

Sonoma County  
Department of Agriculture

# Agricultural Crop Report



1951

PERCY F. WRIGHT, Agricultural Commissioner  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

PERCY F. WRIGHT  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

County of Sonoma  
Department of Agriculture  
COURT HOUSE  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

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

Gentlemen:

I hereby submit the 1951 Annual Crop Report for Sonoma County as required by Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code.

This 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. Packing house costs are not included.

Prunes, apples, oats for grain, vetch, hops, and vegetable seeds returned less income to the farmers than the previous year. Prune prices were much lower due to market conditions and sub-standard quality. Apples for fresh shipment were reduced and prices lower. Oats for grain and vetch, a companion crop, were greatly reduced in acreage principally due to wet weather which prevented planting. Hop yields were light due to a cold spring and summer and the acreage of vegetable seeds was reduced.

Income from poultry and livestock was higher. Poultry numbers in the county were greatly reduced as a result of the previous year's low prices but an increase in prices brought more money in spite of the lower numbers. Market milk continued its upward trend with more dairies marketing Grade A Milk. Sheep men had an exceedingly favorable year both in good prices for lambs and wool and favorable lamb weather. Cattle prices were high throughout the year. There has also been a gradual increase in cattle and sheep numbers for a number of years.

The information for this report was secured from the following sources:

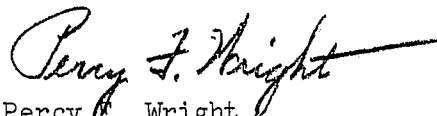
Fresh Apples - 26 handlers and the Early Apple Advisory Board  
Processed and Dried Apples - 27 Processors  
Cherries - California Packing Corporation  
Wine Grapes - 40 wineries  
Pears - Marketing Program for Canning Bartlett Pears, Fresh Pears, and pear buyers.  
Plums - 2 packers and the Marketing Order for Fresh Plums  
Prunes - 9 packers and the Prune Administrative Committee  
Walnuts - North Coast Walnut Association  
Vegetables - 23 growers and 2 packers

Hops - Hop Marketing Program and George A. Procter, Hop Buyer  
Hay, Grain, and Seed - 103 growers and handlers  
Nursery - 8 nurserymen  
Honey - 12 producers  
Eggs - 62 handlers  
Hatchery - 53 hatcheries  
Poultry for Meat - 34 handlers  
Turkeys - 26 producers and handlers  
Milk - Dairy Information Bulletin of The California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.  
Livestock - Hide and brand inspection reports, Federal Census, auction yards, Market News Reports, and wool and lamb buyers.  
Rabbits - 6 handlers  
Acreages for tree and vine crops are from the records maintained by the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the California Crop Reporting Service. Acreages of other crops are from surveys of the Department and other agencies.

An earnest endeavor has been made to make this report as accurate as possible. We have availed ourselves of every source of information which we felt was necessary in order to do this, as can be seen by the above listing. We will be glad to furnish anyone with the names and addresses of any packers, processors, handlers, hatcheries, and other sources we have used in obtaining this information. However, the records they have given us are confidential information except those reports of official agencies which are public information.

I wish to express my appreciation to those who have cooperated in making this report possible and to my staff who have given freely of their time while carrying on their other duties.

Respectfully submitted,



Percy F. Wright  
Agricultural Commissioner  
of  
Sonoma County

1951 ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR SONOMA COUNTY

COMPILED BY THE SONOMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		*GROSS FARM VALUE	TOTAL
<u>APPLES</u>					
<u>Fresh</u>					
Gravenstein	7,267	500,499 boxes	@ \$ 1.18	\$ 590,589	
Late Varieties	3,409	162,936 boxes	@ 1.23	200,411	
<u>Processed</u>					
<u>Gravenstein</u>					
Canned		8,634 tons	@ 42.24	364,700	
Juice-Cider		4,830 tons	@ 18.45	89,113	
Vinegar		2,178 tons	@ 4.00	8,712	
Un-Classified		438 tons	@ 39.09	17,121	
<u>Late Varieties</u>					
Canned		8,849 tons	@ 41.74	369,357	
Juice-Cider		3,216 tons	@ 17.72	56,988	
Vinegar		1,552 tons	@ 4.00	6,208	
<u>Dried &amp; Chops</u>					
Gravenstein		19,345 green tons	@ 34.30	663,533	
Late Varieties		9,375 green tons	@ 36.40	341,250	
					\$2,707,982
<u>CHERRIES</u>					
	636				
Processed		765 tons	@ 335.00	256,275	
Fresh		115 tons	@ 400.00	46,000	302,275
<u>GRAPES. WINE</u>					
	14,772	32,000 tons	@ 55.00		1,760,000
<u>PEARS</u>					
	2,076				
Canned		9,104 tons	@ 90.00	819,360	
Dried		500 green tons	@ 15.00	7,500	
Fresh		100 tons	@ 100.00	10,000	836,860
<u>PLUMS</u>					
	174				
Canned		519 tons	@ 62.00	32,178	
Fresh		4,000 lugs	@ 1.00	4,000	36,178
<u>PRUNES</u>					
<u>Salable-Standard</u>					
French	15,255	15,760 dry tons	@ 190.00	2,994,400	
Imperial	2,816	2,712 dry tons	@ 220.00	596,640	
<u>Surplus-Standard &amp; Offgrade</u>					
French		5,252 dry tons	@ 40.00	210,080	
Imperial		904 dry tons	@ 40.00	36,160	3,837,280
<u>WALNUTS</u>					
	1,092	450 tons	@ 480.00	216,000	216,000
<u>MISC. ORCHARD</u>					
	225				22,500

\* Naked fruit delivered to packing house or processor.

