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SONOMA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Report of Activities
and
Agricultural Crop Report
Year 1948



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:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 65 and 65.5 of the Agricultural Code of the State of California, I am submitting herewith the 1948 annual report of the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture.

The first part of this report covers the work which has been done to protect and promote the agricultural interests of the county as provided by the Agricultural Code.

The second part of this report is a compilation of statistics covering the condition, acreage, production and value of the agricultural products of this county as required by the Agricultural Code.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my staff and the people of Sonoma County who have cooperated so splendidly with me in my first year as Agricultural Commissioner of Sonoma County.

Respectfully submitted,

Percy F. Wright
Agricultural Commissioner
of
Sonoma County

P E R S O N N E L
* * * * *

Agricultural Commissioner	Percy F. Wright
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner	E. A. "Hal" Choisser
Supervising Inspector	W. R. Michie
Agricultural Inspector	W. A. Tillinghast, Jr.
Agricultural Inspector	F. L. McGregor
Agricultural Inspector	F. F. Swim
Weed & Pest Control Foreman	Perry L. Howard
Clerk-Stenographer	Jeanne L. White

INTRODUCTION

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There was a decided increase in the activities of the County Department of Agriculture during the year 1948. The department, in addition to the normal functions, performed the following work. A survey of the orchard and vineyard areas was made in cooperation with the California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service. The Agricultural Commissioner entered into an agreement with the Early Apple Advisory Board to perform the inspection work required under this order, which necessitated an additional six inspectors. Vintners bought grapes for the first time in this county on the basis of their sugar content and it was necessary to have an additional seventeen inspectors on this work.

There was also an increase in the normal work performed by the department. Three times as much rodent poison was mixed and sold. There was an increase in the amount of nursery stock inspected through the Post Office, Express Office and other common carriers. The control of Klamath weed was stepped up due to the addition of 2,4-D in the control program. All of this work was performed without any addition to the normal working staff which has not increased in size in several years.

The work of the department is briefly covered under the following headings:

APIARY INSPECTION Although bees account for a small portion of the agricultural income in the county, the protection given to apiculturist is well worth the expense to the county. American Foulbrood, a very serious and contagious disease of bees, is held in check by the inspection of colonies. Colonies found infected are destroyed by burning of the entire colony. This year 149 apiaries consisting of 3287 colonies were inspected and 24 apiaries found infected and 82 colonies burned.

FRUIT, NUT, VEGETABLE AND EGG STANDARDIZATION This work is carried on under authority of Division V of the Agricultural Code. In Sonoma County the major part of the work consists of apple and egg inspection, the purpose of which is to enforce the standards as to the quality and grade requirements specified under the Code.

The inspection of gravenstein apples was carried on in a different manner this year. With the formation of an Early Apple marketing Agreement, the responsibility of inspection rested with the Board, in charge of the operation of the Agreement. The Agricultural Commissioner entered into an agreement with the Board to perform the inspection work. Under the agreement there was a tighter control of the movement of apples which necessitated six more inspectors than normally used, the expense of which was paid to the County by the Board.

This year, the shipping of immature gravenstein apples was not permitted by the Agricultural Commissioner. The minimum sugar requirement at which apples may be shipped is 10-1/2 percent. In past years, the season was thrown open to growers when it was determined that the average sugar percentage for the district had been reached. This year every grower was held to the minimum sugar requirement. As a result, the market opened at \$2.75 per box and strengthened to \$3.25 in a short time, and held until Eastern apples came into competition.

In addition to the apple inspection work, inspection of agricultural produce in the stores was made when time permitted. On several occasions it was

necessary to make rejections of produce which was of an inferior quality, and in violation of the Agricultural Code.

The consumption of eggs is closely related to quality. Consumer reaction soon results when low quality eggs are sold. Under the grade and size requirements of the Code consumption is being maintained by rigid inspection. This is a very important function of the department and means a great deal to the Sonoma County egg producers. Any slackening of this work would materially effect the consumption of eggs. During the year 105,679 dozens of eggs were inspected and 2,439 dozens rejected as not meeting the requirements of the Code.

Apples and other agricultural commodities inspected during the year amounted to 453,018 packages and 2,870 packages were rejected as not meeting the requirements of the Code.

