



Agriculture in San Joaquin County:
Where we have been...and where we are going



San Joaquin County Then...

- Incorporated February 18th, 1850
- Co. Seat Stockton
- Area-905,280
- Altitude 12'-3,626'



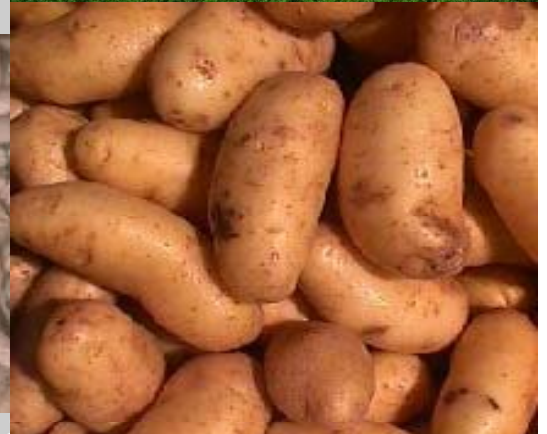
Farm Bureau History

- The fourth Farm Bureau in the State of California
- Founded in 1914
- Arranged in Farm Centers that are still in tact today:
 - Acampo, Escalon, Tracy, Lafayette, Calla Nile, Colledgeville, Linden, Roberts-Union, Tracy, & Victor
- At the time required 20% of all SJ Co. farmers to be members in Farm Bureau in order to have a farm adviser available to the county.
- Formed to protect farmers in a legislative, legal, and financial way.
- Formed the Agricultural Foundation for Agriculture Education in 1989



San Joaquin County 1870-1910

- *Painting the picture:*
 - The landscape of SJ Co.
 - Wheat, Barley, Alfalfa



Settlement years:

Potatoes were rotated with green beans



San Joaquin County 1900's

- *Diversity finds it's way to San Joaquin Co.*
 - *Beans, Onions, Celery, & Asparagus*
 - *1915, Sugar Beets were grown mostly with government subsidies*
 - *1920's, Fruit and Nut trees came to the county*
 - Almonds
 - Walnuts
 - Peaches
 - Apricots
 - Cherries



San Joaquin County 1900's Cont.

- 1940's, During the war years watermelons, tomatoes, and corn made there way into the crop mix



- Cattle, & Dairy become high revenue crops, and remained so to this day



Industrial Developments

During the 1880's through the 1930's San Joaquin County made leaps and bounds in Agriculture

- Irrigation technology
 - Lee Phillips, a bay area resident who owned property in SJ Co., designed most of these systems



Industrial Developments

- 1883-Benjamin, and Charles Holt founded the Stockton Wheel Co. later named Holt Manufacturing.
- 1904 the invention of the Caterpillar Tractor revolutionized the agricultural industry



The “Chicago of the West”

- 1881-Stockton Telephone, the 10th telephone office in the State
- 1890’s electric street cars were a common mode of transportation
- The first library opened
- Courthouse & jail were built
- Buildings had direct gas & heating dubbing Stockton as the “Gas City” for a short time



County Courthouse



Agricultural Industry: The BOOM

- 1891-Sperry Mills opens a flour mill providing flour to the Orient
- 1901-Stockton Cannery opened employing over 600 people per year



The Gateway City

- Union Transportation Company & the California Navigation and Improvement Company
 - 60 vessels between the two companies
- Refrigerated Railroad Cars



Mayor Con Franke hammers in the last spike connecting three transcontinental railroads to the Public Belt Line of the Port.



The Delta

Reclaimed during the late 19th century

Home to a variety of crops including:

Alfalfa, blueberries, rice, turf, corn, and winegrapes



The clamshell, chain bucket ladder, dragline or dragbucket, and hydraulic dredges were all used to remove dirt from the channel floor and create the Stockton Deep Water Channel. The clamshell dredge shown here can be viewed at the Haggin Museum in Stockton which contains a very large historical collection.



Immigrants shape our County

“The great western potato mart”

- The Chinese were pivotal in the diversification of Agriculture
- In 1870 the Chinese made up one-tenth of the State’s agricultural workforce
- By 1880 the Chinese made up one-third of the State’s agricultural workforce
- Their presence helped to speed along the transition of wheat acres in the county over to fruit acreage
- The Chinese also found success growing potatoes
 - Chin Lung
 - Never farmed less than 1,000 acres
 - Up to 500 Chinese laborers per year
 - Stayed successful until 1912



Immigrants shape our County

“Expert farmers”

- 4,000 Japanese emigrated to San Joaquin Co. between 1900-1910
- George Shima
 - Known as the greatest potato grower on the west coast
 - Held 11 of the 17 land leases to Asians in 1917



Immigrants shape our County

“Experts in Celery”

- 1907 East Indian Sikhs were farming in the county
- Dealt mostly with Celery
- Were sought after for their skill to harvest asparagus



Immigrants shape our County

“Growing reliance”

- Mexicans were generally more accepted than other ethnic groups
- An emigration boom with the appearance of the Southern Pacific Railroad
- WWI created a need for more Mexican labor for crops like sugar beets, & beans
- By 1920, the Filipinos & Mexicans were vying for the lowest wages



San Joaquin County Now...

- Population-682,660
- Land in Farms-737,503 acres
- Land in Crops-492,032 acres
- Land in Irrigated Crops-453,980
- Number of farms in SJ Co.-3,624
- Average size-204 acres
- Ag Workforce monthly average- 23,037

Highest Elevation: 3,065

Lowest Elevation: 12' below sea level



Top 10 in San Joaquin County

- Grapes
- Milk
- Cherries
- Tomatoes
- Walnuts
- Almonds
- Hay
- Cattle & Calves
- Apples
- Asparagus



Percent of San Joaquin County Crops to State production

- Pumpkins-65%
- Cherries-55%
- Asparagus-45%
- Grain corn-41%
- Apples-38%
- Walnuts-25%
- Fresh Tomatoes-18%
- Cucumbers-15%



San Joaquin County Emerging Crops

- Specialty Vegetables
- Blueberries
- Rice

