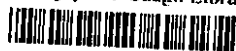


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SERIES ON CALIFORNIA CROPS AND PRICES

SWINE

EDWIN C. VOORHIES AND MARTIN H. BLANK

BULLETIN 523

April, 1932

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE
GIANNINI FOUNDATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRINTING OFFICE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

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SWINE¹

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FOREWORD

This bulletin represents the results of a study undertaken at the request of various swine interests of California. The primary object has been to summarize and interpret the statistical data relating to the swine industry. Emphasis has been placed on long-time trends and tendencies, since the year-to-year outlook for swine is presented regularly in the *Agricultural Outlook for California*, which is published shortly after the first of each year by the California Agricultural Extension Service. Care has been taken to give in considerable detail the sources of the data included in the various tables. On pages 133 and 134 will be found a compilation of the more important publications from which much of the current material has been obtained.

SUMMARY

Of the pork and lard consumed in California in recent years, 60 to 70 per cent comes from other states in the form of cured pork products and live hogs. Prices of hogs in California are considerably higher than they would be if production were great enough to supply all the pork and pork products consumed within the state. However, conditions outside the state profoundly affect the prices received by California producers.

Numbers of swine in California have always been small in comparison with those of the nation, never constituting more than 1.8 per cent (1870) of the total number in the country. The enumerations of 1925 and 1930 showed percentages 0.9 and 1.2 per cent respectively. Fluctuations in numbers have been relatively more violent than in the nation and have not always paralleled general movements in numbers. A peak in numbers of swine in California was reached about 1920. Since then there seems to have been a decline. This was probably brought about by several factors, among them being (1) the

¹ Paper No. 27, The Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics.

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