

PART V

Crops

Major Crops

Because of the importance of dairying and livestock raising, a major part of the cropland is used for growing feed crops. Over 85 percent of the cropland in 1954 was used to grow alfalfa and other hays with another 17 percent harvested for silage. These forage crops were consumed locally by 17,700 cattle, 570 sheep and 500 horses and mules. Other crops such as fruit, berries, peas and potatoes grown for human consumption are relatively minor in acreage in this predominantly dairy and livestock area. The 15,146 acres of harvested cropland in 1954 was planted to the following crops listed in order of importance: alfalfa (6,630 acres), clover-timothy hay (4,090), silage (2,560), oats (1,000), wild hay (785) and grain hay (530).

Crop Trends

The crop history of any farming region reflects to a large degree the economic changes occurring within it. A number of changes are apparent in the emphasis and acreages Clallam County farmers are giving to leading crops. As a

Total Acres of Land Harvested, 1954: 15,146 acres

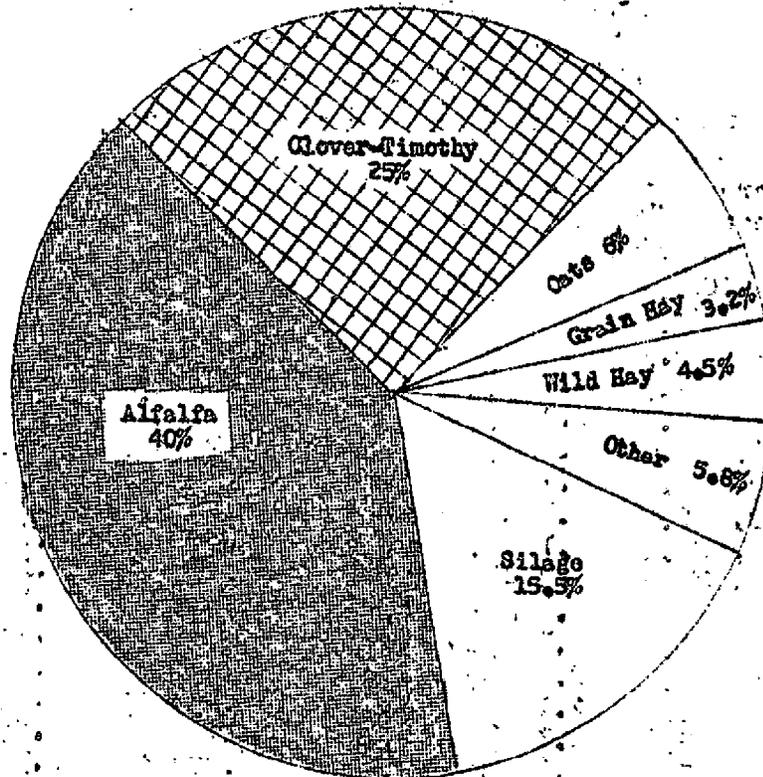


Figure 11.- Percent of Total Cropland in Leading Crops
Clallam County, 1954
(Based on U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1954)

result of increased specialization in dairying and a trend away from general farming, several major changes in types and amounts of crops characterize the progress of Clallam County agriculture.

Increased growing of feed crops to sustain the larger dairy and beef cattle population is a major trend. Since 1939 alfalfa acreage has been increased from 4,600 acres to over 7,300. Clover and timothy hay has likewise been expanded from 3,100 to over 4,200 acres. Feed grains such as oats and wheat, however, have been decreased. As a feed grain, barley has been increased. Related to more intensive dairy cattle feeding, silage crops of grass and legumes have been greatly increased.

Commercial growing of specialized vegetable, berry and fruit crops for fresh and processing markets has been decreased. In recent years the acreages in potatoes, peas, strawberries, apples, cherries and plums have gone down. Census figures also indicate that since 1949 there has been a decrease in vegetables, root crops, berries and fruits grown in farm gardens and orchards for local use.

Hay and Silage Crops

For many years hay has been the most important crop in Clallam County. Alfalfa has been the leading type of hay grown since 1939 and clover and timothy mixtures have held second position.

