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Bulletin No. 1

Farming in Pima County Arizona

Certified Climate
on Alfalfa, Cotton, Cattle
Truck Gardening
and Poultry

Brings Success, Contentment
and Health to Our
Farmers

Issued by
County Immigration Commissioner
Agricultural Bureau
Tucson Chamber
of Commerce

Farming in Pima County

Excellent farm land in the vicinity of Tucson is being farmed on an extensive and profitable scale. Rapid progress in agriculture has been made here during the past six years. The Santa Cruz and Rillito Valleys embrace a rich body of land equal in fertility to that of the richest river bottom land in the West.

Tucson, the oldest city in the United States, is a beautiful home city of 34,000. On the main line of the Southern Pacific and Southern Pacific of Mexico railroads and the transcontinental federal highway No. 80. It is one of the leading commercial centers of Arizona and the Gateway to the West Coast of Mexico. The University of Arizona and U. S. Veterans' Bureau Hospital No. 51 are located here. The city and nearby mining camps offer attractive markets for farm products.

A WONDERFUL CLIMATE

No other place in the United States has a more delightful and healthful winter climate than this section of Arizona. The climate not only builds health—it builds bank accounts—your farm works twelve months of the year and you get double crops. Irrigation insures against crop failure. Winter temperatures are moderate—summers long and warm. Because of low humidity the summer temperatures are not so severe as those several degrees lower in sections with humidity. A temperature of 78° with 70% humidity is more unbearable than 108° with 20% humidity. Except for a short period of the spring high winds are not present. Our warm winters make it unnecessary to put large investments into expensive types of buildings for proper protection of people or livestock. The U. S. Weather Bureau records show the average monthly temperatures for Tucson, 1916 to 1923, inclusive, as follows:

Month.	Max.	Min.	Month.	Max.	Min.
January	72	21	July	107	63
February	79	24	August	104	60
March	87	29	September	101	51
April	92	33	October	96	35
May	99	40	November	85	27
June	109	48	December	81	22

and the average monthly precipitation, 1916-1923 inclusive: Elevation 2400 feet.

Month.		Month.	
January	1.21	July	2.92
February	0.60	August	2.14
March	0.66	September	1.19
April	0.41	October	0.43
May	0.23	November	1.03
June	0.29	December	0.63

Average total 11.73 inches.

SOIL

Pima County has a wide variety of soils which have their special adaptations. The prevailing types in the valleys are deep sandy loam, river silt, adobe or some modification of these. All are fertile. We have no drainage problems. Dry farming soil is mostly of decomposed granite and limestone origin.

IRRIGATION

Most of the farming in this County is done by irrigation. The acreage now actually being farmed by this method is about 20,000 acres, with about 15,000 acres waiting to be put under water. The water is secured by pumping from liberal water-bearing stratas adjacent to the bed of the main rivers. The lift is from 20 to 100 feet; so far there has been no lowering of the water level as to cause a shortage of water in properly constructed wells. The cost per acre foot ranges from \$2.00 to \$6.75. Electric power is available to practically all irrigable lands. There is also a small amount of gravity water all appropriated.

DRY FARMING

This class of farming is done on a small scale, confined to the foothill sections of nearby mountain ranges around Tucson. The raising of cash crops on these lands is not encouraged. Dry farming in connection with livestock is profitable. Dairying and poultry raising are being encouraged where dry farming is practical. The dry farming sections are at elevations of above 3500 feet in the live oak section with rolling topography making a beauty spot for a home in the great out-of-doors country of Southern Arizona.

LIVESTOCK

Pima County embraces an area of about 6,000,000 acres. One-third is occupied by the Papago Indian Reservation upon which is carried a large number of cattle and other livestock. A considerable part of the County is in Forest Reserves. A large part of the County is given over to livestock raising by small and large outfits. The raising of cattle is one of the main agricultural resources of the County; the 1920 census enumerated 65,000 head. The quality and breeding of cattle is being rapidly improved by use of purebred sires. The opportunity to enter the livestock business and enjoy the great out-of-doors life was never better since the early pioneer days than it is today.

CROPS AND KINDS OF FARMING ADAPTED TO PIMA COUNTY

Cotton is the king money crop at present on the irrigated sections. The variety is Acala and yields from one-half to two bales per acre. Last year there were 10,000 acres in cotton; the 1926 season will have an acreage close to 15,000. Four gins handled the ginning. Two new gins for 1926 are planned. A cotton seed oil mill and a cotton compressor were put in operation last year. The cotton of our county has for the past two years brought a two to three cent premium. The cost of picking is from 1½ to 2c per pound and labor plentiful.

