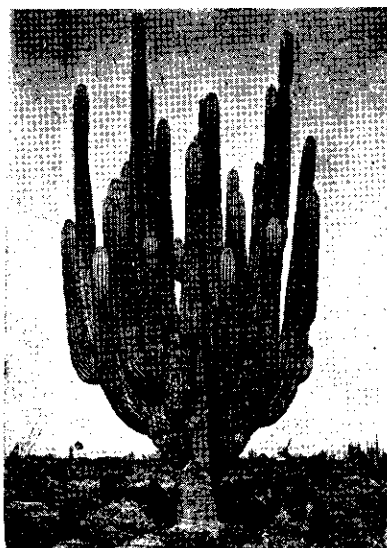


NOTE
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1937

BULLETIN NO. 2
ISSUED SPRING 1937

AGRICULTURE IN PIMA COUNTY ARIZONA



CERTIFIED CLIMATE
For Alfalfa, Cotton, Citrus, Truck Growing
Range Stock Raising, Poultry and Dairying

BRINGS SUCCESS, CONTENTMENT
AND HEALTH TO OUR FARMERS

ISSUED BY
COUNTY IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER
AND AGRICULTURAL BUREAU
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TUCSON, ARIZONA
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AN ARIZONA FARM HOME

AGRICULTURE IN PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Most of the farming of Pima County is confined to approximately 30,000 acres of land located chiefly in the Santa Cruz and Rillito Valleys. Irrigation is secured by pumping from liberal underground water bearing stratas. These valleys embrace a rich body of land which is directly suburban to Tucson and is equal in fertility to the richest river bottom lands in the west. Much of the above area is well served with electricity and telephone facilities, also rural mail routes.

Bordering the irrigated farm land are hundreds of square miles of range country extending back over a varied topography embracing browse to high mountain or plateau grass land.

Tucson and its metropolitan area is a beautiful community of 80,000 people, on the main line of the Southern Pacific and Southern Pacific of Mexico Railroad. It is reached from any direction by wide, smooth, paved highways, well maintained. It is one of the leading commercial and cultural centers of Arizona, and the gateway to the west coast of Mexico.

CLIMATE CONDITIONS

No other place anywhere has a more delightful and healthful winter climate than this section of Arizona. Temperatures do not often go below freezing and the days are usually warm enough so that fuel costs are

comparatively low. The summers are usually long and warm, but because of the *low humidity* which generally prevails, our summer temperatures are not nearly so oppressive as those several degrees lower would be in more humid sections. At elevations of four thousand feet and above, the summer climate is most pleasant. The sun shines practically every day, and high winds are not frequent at any time of the year except for a short period in the spring. The warm winters make it unnecessary to put large investments into expensive types of building construction for proper protection of people and livestock.

The highest and lowest temperatures for each month of the year for the period 1916-1936, inclusive. Tucson—Elevation 2,400 feet.

Month	Highest	Lowest
January	88	17
February	91	18
March	91	23
April	99	28
May	106	28
June	111	42
July	111	51
August	110	55
September	111	30
October	101	30
November	94	18
December	89	15

CROPS

ALFALFA. This crop has not been grown so extensively during the past few years, but still is very important as a soil builder for other crops—particularly cotton. Choice baled alfalfa hay sold as high as \$30 per ton during the past year. The average price received is around \$15 per ton where properly grown yields of from 4 to 8 tons per acre are secured. The production of alfalfa hay in this valley is far below the demand by local dairymen. Hairy Peruvian is the variety most grown. During the winter months this variety affords considerable pasture.

COTTON. For several years this has been one of the leading money crops on our irrigated lands. Acala and Pima are the only two varieties grown. For the past several years Acala has averaged a yield of a bale per acre, with Pima yielding from ½ to 1 bale per acre. Three gins furnish adequate ginning facilities. The average yearly acreage devoted to this crop is about 8,000. Our cotton is of excellent staple and commands a premium on the market. The cost of picking is from 75c to \$1.25 per cwt. Labor is plentiful and dependable.

BARLEY. This is one of the oldest crops grown in this valley. It affords excellent pasture during the winter and early spring months. If it is desired to harvest the crop for hay or grain the stock is removed in late winter. Most of the barley sown is utilized for pasture or harvested for hay in May or June. The yield of hay is from one to three tons per acre, and during the past several years, sells for \$10 to \$15 per ton, baled.

