

For release morning
Feb. 6th 1944

February 4, 1944

To the Board of Directors --

Gentlemen:

Recognizing your interest in the production record of the Yakima Valley for 1943, you will be interested to know that the value of the production for that year totaled \$84,337,714 establishing an all time record. The area comprises Yakima, Kittitas and Benton Counties and the estimate, much of which is from private sources, is considered conservative in every respect.

Following is the statement of the values of the various lines of agricultural and manufacturing industries:

Agriculture-----	\$ 57,000,000
Dairy-----	4,500,000
Livestock-----	5,590,000
Meat <i>incl. Smoked Hides - Pelts</i> -----	4,750,000
Poultry and Eggs-----	1,182,214
Processed Fruits & Vegetables-----	<u>6,500,000</u>
Total Agricultural Production-----	\$ 79,522,214
Manufacturing Production other than Agriculture-----	<u>4,815,500</u>
	\$ 84,337,714

In order to emphasize this large production, I would like to make a comparison as it relates to the value of one of the state's largest agricultural commodities. The average production of wheat in the state of Washington is 48,000,000 bushels annually. This figure is deemed excessive by the grain trade, but nevertheless is used as a matter of comparison. The heavy producing wheat lands reach from the Columbia River to the State Line of Oregon, east to the Idaho boundary. It is an area many times the size of the Yakima Valley. Assuming that 48,000,000 bushels of wheat were actually raised in the state, the 1943 market value of that wheat at country points was \$1.30 per bushel, or a total of \$62,400,000.

The value of the agricultural crops produced in the Yakima Valley during 1943, which includes livestock, dairying, poultry, processed fruits and vegetables aggregated \$79,522,214. Thus the value of the agricultural crops produced in the Yakima Valley exceeded the 1943 value of the entire state of Washington wheat crop by \$17,122,214.

Another enlightening factor is that the 1940 census gave Benton, Kittitas and Yakima Counties a population of 131,307. Consequently, the per capita average of agricultural production was in excess of \$600 for each man, woman and child residing in the three counties.

The value of the manufactured articles other than agriculture was \$4,815,500 and includes such things as lumber, spray material, farm machinery, cement products, etc.

New agricultural commodities that have been introduced into the Yakima Valley include the raising of paprika, which was introduced several years ago under the sponsorship of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce and recorded a gross production of \$8,050 per acre. Only a small acreage is devoted to this production.

Sage is a new agricultural product introduced in the last two years and holds promise of becoming a valuable asset to Yakima Valley production.

X During the 1943 season, the value of hops produced aggregated \$10,000,000, the highest in the history of the state.

The sugar beet industry in the Yakima Valley resulted in a production of 223,198 tons of sugar beets from 10,543 acres, or an average yield of 21.2 tons per acre. The national average sugar beet yield is less than 13 tons per acre. It is, therefore, apparent that the action of the Board of Directors in advocating increased sugar beet acreage is justified in the production record attained.

program.

The Valley's record is one in which all citizens should take pride as the area is outstanding in the agricultural production field of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

GCB:ed

GEO. C. BAER, MANAGER
YAKIMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Page 3 lifted