Table III.- Clover-Timothy and Alfalfa Hay
Acreage, Yield and Production
Clallam County, 1939-1955

Year	Clover and Timothy Hay			Alfalfa Hay		
	Acreage (acres)	Yield (tons per acre)	Production (tons)	Acreage (acres)	Yield (tons per acre)	Production (tons)
1939	3,100	2.3	7,100	4,600	2.8	12,900
1940	2,800	1.9	5,400	5,100	2.5	12,750
1941	2,500	2.3	5,800	5,300	3.6	19,100
1942	2,900	2.7	7,800	5,200	3.6	18,720
1943	2,800	1.9	5,300	5,300	3.5	18,550
1944	3,200	3.0	6,300	4,800	2.6	12,600
1945	3,100	1.9	6,000	4,700	2.8	13,300
1946	3,000	2.1	6,300	5,100	2.9	15,000
1947	2,840	2.1	5,900	5,000	2.7	13,600
1948	3,000	2.2	6,600	5,400	3.1	16,600
1949	3,500	1.9	6,700	6,900	3.1	21,100
1950	3,300	1.7	5,600	7,000	2.9	20,300
1951	3,600	2.1	7,600	7,200	3.4	24,600
1952	3,900	2.1	8,200	7,000	4.0	28,000
1953	3,700	1.7	6,200	8,100	3.8	30,800
1954	4,100	1.8	7,400	6,800	2.5	17,000
1955	4,200	3.5	14,800	7,300	2.9	21,200

Source: U.S.D.A., AMS, Agric. Est. Divn.
State of Washington

Alfalfa, the major forage crop, has been greatly increased since 1939. Grown mainly under irrigation in the Dungeness-Sequim lowland area, a peak acreage of 8,100 acres yielding 30,800 tons was reached in 1953. Over 372 farms were growing alfalfa in 1954 compared with 345 in 1949. In 1954 Clallam was the leading western Washington county in alfalfa and ranked thirteenth in all Washington counties in alfalfa acreage. Most alfalfa is consumed on the farms where produced but about 60 farms had a total surplus of about 2,800 tons for local sale in 1954.

Clover and timothy acreage and production has been increased in recent years. Nearly 290 farms were growing this type of hay in 1954.

Harvesting grass, alfalfa, clover and small grains for silage has been greatly increased recently by dairymen and other livestockmen. In 1954 over 100 farms were storing and feeding silage compared with about 30 in 1949. Crop-land harvested for silage went up from 1,400 to 4,100 acres and the volume of silage cut was increased from 3,600 to over 17,400 tons per year.

Small Grains: Oats, Barley, Wheat and Rye

Small grains grown on the irrigated and nonirrigated lands of northeastern Clallam County are important items in the dairy and livestock industry. Oats, barley and wheat grown and threshed for grain have varied in acreage and production from year to year. These grains are important supplements to hay for livestock feeding.

Table 15.- Oats and Barley: Acreage, Yield and Production
Clallam County, 1939-1955

Year	Oats (grain)			Barley (grain)		
	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushel per acre)	Production (bushels)	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushel per acre)	Production (bushels)
1939	880	50.0	44,000	160	41.0	6,560
1940	710	42.0	29,820	180	39.0	7,020
1941	670	47.0	31,490	230	39.0	8,970
1942	650	46.0	29,900	320	40.0	12,800
1943	610	48.0	29,280	300	36.0	10,800
1944	580	40.0	23,200	260	39.0	10,140
1945	570	36.0	20,520	270	37.0	9,990
1946	680	44.0	29,920	280	45.0	12,600
1947	690	47.0	41,830	360	42.0	15,120
1948	1,200	40.0	48,000	480	45.0	21,600
1949	1,280	50.0	64,000	630	46.0	28,980
1950	1,050	47.0	49,350	610	49.0	29,890
1951	1,030	45.0	46,350	510	47.0	23,970
1952	1,000	54.0	54,000	400	45.0	18,000
1953	880	50.0	44,000	410	41.0	16,810
1954	1,040	41.0	42,640	470	38.0	15,580
1955	980	50.0	49,000	450	45.0	20,250
1956	560	77.5	43,400	180	46.5	8,370

Source: U.S.D.A., AMS, Agric. Est. Divn.
State of Washington

Oats is the primary feed grain and over 500 acres has been raised each year since 1939. In some years over 1,000 acres have been grown. Since the peak year of 1949 when over 1,280 acres were harvested, oats dropped off to as low as 560 acres in 1956. Over 70 farms grow oats in small fields and the crop is generally consumed on the farm where grown.

Barley is a secondary feed grain crop. Acreage and production has varied from year to year, but in general barley has increased since 1948. Barley was at a peak of 630 acres in 1949. It is mainly utilized as a feed grain on the same farm where grown and is grown in small fields.

Wheat is a minor feed grain crop on the drier lands of northeastern Clallam County. Less than 20 farms grow this grain each year. Acreage has ranged from as high as 580 acres in 1948 to as low as 40 in 1951. Growing of winter wheat is far more common than spring wheat.

Rye is grown occasionally as a feed grain in Clallam County. In general, rye has been a minor crop. Since the early 1940's it has declined to a minor crop of less than 10 acres per year.

