

RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF
TULARE COUNTY
With Special Reference to
POST-WAR AGRICULTURE

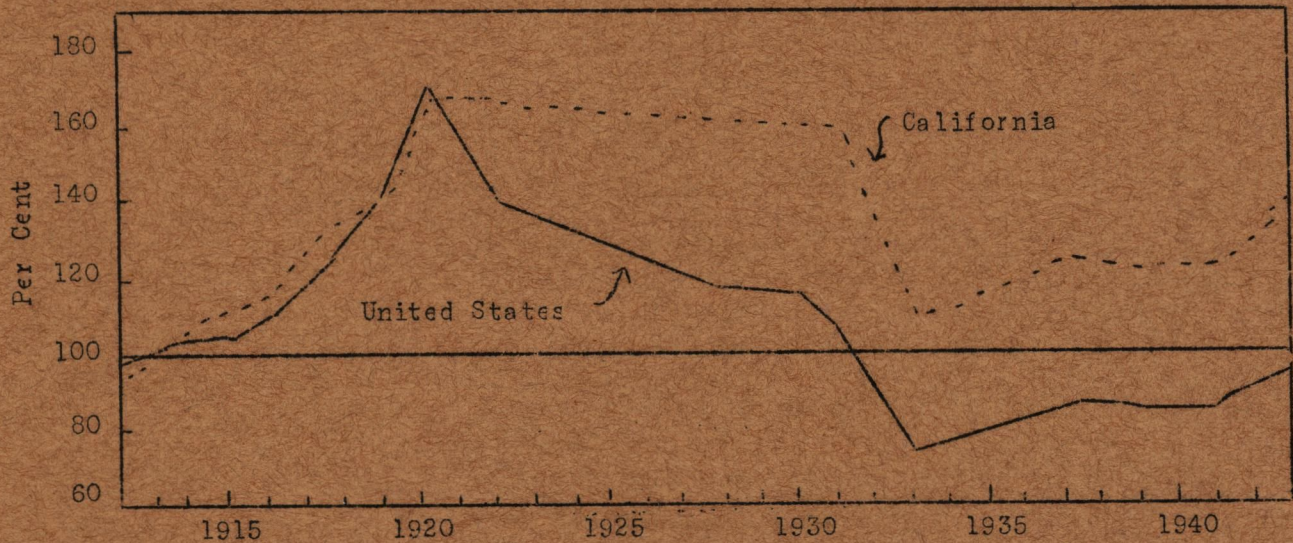
By
Representative Agricultural Leaders
of
TULARE COUNTY
California

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A report of the findings of 74 farm leaders and
agency representatives of Tulare County who
participated in the Fifth Agricultural
Economic Conference held in
Visalia, California
February 27, 1945