INSECT AND PLANT DISEASE CONTROL It is the responsibility of the Agricultural Commissioner to prevent the spread of pests within the county. In order to properly carry out this function, it is necessary that the department keep informed as to the most recent and up to date methods of controlling pests and conveying this information to the farmers. During the year, the commissioner attended the Spring Convention of the State Association of Agricultural Commissioners, the Fall Convention called by the Director of Agriculture, the Western Weed Conference and other meetings. The commissioner is also a member of the California Entomological Club and the American Association of Economic Entomologists.

Briefly, the following insect and disease pests were of considerable economic loss to the farmers of Sonoma County:

APHIS - Apples and hops were severely attacked. Those who sprayed their apple trees with dinitro or tar oil emulsion during the dormant season received good protection. Those who did not resorted to various sprays including Benzene Hexachloride, Hexaethyltetraphosphate and Hexaethylparaphosphate, relatively new insecticides, during the growing season. Hop aphids were controlled with nicodust after the season warmed up enough to make its action effective, although considerable material was wasted in earlier attempts. Some work was done with Hexaethyltetraphosphate, but it did not prove very successful.

FIELD CRICKETS - An outbreak of field crickets occurred on the seed farm at Cotati which was successfully controlled by airplane dusting with Benzene Hexachloride.

APPLE SKINWORM - Thousands of dollars worth of apples was removed from the graders as a result of injury to mature apples. This pest did not show up until apple harvest started and it was too late to practice any control. Grade out in some cases was as high as 35 to 40 percent. DDT does not control these pests. DDD an analogue of DDT has proved to be effective and will be recommended for their control this following season.

RED SPIDER - Experiments with parathion have proved this to be effective against red spider and will be recommended for their control next season on apples, pears, prunes and other deciduous crops except grapes. The Bureau of Chemistry has not accepted registration of this material on grapes due to its poisonous nature.

BROWN ROT This disease was very severe on prunes, peaches, apricots and cherries. The damp weather this spring favored the development of brown rot. Sulfur or Bordeaux Mixture under normal conditions successfully controls this disease.

HOP MILDEW This disease caused a severe loss to growers. Production this year was 62 percent of the previous year on approximately the same acreage. Satisfactory control has not been worked out. Damp weather also favors development of this disease.

INSECT AND PLANT DISEASE SURVEYS In order to properly protect the county, it is necessary to keep a vigilant eye for new insect and disease pests. Any reports of unusual pest conditions are investigated and specimens sent to experts in the Department of Agriculture at Sacramento for correct identification.

Also, in this connection, field men of the State Department occasionally visit the county for the purpose of surveying certain crops or areas in search of new pests. The importance of finding new pests early in their introduction facilitates any eradication program. It is necessary that the county men accompany them on surveys. This year, one insect was found in Julliard Park new to this county. It was a pit forming scale insect very serious on certain ornamentals. The plants on which these were found were destroyed.

Japanese Beetle, probably the most serious insect pest ever introduced into the United States and not occurring in California is constantly being guarded against. Each summer traps containing a special attractant to the adults are placed around the airport and checked each week.

Elm leaf beetle, an introduced pest on elms, occurs on trees on the county roads. This year, the elms at Kenwood were treated twice with D.D.T. The first application was made by airplane at no cost to the county except for the material. The second application was made by the department and all of the trunks of the trees and saplings were sprayed at the time when beetles were emerging from the pupae which are mostly around the base of the trees. Later, inspections were made and no beetles could be found.

INSPECTION OF GRAPES FOR BY-PRODUCTS Under Chapter 1b of the Agricultural Code when grapes for by-products are purchased on a soluble solids basis it is necessary that the testing be done by inspectors of the County Department of Agriculture.

Due to the low sugar content of grapes, vintners purchased grapes on this basis for the first time in Sonoma County. Seventeen inspectors were required at fifteen wineries. Certificates were issued on each load of grapes certifying as to the sugar content. In all 22, 327 tons of grapes were certified. Cost of the inspection was paid by the wineries through a special fund set up by the Board of Supervisors to handle charges and disbursements for this service.

MARKET ENFORCEMENT -

COOPERATION WITH THE STATE BUREAU The department gives full support to this important bureau. The office of the Agricultural Commissioner is headquarters in Sonoma County for these officials. Applications for processors licenses, complaints and other important information are received by the department.

There was recovered this year in Sonoma County for growers through investigations and hearings the sum of \$17,950.50.

