

412 Post Office Building  
Telephone: 98249

**BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET**  
**FRUIT & VEGETABLE SUMMARY**  
1943 Season May 25 to October 31

Offerings over the Benton Harbor Cash Market were the lightest since records have been tabulated starting in 1931. This was due to a combination of factors: (1) Unfavorable weather reduced both fruit and vegetable offerings. Winter kill blasted peach buds in South Berrien County. The entire fruit set in Western Michigan was reduced by cold, rainy weather at blossom time. Exceptionally heavy rains during the early growing period were especially detrimental to small fruits and vegetables; (2) reduction in acreage accounted for part of the decline in a few of the vegetables; (3) The "freeze order" on grapes forcing this crop to processors reduced volume to the fresh market; (4) an increase in loading direct to cars, not going over the Market.

The grape crop was the only fruit crop having a near normal yield. Plums, pears and cherries were especially light.

Other than grapes, processors and canners took a much smaller tonnage than usual. The volume of produce handled over the Market amounted to 4,866 carlot equivalents, which is 31% less than the 1942 volume of 7,078 carlot equivalents and 38% under the 10-year (1932-41) average of 7,940 carlot equivalents. Peaches accounted for the largest volume with 1,133 carlot equivalents; apples were second with 1,060, tomatoes third with 678, grapes fourth with 487 and strawberries fifth with 348 carlot equivalents.

Cash-to-grower values this season were the best since records have been tabulated for the Market. Total cash returns amounted to \$8,007,736.00 and compare to \$6,162,056.00 for 1942 and \$3,660,355.00 for the previous ten-year average.

Packages in the amount of 3,806,073 were handled over the Market and compare to 5,323,041 for 1942 and 6,193,892 for the ten year average.

Growers loads showed a corresponding decrease, amounting to 90,305 loads compared to 106,035 in 1942 and 120,684 loads for the ten year average.

Tickets were sold to 4,490 day buyers and compare to 6,103 a year ago and 7,940 for the ten year average.

Some shortages occurred, especially in labor, but practically all merchantable stock was harvested. Truck shortages were evident at peak loading days, but rail transportation was available so that all stock was distributed.

(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	123,351	11,351	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	9,489	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
1939	134,199	8,786	7,052,263	9,370	3,785,854
1940	113,881	6,332	6,224,333	7,258	3,749,664
1941	108,653	6,894	5,333,029	7,690	4,256,035
1942	106,035	6,103	5,323,041	7,078	6,162,056
1943	90,305	4,490	3,806,073	4,866	8,007,736

(Season)	(Carlot Equiv.)	(Avg.)	(Tot. Value)	(Season)	(Carlot Equiv.)	(Avg.)	(Total Value)	
<b>A P P L E S:</b>				<b>C A N T A L O U P S:</b>				
1931	853	\$.71 bu.	\$311,520	1931	688	\$.76 crt.	\$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	
1939	1,839	.53	511,642	1939	314	.53	116,360	
1940	1,021	.82	439,564	1940	236	.95	156,629	
1941	1,225	1.00	642,877	1941	286	.98	196,524	
1942	1,540	1.28	1,034,899	1942	211	1.32	194,612	
1943	1,060	2.55	1,419,238	1943	94	2.43	159,782	
<b>P E A C H E S:</b>				<b>T O M A T O E S:</b>				
1931	1,170	\$.70 bu.	\$336,000	1931	500	\$.61 pkg.	\$213,500	
1932	1,665	.42	557,980	1932	690	.34 (mostly	163,428	
1933	91	1.79	65,425	1933	1,047	.50 12 qts)	367,250	
1934	801	1.63	524,478	1934	853	.63	377,520	
1935	1,692	.92	625,874	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	
1939	2,583	.68	702,660	1939	762	.42	336,229	
1940	1,394	1.25	697,052	1940	671	.48	338,434	
1941	2,956	.96	1,135,158	1941	683	.58	416,197	
1942	1,844	2.05	1,512,412	1942	736	.74	571,901	
1943	1,133	4.40	2,029,453	1943	678	.97	690,307	
<b>P E A R S:</b>				<b>S T R A W B E R R I E S:</b>				
1931	125	\$.98 bu.	\$49,100	1931	430	\$1.77 crt.	\$434,797	
1932	404	.75	119,831	1932	-	(16 qts)	-	
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	300,750	
1939	373	.82	152,845	1939	785	1.20	527,401	
1940	307	.95	145,696	1940	895	1.20	601,183	
1941	381	.83	158,022	1941	546	1.73	529,149	
1942	249	1.57	195,490	1942	542	2.16	655,704	
1943	138	3.05	210,908	1943	348	4.40	855,276	
<b>G R A P E S:</b>				<b>P L U M S:</b>				
1931	1,328	\$.12 4 qts	\$.27 12 qts	\$512,308	1931	126	\$.84 1/2 bu.	\$62,926
1932	2,885	.08	.15	537,518	1932	132	.86	79,353
1933	1,786	.12	.18	523,845	1933	119	.84	59,853
1934	1,837	.12	.23	657,790	1934	113	.95	74,414
1935	1,643	.11	.18	460,849	1935	147	.95	89,283
1936	820	.16	.35	431,205	1936	87	.86	49,974
1937	1,800	.12	.21	501,713	1937	166	1.15	76,440
1938	124	.25	.45	74,560	1938	155	1.45	89,825
1939	1,375	.12	.21	392,816	1939	165	.70	92,649
1940	1,542	.12	.20	424,803	1940	102	1.23	100,695
1941	617	.18	.42	333,348	1941	63	2.90	145,333
1942	904	.24	.50	581,753				
1943	487	.43	1.04	626,289				