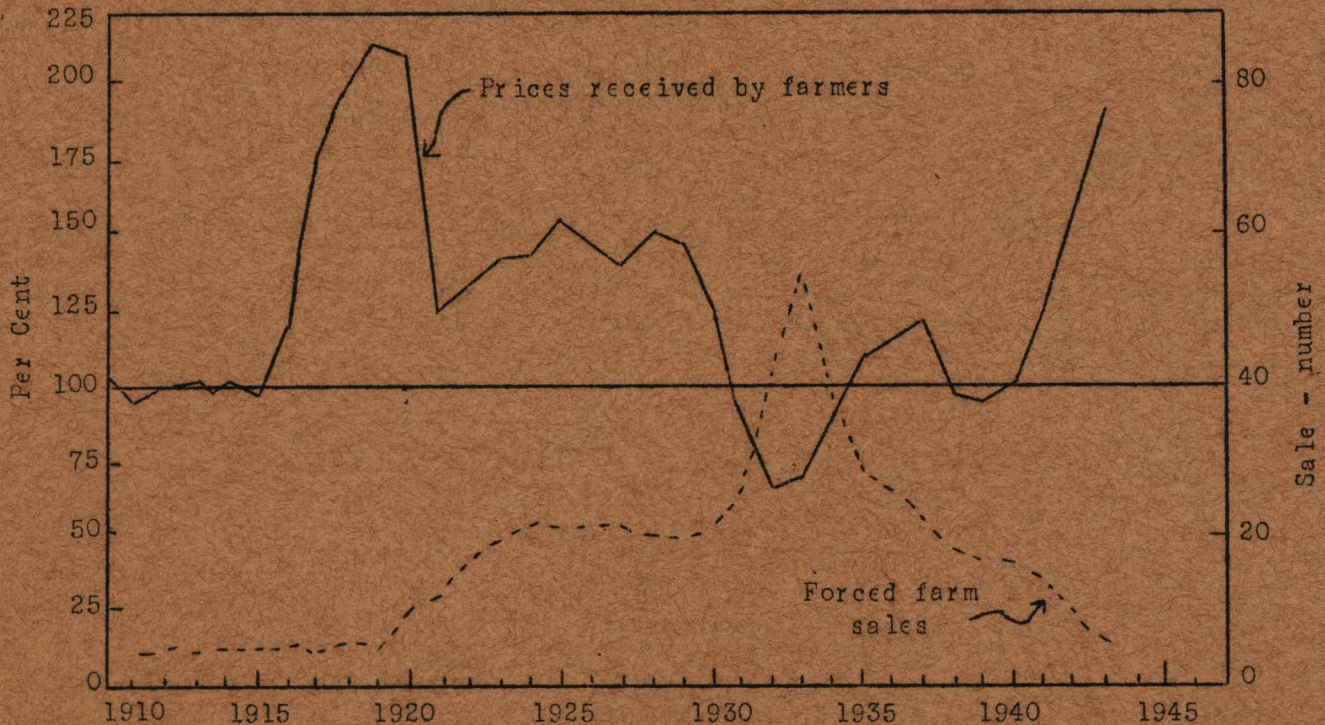
FARM REAL ESTATE TRENDS

Trend of farm value per acre - United States and California
Expressed in percent of 1912 - 1914 values



Real estate values during World War I increased greatly both in California and the United States as a whole. California Values were maintained during the twenties when United States values declined steadily. Values dropped precipitously with the depression of the early thirties, recovering only a small part during the late thirties. World War II has again started real estate values upward.

Relation of farmers income to number of Forced Farm Sales per 1000 farms in United States. (1910-1914 = 100 per cent.)



Farmers' welfare is dependent largely upon the prices they receive for their products. Forced farm sales were only a part of the adjustment farmers made after the last war to declining prices. Loss of equities would show a much greater and more painful adjustment to lower prices.

FOREWORD

The recommendations contained in this report were prepared by 74 farm leaders and representatives of federal, state and county agricultural agencies who participated in the fifth County Agricultural Economic Conference held in Visalia, California, February 27, 1945.

The purpose of the conference was to consider certain economic facts and to make recommendations that will enable farmers to make the necessary conversion from war to peace time agricultural production and economy.

The conference was divided into four committees who considered various aspects of the post war problems as follows:

Committee No. 1 - Land Use and Farm Management

Committee No. 2 - Marketing Credit and Land Values

Committee No. 3 - Farm Labor

Committee No. 4 - Farm Home and Family Living

At the final general session of the conference, the report of each committee was read and after consideration, modification and amendment, was adopted as representing the majority opinion of the entire conference.

The committees were assisted in their study and in the presentation of factual data by the staff of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, University of California, and the several agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The conclusions and recommendations which follow in this report, however, were adopted by and represent the opinions of the 62 local representatives present at the conference. They do not purport to be official views of either the University of California or the United States Department of Agriculture.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF
COMMITTEE ON LAND USE AND FARM MANAGEMENT

USE OF IRRIGATION WATER:

It appears unlikely that even after the Central Valley Irrigation Project is completed there will be sufficient irrigation water available during dry years, considering the large amount of new irrigated acreage recently developed. Accordingly, we recommend that farmers practice maximum conservation of moisture through improved irrigation practices, land leveling to permit more economical application of water, and careful supervision of the use of water.

CONSTRUCTION OF FRIANT-KERN CANAL:

Whereas, increased and continued irrigated acreage during the past war years is seriously adding to the already deficient water supply, and

Whereas, the great need for additional water was first realized and voiced some twenty-four years ago by this area and the Central Valley Project was authorized and started ten years ago, yet no complete plan has been devised for full operation of Friant Reservoir, and

Whereas, Central Valley Project water is being sold to areas not within the authorized project while upper San Joaquin Valley lands are suffering from a lack of water at reasonable cost,

Now, therefore, we recommend that the State Water Project Authority, State Division of Water Resources, United States Bureau of Reclamation and the War Production Board be requested to build the Friant-Kern Canal as soon as the war effort permits in order to make available to Tulare County presently controlled waters of the San Joaquin River.