PEST CONTROL OPERATORS Section 150 of the Agricultural Code requires the commissioner to qualify persons who engage in the business of agricultural pest control for hire. During the year 15 persons were qualified and issued certificates.

The purpose of this law is to protect the property owner from unscrupulous operators or those who do not have the necessary knowledge to perform this work.

PLANT QUARANTINE AND NURSERY STOCK INSPECTION This is by far the most important work of the department, results of which are not visible. In California, the United States and the rest of the world are many serious insect and disease pests of plants which would gain entrance to our county once the bars were let down.

Every plant which comes into the county is under the control of the Agricultural Commissioner. It is first determined whether or not the plant is allowed to enter the county because of serious pests existing at its origin, secondly whether it is free of pests and third if infested whether it can be treated. Not only are plants inspected but commodities originating in certain pest infested areas are inspected and in some cases are not allowed to enter. Inspectors must have a good knowledge of the plant quarantines in order to properly enforce the law.

It might be well to mention some of the pests involved - Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, White Fringed Beetle, Mexican Fruit Fly, White Snails, Olive Scale, Peach Mosaic, Colorado Potato Beetle, European Corn Borer and Ozonium Root Rot are just a few of the extremely serious plant pests not occurring in Sonoma County. Introduction of any one of these pests could result in the loss of many thousands of dollars to agriculture of the county.

The following report is a compilation of the number of shipments and plants inspected entering Sonoma County in 1948:

<u>Interstate</u> - Shipments passed	4,033
Number of plants passed	206,226
Shipments rejected	393
<u>Intrastate</u> - Shipments passed	3,367
Number plants passed	143,246
Shipments rejected	3

NURSERY INSPECTION In addition to the inspection of thousands of plants coming into the county, those grown in the county are also inspected to see that they are free of pests. Insects such as San Jose scale, Italian pear scale, crown gall, nematode, mealybug and other pests can do serious damage if plants are allowed to be sold from infested property. All of the ornamental nurseries are inspected each year and required to spray or destroy infested plants. Deciduous stock is inspected at the time it is dug and the roots and tops carefully inspected. Often times, serious pests are found in the nurseries, so that this inspection work is of tremendous importance to the protection of agriculture.

This December, two serious infestations of pests were found in the nurseries. One nursery of deciduous stock had an infestation of root knot nematode on the roots of the trees, an organism almost impossible to eradicate once established in a soil. It causes large swellings on the roots of susceptible plants and causes the premature death of fleshy rooted plants. Another nursery used 29 cuttings as the stock for prune trees and these were infested with Italian pear scale. These trees were fumigated with Methyl Bromide before they were allowed to be sold. This scale is very difficult to eradicate once it is established on a tree and had these young trees been sold without treatment they would have been a constant expense to the grower for the life of the trees.

RODENT CONTROL Under this category is the control of rats, ground squirrels, field mice, rabbits, badgers and gophers. The principal work of the department is supplying farmers with poisons and information on the control of rodents. The Agricultural Code gives the agricultural commissioner legal authority to abate pests on infested property when it becomes necessary, but rarely does this occasion arise. The fact that this authority is granted, the carrying on of rat campaigns and other rodent work is facilitated.

During the year, 4,136 pounds of prepared red squill rat bait using horse meat, fish and cracked wheat as the base were sold by the department. Most of this bait was sold over the counter. However, during the year two drives were put on in heavily infested areas, and on one of the drives 650 pounds of bait were used on 26 poultry farms. It is estimated that on an average of twelve rats are killed with each pound of bait, although we had reports where 32 rats were killed with one pound of bait and 62 rats killed with two pounds of bait. On the basis of twelve rats per pound of bait it is safe to say that over 50,000 rats were killed this year with this bait. Conservative estimates place the damage done by a rat at \$2.50 per year. Thus, this work resulted in the saving of many thousands of dollars to the farmers of Sonoma County.

The area west of Petaluma and referred to as the Two Rock-Bloomfield District is generally infested with badgers. They are serious predators to chickens. They also dig up fields and seriously hamper harvest operations in hay fields. 25,166 acres were covered and treated for badgers.

Strychnine treated eggs and Methyl Bromide gas were used to treat badgers. It was found that the gas is more satisfactory than the poisoned egg treatment and will be used entirely in the future. Seventy-eight poisoned eggs and forty-eight pounds of Methyl Bromide were used.