Table 16. - Wheat and Rye: Acreage, Yield and Production
Clallam County, 1939-1957

Year	All Wheat			Rye (grain)		
	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1939	300	41.7	12,510	10	14.0	140
1940	250	36.0	9,000	10	11.5	115
1941	200	36.0	7,200	30	16.0	480
1942	110	30.0	3,300	30	15.0	450
1943	110	50.0	7,000	20	10.0	200
1944	120	35.2	4,224	20	16.5	330
1945	390	37.2	14,520	10	17.0	170
1946	160	35.4	5,664	10	16.0	160
1947	480	46.7	22,416	---	---	---
1948	580	63.7	36,946	---	---	---
1949	1280	36.7	47,016	---	---	---
1950	280	40.0	11,200	---	---	---
1951	40	35.0	1,400	---	---	---
1952	250	41.9	10,475	---	---	---
1953	120	36.0	4,320	---	---	---
1954	110	47.0	5,170	---	---	---
1955	110	49.0	5,390	---	---	---
1956	40	46.0	1,840	---	---	---
1957	60	53.0	3,180	---	---	---

Source: U.S.D.A., AMS, Agric. Estimates Divn.
State of Washington

Vegetables

Vegetables are primarily grown for home and local markets in Clallam County. A large number of farms, over 600, were growing vegetables in 1954

for home use. Commercial vegetable growing has been decreased since 1949 and by 1954 there were only five farms with a total of about 45 acres. Most commercial vegetables are produced in the Sequim area and sold within Clallam County. In recent years some green peas have been marketed in the Seattle metropolitan area. The most important commercial vegetables in order of acreage importance are green peas, potatoes and sweet corn. Green peas have been grown on 20 to 35 acres per year but potatoes and sweet corn have been decreased because of changing marketing conditions.

Table 17.- Commercial Vegetables: Clallam County, 1949-1957

Year	Green Peas		Potatoes		Sweet Corn	
	Acres	Production (tons)	Acres	Production (tons)	Acres	Production (tons)
1949 1/	37	---	39	NA	20	NA
1950	NA	---	---	---	---	---
1951	NA	---	40	310	15	47
1952	NA	---	45	400	8	41
1953 2/	30	60	12	135	4	15
1954	22	20	14	120	6	0
1955	23	25	14	135	6	1
1956	35	40	16	160	5	19
1957	30	58	---	---	4	16

1/ U.S. Census of Agriculture data for 1949.

2/ Data since 1951 from U.S.D.A., AMS, Agric. Est. Divn.

NA - not available.

Berries

Berries for markets and home use are on a minor scale. Strawberries, red raspberries and cranberries are the most important berry crops. Strawberries are grown in small fields by over 40 farms and are mainly marketed locally. Strawberry acreage was at a peak of 70 acres in 1954 and then was down to 20 acres in 1956 because of freeze damage in the autumn of 1955. Red raspberries and cranberries are commercial specialties of a few farms. Small plots of blackberries, boysenberries and blueberries are grown for local use.

Table 18.- Berries: Clallam County, 1949-1957

Year	Strawberries		Raspberries (Red)	
	Acres	Tons	Acres	Tons
1949 1/	33	33	4	5
1950	NA	---	NA	---
1951 2/	45	95	1	3
1952	45	160	3	8
1953	50	165	2	6
1954	70	120	5	4
1955	60	95	3	5
1956	20	20	5	5
1957	50	150	5	15

1/ Data for 1949 from U.S. Census of Agric.

NA - not available.

2/ Data for 1951-1957 from U.S.D.A., AMS

Tree Fruits and Nuts

Tree fruits are widely distributed over Clallam County in small orchards. In 1954 there were 65 farm places with orchards of 20 trees or more, but the total over the entire area was only about 100 acres. Most fruit growing is not on a commercial basis, and nearly all species of trees have decreased in the last 25 years. Apples are the most common fruit tree, followed by cherries and pears. Filberts, a recent introduction, are quite minor. As older orchards of apples, pears, cherries and plums die from old age, they are not replaced. In some instances, small orchards have been uprooted to make way for more profitable crops.

Table 19. Bearing Fruit Trees and Filbert Trees
Clallam County, 1890-1954

Year	Numbers of Bearing Trees				
	Apples	Cherries	Pears	Prunes & Plums	Filberts
1890	2,676	25	11	115	—
1900	16,208	1,398	2,044	8,386	—
1910	19,038	1,242	1,335	3,180	—
1920	15,605	1,374	1,387	2,125	—
1930	7,571	1,465	857	1,365	—
1940	7,352	2,989	1,167	1,798	6
1950	5,518	1,895	912	1,175	151
1954 ^{1/}	2,250	538	397	368	142

^{1/} 1954 figures are for trees in orchards of 20 trees or more.

Sources: Washington Tree Fruits, Washington Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, USDA and Wash. State Dept. of Agric., Cooperating, 1952.
U.S. Census, Agriculture, 1954.