WEED CONTROL:

Weed infestation continues to be one of the major agricultural problems of Tulare County. Haphazard cultivation or mowing of roadsides and ditches will not produce lasting beneficial results. We therefore recommend that as soon as labor and materials are available a definite and consistent county-wide weed control program be inaugurated using oil and or other materials. Said program to include the County, irrigation ditch companies, municipalities, State and Federal forestry services, and farmers.

FARM MANAGEMENT:

Experience from farm operations in the past has disclosed that greater success could have been attained in many cases had more thorough planning been done. In view of this and the expected future farm development, we recommend that farm operators make the most thorough analysis of their program and secure all possible assistance and advice concerning farm and land use management, soil types, farm locations, water supply, and current and long range agricultural economies.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF
COMMITTEE ON MARKETING, CREDIT AND LAND VALUES

LAND VALUES:

In adjusting our Agriculture to the uncertain conditions which we may expect in the postwar period we recommend that special attention be given to the inflationary rise in land values. To attain this end we suggest that:

- a. Farm land values should be based only on a conservative appraisal of the average production capacity of the land over a reasonable spread of years.
- b. Every available means be used through organized effort of the existing commercial and cooperative lending agencies, Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Extension Service to present the past, present and possible future land value factors to all persons interested in land purchases.

MARKETING:

We believe that in order to protect and preserve the marketing of California farm products, as of pre-war standards, we urge growers and shippers to pay particular attention to grade and maturity standards, to the end that we maintain the confidence of our domestic and foreign buyers and consumers. We also urge the broadening of our trade stimulation and marketing programs, both domestic and foreign, through marketing and distribution research, and properly organized commodity industry groups.

CREDIT:

We encourage all government and commercial lending agencies to continue a conservative policy in extending both long-time and short-time credit. Also, we caution farmers and livestock producers to keep their indebtedness at as low a level as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF
COMMITTEE ON FARM LABOR

HOUSING:

Planning for more adequate housing of farm workers in Tulare County should be directed in the following ways:

- a. Encouragement of home ownership, through local credit facilities, located near work areas, and subject to adequate standards of sanitation and construction.
- b. Employers to develop and improve family dwellings and single men bunk houses on farms, particularly where year around employment is offered.
- c. Community public camps for itinerant seasonal workers should be sponsored by local community rather than by government--either Federal, State or County.

SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS OF NEEDS:

Wide seasonal fluctuations in labor needs in Tulare County's agriculture cause certain difficulties in maintaining production with reliable supplies of labor. Partial solution to this problem can be obtained in the following measures:

- a. Develop new commercial crops and processing which will utilize labor during the February-April period.
- b. Expand the use of labor saving machinery in certain fall operations--such as mechanical harvesting of cotton and sugar beets.
- c. Direct educational efforts to discourage utilization of labor supplies in the less essential maintenance farm operations during peak harvest periods.

INCOME TAX COLLECTION FROM FARM WORKERS:

It is recommended that farmers in the State of California cooperate with the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue by reporting wages paid to workers who have received \$100 or more during the year.

RELIEF PROVISIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOR:

Looking beyond the present emergency, toward conditions of surplus of supplies of farm labor during slack seasons, it is agreed that such relief measures as may be applied should be based upon the principles that:

- a. Families of workers should not be deprived of basic necessities, but that subsidies should not be such as to induce deliberate idleness.
- b. Public works projects, locally planned and administered, are preferable to direct doles.

FARM LABOR PROCUREMENT ASSOCIATIONS:

Farm Labor Procurement Associations in the various communities in Tulare County may perform benefits beyond those realized in the current emergency by acquiring ownership of the camp housing facilities which are now held under agreements which the California Farm Production Council and the War Food Administration and making the facilities available for beneficial use in housing farm labor by:

- a. Utilization in-place, as itinerant labor camps.
- b. Distribution to local farmers for on-farm housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF
COMMITTEE ON FARM HOME AND FAMILY LIVING

RURAL HOUSING:

This committee recommends that the College of Agriculture make available information on rural house plans and on remodeling or enlarging existing rural houses. We recommend that wide-spread publicity be given to sources for information on this subject.

