

*Office Copy*

# SONOMA COUNTY

## AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

### 1998



DEDICATED TO THE HORSE INDUSTRY OF SONOMA COUNTY

4/27/99 #37

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## OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

**William J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary**  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

April 1999

**Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:**

<b>Mike Kerns</b> - District 2	<b>Michael J. Cale, Chairman</b> - District 1
<b>Paul L. Kelley</b> - District 4	<b>Tim Smith</b> - District 3
	<b>Mike Reilly</b> - District 5

The 1998 Sonoma County Agricultural Crop Report shows how dependent agricultural production value is on the weather. Our production value of \$453.5 million is a decrease of 10.5% when compared to last year's record. The drop can be related to our visitor from the South, El Nino.

This year our cover, and a portion of the report, honors the Sonoma County Horse Industry. Agriculture in Sonoma County is made up of many segments. The Sonoma County Horse Council and Sonoma State University combined their efforts to produce new information on the true value and importance of horses to the Sonoma County economy and agriculture.

The biggest drop in production value in 1998 was seen in fruit and nut crops. A decrease of almost \$70 million was seen in this category, with \$66 million being attributed to a grape crop that was 54,000 tons less than the previous year. The very wet spring took its toll on the ability of fruit and nut trees to set a crop. Apples, pears, prunes and walnuts all had decreased production. The apple crop value was down \$3.2 million.

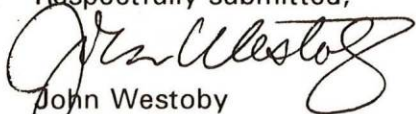
Livestock, Poultry and Aquaculture and Livestock and Poultry Products increased in value by \$10 million and \$9 million respectively. Greater numbers of cattle went to market, while sheep and hogs decreased. Chicken fryers and roasters accounted for a large portion of the increase. Market milk value increased by close to \$13 million as higher prices were received in 1998.

Nursery value remained stable on the strength of continuing demand for grape vines. Vegetable Crops and Field Crops were also affected adversely by the over abundance of rain. Vegetables were down \$3.4 million. More honey production was reported in 1998 as Apiary value increased by \$23,000.

We have stepped up our efforts to determine accurate wine grape acreage and are reporting 4,681 more acres than in 1997. We regret that our page on commercial fish catch landings at Bodega Bay is not included this year as we had not received that information by press time.

Although the 1998 agricultural production was affected adversely by the vagaries of weather, the total value is still a significant contribution to the Sonoma County economy. Thanks to all the growers and others who provide information for this report and by doing so support their entire industry. Bonnie Sallee has once again made a supreme effort in drawing together all the elements of this report. We must remind the reader that in no way does this report reflect the profit or loss experienced by individual growers.

Respectfully submitted,



John Westoby  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

# SONOMA COUNTY HORSE INDUSTRY

*Helping to Keep Sonoma County Green While Contributing to the Economy*

**T**his report is dedicated to the horse industry of Sonoma County. This past year the Sonoma County Horse Council (SCHC), with assistance from the Board of Supervisors, sponsored a Sonoma State University survey to explore the economic impact equine culture provides to Sonoma County Agriculture.

**S**CHC endeavors to inform and promote equestrian resources in the community. It is actively involved in the Santa Rosa Junior College's Horse Management Certification Program and is looking forward to an equestrian facility at SRJC's Shone Farm. Educational programs have been initiated and orchestrated by the Council. SCHC strives to educate the horse community in health and safety issues and proper environmental practices. Its committee has been effective in responding to the Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Fish and Game on all complaints as part of the Animal Waste Committee.

**E**cotourism and endeavors are promoted to assist the horse industry in promoting horse events such as: group trail rides; polo; racing; breeding; rodeos; horse shows; exhibitions; auctions; pleasure riding and horse rental facilities.

**P**reliminary results, of the survey furnished by the Institute for Community Planning Assistance at Sonoma State University, is seen on page three. These results show that the horse industry adds millions of dollars to the Sonoma County economy and helps to keep our countryside green and rural. The final report from Sonoma State University is due out later this spring.

