

Coconino Co.

YOUR HOME IN THE WEST



AGRICULTURE

AN HONEST TELLING of FARMING OPPORTUNITIES in COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA

The Land of Desire
for the
Man With Small Capital



ISSUED BY

The
Coconino County Immigration Commissioner

Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce



FACTS for FARMERS

This is not desert country. It is located in the high forest areas. It has an average rainfall of 22.31 inches, ample for growing crops by dry farming methods. But there are peculiarities about the rainfall which make it necessary for a farmer to use methods adapted to the locality.

The growing season is short. It necessitates quick maturing crops, such as spring wheat, oats, 90-day corn, potatoes, and the like.

The climate is especially adapted to potatoes and garden truck, such as lettuce, cauliflower, cabbage, green beans, peas, beets, etc., which do wonderfully well and attain a size and succulence seldom exceeded anywhere.

Mean Annual Rainfall by Months

January, 2.19 inches. February, 2.45. March, 2.11. April, 1.57. May, .80. June, .36. July, 3.23. August, 2.89. September, 1.67. October, 1.60. November, 1.34. December, 2.09. These are from U. S. Weather Bureau Records averaged for twenty-nine years. This totals an average yearly precipitation of 22.31 inches.

Average Daily Temperatures by Months

January, 30.7 degrees. February, 32.9. March, 38.4. April, 45.8. May, 52.1. June, 62.1. July, 67.3. August, 65.7. September, 58.6. October, 49.8. November, 40.2. December, 32.2 degrees.

The cool climate of these higher altitudes makes Coconino County a pleasant place in which to work during the summer months. It also lends itself to the growing of

potatoes and many other crops of exceptionally fine quality.

Big scale farming has not made a success in this county. But the small farmer, who has adopted a proper plan of diversification, is going steadily ahead. However, even with diversification, the farmer must study and follow proper methods of culture especially adapted to this country. The unusual order of rainfall, as compared with other sections of the country, makes this necessary.

The following plan of diversification is being successfully operated by many farmers in the county:

Two or more good milk-cows. Several head of beef cattle, unless a general utility cow is preferred for both. A hundred or more good laying hens. Ten acres of potatoes each year. Ten acres of oats for hay. Ten to fifteen acres of winter rye for winter pasture and for hay. Corn enough for fodder, preferably silage, and also to make a little grain for the chickens. A few hogs to utilize what would otherwise be waste. A truck garden, including peas, beans, beets, lettuce, cabbage, onions, and the usual run of stuff for the table. Root vegetables grow well here. The season is too short for tomatoes and melons, but the summer squashes do extremely well.

Poultry raising is new in this section, but is growing in importance. It is successful where the farmer grows a variety of grain and is able to make his feed combination from his own crops. As yet the supply is insufficient to supply the local markets, except in the heavy laying season in the Spring when there is a surplus.





A HEALTHFUL LAND

One of the intangible assets of a home in Coconino County is the healthful climate. Many semi-invalids have come here and grown into such strong and rugged persons as to make it appear they could never have known illness. Those with good health stay well.

The recreational opportunities hereabout are without number. Interesting scenic, historic and prehistoric places are scattered in all directions throughout the county. Here are located some of the largest Indian Reservations in the world, where the Redmen live their own lives in their own customs, on the friendliest of terms with their White visitors.

All of Grand Canyon lies within the county. It is the most sublime spectacle in the world, and no artist or writer has ever been able to properly show its beauties. The San Francisco Peaks, the highest between the Rockies and the Pacific Coast, rear their snow-capped peaks in Coconino. Vast forests of white pine and other timbers spread over the mountain slopes. Close at hand are the famed Petrified Forest and Painted Desert. Because of the varying differences in altitude and climatic conditions, it is possible to select whatever type of home one most desires. One may have wide open reaches, forest dells, mountain heights, or nestle close beside a purling stream, or silver lake.

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PLAIN FACTS PLAINLY TOLD

About Farming Possibilities

COCONINO COUNTY is the second largest county in the United States. The greatest distance from North to South is close to 250 miles, and from East to West 150 miles.

It has great variations as to elevation, moisture, precipitation, and temperatures. The elevations vary from 3,000 feet to a peak 12,655 feet high.