HOME FOOD PRODUCTION:

We as a committee commend the present home food production program and recommend the continuation of such a program in the postwar period.

This committee recommends the extension and expansion of community frozen food plants and the increased production of home freezing units.

CLOTHING:

We believe that cotton is the only satisfactory material for summer work clothing for Tulare County. We recommend that the War Production Board allocate cotton work clothing and cotton yardage to this area at once to meet our summer needs.

RURAL YOUTH:

This committee recommends that farm families give more cooperation in furthering activities for rural youth, particularly those that will help in their future vocation. We suggest that all adult organizations cooperate in sponsoring these rural youth organizations.

We recommend that the Farm Bureau, Grange and other rural organizations encourage the youth of each community to develop their own recreation; these organizations to assist in providing facilities.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:

We are heartily in favor of the school lunch program. We recommend that, where lunches are not now provided, local organizations study the matter with the idea of providing a good noon lunch.

Committee on Land Use and Farm Management

Chairman: I. D. Boone, Exeter
Secretary: Ralph L. Worrell, A.E.S., Visalia

L. D. Flory, A.C.A.	Porterville	Tilford Cheney	Tulare
Domer F. Powers	Lindsay	Mrs. Frank Cooper	Tipton
James MacNair, S.C.S.	Bakersfield	Mrs. J. W. Taylor	Visalia
Irwin H. Althouse	Porterville	Dave Williams, US Forest Ser.	Porterville
Wm. Pennington, St. Div. Forestry,	Visalia	Norman L. Norris, " " "	Porterville
David Kline	Ivanhoe	Mrs. Benjamin Campbell . . .	Exeter
E. A. Fisher	Porterville	E. I. Barnes	Porterville
G. R. Goldman	Cutler	F. J. McCarthy	Tulare
Ray Oesting	Tulare	Robert Pontius, F.S.A. . . .	Visalia

Committee on Marketing, Credit and Land Values

Chairman: Earle Houghton, Lindsay
Secretary: A. D. Rizzi, A.E.S., Visalia

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B. N. Kirk, P.C.A.	Visalia	Mrs. Florence Doe	Visalia
H. C. Smith, F.S.A.	Visalia	Charles Hamilton	Visalia
Roy Dewhirst, N.F.L.A. . . .	Visalia	Niel Derrick	Exeter
Russell Davis	Ivanhoe	H. C. Jackson, F.B. Mkting. Assn.	Visalia
Mrs. John Knight	Woodlake	Paul Dobson	Exeter
Mrs. Arline Hargis	Tulare	E. I. Brown	Visalia
C.E. Pennebaker	Exeter	Fred Kaphein	Dinuba
G. A. Richardson	Lindsay	Irwin Vose	Dinuba