CORN. This is a very good crop in this county and is being grown extensively, mostly for silage. If grain is desired, 20 to 50 bushels per acre can be produced. Silage yields of from 8 to 15 tons per acre are obtained. Mexican June is the principal variety grown. For dry farming, Pima, Hickory King, Improved Squaw, and Mexican June are the varieties generally grown, depending on elevation and soil conditions.

WHEAT. This crop can be successfully grown, but other crops will often bring a larger return. The two

principal varieties are Early Baart and Sonora. Sonora has proved popular as a pasture crop for dairy cattle. The yield is from 20 to 45 bushels per acre. The price is usually better than that received in the wheat growing belts.

BEANS. An excellent crop to plant after small grains in June. They will aid to some extent, in improving the soil and should yield from 500 to 1,200 pounds per acre. The pinto and California Pink are the two varieties generally grown. They should be planted in July in our warmer valleys—in May, if possible at high elevations.

GRAIN AND FORAGE SORGHUMS. Hegari, and dwarf yellow milo are the two predominant grain sorghums grown. Hegari is the most extensively produced, and might be termed a dual purpose sorghum, as it is both a heavy grain and forage producer. Yields of from one to two tons of threshed grain per acre are obtained. The long summers produce immense yields of the sweet sorghums which make good silage. Sudan grass is one of our most dependable hay and pasture crops. As many as four crops per year can be cut. The first crop can be harvested in from 60 to 75 days, and succeeding crops at intervals of 30 to 45 days.

PEANUTS. This is a well adapted crop on our lighter soils and should be more extensively grown than at present. They fit in well as a second crop and are beneficial to the soil.

TRUCK CROPS. There is a fine opportunity here for this type of farming. Tucson can consume a considerable output of such crops and practically all of the surplus could be disposed of in the southern part of the state, principally to mining towns and camps. With the addition of liberal amounts of organic matter, the soil is well suited to vegetable growing and the climate is very favorable for winter gardening.

This field is being gradually developed as experienced gardeners come in. Tucson now has a modern cold storage plant which will permit the orderly marketing of these crops.

During November, December, January, February, March and April, our gardens mature head lettuce,

HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES, TUCSON ELEVATION 2,400 FEET

YEAR	JAN.		FEB.		MAR.		APR.		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		For-Year	
	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L
1930	75	26	83	31	81	30	96	40	99	39	107	52	108	68	110	67	103	50	94	40	86	27	76	20	110	20
1931	75	23	79	32	89	29	89	44	98	46	105	55	108	66	102	66	101	49	94	41	91	27	74	23	108	23
1932	79	19	82	25	85	30	91	36	100	42	110	48	106	66	105	64	103	57	93	36	84	32	77	22	110	19
1933	75	26	80	18	86	28	88	33	103	38	111	51	106	67	109	63	104	56	98	48	87	29	84	23	111	18
1934	77	21	82	28	91	37	94	31	106	46	106	50	109	65	107	63	103	45	101	39	93	28	75	22	106	21
1935	84	21	85	29	82	29	93	34	94	43	106	50	106	59	103	64	101	56	99	33	86	27	78	25	106	21
1936	75	22	80	27	88	28	96	31	100	44	109	48	108	62	105	64	104	44	99	42	86	31	79	27	109	22

spinach, onions, cabbage, carrots, parsnips, asparagus, green peas and numerous other vegetables. During the balance of the year there are produced tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries, string beans, cantaloupes, watermelon, casabe melon, potatoes, peppers, etc.

WHITE POTATOES. This crop has been grown on a commercial scale for a number of years. The crop is planted in February or early March and harvested from May 20th to July 20th. This puts the growers on an early market, and a price of \$2.50 to \$3.50 per cwt. is usually obtained. A yield of 30 to 100 sacks of marketable potatoes per acre is secured. Irish Cobbler and Early Bliss Triumph are the best adapted varieties.

CANTALOUPE AND WATERMELONS. This valley produces fine quality melons. Cantaloupes have a very fine flavor, maturing in July, which season comes between those of the Imperial Valley and Colorado. Watermelons produce well and Klondike and Kleckley Sweet are the principal varieties grown. A shipping market for our melons has not been established, and a large acreage is not encouraged.

FRUIT GROWING. At the western end of the range of the foothills of the Catalina mountains, just where the rocky ledges give way to fertile soil deposits, there is a considerable area which is adapted to the growing of citrus and other sub-tropical trees and shrubs. This belt, due to its peculiar relation to the nearby mountains, has a climate and a beautiful setting of topography and native plant life which makes it wholly

distinctive. Water is secured from deep wells with a lift of from 200 to 260 feet. It is difficult to imagine an area which has greater natural advantages for the building of a nice home with beautiful surroundings than this one. The citrus and sub-tropical fruits produced are of unsurpassed quality, and command a ready sale at satisfactory prices.

