

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SUMMARY 1938

-Active Operation June 1 to Nov. 1, 1938-

The volume of business handled over the Benton Harbor Cash Market for 1938 was the lightest since records have been compiled beginning in 1931. An exceptionally early spring and a heavy frost sharply curtailed fruit supplies. Grapes normally a heavy volume crop were nearly a failure, while peaches, berries, apples, plums and other fruits were injured in varying degrees. The total movement over the market amounted to 5,469 cars, which was 3,492 cars less than in 1937 when 8,921 cars were handled, and 2,462 cars less than the 1931-37 average of 8,111 cars.

Peaches accounted for the heaviest volume over the market this season with a roll of 1,286 cars; apples were second with 1,101 cars; tomatoes were third with 980 cars; pears fourth with 326 cars; strawberries fifth with 255 cars; cantaloupes sixth with 258 cars and grapes, which normally rank from first to third in importance, were seventh with only 124 cars.

The total movement of number of packages over the market showed a large decrease amounting to 3,679,942 packages which compares to 7,151,661 packages in 1937 and 6,355,302 packages for the 7 year average (1931-37). The shortage in grapes which are packed in four and twelve quart baskets, rather small containers, accounted for a major portion of this reduction in package movement.

The total cash returns for all produce sold over the market is estimated at \$3,137,595.00. This compares to \$4,354,147.00 for 1937 and \$3,499,527.00 for the 7 year average (1931-37). The shorter crop resulted in higher average prices for many of the commodities sold over the market, so that the total value of all produce handled did not show the reduction indicated in the volume decline. The total value showed a decline of 28% when compared to the 1937 total and 10% less than average (1931-37); while the volume, reduced to carlot equivalents, showed a reduction of 36% from 1937 and 30% less than average (1931-37).

(Season)	(Growers) (Loads)	(Day) (Buyers)	(Total) (Packages)	(Carlot) (Equivalents)	(Total) (Value)
1931	102,285	9,190	4,837,758	7,162	\$2,822,285.
1932	125,351	11,393	7,210,159	9,412	2,970,235.
1933	112,154	8,877	6,073,282	6,798	2,633,673.
1934	131,392	10,728	6,909,774	8,183	3,798,401.
1935	121,245	9,501	6,412,766	8,049	3,137,215.
1936	131,963	9,439	5,891,711	8,251	4,780,731.
1937	133,361	8,875	7,151,661	8,921	4,354,147.
1938	96,839	5,614	3,679,942	5,469	3,137,595.

Summary of Movement and Average Price of Benton Harbor Cash Market

(Season)	(Carlot) (Equiv- (alents)	(Value per) (Unit)	(Total Value)	(Season)	(Carlot) (Equiv- (alents)	(Value per) (Unit)	(Total Value)	
<u>A P P L E S</u>				<u>C A N T A L O U P S</u>				
1931	853	\$.71 bu.	\$ 311,520.	1931	688	\$.76 pkg.	\$ 210,000.	
1932	905	.74	334,999.	1932	712	.61	99,622.	
1933	1,123	.74	430,707.	1933	639	.58	149,371.	
1934	1,497	.82	633,689.	1934	368	.80	120,533.	
1935	1,165	.61	366,675.	1935	445	.64	113,535.	
1936	1,806	1.02	950,231.	1936	409	.67	109,514.	
1937	1,276	.55	367,340.	1937	246	.80	137,974.	
1938	1,101	.90	520,050.	1938	258	.55	99,187.	
<u>P E A C H E S</u>				<u>T O M A T O E S</u>				
1931	1,170	\$.70 bu.	\$ 336,000.	1931	500	\$.61 pkg.	\$ 213,500.	
1932	1,665	.42	557,980.	1932	690	.34	163,428.	
1933	91	1.79	65,425.	1933	1,047	.50	367,250.	
1934	801	1.63	524,478.	1934	853	.63	377,520.	
1935	1,692	.92	625,974.	1935	912	.42	264,921.	
1936	1,668	1.61	1,073,976.	1936	1,067	.66	490,515.	
1937	2,587	1.08	1,117,445.	1937	1,009	.50	403,644.	
1938	1,286	1.35	694,532.	1938	980	.45	352,767.	
<u>P E A R S</u>				<u>S T R A W B E R R I E S</u>				
1931	125	\$.98 bu.	\$ 49,100.	1931	430	\$1.77 crt.	\$ 434,797.	
1932	404	.75	119,831.	1932	---	unavailable	unavailable	
1933	206	1.02	84,212.	1933	477	1.01	245,720.	
1934	774	.82	253,501.	1934	174	1.69	152,285.	
1935	280	.96	106,921.	1935	560	1.24	360,883.	
1936	588	.86	202,123.	1936	282	1.88	380,994.	
1937	201	.93	93,507.	1937	688	1.80	693,720.	
1938	326	.75	122,114.	1938	255	2.10	300,350.	
<u>G R A P E S</u>				<u>P L U M S</u>				
	(4 qt)	(12 qt)		1933	126	\$.84 pkg.	62,926.	
1931	1,328	\$.12	\$.27	\$ 512,308.	1934	132	.86	79,353.
1932	2,885	.08	.15	537,518.	1935	119	.84	59,853.
1933	1,786	.12	.18	523,845.	1936	113	.95	74,414.
1934	1,837	.12	.23	657,790.	1937	147	.95	89,283.
1935	1,643	.11	.18	460,849.	1938	87	.86	49,574.
1936	820	.16	.35	431,205.				
1937	1,800	.12	.21	501,713.				
1938	124	.25	.45	74,560.				

1938

Commodity and Usual Containers	Packages	Avg. Value per Package	Total Value for Season	Carlot Equivalents
Apples (bu.)	577,833	\$.90	\$520,049.70	1,101
Beans - Green and Wax # (bu. - 12 qt)	23,353	.29	6,772.37	15
Beans - Lima (12 qt)	93,534	.76	71,085.84	58
Beans - Aroma #12 qt)	13,730	.48	6,590.40	9
Beets (doz. & bu.)	1,437	.50	718.50	3
Berries: (crates)				
Black (24 pt)	4,586	1.55	7,108.30	6
Black Rasp (24 pt)	129,525	1.40	181,335.00	173
Blue (16 qt)	11,533	3.35	38,635.55	21
Dew (16 qt)	65,644	1.55	101,748.20	117
Goose (16 qt)	1,015	2.25	2,283.75	2
Red Rasp (24 pt)	163,789	1.70	278,441.30	218
Straw (16 qt)	143,024	2.10	300,350.40	255
Cabbage (bulk - bu.)	10,738	.30	5,021.40	28
Cantaloups (crates - 9x9, 10x10, 11x11, 12x12, 13x13, 14x14, bu. 12 qt)	180,340	.55	99,187.00	258
Carrots (doz. & bu.)	2,636	.50	1,318.00	4
Cauliflower (doz. - crt)	5,127	1.00	5,127.00	14
Celery (crt. & doz.)	109,508	.17	18,616.36	50
Celery Cabbage (doz. & crt)	1,414	.50	707.00	2
Cherries: (crates)				
Sour (16 qt)	25,411	1.65	41,928.15	34
Sweet (16 qt)	13,640	2.40	32,736.00	18
Cider (gallon)	25,237	.275	6,940.17	13
Corn, Green, Sweet (doz. - bu.)	18,706	.15	2,805.90	8
Cucumbers #bu. 12 qt. 4 qt)	78,412	.35	27,444.20	65
Currants. (crates 16 qt)	4,316	2.40	10,358.40	8
Eggplant (bu.)	5,740	.75	4,305.00	10
Grapes (4 qt)	78,899	.25	19,724.75	22
" (12 qt)	121,857	.45	54,835.65	102
Lettuce (bu.)	558	.60	334.80	1
Onions (10 lb sacks)	91,127	.12	8,748.19	65
" (50 lb sacks)		.60	10,935.24	
Peaches (bu.)	514,468	1.35	694,531.80	1,286
Pears (bu.)	162,819	.75	122,114.25	326
Peppers #bu. 12 qt. 4 qt)	40,565	.28	11,358.20	25
Plums (bu. - half-bu. 12 qt)	58,109	.86	49,973.74	87
Potatoes (bu. - 100 lb sacks - bulk)	12,981	1.00	12,981.00	36
Potatoes (Sweet) (bu.)	3,935	.75	2,951.25	6
Quinces (bu. - half-bu.)	1,511	1.75	2,644.25	2
Radishes (doz. bch - bu.)	1,576	.30	472.80	3
Rhubarb (doz. bch - bu.)	566	.40	226.40	1
Spinach (bu.)	427	.75	320.25	1
Squash (bu. - each)	3,942	.50	1,971.00	8
Tomatoes (4 qt. 12 qt. crates - 4, 6, & 8 basket)	783,926	.45	352,766.70	980
Turnips (bu.)	2,560	.40	1,024.00	4
Watermelons (each)	60,224	.30	18,067.20	24
Miscellaneous	23,664	---	-----	--
T O T A L	3,679,942	---	\$3,137,595.36	5,469

OTHER MARKET TOTALS FOR ENTIRE 1938 SEASON

Growers Loads 96,839. Retail loads 1,093. Resale loads 341. Day Buyers 5,614.

Notes: # packages were counted and reduced to 12 quarts entirely, value per package thus figured on a 12 quart basis.

The carlot equivalents of the above chart were compiled in accordance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economic's conversion tables taken from "Factors for use in Fruit and Vegetable Offices in Cities east of the Rocky Mountains for converting truck, boat, and l.c.l. receipts of Fruits and Vegetables to carlots, issued effective beginning January 1, 1937" as follows: Apples 525; Beans, green and wax 12 qts 1600, limas 12 qts 1600, aromas 12 qts 1600; Beets 500; Berries, black 24 pts 750, black rasp. 24 pts 750, blue 16 qts 560, dew 16 qts 560, goose 16 qts 560, red rasp. 24 pts 750, straw 16 qts 560; Cabbage 600; Cantaloups 700; Carrots 600; Cauliflower 380; Celery 2200; Celery Cabbage 600; Cherries 16 qt 750; Cider 2000; Corn Sweet 2500; Cucumbers 1200; Currants 16 qt 560; Eggplant 600; Grapes 4 qt 3600, 12 qt 1200; Onions 10 lb sacks 2500, 50 lb sacks 500; Peaches 400; Pears 500; Peppers 1600; Plums half-bushels 800, bushels 400; Potatoes (white) 100 lb sacks 360; Potatoes (sweet) bushels 645; Quinces bushels 500, half-bushels 1000; Radishes 600; Rhubarb 600; Spinach 700; Squash 500; Tomatoes 800; Turnips 600; Watermelons 2500.

(Total package count furnished by R.D.Krieger, Marketmaster, Benton Harbor, Michigan)

JRB. Released November 25, 1938.

R. E. Keller,

Local Representative.

After five days return to
United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Official Business