Committee on Farm Labor

Chairman: M. W. Dula, Visalia
Secretary: E. C. Moore, A.E.S., Visalia

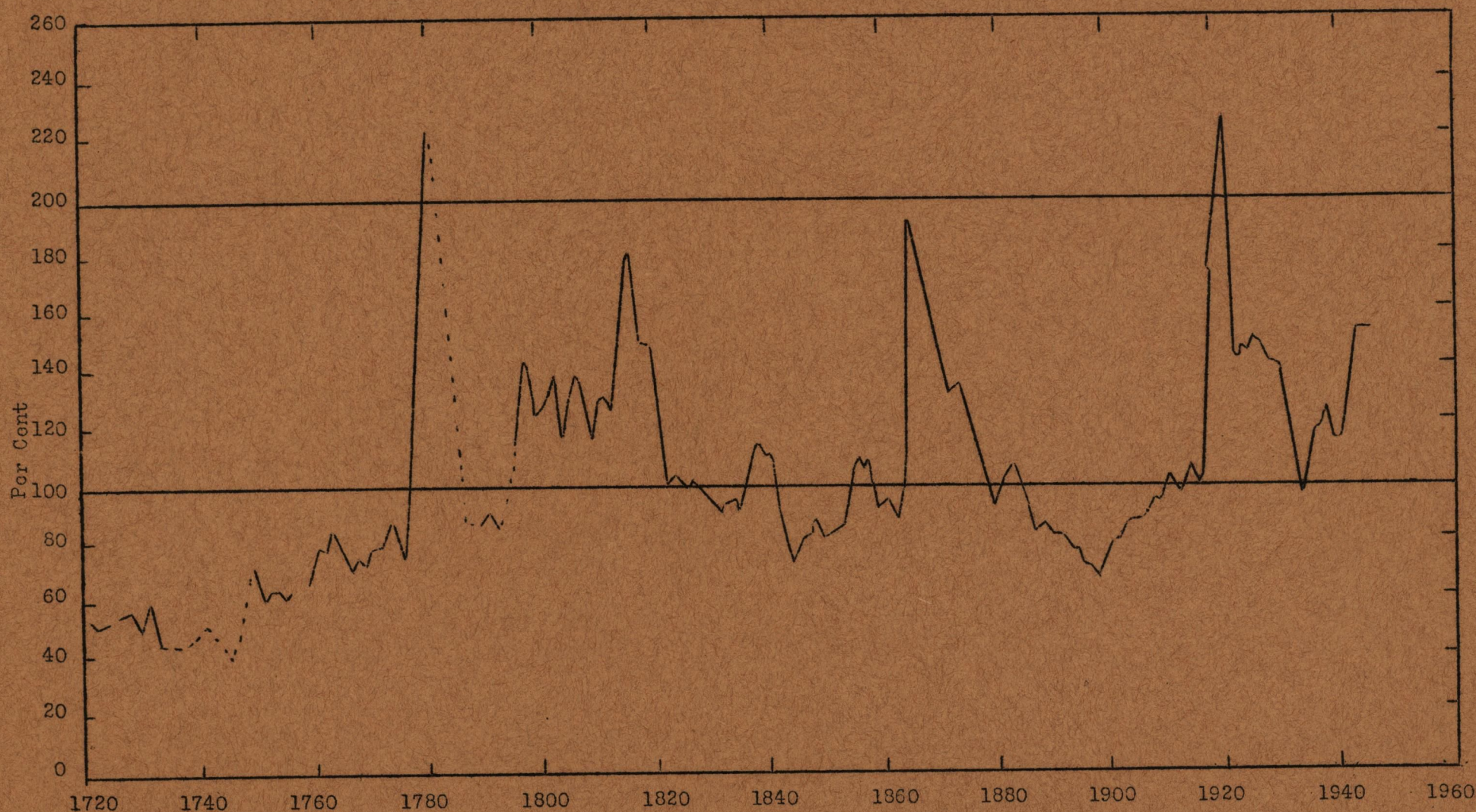
H. E. Moffitt, A.E.S.F.L.O. . .	Visalia	Sam Smith	Tulare
Leo Fisher, U.S.E.S.	Visalia	W. D. Senderson	Tulare
H. Swacke	Delano	Byron Jennings, Jr.	Visalia
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Eben Pinkham	Exeter	H. P. Guerin	Tulare
Leland Martin	Tulare	Fred Williams	Poplar
Albert Nagle	Woodlake	Harry Perry, Co. Co-ordinator	Visalia
Henry Michels	Visalia	R. V. Wright, A.E.S.F.L.O. . .	Berkeley
Walter Emery	Porterville		

Committee on Farm Home and Family Living

Chairman: Mrs. Mark Borrer, Springville
Secretary: Clara E. Cowgill, A.E.S., Visalia

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Mrs. E. C. Ridgeway	Cutler	Ray T. Miksch	Ivanhoe
Mrs. Ralph Gill	Springville	Miss Bernice Klumb, Health Dept.,	Visalia
Mrs. George Barnes	Visalia	Miss Edith Taylor, Co. Lbr.	Visalia
Mrs. Louis W. Michalk	Farmersville	Mrs. Ruth Blomquist, F.S.A.	Visalia
Mrs. L. N. Erwin	Ivanhoe	Miss Jean Warren, A.E.S. . . .	Berkeley
Joe Bono	Tulare		

Wholesale Prices in the United States, Index Numbers, 1720 to 1944
(1910-1914=100)



Prices in wartime rise to great heights because goods are scarce (production being diverted to war purposes) and demand is great (demand being augmented by war needs and increased money purchasing power as a result of war expenditures). These same forces become reversed after the war. Prices drop as more goods become available, war demands cease, and money purchasing power created by war production declines. The same price behavior has taken place during every major war in our history--the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, and now World War II.