**S**CHC would like to thank all the horse owners who responded to the detailed survey and all the volunteers who participated in the census and survey. A special thank you goes to the Walters Family of Vine Hill Ranch in Sebastopol for the photograph of their horse Cavonnier, which graces the center of this crop report cover. The photograph was taken at Santa Anita Park by Benoit Photo.

**T**he horse industry helps to keep land in agricultural use which contributes to the excellent quality of life we all enjoy and to . . . **KEEPING SONOMA COUNTY GREEN.**

# SONOMA COUNTY HORSE INDUSTRY

*The figures for this report are furnished by the  
Institute for Community Planning Assistance at Sonoma State University.*

## HORSE CENSUS\*

<i>Back Yard</i>	<i>Boarded</i>	<i>Total</i>
10,991	2,767	13,758

## INCOME REPORTED IN 1998\*

<i>Includes racing prizes, breeding, foal crop and training</i>	<i>Value of horse associated improvements and equipment</i>	<i>Value of horses reported by respondents</i>	<i>Total reported value and income</i>
\$768,500	\$16,593,575	\$9,548,000	\$30,268,379

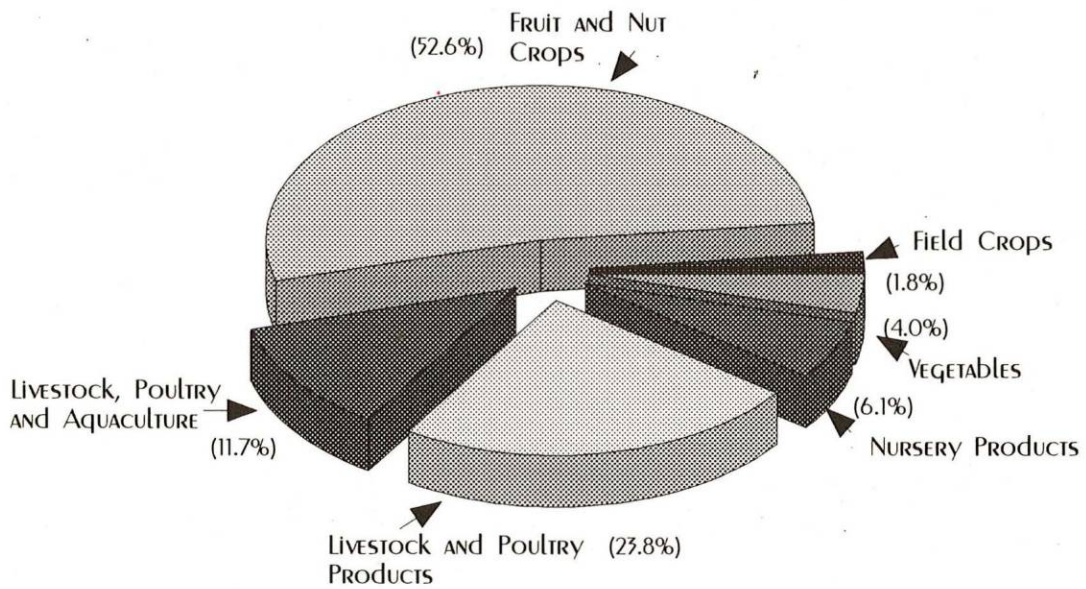
## DOLLARS SPENT IN SONOMA COUNTY IN 1998\*

<i>\$3,358,304</i>			
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>\$166,265</i>	<i>Saddles and Tack</i>	<i>\$377,669</i>
<i>Show Fees</i>	<i>\$169,089</i>	<i>Show Related Expenses</i>	<i>\$577,630</i>
<i>Boarding Fees</i>	<i>\$617,580</i>	<i>Breeding Fees</i>	<i>\$130,910</i>
<i>Training Fees/Commissions</i>	<i>\$403,860</i>	<i>Employee Salaries/Benefits</i>	<i>\$225,160</i>
<i>Shoeing</i>	<i>\$302,891</i>	<i>Veterinarians</i>	<i>\$312,030</i>
<i>Rented Pastures</i>	<i>\$ 84,135</i>	<i>Artificial Insemination</i>	<i>\$ 18,225</i>
<i>Breaking Fees</i>	<i>\$ 62,750</i>	<i>Bedding</i>	<i>\$ 92,171</i>

*\* The above figures are based on the response of 359 households to a mail-in survey conducted at the beginning of 1998. The surveys were mailed to 784 households chosen from mailing lists from various horse associations in Sonoma County.*

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

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
APIARY	\$ 93,700	\$ 116,500
FIELD CROPS	\$ 7,880,400	\$ 7,987,200
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$ 308,244,300	\$ 238,353,300
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND AQUACULTURE	\$ 42,736,200	\$ 52,922,400
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$ 98,964,600	\$ 107,993,100
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$ 27,427,000	\$ 27,836,400
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$ 21,774,000	\$ 18,325,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 507,120,200</b>	<b>\$ 453,534,600</b>