\$9,719,075

VEGETABLE CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Artichokes	98	3,400 crates @ \$ 3.67	\$ 12,478	
Asparagus	7	5,000 lbs. @ .20	1,000	
Berries	640			
Fresh		50 ton @ 300.00	15,000	
Processed		1,104 ton @ 280.00	309,120	
Cabbage	14	1,400 crates @ 1.90	2,660	
Carrots	2	850 sacks @ 1.50	1,275	
Cauliflower	6	245 crates @ 1.00	245	
Corn, Sweet	80	50,000 dozen @ .36	18,000	
Lettuce	30	5,850 crates @ 1.90	11,115	
Potatoes	108	14,000 cwt. @ 3.21	44,940	
Squash	10	3,820 lugs @ 1.43	5,462	
Tomatoes				
Fresh	10	2,140 lugs @ 1.00	2,140	
Cannery	80	1,005 tons @ 30.00	30,150	
Mixed Vegetables	75		<u>15,000</u>	
				\$ 468,585

FIELD CROPS

Barley	760	15,200 cwt. @ \$ 3.40	\$ 51,680	
Hay				
Alfalfa	300	1,200 ton @ 35.00	42,000	
Grain, etc.	18,059	40,632 ton @ 26.50	1,076,748	
Hops	2,825			
Total Crop		3,394,916 lbs.)		
Salable Allotment		2,501,940 lbs.)	1,678,000	
Harvested		2,464,112 lbs.)		
Pasture				
Permanent Irrig.	7,000		350,000	
Oats	13,919	222,700 cwt. @ 4.10	913,070	
Wheat	450	7,200 cwt. @ 4.50	<u>32,400</u>	
				\$4,143,898

SEED & NURSERY CROPS

Nursery				
Trees & Grapevines			\$ 36,000	
Ornamental			85,000	
Seeds				
Certified	826		123,725	
Uncertified	1,838		179,800	
Vetch		9,500 cwt. @ \$ 7.25	<u>68,875</u>	
				\$ 493,400

APIARY PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Honey	113,600 lbs.	@ \$ .11	\$ 12,496	
Wax	2,140 lbs.	@ .52	1,113	
Package Bees	650 pkg.	@ 3.50	2,275	
Pollination	3,500 colonies	@ 2.75	<u>9,625</u>	
				\$ 25,509

POULTRY PRODUCTS

Eggs	38,616,633 doz.	@ .52	\$20,080,649	20,080,649
<u>Hatching Eggs</u>				
Light Breeds	1,984,397 doz.	@ .74	1,468,454	
Dark Breeds	1,477,529 doz.	@ .868	<u>1,282,495</u>	
				2,750,949
<u>Chickens sold for meat</u>				
Broilers and Fryers	18,997,488 lbs.	@ .31	5,889,221	
Hens	11,473,968 lbs.	@ .23	<u>2,639,012</u>	
				8,528,233
<u>Turkeys</u>				
Meat Birds	218,244 birds	@ 8.00	1,745,952	
Hatching Eggs	855,263 eggs	@ .32	<u>273,784</u>	
				2,019,736
<u>Ducks</u>				
Meat Birds	3,000 birds	@ 1.10	3,300	
Hatching Eggs	149,950 eggs	@ .07	<u>10,497</u>	
				13,797
POULTRY FERTILIZER	63,390 tons	@ 1.75	110,933	<u>110,933</u>
				\$33,504,297

HATCHERY BUSINESS

<u>No. of Hatcheries</u>	<u>Kind of Birds</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Value</u>
31	Chicken - Light Breeds	12,381,840	@ \$ .165	\$ 2,043,003
22	Chicken - Dark Breeds	10,213,381	@ .1725	1,761,808
8	Turkey - Poults	234,150	@ .75	175,613
3	Duck - Ducklings	79,356	@ .25	<u>19,839</u>
Total				\$ 4,000,263 *

\* This is an informative figure. Only the farm value of hatchery eggs is used in the overall county crop valuation total.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Milk</u>			
Market	9,454,000 lbs. fat @ \$ 1.17	\$11,061,180	
Manufactured	2,708,000 lbs. fat @ .89	<u>2,410,120</u>	
			\$13,471,300
Swine	12,000 head @ 45.00		54,000
<u>Sheep</u>			
Lambs	83,250 @ 23.80	1,981,350	
Wool - 12 months	935,000 lbs. @ 1.00	935,000	
- Lambs	262,000 lbs. @ 1.10	<u>288,200</u>	
			3,204,550
Cattle and Calves	45,903 head		6,321,680
<u>Rabbits</u>			
Fryers	518,586 lbs. @ .30	155,576	
Stews	27,790 lbs. @ .15	<u>4,169</u>	
			<u>159,745</u>
			<u>\$25,211,275</u>

SUMMARY

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$12,373,495	\$ 9,719,075
Vegetable Crops	303,647	468,585
Field Crops	5,107,853	4,143,898
Seed and Nursery Crops	738,500	493,400
Apiary	15,975	25,509
Poultry Products	31,841,440	33,504,297
Livestock Products	<u>20,074,992</u>	<u>23,211,275</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$70,455,902	\$71,565,039