Most varieties of European grapes, such as Black Monuka, Thompson Seedless, Malaga, and Gros Colman do well here. Late frosts often destroy such deciduous fruits as apricots, peaches and plums in the lower valleys. On some of the higher slopes and a few favored thermal belts, good crops of these fruits are produced every year. The protection of these fruits each year with heaters would be comparatively inexpensive. Tucson is an excellent fresh fruit market.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LABOR. The supply of labor is plentiful at all seasons of the year, and can be procured at from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per day without board. It is not customary to board farm help in this section of the southwest.

ROADS. The main roads leading to and through the county are very good—most of them paved. Many of the secondary roads are also paved, and the others are well maintained.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, HIGH SCHOOL AND RURAL SCHOOLS. Arizona's educational system ranks near the



A RECREATIONAL SPOT

WATER. For domestic purposes, water is reached at a depth of from 20 to 300 feet, by drilling or open wells. Analysis shows that we have an abundance of pure water for all purposes. In some sections near Tucson, water is practically 100% pure.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

Pima County has for many years maintained both a County Agricultural Agent and a Home Demonstration Agent, who are aiding in every way at their command, the range land and farming industries. Very few of our farmers are native to Arizona, but have come from every state in the Union and from every walk of life.

NATURAL SCENERY AND WILD LIFE

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 Santa Cruz Valley is

surrounded by a broken skyline of mountains, some of which extend to an elevation of 2,500 to 9,000 feet. The monotony of a landscape without a background is thus avoided. The Santa Catalina and Santa Rita mountains are Pima County's most popular summer playgrounds, while the lower ranges are much enjoyed in the winter time. In the mountains, mule and white tail deer are numerous. That most interesting animal, the peccary or javelina, is still present here in large droves. In the valleys, quail, rabbit and some duck hunting can be enjoyed. To the nature lover, our great variety of wild animals and bird life is always a great source of interest and enjoyment.

PRECIPITATION. The average rainfall in the valley for the period 1916-1936 is 11.44 inches, 52 per cent of which occurs during the months of July, August and September. This average amount of precipitation increases with elevation until on the plateaus bordering the higher mountain ranges reaches 16 to 18 inches. There is considerable snowfall on our mountains at elevations from 6,000 to 9,000 feet. July has the highest average of the year. Of the fall and winter months, November ranks first in amount of precipitation, with January second. What precipitation occurs during the winter months falls slowly; but in the summer the rainfall is frequently of a torrential nature and accompanied by heavy run-off.

SOIL. Pima County has a wide variety of soils which

PRECIPITATION UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, ELEVATION 2,400 FEET—21 YEARS													
YEAR	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
1930	0.81	1.23	2.32	0.57	0.93	1.12	1.03	1.47	0.37	0.09	1.04	0.29	11.27
1931	0.68	2.95	0.16	0.48	1.34	0.49	1.07	3.96	0.94	0.05	3.72	0.42	16.26
1932	0.74	1.27	0.40	0.32	T.	0.16	2.58	1.61	0.23	1.62	0.00	2.01	10.94
1933	0.93	0.24	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.10	1.60	2.23	1.62	1.92	0.47	0.38	9.52
1934	0.50	0.30	0.39	0.03	0.05	0.14	1.13	2.41	1.07	T.	0.50	2.04	8.56
1935	1.25	2.43	1.46	T.	0.14	T.	0.87	5.61	0.88	0.00	1.89	1.24	15.77
1936	0.96	0.92	0.55	0.07	T.	0.06	2.82	3.03	1.51	0.34	1.13	0.85	12.24
TOTAL	5.87	9.34	5.28	1.47	2.46	2.07	11.10	20.32	6.62	4.02	8.75	7.23	84.53
Total 1916-1929	10.69	8.41	10.09	6.14	2.51	3.40	31.52	34.11	21.64	6.07	10.78	10.15	155.51
TOTAL	16.56	17.75	15.37	7.61	4.97	5.47	42.62	54.43	28.26	10.09	19.53	17.38	240.04
Average	0.79	0.85	0.73	0.36	0.24	0.26	2.03	2.59	1.35	0.48	0.93	0.83	11.44

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have their special adaptations. The prevailing types in the valleys are a sandy loam, river silt, adobe, or some modification of these. All of these types are fertile and produce good crops when properly handled. There are no water logged lands or drainage problems.