The sale of strychnine for use on poisoned baits and the sale of strychnine coated wheat for the control of rodents increased this year. The dry winter of 1947-48 resulted in a build up of gophers and field mice. Six hundred 3/16 oz. packages of strychnine and 1704 pounds of strychnine coated wheat were sold.

During January, one inspector spent his full time demonstrating the control of gophers throughout the Gold Ridge District. This was done at the request of the directors of the Soil Conservation District.

All of the baits and poisons are prepared by the department and sold at the actual cost of the ingredients. Each poison is registered with the Bureau of Chemistry of the California State Department of Agriculture and meets all the necessary requirements.

SEED LAW ENFORCEMENT The Agricultural Code requires that the agricultural seeds for planting purposes be labeled so that the purchaser may have a correct statement of the contents. Most important, in this connection is the percentage of germination as this indicates the true value of the seed. Many times, seed is held in stores until it becomes worthless as the viability decreases with age. Seed stores are visited each year or as often as is possible and the date of germination and other statements as indicated on the label of seed containers are checked. Lots of seed not meeting the requirements are red tagged, that is removed from sale, until the proper disposition is made.

The Agricultural Commissioner is also responsible to assist in the certification of seed produced under the supervision of the California Crop Improvement Association. The purpose of this association is to maintain and make available to the public, high quality seeds and propagating materials of superior crop plant varieties so grown and distributed as to insure, genetic identity and purity. Beginning with the harvesting and continuing through final tagging, seed intended for certification shall be subject to the supervision of the County Agricultural Commissioner (Seed Law Section 916.1). This year, the office handled several lots of seeds on this basis which is produced on the Waldo Rohmert Seed Farms at Cotati.

STATE FAIR EXHIBIT -- COOPERATION WITH THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The department cooperated with the Associated Chamber of Commerce in assuming much of the responsibility in the gathering and collection of the agricultural products exhibited. The man hired to collect the apples was loaned from the crew of inspectors working for the department under the Early Apple Marketing Order. He was one of our best inspectors and was taken from the crew in the middle of the season to make these collections. The field seeds, garden seeds and pears were collected and prepared by the department.

First sweepstakes and a gold cup were won on the apples. Other awards won were second sweepstakes on field seeds, second sweepstakes on dessert wines and brandies, third sweepstakes on garden seeds and third sweepstakes on pears. The department also assisted in the preparation and dismantling of the exhibit at Sacramento.

WEED CONTROL Two noxious weeds not of general occurrence throughout the county require consistent work by the department. They are Klamath weed and puncture vine. Only by diligent work are these noxious weeds being held down and prevented from becoming widespread.

Control of Klamath weed now appears to show a great deal of promise. The introduction and establishment of the Klamath weed beetles and the use of 2,4-D in addition to the use of Borax were two outstanding developments this year.

Ten thousand beetles were released in November of 1947 and these have been recovered in 1948. They were released in the heavily infested area in the mountainous district west of Healdsburg where control practices are no longer feasible. It will take several years before they will breed up in sufficient numbers to know exactly what they will accomplish. The results of work observed last spring in Humboldt County looked very promising.

All of the chemical work done on Klamath weed in Sonoma County was on scattered infestations outside of the generally heavily infested area west of Healdsburg. Twenty-Six and one half gallons of concentrate 2,4-D diluted to a 5 percent solution were applied with a fog applicator. This applicator known as a Hi Fog sprayer holds three quarts of material and develops 1000 pounds pressure. It weighs 28 pounds and is carried on the back of the operator. Three quarts of this material will cover about a quarter of an acre. Practically all of the Klamath weed is on range land outside of the reach of a power spray machine, so that this applicator is very practical for this work. Also, it is very handy for spot work. Klamath weed is easily killed with 2,4-D in the spring months.

Borax was used for the fall control of Klamath Weed. This year, the Agricultural Conservation Association again cooperated with the Agricultural Commissioner and furnished 80,000 pounds of Borax. This material was applied at approximately 10 pounds per square rod.

Puncture vine control is an established operation and will have to continue as such if puncture vine is to be prevented from becoming widespread in Sonoma County. It is of general occurrence throughout the Central Valley and seeds are continuously being brought into this county on automobile and truck tires and by other means. It is necessary to patrol the county roads each year to spray incipient infestations. It takes about five years to eradicate an infestation once it has gone to seed.