In the lower elevations rains and snows are very limited and, consequently, vegetative growth likewise is limited. In the higher elevations, winter snows and summer rains (principally in July and August) furnish considerable moisture. In the areas where agriculture is pursued at elevations from 4,500 to 8,500 feet, this precipitation is on an average of around 23 inches annually.

Over the lower areas are growths of Western range grasses. Above this are in order: sage grass, scrub oak, cedar, large yellow pine, and more abundant grasses. All this is utilized for grazing of range cattle and sheep, excepting the comparatively small areas which are farm lands.

Excepting for a limited area in Oak Creek Canyon, where irrigation is available and where apples, pears, peaches, berries and garden truck are produced, the farming area is widely scattered through the pine and cedar forests in the higher elevations.



ities in Coconino County, Arizona

The farms are in "openings" or natural clearings within the forests, locally known as "parks". These parks vary in size. Some contain only a small farm, others are large enough to contain a dozen or so.

These parks vary in elevation and, consequently, in moisture precipitation, in temperature, in length of growing season, and in crop adaptation. Potatoes and oats for hay are grown in the highest elevations. Just below this, potatoes, oats for hay and for grain are grown; also barley. In areas from 5,500 to 6,800 feet elevation, potatoes, beans, corn, oats, wheat, barley and rye do well.

Oat-hay yields from one to two and one-half tons per acre. Threshed oats average 20 to 35 bushels, although 65 bushels per acre have been produced. Usually wheat yields from 15 to 30 bushels per acre; barley from 20 to 25



bushels; corn from 20 to 35 bushels. Pinto beans average 700 to 800 pounds to the acre.

Perhaps the most desirable lands, excepting those irrigated in Oak Creek Canyon, are those adapted to both pinto beans and potatoes—two cash crops. These lands are valued from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per acre. Improvements, in cases, would have to be added to these values. Other lands vary in price as to productiveness, accessibilities to the highways and to the markets. Some may be had for \$10.00 or less per acre. Farming is comparatively new in its development in this section

and consequently most lands are quite productive. They vary in texture from a sandy and cindery-volcanic to a tight soil.

The limiting factors in crop production are: the lack of moisture and the shortness of the growing season.

Small grains are usually planted late in April or late in May; beans, potatoes and corn are planted in May. Planting late is necessary to avoid frost injury which may occur any time in May. Winter and Spring snows usually saturate the soil sufficiently for plowing, seed-bed preparation, bringing



up the crop, and sustaining it through the usual late May and June drought.

Rains are expected early in July, although sometimes they are delayed. After these begin all crops grow well. Harvesting begins about September first, and is a rush job to get ahead of the frost.

The Summer climate is most delightful. The warmest weather is in the dry season during June. The nights are always cool and restful. During the deep Winter snows in the higher elevations, the thermometer goes low during the night; there is a great variation between night and day even in the coldest of Winter weather.

The main line of the Santa Fe railroad crosses Coconino County from East to West. U. S. Highway 66 also crosses the county and parallels the railroad.

Further Dependable Information of a



Flagstaff, on the Santa Fe railroad and on U. S. Highway 66, has a population of 3,881, according to the 1930 census, and is the County Seat. Williams has a population of 2,164 (1930 census) and is likewise located on the Santa Fe railroad and U. S. Highway 66. Williams is the Gateway to the Grand Canyon National Park.

Excepting potatoes, pinto beans, truck crops, and Oak Creek fruits, all farm products are marketed in Flagstaff and Williams, or sold on the farm.

Good grade schools are conducted in the rural districts. Flagstaff and Williams maintain good high schools. The Arizona State Teachers College is located at Flagstaff.

Prospective settlers with limited capital who are willing to work and to learn, and who will apply approved agricultural practices, should do well in Coconino County.

They should plan to start in with at least one good milk cow for family use, 100 or more chickens to supply the family table; they should plan on raising a hog or two for home use, on growing a good garden, and of saving as much as possible of this in the pit-house and by canning. They should diversify among crops grown in that particular locality, and should have ample equipment and teams to do a job when needed.

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**Specific Nature
Will Be Gladly Given on Request**