTED TO VEGETABLE PRODUCTION. LIMITED TO SMALL ACREAGES OF DIVERSIFIED CROPS FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. GRASSHOPPERS WERE THE MOST SERIOUS PEST OF VEGETABLE CROPS.

FIELD CROPS: BARLEY AND OAT PRODUCTION WAS DOWN. WHEAT WAS NORMAL. WHEAT PRICE WAS SAME AS FOR 1953 AND BARLEY AND OATS PRICES WERE DOWN. A LARGE PORTION OF FIELD CROP PRODUCTION IS SOLD WITHIN THE COUNTY FOR LIVESTOCK FEED.

* FOR THE EXCEPTION OF VEGETABLES, ALL OTHER CROPS ARE GROWN UNDER NON-IRRIGATED PRODUCTION.

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.

APIARIES: THE 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 THIS FIVE TO SIX MONTH PERIOD.

DAIRYING: IT IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT FOR DAIRYMEN TO MAKE ENDS MEET AS PRICES RECEIVED FOR MILK HAVE BEEN STEADILY DECREASING. PRODUCTION WAS SLIGHTLY DOWN DUE TO SOME GRADE B PRODUCERS REDUCING HERD SIZES.

POULTRY: FARMERS PRODUCING TURKEYS, MEAT BIRDS AND EGGS HAD A HARRAWING EXPERIENCE DURING 1954 AS PRICES WERE DEFINITELY DOWN. SOME PRODUCERS LOST MONEY AND OTHERS JUST BROKE EVEN. THERE WAS A LARGE INCREASE IN MEAT BIRD PRODUCTION AND A SLIGHT INCREASE IN EGG PRODUCTION DURING 1954, DUE TO FAVORABLE PRICES RECEIVED IN 1953.

HOGS: AS THE PRICE OF FAT HOGS DROPPED, SOME GROWERS TURNED TO RAISING FEEDER PIGS. FEEDER PIGS WERE IN STEADY DEMAND AT A GOOD PRICE.

SHEEP: THIS PHASE OF AGRICULTURE WAS STEADY WITH SHEEPMEN RECEIVING WOOL PRICES COMPARABLE TO 1953 AND SLIGHTLY LOWER RETURNS FOR LAMBS.

BEEF CATTLE: THIS IS THE LARGEST FARMING ENTERPRISE IN THE COUNTY AND WAS THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IN FARMING AS FARMERS RECEIVED SLIGHTLY HIGHER PRICES THAN IN 1953. AT PRESENT THERE IS VERY LITTLE INCREASE, IF ANY, IN BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION.

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.

WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE FALL OF 1954 WERE ADVERSE TO STARTING AN EARLY GROWTH OF GRASS ON THE RANGE. LATE RAIN, FOLLOWED BY COLD, RESULTED IN NO GRASS GROWTH AND FARMERS HAD TO START FEEDING HAY EARLY. AN EXTREMELY COLD WINTER REQUIRED THE CONTINUED FEEDING OF LIVESTOCK UNTIL APRIL 1, 1955, WHICH RESULTED IN HIGH HAY PRICES AND A COSTLY OPERATION TO THE FARMERS.