Alfalfa—The principal crop of the Santa Cruz and Rillito Valleys and one of the surest money getters. Choice alfalfa is selling at \$23.00 per ton. The yield is 5 to 8 tons per acre. The total production is far below the demand of local dairymen.

Oats or Barley—A fine winter crop. Affords excellent winter and spring pasturage. Yield—one to three tons per acre. Baraleay hay, baled, sold at an average of \$18.00 per ton this winter.

Corn—Good crop here for silage, yielding 8 to 15 tons per acre.

Wheat—Successfully grown. Yield 20 to 45 bushels per acre. Our price is usually a little better than that received in the wheat belt.

Beans—An excellent second crop. Yield 800 to 1200 pounds per acre.

Grain and Forage Sorghums—Hegari, Kafir, Milo and Feterita are adapted grain sorghums. Our warm long summers produce immense yields of sweet sorghums, which make excellent silage. Sudan grass is one of our most dependable hay crops and yields as many as four crops a year.

Truck Crops—There is a wonderful opportunity here for this type of farming. Tucson can consume a considerable output of such crops and the surplus can be sold at high price in mining towns and camps. During December, January, February and March our gardens mature head lettuce, spinach, onions, cabbage, carrots, parsnips, asparagus, etc. During the balance of the year there are produced green peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries, string beans, cantaloupes, watermelons, casaba melons, potatoes, peppers, etc.

Lettuce—A proven cash winter crop. Our elevation gives us an advantage over the warmer valleys of Arizona and California in that we can plant earlier and get the crop to head satisfactorily. Planting starts about September 1st.

Potatoes—Grown on a commercial scale last four years netting good profits. Planted in February and harvested May 20th to July 1st, which puts the grower on the early market at an average price of \$3.00 per cwt. Yield 30 to 100 sacks of marketable potatoes per acre. Our potatoes come on the market after the Texas crop and before serious competition from California crop occurs.

Sweet Potatoes—Well adapted to Pima County. Yields 8 to 15 thousand pounds per acre and commands the grower three to six cents per pound.

Cantaloupes and Watermelons—This valley is adapted to melon growing. Market only local.

Fruit Growing—Competent horticulturists thoroughly acquainted with Tucson section see great possibilities here in commercial orchards. Fruits tested and proven a success are: Grapes, plums, peaches, figs and apricots. On heavy valley soil pears produce successfully. In the case of peaches, plums and apricots, heaters are necessary to guard against occasional late spring frosts.

DAIRYING

This industry is being carried on very successfully and on an extensive scale with an excellent future. Producers receive 20 to 35 cents per gallon and milk is retailing for 15 to 17 cents per quart. Green fields most of the year and elimination of expensive types of buildings and other equipment for winter use, together with wide range of feed crops to select from, enable the dairyman to produce dairy products at a very reasonable figure. The dairy industry is practically in its infancy.

POULTRY

Chicken raising is rapidly becoming an important industry in the County and offers excellent opportunities. Mild climate and green feed make good production at low cost. Average price of eggs 40 to 50 cents per dozen and live weight poultry at 20 to 40 cents per pound. Poultry raising here has proven to be a profitable business with room for others to enter. Ducks, geese and turkeys are being successfully raised.

BEEES

The honey industry has been extensively developed in our County and there is room for vastly greater extension. The principal pasture crops of mesquite and cats' claw afford the most delicious honey that can be obtained. There are vast areas in Pima County having a good stand

of these shrubs and the honey flow is usually good. Besides the native shrubs there is considerable acreage of alfalfa. The bee industry has been profitable.

LABOR

The supply of good farm labor is plentiful at all seasons of the year at from \$2.00 to \$2.75 per day without board.

ROADS

The main roads leading to and through the County are excellent and bring the farmer within easy travel to Tucson. Excellent natural road material is found in abundance in the County and has been used freely on the roads constructed by the County, State and Federal aid.

SCHOOLS—UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA—CHURCHES

The school system of Arizona ranks third in the United States. Our County schools are excellent, ranking second to none in the entire State, and Tucson High School courses are given in the new \$750,000 plant opened this last year. Several of the farming sections have their Union High Schools.

The University of Arizona, located in Tucson, is recognized by all the American Universities as a Class A institution. Its College of Agriculture and Extension Service is rendering valuable aid to the farmer in developing agriculture in every county of the State. Most of its twenty-five buildings are newly constructed and equipped. It has a College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, of Agriculture, of Mines and Engineering, of Education and of Law. The location of the University is especially advantageous to the student here for several reasons. Its dry, mild and equable climate has made Tucson a resort unequalled for healthfulness. Many irrigated farms are in the immediate neighborhood for practical study. The great range country of Southern Arizona, considered the finest breeding grounds for beef cattle, is right at the door of Tucson and this city occupies a central position with relation to the agricultural activities of the State. Tucson's proximity to the great mines of Arizona affords an opportunity for actual observation and operation of mining and its development. The school advantages at Tucson for the farmers' children is an opportunity not equaled in the Southwest.

