

The enclosed is for release at noon, February 17, 1959.



Gross Returns From Crops Grown  
On The Columbia Basin Project in 1958 Amounted to \$27.3 Million

Columbia Basin Project farmers realized a gross return of \$27.3 million in 1958. This represented an eleven percent increase over the value realized in 1957. A total of 238,300 acres were used for crop production. Average return was \$114.57 per acre. This was approximately \$6.00 per acre less than was realized in 1957. Lower prices for most crops was principally responsible for the reduction.

The farm cost-price relationships continued at about the same level as in 1957. It was the sixth straight year that the index of prices received was down when compared to the index of prices paid for commodities used in production. The parity ratio for December was 80. Not since 1938 has parity been so low.

Following a mild winter and an early spring farm operations on the Project got started at least two weeks earlier than normal. The planting season was favorable with practically no spring winds to interfere with farming operations. In early June crop prospects looked exceedingly favorable although insect pests and plant diseases were beginning to cause more than the usual amount of trouble. About mid-June temperatures climbed far above normal and continued intermittently through August. The effect of excessive heat on yields was noticeable on all crops except alfalfa hay, legume seeds, grass seeds, watermelons and the mint crops. Reductions of from 10 to 50 percent below average were experienced in the yields of peas, potatoes, the small grains, and sweet corn. Not only were yields low for these four crops but quality of product was down also.

A total of 3,620 farm units were utilized for crop production by 2,164 operators. Five hundred sixty-two more farm units were farmed in 1958 than in 1957 and the number of farm operators increased by 241.

New seedings were reported for 3,900 acres, with alfalfa hay and irrigated pasture accounting for 2,400 acres of the total. Fruits accounted for a total of 400 more acres, asparagus 230 acres, and the balance was represented by several crops.

Dry edible beans were grown on more than 66,000 acres. This crop accounted for 28 percent of the gross value realized from all crops. Alfalfa hay was produced on 43,500 acres, the small grains of which wheat was the most important on 47,500 acres, potatoes occupied more than 21,000 acres, sugar beets almost 12,000 acres and field corn more than 14,000 acres. These six crops accounted for 86 percent of the Project's cropped acreage. Compared with 1957 corn acreage was almost tripled, legume and grass seed acreage was increased 25 percent, and fruits were harvested from 108 acres; 70 acres more than in 1957.

Miscellaneous field crops including dry beans, mint and sugar beets accounted for \$10.7 million in gross revenues in 1958. Forage crops accounted for almost \$5 million; cereals for \$4.5 million; vegetable crops including potatoes, sweet corn and asparagus among others, accounted for \$4.3 million; seed crops were worth \$1.1 million and fruits and gardens \$50,000.

Interest in livestock continues with beef cattle, sheep and hogs accounting for the increase. High cost of feeder stock will probably be reflected in lower net incomes of beef cattle feeders in the 1958-59 season, and the decline in the lamb market has dampened somewhat the interest in the sheep enterprise. Large scale hog production is being given considerable attention but no sizeable operations got under way in 1958.



The Acreage, Yield, Price Per Unit and Percent of Total Value of 38 Crops Grown on the Columbia Basin Project in 1958.

Crop	Approximate Acreage	Unit	Average Yield Per Acre	Average Price Per Unit	Percent of Total Value
Beans, dry & edible	66,429	Cwt.	21.2	\$ 5.45	28.1
Alfalfa Hay	43,542	Ton	5.4	17.50	15.0
Sugar Beets	11,926	Ton	24.5	13.50 <sup>a/</sup>	14.4
Wheat	41,078	Bu.	41	1.74	10.6
Potatoes, early	11,620	Cwt.	299.5	.54	6.9
Potatoes, late	9,516	Cwt.	289.0	.60	6.0
Corn	11,684	Bu.	83	1.20	4.2
Peas for Seed	7,503	Cwt.	19.3	4.00	2.1
Irrigated Pasture	9,698	A.U.M.	7.6	7.00	1.9
Vegetable Seeds	219	Cwt.	15.2	10.92	1.3
Silage	2,661	Ton	17.5	6.50	1.1
Onions, dry	690	Cwt.	367.2	1.00	.9
Alfalfa, Seed	2,233	Cwt.	4.6	22.00	.8
Grain Sorghums	2,830	Bu.	58	1.12	.7
Watermelons	369	Ton	11.7	22.00	.6
Barley	3,896	Bu.	40	.91	.5
Clover, Seed (all kinds)	1,138	Cwt.	4.7	25.03	.5
Peas, green (processing)	1,081	Ton	1.3	90.00	.5
Spearmint	424	Lb.	88	3.50	.5
Asparagus	431	Crate	98	2.40	.4
Peppermint	359	Lb.	83	3.50	.4
Potato Seed	92	Cwt.	378.2	2.00	.3
Grass Seeds	502	Cwt.	4.2	22.09	.2
Oats	1,954	Bu.	53	.60	.2
Corn, Sweet (processing)	514	Ton	3.9	17.00	.1
Family Gardens	164	-	-	150.00	.1
Fruits	108	Cwt.	65.0	3.43	.1
Nursery	23	M	-	-	.1
Other Hay	951	Ton	2.2	12.00	.1
Other Cereals	369	Bu.	45	1.55	.1
Beans, (processing)	131	Ton	1.1	155.00	.1
Cantaloupes	55	Crate	172	2.10	.1
Corn, Sweet (fresh market)	14	Cwt.	48.6	3.00	Less than 0.1
Rye	533	Bu.	22	1.06	" " "
Carrots	41	Ton	24.9	12.30	" " "
Lettuce	2	Crate	150	1.40	" " "
Tomatoes (fresh market)	5	Lug	400	.70	" " "
Root & Misc. Field Crops	114	Ton	3.1	25.76	" " "

<sup>a/</sup> Includes an estimated \$3.80 per ton for factory and sugar program payments

Acres Irrigated - 238,312; Acres Cultivated - 244,706

Total Gross Value of Crops - \$27,302,370

Average Gross Value of Crops Per Irrigated Acre - \$114.57

Increase in Total Value 1957 to 1958 - 11 Percent

Increase in Irrigated Acreage 1957 to 1958 - 17 Percent

Increase in Number of Farm Units Cropped 1957 to 1958 - 15 Percent



*For P.M. Release — Feb. 2, 1962*

THE ACREAGE, YIELD, PRICE PER UNIT, PERCENT OF TOTAL ACREAGE AND PERCENT OF TOTAL VALUE OF 39 CROPS GROWN ON THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT IN 1961.

Crop	Approximate Acreage	Unit	Average Yield Per Acre	Average Price Per Unit	Percent Of Total Value	Percent Of Total Acres
Sugar Beets	27,384	Ton	24.8	13.60 <sup>a/</sup>	22.6	8.7
Alfalfa Hay	89,118	Ton	4.8	20.38	21.2	28.3
Potatoes, late	19,945	Cwt.	340.1	.70	11.6	6.3
Wheat	44,944	Bu.	44	1.85	8.9	14.3
Dry Beans	25,443	Cwt.	18.4	5.95	6.8	8.1
Potatoes, early	8,769	Cwt.	346.6	.82	6.1	2.8
Pea, seed	24,138	Cwt.	23.1	3.85	5.2	7.7
Corn	12,730	Bu.	94	1.20	3.5	4.0
Barley	16,503	Bu.	57	.96	2.2	5.2
Irrigated Pasture	14,255	A.U.M.	8.2	7.50	2.1	4.5
Onions, dry	976	Cwt.	327.3	1.75	1.4	0.3
Alfalfa, seed	4,956	Cwt.	4.4	27.00	1.4	1.6
Peppermint	1,742	Lbs.	84	3.25	1.2	0.6
Silage	4,001	Ton	20.0	5.00	1.0	1.3
Corn, sweet (processing)	3,035	Ton	4.4	21.00	0.7	1.0
Spearmint	918	Lbs.	79	3.25	0.6	0.3
Oats	3,884	Bu.	67	.65	0.4	1.2
Beans, Lima (processing)	1,040	Ton	1.1	126.25	0.4	0.3
Clover, seed (all kinds)	1,992	Cwt.	3.2	26.72	0.4	0.6
Apples	405	Cwt.	63.5	6.50	0.4	0.1
Peas, green (processing)	1,546	Ton	1.5	54.00	0.3	0.5
Other hay	2,273	Ton	1.8	18.55	0.2	0.7
Asparagus	280	Crate	95	2.75	0.2	0.1
Watermelons	443	Ton	10.7	20.00	0.2	0.1
Merion Blue Grass, seed	391	Cwt.	3.4	40.00	0.1	0.1
Sorghums	415	Bu.	74	1.15	0.1	0.1
Mixed Grain	593	Bu.	54	1.50	0.1	0.1
Lentils	642	Ton	0.4	155.00	0.1	0.2
Nursery Stock	39	M.	-	-	0.1	-
Radish, seed	192	Cwt.	10.6	14.00	0.1	0.1
Rye	368	Bu.	28	1.00	Less than	0.1
Soy Beans	154	Ton	0.9	83.29	"	"
Carrots	76	Ton	25.3	10.00	"	"
Cucumbers	31	Bu.	142	2.40	"	"
Cantaloupes	34	Crate	197	1.50	"	"
Grapes, other	30	Cwt.	70.5	4.00	"	"
Pears	135	Cwt.	13.3	4.50	"	"
Orchard Grass, seed	41	Cwt.	6.1	33.00	"	"
Turnip, seed	66	Cwt.	13.9	7.50	"	"

<sup>a/</sup> Includes an estimated \$4.10 per ton for factory and sugar program payments.  
Acres Irrigated 314,239 - does not include 12,100 acres in the feed grains and soil bank programs.

Total Gross Value of Crops - \$41,663,398

Average Gross Value of Crops Per Irrigated Acre - \$132.58

Increase in Total Value 1960 to 1961 - 2 Percent

Increase in Irrigated Acreage 1960 to 1961 - 7 Percent

Increase in Number of Farm Units Cropped 1960 to 1961 - 6 Percent



## TOTAL GROSS CROP RETURNS ON COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT WERE UP AGAIN IN 1961

In 1961, 2,296 Columbia Basin Project farmers grew crops worth \$41.7 million, an increase of \$8/10 million over 1960. The gross crop returns from the Project including 1961 exceed \$237 million. A total of 4,361 farm units were utilized for crop production; 235 more than in any previous year.

A total of 314,239 acres were irrigated for crops and an additional 12,100 acres were included in the feed grains and soil bank programs. Gross income from the 327,000 acres averaged \$132.58 per irrigated acre.

Project farmers like farmers everywhere continued to suffer from the effects of the cost-price squeeze that has prevailed since 1952. At year's end, prices paid for commodities and services including interest and taxes were at a new high. While prices received by farmers were up some they were not comparable with prices paid. This resulted in the parity ratio (often spoken of as the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar) falling to 79; the lowest for many years.

Prices for commodities grown were erratic during the season. Also, weather conditions during the growing period influenced the yields and market grades of crops. For example, potato prices were low in 1961, especially those for late season market, and hot weather experienced during the growing season caused many misshapen tubers. Alfalfa hay prices during the harvest season were off some, especially in the southern end of the Project. Prices for the small grains, corn, and dry edible beans were strong. However, hot weather during the growing season affected growth of small grain and was responsible, no doubt, for a 22 percent per acre reduction in yield when compared to 1960.

Alfalfa hay, sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, dry beans, peas for seed, corn for grain, and barley accounted for 86 percent of the Project acreage harvested in 1961. These same crops yielded 85 percent of the gross crop income realized by farmers. The relative importance of each crop is shown on the reverse side of this page.

Alfalfa hay acreage led the list of all crops in 1961. The 89,100 acres harvested represented a 19 percent increase over that cut in 1960. Sugar beets were planted to an acreage 90 percent greater than was occupied by this crop in 1960. Acreage restrictions were waived early in 1961 with the result that where facilities were available to process the crop, sugar beet acreage was hiked appreciably. Acreage used for peas for seed was 76 percent greater than in the previous year. Other principal crops showing acreage gains over 1960 were potatoes (37 percent), alfalfa seed (30 percent), and apples (36 percent). Less acreage was used in 1961 than in 1960 to grow wheat, beans, mint and corn. Had the acreage included in the feed grains program in 1961 been used to grow corn, the acreage would have been practically identical with that of 1960.

Marketing patterns are showing change. With potatoes for example, many loads of the late season crop were stored for market later. Storage facilities for thousands of tons were built in 1961. In previous years a much larger share was marketed fresh. The acreage in specialty crops showed considerable increase in 1961. The establishment and operation of new processing and freezing plants on the Project made possible part of the increase while the interest of managers of established plants at Wenatchee and Walla Walla was especially important.

The livestock enterprises continue to gain in importance. Dairy cow numbers are increasing slowly, while cattle feeding operations are up. The feed grains program caused some imbalance in the supply-demand curve of feeds produced locally in 1961, yet cattle feeders continue operations at higher relative costs with products from other areas.



A rocket bomb at 12:01 A.M. Thursday will signal for floodlights and one truck will roll forward from an equipment-covered parking area on to sage-covered unit 167 of block 40 to deliver center posts and beams to the farm home to be built that day complete.

Construction work will go forward immediately on the home. Other buildings and the farm land work start at dawn the 29th for the one-day complete construction of the gift farm to veteran Donald D. Dunn and family, victims of the Kansas floods of 1951 who received the national V.F.W. designation to receive the farm symbolic of the first irrigated on the gigantic Columbia Basin project.

Building superintendent A. Kenneth Larson described the rapid succession of building operations starting at 12:01 with center beams, then side posts (studding), then rafters and roof sheathing all starting within the first hour of construction work on the home.

President Darrell E. Ries had all his Board of Directors off their jobs from 8 to 15 hours each day this week re-checking every phase of the Farm-In-A-Day production along with committee heads. They started at 4 A.M. Monday at the farm site, worked through the day on arrangements, entertainment checks, and aiding the builders to get all materials ready.

Coordinator John Catlin of the Columbia Celebration committee said Monday night that the whole program looks very good, foundations are done, all construction details well in hand by a dozen contractors and supervisors, land preparation equipment assigned and accounted for, transportation and communications ready, and all furnishings for the \$75,000.00 farm ready except a few implements which he expects to have by the 29th.

Earl Amick, Moses Lake steering committee head who has given six weeks full-time to the job was checking program details after the other items were all set.

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Kansas to Dunn in Moses Lake Monday said, "I expect to be back Wednesday to see

ay at midnight, and I expect my family and my parents from

Thursday night.