Up until this year, the work of puncture vine control was done by the county on roads and private property. The work was more than could be done with the limited manpower of the department and it was necessary to have the private property owner do his own work. A good deal of pressure was put on property owners in order to get this work done properly. Shell Weed Killer 20 was used at 50 percent strength. Blood Albumen was used as an emulsifier. A total of 3200 gallons of spray was used on the roads and about an equivalent amount on private property.

Wild artichoke which originally infested a wide area around Petaluma is now, after ten years of intensive work, practically eradicated. Only a few isolated plants were found this year which were treated with 2,4-D.

It is important that noxious weeds be prevented from becoming established in the county. Many serious weeds are not yet established here and constant vigilance is maintained to prevent their introduction. Tabulated but not discussed under Plant Quarantine is the inspection of grain coming into the county. This past year 949 freight cars of grain from other states were inspected and 193 found infested with either Canadian Thistle, White Horse Nettle or quack grass. All infested grain was cleaned and the screenings properly disposed of.

PERMANENT CROP ACREAGE OF SONOMA COUNTY
YEAR 1948

	<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Non-Bearing</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Almonds</u>			
Others	7.	-	7.
<u>Apples</u>			
Astrachan	3.	-	3.
Bellflower	33.	-	33.
Delicious	478.	296.	774.
Gravenstein	7,683.	82.	7,765.
Jonathan	607.	93.	700.
Newtown	142.	-	142.
Rome Beauty	619.	156.	775.
Winesap	5.	-	5.
Other Apples	<u>1,487.</u>	<u>41.</u>	<u>1,528.</u>
ALL APPLES	11,057.	668.	11,725.
<u>Apricots</u>			
Blenheim-Royal	15.	-	15.
Moorpark	1.	-	1.
Tilton	7.	-	7.
Other Apricots	<u>15.</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15.</u>
ALL APRICOTS	38.	-	38.
<u>Cherries</u>			
Bing	26.	-	26.
Black Republican	2.	-	2.
Lambert	4.	-	4.
Royal Ann	563.	11.	574.
Tartarian	34.	-	34.
Other Cherries	<u>23.</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23.</u>
ALL CHERRIES	652.	11.	663.
Chestnuts - All	4.	-	4.
Figs-All	29.	-	29.
Filberts - All	7.	12.	19.
<u>Grapes - Raisin</u>			
Muscat	1.	-	1.
Thompson Seedless	<u>5.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>6.</u>
ALL RAISIN GRAPES	6.	1.	7.

PERMANENT CROP ACREAGE OF SONOMA COUNTY (Continued)

	<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Non-Bearing</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Grapes-Table</u>			
Rieber	5.	-	5.
Tokay	2.	-	2.
Other Table Grapes	<u>16.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>26.</u>
ALL TABLE GRAPES	23.	10.	33.
<u>Grapes - Wine</u>			
Alicante Bouschet	954.	3.	957.
Burger	222.	1.	223.
Carignane	2,318.	64.	2,382.
Colombar	41.	100.	141.
Palomino	19.	-	19.
Franken Riesling	115.	22.	137.
Golden Chasselas	841.	194.	1,035.
Grenache	16.	-	16.
Mataro	15.	-	15.
Mission	66.	-	66.
Petite Sirah	1,837.	49.	1,886.
Zinfandel	7,220.	128.	7,348.
Other White	974.	178.	1,152.
Other Dark	<u>1,394.</u>	<u>44.</u>	<u>1,438.</u>
ALL WINE GRAPES	16,035.	783.	16,818.
<u>Lemons - All</u>	3.	-	3.
<u>Olives</u>			
Mission	34.	-	34.
Other Olives	<u>-</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>1.</u>
ALL OLIVES	34.	1.	35.
<u>Peaches-Clings</u>			
Phillips	2.	1.	3.
Tuscan	3.	1.	4.
Other Clings	<u>35.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>38.</u>
ALL CLINGS	40.	5.	45.
<u>Peaches-Freestone</u>			
Crawford	8.	-	8.
Elberta	2.	3.	5.
Hale	-	1.	1.
Lovell	3.	-	3.
Muir	8.	1.	9.
Salway	1.	-	1.
Other Freestones	<u>30.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>35.</u>
ALL FREESTONES	52.	10.	62.
ALL PEACHES	<u>92.</u>	<u>15.</u>	<u>107.</u>

PERMANENT CROP ACREAGE OF SONOMA COUNTY (Continued)