All of the leading church denominations are represented in Tucson and Union Sunday Schools are conducted in several of the community centers.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION

Pima County has both a County Agricultural Agent and Home Demonstration Agent who are members of the Extension force of the University of Arizona and who are aiding in a successful field the farmer and his wife to handle the problems of farming. Very few farmers here are natives of Arizona, but have come from practically every state in the Union. Pima County has an active County Farm Bureau and a Poultrymen's Association.

NATURAL SCENERY AND WILD GAME

Those who love an occasional outing in the mountains or other nearby beauty spots where nature has not yet been tamed by man, will find their desire for such recreation satisfied here. The Valley is surrounded by a broken sky line of mountains, some of which have an elevation of from 4,000 to 9,000 feet. The monotony of a landscape without a background is thus avoided. Mt. Lemmon and White House Canyon are Pima County's most popular summer playground. In the mountains deer are numerous, and a number of bear and mountain lion are taken each year. In the valleys, quail, duck and rabbit hunting can be enjoyed.

Arizona is the State where Sunshine, 300 days of the year, invites mankind into the open to drink in its warmth, explore its hills and mountains and seek its landmarks of history and romance of former civilization here hundreds of years ago.

LAND PRICES

Developed and improved land, \$200 to \$250 per acre. Uncleared valley land, \$50 to \$100. Mesa unimproved land, suitable for chicken raising, \$20 to \$50 per acre. There is some homestead and State land near Tucson suitable for stock raising. Plats showing land open for homesteading can be requested of the U. S. Land Office and State Land Office, Phoenix, Arizona.

CONCLUSION

Particular care has been taken in issuing this pamphlet to be conservative and to give the reader a word picture of farming in Pima County without any superlative terms. We want our list of farmers to continue to grow and to be recorded as contented, successful and happy. The data presented has been for the purpose of informing you correctly. After reading over this bulletin, we invite you to command us for any further information desired. Address the County Immigration Commissioner, care Agricultural Bureau, Tucson Chamber of Commerce, Tucson, Arizona.

APPROXIMATE AGRICULTURAL INCOME FOR PIMA COUNTY DURING PAST SIX YEARS (Livestock Industry Not Included)

Crop or Product	1920		1921		1922		1923		1924		1925		TOTAL FOR CROP OR PRODUCT
Cotton	5,000 bales	\$ 750,000	None	None	600 bales	\$ 90,000	3,500 bales	\$ 525,000	6,400 bales	\$ 800,000	9,101 bales	\$1,151,280	\$3,316,280
Alfalfa	9,000 tons	\$ 180,000	6,000 tons	\$120,000	6,000 tons	\$120,000	6,000 tons	\$ 120,000	3,000 tons	\$ 60,000	3,000 tons	\$ 60,000	\$ 660,000
Wheat	15,000 bushels	\$ 15,000	15,000 bushels	\$ 15,000	30,000 bushels	\$ 30,000	6,000 bushels	\$ 6,000	None	None	None		\$ 66,000
Barley	1,500 tons	\$ 24,000	1,500 tons	\$ 24,000	2,000 tons	\$ 32,000	2,000 tons	\$ 32,000	2,000 tons	\$ 32,000	2,000 tons	\$ 36,000	\$ 180,000
Grain Sorghums	21,000 cwt.	\$ 31,500	21,000 cwt.	\$ 31,500	21,000 cwt.	\$ 31,500	10,500 cwt.	\$ 15,750	None	None	None	None	\$ 110,250
White Potatoes	1,250 cwt.	\$ 3,750	2,500 cwt.	\$ 7,500	5,000 cwt.	\$ 11,000	5,000 cwt.	\$ 12,000	7,500 cwt.	\$ 20,000	7,500 cwt.	\$ 20,000	\$ 74,250
Dairy Products		\$ 150,000		\$200,000		\$250,000		\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000	\$1,350,000
Poultry Products		\$ 150,000		\$ 60,000		\$ 75,000		\$ 100,000		\$ 125,000		\$ 150,000	\$ 560,000
Miscellaneous		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 60,000
TOTAL		\$1,214,250		\$468,000		\$649,500		\$1,070,750		\$1,297,000		\$1,677,280	\$6,376,780