IRRIGATION. Most of the farming in the county is done by irrigation. The acreage now actually being farmed by this method in the Santa Cruz and Rillito Valleys is about 20,000. The lift is from 20 to 200 feet, with a yield of water ranging from 150 to 2,500 gallons per minute. The acreage under irrigation comprises a number of small projects, as well as individual farms with their own pumping plants. The Santa Cruz Valley embraces within its water shed extensive high plateaus and mountainous areas extending to an elevation of 9,000 feet.

DRY FARMING. This type of farming is feasible on our higher plateau country when seasonal conditions are favorable. This character of country suitable for farming is very limited. In our fertile desert valleys, however, much use has been made of flood waters during the summer months in the production of supplemental forage.

LIVESTOCK—(Special Booklet Available)

Pima County embraces an area of about 57 by 168 miles of which about one-third is occupied by the Papago Indian Reservation upon which is carried a large number of cattle and other livestock. The Indians also grow several thousand acres of beans, corn and wheat annually from flood water. The remainder is largely devoted to the raising of cattle, which is one of the main agricultural resources of the county. The production of blooded horses is also developing quite rapidly—there being some very fine breeding stock in this district.

During the past 10 years the old type cow outfit has to quite an extent, given way to the easterner and his very expensive and elaborate headquarter units. People of wealth and influence have sojourned here for the winter, fell in love with the beauty and romance of the wide open spaces and have remained to invest their energy and capital. The old type cowman will probably soon be as scarce as his former friend, "The Texas Longhorn."

The quality and breeding of our cattle is being rapidly improved by the use of well bred sires. Some of the best purebred Hereford stock in the entire southwest is produced in this county. This county is also the home of the Tucson Livestock Show, which has come to be recognized as one of the best in this part of the country. We never have any blizzards here.

DAIRYING. Tucson is an excellent fluid milk market, and this phase of the industry is conducted on quite an extensive scale. Producers are receiving from 20 to 25 cents per gallon, and milk is retailing at from 12 to 15 cents per quart. The producer is paid on a quality basis. At the present time there is need of more cows in this valley.

Holstein and Guernseys are the two most popular breeds at present, with a sprinkling of Jerseys. Green feed most of the year, the non-requirement of expensive buildings and other equipment for winter use, and the wide range of crops to select from, enable dairymen to produce quality products at a reasonable figure.

POULTRY (Special Booklet on Poultry Available)

Chicken raising has become an important agricultural industry in this county. Owing to mild winters, expensive insulating construction is unnecessary. We, however, advise special construction with reference to ventilation, making for summer comfort of birds in our warmer valleys. With green feed available the year around, a good egg production can be secured.

The poultry industry is one which we feel that this section affords the natural resources to develop to large proportions. However, we would have prospective poultrymen understand that the raising of poultry is a business and that adequate capital and experience greatly enhance one's likelihood of success. Sanitation and good care are a necessity here as elsewhere.

During the past 10 years, wholesale egg prices on extras have ranged from 20 to 50 cents per dozen, depending on the time of year. Live poultry has had a price range of 15 to 40 cents per pound.

The White Leghorn is the predominating breed, with Rhode Island Reds being the most numerous of the heavier breeds. Quite a few of our commercial poultrymen have several thousand birds of the former breed in their flock. Ducks, geese and turkeys are being successfully raised, and bring good prices on the local market. During the fall and winter months, turkeys bring from 20 to 35 cents per pound wholesale.

There are quite a number of specialized breeders and several commercial hatcheries. Practically all of our breeders and hatcherymen belong to the Arizona Poultry Improvement Association. Our poultry industry is affording profitable improvement to a large number of people.

BEEES. The honey industry has been developed quite extensively in the county. The principal natural pasture crops of mesquite and catsclaw afford the most delicious honey that can be obtained. There are vast areas in Pima County having a good stand of these trees and shrubs and the honey flow is generally good.

In addition to the above native plants, there is a considerable acreage of alfalfa and cotton. The apiary business has been profitable.

CONCLUSION

We have taken particular care in getting up this bulletin to be conservative, and not to give you, as is so often the case, a word picture filled with superlative terms. We want your impressions of the country to be as nearly as possible as we have represented it. Read this over carefully and if you desire further information, write the Agricultural Bureau, Tucson Chamber of Commerce, or better still, come and look the country over.



WATER MEANS CROP CASH