

36 . SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY

Arvin requires approximately 1,200 workers, Dinuba 1,400 in the peak months. Dinuba can furnish this class of workers about 20 percent more total employment.

TABLE 15.—Number of workers required for farm operations during month of peak labor demand: Arvin and Dinuba

Class of labor	Arvin (July)		Dinuba (September)	
	Man-hours	Persons	Man-hours	Persons
	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Number</i>
Farm operator (250 hours each).....	33	133	180	722
Resident labor (200 hours each).....	188	940	110	550
Part-time resident labor (100 hours each).....	69	690	60	600
Itinerant labor (200 hours each).....	235	1,175	319	1,595
Total.....	525	2,938	669	3,467

Source: Total labor requirements based upon data developed by the staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (Berkeley); number of operators based upon Agricultural Adjustment Agency records; and amount of resident labor based upon schedule data. For more details, see appendix C, tables 53 and 54.

The significant facts which emerge from this analysis are:

(1) Both the small-farm and large-farm communities have high labor demands, which fluctuate seasonally.

(2) More labor is required on Dinuba than on Arvin farms.

(3) A far larger proportion of labor on Dinuba farms is performed by the operators, while resident hired labor makes up a smaller proportion than in Arvin. Nearly the same absolute amount of resident hired labor is available in both communities.

(4) Dinuba requires more outside labor at the peak month than Arvin, but the itinerant worker gets less total employment than in Arvin.

Most of these facts relate to the degree of specialization rather than the size of operations. In Arvin the relative diversity makes for a longer working season.

SUMMARY

Agriculture in Arvin and Dinuba is intensive and specialized; the basic products are of the highly speculative type which are marketed outside the State. High capital requirements, high production costs, and intensive seasonal use of labor are characteristic of each. In these conditions the two communities reflect the pattern throughout the Central Valley of California, and may be considered generally representative of the California type of agricultural production. They differ in the crops grown; Arvin having more field crops and Dinuba more fruit, but each having acreages of both. Dinuba farming is far more specialized, as one crop heavily predominates, and this results in higher seasonal labor requirements, though not in significantly different requirements for outside labor.