COMMODITY AND USUAL CONTAINER	Package	Avg. Value per package	Total Value for Season	Carlot Equivalent #
Apples (Bushels)	556,564	\$2.55	\$1,419,238.20	1,060
Beans - Green & Wax (Bu.-12 qt.)	18,118	.75	13,588.50	11
" - Lima (12-qt.)	42,498	1.40	59,497.20	27
" - Romain (cranberry) (12-qt.)	8,009	1.05	8,409.45	5
Beets (Doz. & bu.)	411	1.25	513.75	1
Berries - Black (16-qt. crates)	1,353	4.30	5,813.60	2
" - Black Rasp. (24-pt. crates)	139,255	3.60	501,246.00	185
" - Blue (16-qt. crates)	7,313	7.09	51,949.17	13
" - Dew (16-qt. crates)	56,223	4.38	246,256.74	100
" - Goose (16-qt. crates)	1,645	3.55	5,839.75	3
" - Red Rasp. (24-pt. crates)	74,060	4.35	322,161.00	99
" - Straw (16-qt. crates)	194,631	4.40	855,276.40	348
Cabbage - (Bulk per bu.)	7,948	1.00	7,948.00	13
Cantaloups (Crates 9x9, 10x10, 11x11, 12x12, bu. & 12-qt.)	65,754	2.43	159,782.22	94
Carrots (Doz. & Bu.)	1,601	1.25	2,001.25	3
Cauliflower (doz. -Crt.)	6,296	2.50	15,740.00	17
Celery (crt. & doz.)	47,004	.70	32,902.80	22
Celery Cabbage (doz. & crt.)	453	1.00	453.00	1
Cherries - Sour (16-qt. crates)	17,604	4.25	74,817.00	23
" - Sweet (16-qt. crates)	8,669	5.54	48,026.26	11
Cider (per gallon bulk)	3,865	.25	966.25	2
Corn - Green, Sweet (doz.-bu.)	12,661	.18	2,278.98	5
Cucumbers (12-qt.)	103,115	.78	80,429.70	86
Currants (16-qt. crates)	28,685	4.00	114,740.00	51
Eggplant (bushels)	12,610	2.04	25,724.40	21
Grapes (4-qts.)	232,991	.43	100,186.13	65
" (12-qts.)	506,048	1.04	526,289.92	422
Lettuce (Bushels)	288	1.25	360.00	3/4
Onions (10-lb. sacks)	1,118	.60	670.80	1/2
" (50-lb. sacks)	11,929	2.50	29,822.50	24
Peaches (Bushels)	453,003	4.40	2,029,153.44	1,133
Pears (Bushels)	69,150	3.05	210,907.50	138
Peppers (Bu., 12-qts., & 4 qts.)	56,505	1.85	104,534.25	35
Plums (half-bushels)	50,115	2.90	145,333.50	63
Potatoes (bushels, 100-lbs., & bulk)	11,423	2.75	31,413.25	32
" - Sweet (bushels)	1,448	2.75	3,982.00	3
Quince (bushels)	3,634	4.00	14,536.00	7
Radishes (doz. bch., bu.)	251	.80	203.20	1/2
Spinach (bushels)	187	1.50	280.50	1/3
Squash (bushels)	4,403	1.75	7,705.25	9
Tomatoes (4-qts., 12-qts., 6 & 8 bsks)	711,657	.97	690,307.29	678
Turnips (bushels)	1,922	1.00	1,922.00	3
Watermelons (each)	50,427	.65	32,777.55	50
Miscellaneous (in chart below)	223,132		21,551.36	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,806,073</b>		<b>\$8,007,736.00</b>	<b>4,866</b>

Miscellaneous - commodities not listed above:

COMMODITY AND USUAL CONTAINER	Package	Avg. per Season	Value	COMMODITY AND USUAL CONTAINER	Package	Avg. per Season	Value
Apricots (16-qts.)	8	\$2.25	\$18.00	Honey (1p. jars & cones)	2,019	\$.20	\$403.80
Asparagus (24 bunch crt)	106	2.50	265.00	" (5 lbs.)	1,188	.97	1,152.36
Beans (Lima shelled case)	50	5.00	250.00	Lemons (crates)	98	7.00	686.00
Berries-Boysen (24pts)	53	6.00	318.00	Nuts-Chestnuts (lb.)	81	.25	20.25
Cranberries (1/2crt)	6	5.25	31.50	" - Hickory (bu.)	8	2.50	20.00
Broccoli (doz.)	6	1.50	9.00	" - Walnut (bu.)	28	2.00	56.00
Chickens (each)	113	1.25	141.25	Okra (12-qts.)	118	1.25	147.50
Corn-pop (lb.)	295	.11	32.45	Oranges (boxes)	249	7.50	1,867.50
Dill (doz. bu.)	697	.80	557.60	Parsley (doz.)	259	.80	207.20
Eggs (dozen)	6,219	.48	2,985.12	Peas (12-qts.)	482	1.50	723.00
Gladiola (dozen)	6,120	.20	1,224.00	Plants (tomatoes)	201,848	.01	2,018.48
Grapes (crates)	1,360	4.00	5,440.00	Pumpkins (each)	833	.25	208.25
Grapefruit (crates)	277	5.50	1,523.50	Syrup - Sorghum	567	2.10	1,190.70
Grapejuice (gallon)	44	1.25	55.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223,132</b>		<b>21,551.36</b>

## Notes:

(#) Packages reduced to carlot basis U. S. D. A., AMS conversion tables 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 Jan. 1, 1937."

Package count furnished by Market Master. Prices prior to August 1 furnished by Market Master.

REK.

R. E. Kellar, Local Representative.

After five days return to  
WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Food Distribution Administration  
412 Post Office Building  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Penalty for private use to avoid  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS