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AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



1954

**Sonoma County
Department of Agriculture**

**PERCY F. WRIGHT, Agricultural Commissioner
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA**

PERCY F. WRIGHT
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

County of Sonoma
Department of Agriculture

912 SANTA ROSA AVE.
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND
THE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gentlemen:

I hereby submit the 1954 Annual Crop Report for Sonoma County as required by Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code. The report covers the acreage production, and value of all crops produced in Sonoma County including livestock and livestock products. The figures presented are calculated on a farm value basis.

The total returns to agriculture for the year 1954 amounted to \$62,896,260 which is \$6,099,712 less than the 1953 income. Low egg prices accounted for most of the drop.

Apple producers had another good year. There was a large crop and a good demand for processing apples, so that all of the crop was harvested. Prune growers were hit by an unusual heavy rain on August 27 which caused a splitting of prunes just as harvesting was starting. Approximately 6000 tons were unharvested and grades lowered on those harvested.

Former hop producers looking for a good pay crop were successful in getting contracts on a sizeable acreage of both green beans and Fordhook limas for freezing. Due to unusually high summer temperatures and other adverse weather, the Fordhooks were practically a failure and the green beans not as good as expected.

The value of poultry products dropped \$8,006,901. All poultry dropped in value except hens for meat which were heavily sold due to low egg prices. Turkeys increased in the number sold, but prices were low.

Market milk continued its upward trend in the amount produced, but prices dropped resulting in less income. Lambs produced increased in number due to a good lambing year and an increase in sheep population. Value of cattle sold increased slightly following a levelling off after the previous years tremendous drop.

I wish to express my appreciation to all those who cooperated in contributing information for the report.

Respectfully submitted,



Percy F. Wright
Agricultural Commissioner
of
Sonoma County

1954 ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR SONOMA COUNTY

COMPILED BY THE SONOMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>			<u>GROSS FARM VALUE 1/</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>APPLES</u>						
<u>Gravenstein</u>	5,590					
Fresh 2/		11,772 tons	@	\$ 75.64	\$ 890,434	
Canned		19,888 tons	@	56.31	1,119,893	
Juice-Cider		4,342 tons	@	25.24	109,579	
Pies		180 tons	@	40.00	7,200	
Vinegar		2,245 tons	@	12.00	26,940	
Dried		<u>28,143</u> green tons	@	57.16	<u>1,608,675</u>	
		66,570 total tons				\$ 3,762,721
<u>Lates</u>	3,073					
Fresh 3/		6,577 tons	@	103.41	680,127	
Canned		17,722 tons	@	63.45	1,124,498	
Juice-Cider		2,925 tons	@	27.85	81,454	
Vinegar		260 tons	@	12.00	3,120	
Dried		<u>9,248</u> green tons	@	58.12	<u>537,540</u>	
		36,732 total tons				2,426,739
<u>CHERRIES</u>						
Processed	506	572 tons	@	300.00	171,600	
Fresh		95 tons	@	375.00	<u>35,625</u>	
						207,225
<u>GRAPES, WINE</u>						
Black	11,351	22,452 tons	@	50.00	1,122,600	
White		6,048 tons	@	43.00	<u>260,064</u>	
						1,382,664
<u>PEARS</u>						
Canned	1,778	8,453 tons	@	72.50	612,843	
Nectar & Juices		764 tons	@	45.00	34,380	
Fresh		50 tons	@	80.00	4,000	
Dried		975 green tons	@	40.00	<u>39,000</u>	
						690,223
<u>PLUMS</u>						
Canned	119	272 tons	@	53.50	14,552	
Fresh		500 lugs	@	1.50	<u>750</u>	
						15,302
<u>PRUNES</u>						
French	13,821	12,971 tons	@	250.00	3,242,750	
Imperial	2,320	874 tons	@	340.00	297,160	
Diverted		4,139 tons	@	40.00	<u>165,560</u>	
						3,705,470
<u>WALNUTS</u>						
	1,504	504 tons	@	420.00		211,680
<u>MISC. ORCHARD</u>						
	155					<u>15,500</u>
						\$12,417,524

- 1/ Naked fruit delivered to packing house or processor.
 2/ Gravenstein - 560,540-42 lb. box @ \$1.60.
 3/ Lates - 298,966-44 lb. box @ \$2.33.

VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ARTICHOKES	9	875 crates	@ \$ 2.10	\$ 1,838	
ASPARAGUS	5	7,000 lbs.	@ .10	700	
BEANS					
Green	413	3,162 tons	@ 110.00	347,820	
*Fordhook Lima	650	138 tons	@ 145.00	20,010	
BERRIES, BUSH	537				
Fresh		25 tons	@ 500.00	12,500	
Processed		894 tons	@ 265.00	236,910	
CABBAGE	17	1,475 crates	@ 2.30	3,388	
CARROTS	3	375 crates	@ 2.05	770	
CAULIFLOWER	4	300 crates	@ 1.50	450	
CORN, SWEET	47	31,000 dozen	@ .37	11,350	
CUCUMBERS	2	500 lugs	@ 1.30	650	
GARLIC	7	11 tons	@ 410.00	4,510	
LETTUCE	33	3,025 crates	@ 1.83	5,525	
PEPPERS, BELL	4	775 crates	@ 1.94	1,500	
POTATOES	63	7,350 cwt.	@ 2.51	18,453	
RASPBERRIES	2	2,500 flats	@ 2.40	6,000	
RHUBARB	7	1,000 lugs	@ 1.25	1,250	
SQUASH					
Summer	11	2,500 lugs	@ 1.45	3,625	
Late	11	42 tons	@ 40.71	1,710	
STRAWBERRIES	11	17,297 flats	@ 1.93	33,344	
TOMATOES, FRESH	12	4,550 lugs	@ 1.12	5,100	
OTHER BERRIES	50				
AND VEGETABLES(16 acres Blueberries)				20,000	

\$ 737,403

*Fordhook Lima - Not all of this acreage harvested.

FIELD CROPS

BARLEY	500	10,000 cwt.	@ 2.60	26,000	
CORN, ENSILAGE	1,000	15,000 tons	@ 7.00	105,000	
CORN, GRAIN	300	3,500 cwt.	@ 3.00	10,500	
HAY					
Alfalfa	600	2,400 tons	@ 22.00	52,800	
Grain	12,800	32,000 tons	@ 19.00	608,000	
Straw		3,800 tons	@ 9.00	34,200	
HOPS	928	4,780 bales	@ 85.00	406,300	
OATS	19,200	384,000 cwt.	@ 2.60	998,400	
PASTURE					
Perm. Irrig.	11,500			632,500	
WHEAT	64	1,280 cwt.	@ 4.00	5,120	
MIXED GRAIN	455	4,550 cwt.	@ 3.00	13,650	

\$2,892,470

APIARY PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM</u> <u>VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HONEY	150,000 lbs.	@ \$.12	\$ 18,000	
WAX	3,000 lbs.	@ .44	1,320	
PACKAGE BEES	1,200 pkg.	@ 4.00	4,800	
POLLINATION			<u>10,500</u>	
				\$ 34,620

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

<u>MILK</u>				
Market	10,819,000 lbs. fat	@ 1.23	13,307,370	
Manufactured	2,644,000 lbs. fat	@ .80	<u>2,115,200</u>	
				\$15,422,570
<u>SWINE</u>				
	13,000 head	@ 54.00		\$ 702,000
<u>SHEEP</u>				
Lambs	106,000 head	@ 13.20	1,399,200	
Wool - 12 Months	1,100,000 lbs.	@ .62	682,000	
Lambs Wool	122,000 lbs.	@ .45	<u>54,900</u>	
				\$ 2,136,100
<u>CATTLE AND CALVES</u>				
	46,325 head			\$ 4,403,750
<u>RABBITS</u>				
				25,000
				<u>\$22,689,420</u>

SUMMARY

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$10,097,886	\$12,417,524
VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS	663,215	737,403
FIELD CROPS	3,452,645	2,892,470
NURSERY CROPS	245,015	287,154
SEED CROPS	209,269	421,372
POULTRY PRODUCTS	31,376,188	23,369,287
APIARY	35,559	34,200
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	<u>22,916,195</u>	<u>22,689,420</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$68,995,972</u>	<u>\$62,848,830</u>

NURSERY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
APPLE TREES		4,766	@ \$.75	\$ 3,575	
GRAPE VINES, BUDDED		55,500	@ 240.00M	13,320	
GRAPE VINES, St. Geo.		20,500	@ 81.00M	1,660	
PEACH TREES		60	@ .75	45	
PEAR TREES, BARTLETT		1,758	@ .70	1,231	
PLUM TREES		128	@ .75	96	
PRUNE TREES, FRENCH		44,122	@ .69	30,444	
PRUNE TREES, IMPERIAL		350	@ .75	263	
PRUNE TREES, 29's		14,526	@ .38	5,520	
ORNAMENTAL, FLOWER, AND BEDDING PLANTS <u>1/</u>				<u>231,000</u>	
					\$ 287,154

SEED CROPS

VEGETABLE SEED	1130	440,700 lbs.	@ .50	220,350	
FLOWER SEED	119	47,600 lbs.	@ .85	40,460	
PASTURE GRASS SEED	1001	300,300 lbs.	@ .35	105,105	
VETCH SEED		1,138,500 lbs.	@ .045	51,233	
RED KIDNEY BEANS	25	35,200 lbs.	@ .12	<u>4,224</u>	
					\$ 421,372

POULTRY PRODUCTS

EGGS		41,392,200 doz.	@ .385	\$15,903,997	\$ 15,903,997
HATCHING EGGS					
Light Breeds		1,024,009 doz.	@ .605	619,525	
Heavy Breeds		940,875 doz.	@ .805	<u>727,404</u>	1,346,926
CHICKENS SOLD FOR MEAT					
Broilers		3,707,596 lbs.	@ .25	926,899	
Fryers		7,009,269 lbs.	@ .27	1,892,503	
Hens		11,046,653 lbs.	@ .14	<u>1,546,531</u>	4,365,933
TURKEYS					
Meat Birds		220,265 birds	@ 5.75	1,266,524	
Hatching Eggs		775,000 eggs	@ .36	<u>271,800</u>	1,538,324
DUCKS					
Meat Birds		1,000 birds	@ 1.00	1,000	
Hatching Eggs		93,100 eggs	@ .07	<u>6,517</u>	7,517
POULTRY FERTILIZER		73,000 tons	@ 2.83	206,590	<u>206,590</u>
					\$ 23,369,287

1/ One hundred and seven nurseries - county grown stock.