	<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Non-Bearing</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Pears</u>			
Bartlett	2,121.	67.	2,188.
Beurre Hardy	2.	-	2.
Pear Others	7.	2.	9.
ALL PEARS	2,130.	69.	2,199.
<u>Plums</u>			
Santa Rosa	21.	1.	22.
Other Plums	149.	9.	158.
ALL PLUMS	170.	10.	180.
<u>Prunes</u>			
Burton	14.	-	14.
French	15,599.	784.	16,383.
Imperial	2,933.	87.	3,020.
Robe de Sergeant	36.	-	36.
Sugar	84.	5.	89.
Other Prunes	36.	3.	39.
ALL PRUNES	18,702.	879.	19,581.
<u>Quince - All</u>	2.	-	2.
<u>Walnuts</u>			
Concords	4.	-	4.
Eureka	11.	-	11.
Franquette	837.	290.	1,127.
Mayette	119.	-	119.
Payne	3.	-	3.
Walnut-Others	62.	56.	118.
ALL ENGLISH WALNUTS	1,036.	346.	1,382.
<u>Black Walnuts - All</u>	-	24.	24.
ALL ACREAGE	<u>50,027.</u>	<u>2,829.</u>	<u>52,856.</u>

SURVEY OF FRUIT, VINE AND NUT ACREAGE OF SONOMA COUNTY Authority for this survey is obtained from Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code. It was made in cooperation with the California Cooperating Crop Reporting Service. Five solicitors and one clerk-stenographer were paid by the Crop Reporting Service. The survey was started May 1st and the field work completed on June 30th. Compilation of these records was completed two months later.

The last survey was made in 1936 when the survey was made in cooperation with the W.P.A., and since that time there has been a distinct downward trend in the acreage of permanent crop plantings. All principal crops, except walnuts and white wine grapes, show large decreases in acreages.

The department has on file a record of the permanent crop plantings for each farm. The variety, age, and acreage of each crop is listed. These have all been totalled, so that there is a complete picture of the permanent crop situation in Sonoma County.

In making the survey, the county was divided into districts listed as follows: Sonoma, Kenwood, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Healdsburg, and Cloverdale-Geyserville. Natural boundaries were used in separating the districts.

The California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service keeps on file with the department, a listing book which is maintained each year either by survey or estimates. The Reporting Service copies these figures which is used by them in compiling State and National figures for acreage and production records and published for public information.

PERMANENT CROP ACREAGE BY DISTRICT
OF SONOMA COUNTY
1948

	<u>Cloverdale- Geyserville</u>	<u>Healdsburg</u>	<u>Kenwood</u>	<u>Santa Rosa</u>	<u>Sebastopol</u>	<u>Sonoma</u>
Almonds	-	-	-	-	-	7
Apples	177	944	57	510	9,778	261
Apricots	-	8	1	17	-	13
Cherries	6	15	2	11	583	46
Chestnuts	-	-	-	-	-	4
Figs	-	-	-	-	-	29
Filberts	-	-	-	2	15	2
Grapes-Raisin	-	-	5	-	-	1
Grapes-Table	14	4	-	5	5	4
Grapes-Black Wine	3,472	5,377	775	2,820	644	1,039
Grapes-White Wine	799	805	104	509	87	388
Lemons	-	-	-	-	-	3
Olives	1	-	14	5	-	15
Peaches-Clings	5	9	2	5	20	5
Peaches-Free	6	3	-	18	8	27
Pears	415	207	16	357	358	846
Plums	48	80	-	6	45	-
Prunes	4,775	8,395	349	5,263	138	660
Quince	-	-	-	-	-	2
Walnuts	22	55	291	789	125	125
Total Acreage	<u>9,740</u>	<u>15,902</u>	<u>1,616</u>	<u>10,317</u>	<u>11,806</u>	<u>3,477</u>

CROP SUMMARY

SONOMA COUNTY - YEAR 1948 The year 1948 will go down in history as one of the driest for the winter months and wettest and coldest for the spring months. Throughout December, January, February and into the middle of March very little precipitation occurred. Curbs were placed on the use of electricity, daylight savings time was instigated and great alarm was being expressed over the water supply for the ensuing season. Fortunately, for California, rain started to fall and by the time it stopped rainfall was almost up to normal for Sonoma County as calculated on a seasonal basis.

However, many crops in Sonoma County are geared for rainfall during the winter, and unusual weather conditions, even though sometimes of great benefit, interfere with proper farm management and practice for crop production. As a result crop production was seriously effected particularly those crops requiring relatively light precipitation and warm weather in the spring months.

Pollination was hampered by cold damp weather, plant diseases were greatly favored, cultivation was unseasonal and crops were late in maturing.

Adversely, hay crops were excellent and summer range feed was good. Sheep men particularly had an excellent year.

The following report is a summary of the important crops of Sonoma County:

APPLES - Lack of pollination resulted in a very light crop. Gravenstein apples had approximately a 55 percent crop and late varieties 40 per cent crop. Aphis were very severe in many orchards in the spring months and skin worn was very severe in the harvest period.

CHERRIES - Lack of pollination and brown rot resulted in a very light crop - about 20 percent of normal. Rain during harvest also cracked many cherries.

GRAPES - The tonnage of grapes produced was slightly below normal, and also due to the cool season the sugar content was low. The average sugar content was approximately 20 percent. Normal sugar is about 22 percent. A sizeable tonnage was below 18 percent sugar and was purchased on the basis of distilling material.

PEARS - Tonnage for the county was off 45 percent. The light crop was caused by inclement weather during the pollination period. The demand for pears was brisk and since the state crop was light growers received high prices.

PRUNES - The crop was about 35 percent of normal. Lack of pollination and brown rot were prevalent during the blooming period. The Imperial variety had practically no crop.

PEACHES AND APRICOTS - These two crops are locally marketed and this year there was not enough of a crop for harvest. Brown rot was severe on apricots and curly leaf and brown rot was severe on peaches.

WALNUTS - Walnuts fared better than most of the other deciduous crops and produced near a normal crop.

HOPS - The crop was 62 percent of the previous year on approximately the same acreage. Hop Mildew was the primary cause although aphids were also severe. Even though the crop was short, market conditions were weak. Growers having their hops containing a high percentage of leaf and stem content have had difficulty marketing their crop.

BERRIES - BUSH - There is quite an increase in the berry acreage of Sonoma County. Young plantings have not come into maximum production so that the production of this crop should show an increase in the ensuing years.

HAY - The hay crop was excellent. Yields were above normal.

POULTRY - Producers as a whole had a good year. There was a far better egg-feed ratio than in the 1947 year and prices held strong throughout the year. Turkey producers particularly had an excellent year, and prices on hatching eggs and on meat birds were high.

DAIRY - There is a steady increase in the numbers of dairy cattle in Sonoma County. The increase of population in California and the proximity of Sonoma County to large centers has given this county an advantage in the production of Grade A milk which has been commanding a relatively higher price than Grade B milk.

SHEEP - The sheep men had an excellent year. Dry weather during the winter months resulted in a high percentage of a lamb crop and the spring rains gave plenty of feed to finish them. Prices were unusually high. Wool production was about normal and prices were good.

CATTLE - In line with the increase in dairy cattle, the yield of meat has also increased. Calves from dairy stock and cows culled from herds go for slaughter. The strong demand for meat throughout the nation has benefited the dairyman in that he is able to dispose of this stock at high prices.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
SONOMA COUNTY - 1948

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>*GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>APPLES</u>					
Fresh					
Gravenstein	7,683	663,063 boxes	@ \$ 1.49	\$ 971,246	
Late Apples	3,374	124,799 boxes	@ 1.39	173,470	
Dried					
Gravenstein		15,750 green tons	@ 16.00	252,000	
Late Apples		2,625 green tons	@ 21.50	56,437	
Processed (Canned, Pies, Juice, Cider, Vinegar, etc.)					
Gravenstein		11,536 tons	@ 20.33	234,748	
Late Apples		7,946 tons	@ 30.14	249,319	
					\$1,937,220
<u>APRICOTS</u>	38	5 ton	@ 150.00		750
<u>CHERRIES</u>					
	652				
Processed		379 tons	@ 340.00	128,860	
Fresh		10 tons	@ 500.00	5,000	
					133,860
<u>GRAPES, WINE</u>					
	16,064				
Black		31,046 tons	@ 41.00	1,272,886	
White		5,054 tons	@ 35.00	176,890	
Distilling		1,900 tons	@ 18.00	34,200	
					1,483,976
<u>PEACHES</u>	92	60 tons	@ 100.00		6,000
<u>PEARS</u>					
	2,130				
Canned		7,121 tons	@ 105.00	747,705	
Dried		486 Grn. tons	@ 20.00	9,700	
Fresh		100 tons	@ 120.00	12,000	
					769,405
<u>PLUMS</u>					
Canned	170	70 tons	@ 80.00		5,600
<u>PRUNES</u>					
French	15,755	10,755 dry tons	@ 200.00	2,151,000	
Imperial	2,947	287 dry tons	@ 320.00	91,840	
					2,242,840
<u>WALNUTS</u>	1,036	395 tons	@ 460.00		181,700
Miscellaneous Orchard	86				8,600
					\$6,769,961

*Naked fruit delivered to packing house or processor.

VEGETABLE CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Artichokes	85	6,350 boxes @ \$ 2.00	\$ 12,700	
Berries-Bush	750			
Canning		199 ton @ 230.00	45,770	
Frozen		512 ton @ 310.00	158,720	
Fresh		50 ton @ 400.00	20,000	
Corn-Sweet	100	10,000 crates @ 1.50	15,000	
Potatoes	300	20,000 crt. @ 3.00	60,000	
Rhubarb	10	1,200 boxes @ 1.00	1,200	
Squash	136	550 ton @ 20.00	11,000	
Tomatoes-Fresh	40	8,000 lugs @ 1.50	12,000	
Vegetables-Miscellaneous			<u>45,000</u>	
				\$ 381,390

FIELD CROPS

Barley	1,500	30,000 crt @ 3.00	90,000
Hay			
Alfalfa	300	1,200 ton @ 30.00	36,000
Tame	40,000	80,000 ton @ 25.00	2,000,000
Hops	2,743	14,502 bales @ 91.20	1,322,582
Pasture			
Permanent Irrigated	3,000		120,000
Oats	10,000	180,000 crt.)	
Oats and Vetch	10,000	150,000 crt.)	
		18,000 crt @ 10.00	180,000
Wheat	500	8,000 crt @ 3.50	<u>28,000</u>

4,796,582

SEED CROPS

<u>CROP OR PRODUCT</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Nursery (Trees and Grape Vines)				\$ 60,000	
Nursery (Ornamental)				85,000	
Potatoes Certified	90	10,900 cwt.	@ 3.25	35,425	
Seeds					
Vegetable)					
Flower)	1,765			<u>706,000</u>	
Pasture Grass)					\$ 886,425

APIARY PRODUCTS

Honey		45,000 lbs.	@ .12	5,400	
Wax		1,000 lbs.	@ .43	430	
Package Bees		1,200 pkgs.	@ 5.50	6,600	
Queens		500	@ 1.25	625	
Pollination				<u>4,500</u>	17,555

POULTRY AND RABBITS

Eggs		46,172,881 doz.	@ .545	25,164,220	
<u>Hatching Eggs</u>					
Light Breeds		2,142,411 doz.	@ .64	1,371,143	
Dark Breeds		887,246 doz.	@ .76	667,707	
Turkeys		156,800 birds	@ 9.00	1,411,200	
Turkey Eggs		475,000	@ .20	95,000	
Dressed Poultry					
Broilers & Fryers		16,444,773 lbs.	@ .38	6,249,014	
Hens		12,221,420 lbs.	@ .28	3,421,998	
Ducks		20,000 lbs.	@ .40	8,000	
Geese and pigeons				2,000	
Rabbits					
Fryers		420,000 lbs.	@ .32	134,400	
Stews		45,000 lbs.	@ .16	7,200	
Rabbit Fertilizer		250 ton	@ 1.00	250	
Chicken Fertilizer		74,250 ton	@ .75	<u>55,688</u>	

\$38,587,820

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Market Milk	1,698,300 cwt.	@ 5.60	\$9,510,480	
Manufactured Milk	3,600,000 lbs.fat	@ .99	3,564,000	
Swine	13,000 head		520,000	
Lambs	84,000 head		1,596,000	
Wool	840,000 lbs.		504,000	
Cattle and Calves	43,298 head		5,148,735	
Saddle Horses	450 head		<u>90,000</u>	
				\$20,933,215

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R E C A P I T U L A T I O N

APIARY	\$ 17,555
FIELD CROPS	4,796,582
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	6,769,961
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	20,933,215
POULTRY AND RABBITS	38,587,820
SEED CROPS	886,425
VEGETABLE CROPS	<u>381,390</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u><u>\$72,372,948</u></u>