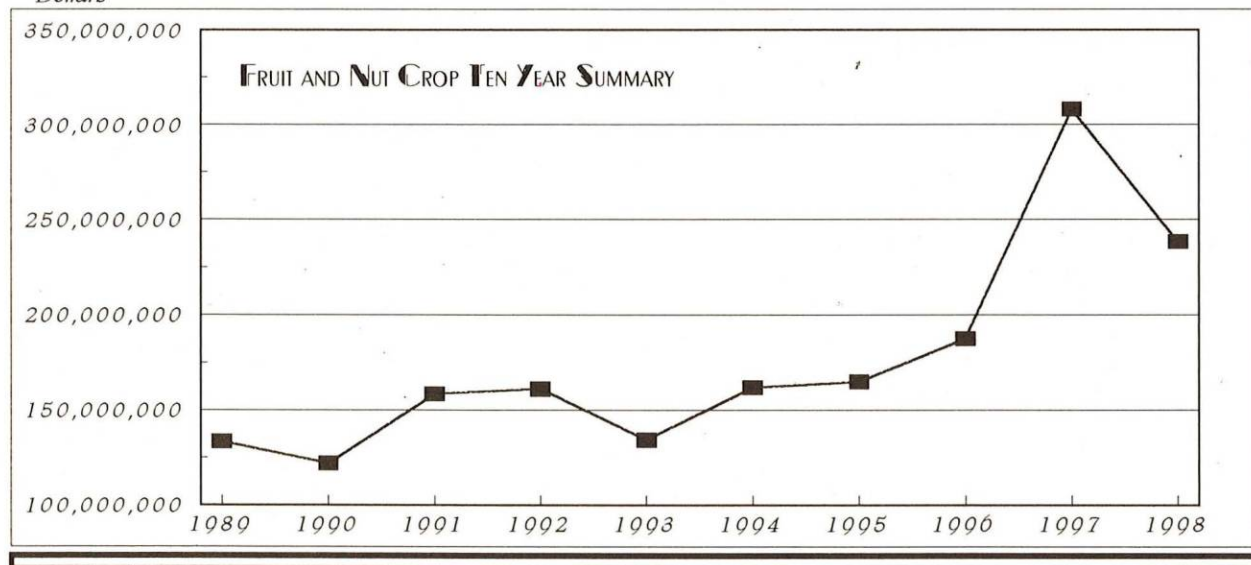


# FRUIT AND NUT CROP SUMMARY

Crop	Year	Bearing Acres	Tons/Acre	Total Tons	DOLLAR VALUE	
					\$/Ton.	Total
Apples (all)	1998	4,144	9.17	37,996	\$ 155.62	\$ 5,912,800
	1997	4,458	11.47	51,135	\$ 178.67	\$ 9,136,400
Fresh	1998				\$ 493,103	
	1997				\$ 1,142,794	
Processed (a)	1998				\$ 5,419,653	
	1997				\$ 7,993,641	
Grapes (wine)	1998	35,334	3.77	133,258	\$ 1,739.60	\$ 231,828,000
	1997	34,121	5.50	187,674	\$ 1,588.64	\$ 298,147,300
Pears, Bartlett (b)	1998	66		0.89	\$ 1,513.00	\$ 1,700
	1997	96	1.88	180	\$ 236.67	\$ 42,600
Prunes (c)	1998	377	1.32	496	\$ 510.28	\$ 253,100
	1997	491	1.06	521	\$ 893.47	\$ 465,500
Walnuts	1998	219	0.13	29	\$ 1,078.53	\$ 30,900
	1997	266	0.34	89	\$ 1,209.20	\$ 107,800
Misc. (d)	1998					\$ 326,800
	1997					\$ 344,700
TOTAL	1998					\$ 238,353,300
	1997					\$ 308,244,300

- (a) Includes canned, juice/cider, vinegar and dried
- (b) Includes fresh. The figures for processed were not available as of press time
- (c) Dry tons
- (d) Includes cherries, bush-berries, kiwi, black walnuts, plums, Asian pears, strawberries, figs, chestnuts, olives, etc.

Dollars



## APIARY PRODUCTS

TOTAL VALUE	1998	Includes Honey, Wax and Pollenation	\$116,500
	1997		\$ 93,700

# LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND AQUACULTURE

Item	Year	Number of Head	Total Live Weight	Unit	DOLLAR VALUE	
					\$/Unit	Total
Cattle/Calves	1998	51,414	298,609	cwt	\$ 57.64	\$ 17,211,700
	1997	45,181	265,027	cwt	\$ 54.61	\$ 14,473,700
Sheep/Lambs	1998	8,962	9,679	cwt	\$ 69.57	\$ 673,300
	1997	11,758	12,699	cwt	\$ 80.52	\$ 1,022,500
Hogs	1998	2,578	6,158	cwt	\$ 32.61	\$ 200,800
	1997	2,610	6,238	cwt	\$ 51.49	\$ 321,200
Miscellaneous (a)	1998					\$ 34,836,600
	1997					\$ 26,918,800
TOTAL	1998					\$ 52,922,400
	1997					\$ 42,736,200

(a) Includes chicks, ducks, turkey poults, fryers, roasters, shellfish, turkeys, etc.

# LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	DOLLAR VALUE	
				\$/Unit	Total
Milk (Market)	1998	6,061,344 (b)	cwt	\$ 15.71	\$ 95,223,700
	1997	6,235,778	cwt	\$ 13.24	\$ 82,561,700
Milk (Manufacturing)	1998	38,751	cwt	\$ 14.60	\$ 565,800
	1997	84,249	cwt	\$ 11.62	\$ 979,000
Wool	1998	99,589	lb.	\$ 0.45	\$ 44,900
	1997	116,404	lb.	\$ 0.65	\$ 75,700
Misc. Products (c)	1998				\$ 12,158,700
	1997				\$ 15,348,200
TOTAL	1998				\$ 107,993,100
	1997				\$ 98,964,600

(b) Preliminary

(c) Includes market duck eggs, turkey hatching eggs, chicken eggs for consumption, egg bi-products and goat milk.



## LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND AQUACULTURE ~ A TEN YEAR COMPARISON

DOLLARS

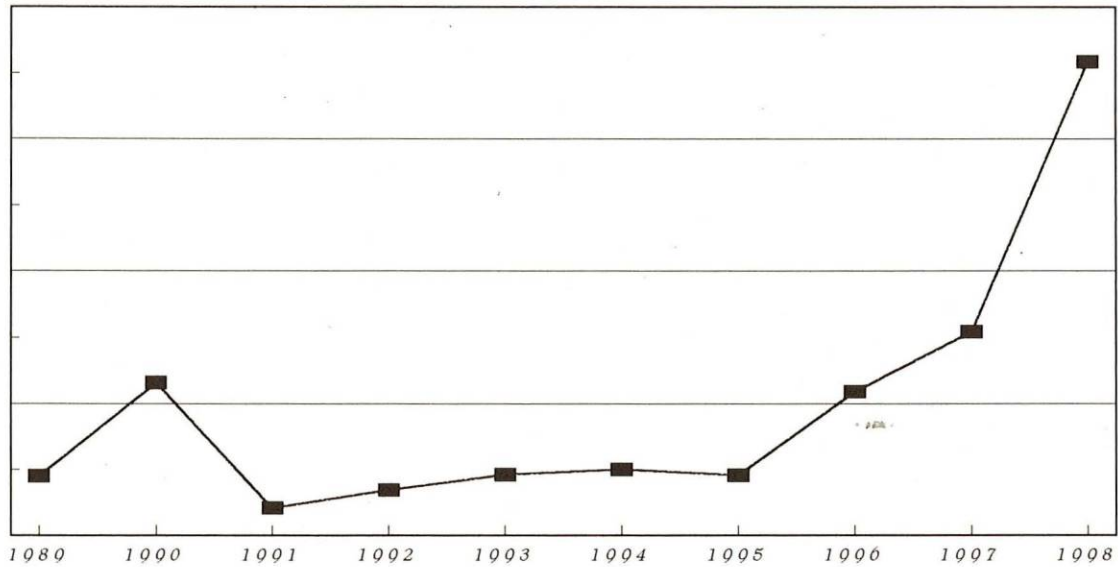
55,000,000

50,000,000

45,000,000

40,000,000

35,000,000



## NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Units Sold	Unit	DOLLAR VALUE	
				\$/Unit	Total
Grapevines (all) (a)	1998			\$	8,153,700
	1997			\$	6,560,600
Ornamentals	1998	963,963	plant (b)	\$ 5.79	\$ 5,578,300
	1997	1,345,363	plant (b)	\$ 5.05	\$ 6,793,200
Bedding Plants	1998	173,062	flat	\$ 13.63	\$ 2,358,500
	1997	322,843	flat	\$ 11.82	\$ 3,816,700
Cut Flowers	1998			\$	2,501,300
	1997			\$	2,661,900
Christmas Trees	1998	15,884	each	\$ 28.45	\$ 451,900
	1997	13,888	each	\$ 27.90	\$ 387,500
Misc. Products (c)	1998			\$	8,792,700
	1997			\$	7,207,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	1998			\$	27,836,400
	1997			\$	27,427,000

(a) Includes field grown non-grafted, cuttings, bench grafts and greenhouse propagations

(b) Average unit price includes all type trade containers

(c) Includes deciduous fruit and nut trees, bulbs, forest seedlings, house plants, liners, orchids, cacti, herbaceous perennials, dry flowers, turf and wreaths.

# FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Ton/ Acre	Total Tons	Unit	DOLLAR VALUE	
						\$/Unit	Total
Hay, Oat	1998	6,705	2.33	15,646	ton	\$ 78.82	\$ 1,233,300
	1997	9,890	1.78	17,594	ton	\$ 97.02	\$ 1,706,900
Hay, Volunteer	1998	2,470	2.62	6,463	ton	\$ 52.70	\$ 340,600
	1997	1,430	1.83	2,616	ton	\$ 76.65	\$ 200,500
Green Chop (a)	1998	917	11.82	10,842	ton	\$ 28.93	\$ 313,700
	1997	539	6.46	3,484	ton	\$ 24.25	\$ 84,500
Oats, Grain	1998	1,245	0.77	954	ton	\$ 260.27	\$ 248,300
	1997	1,357	0.78	1,064	ton	\$ 379.75	\$ 403,900
Ensilage, Corn (a)	1998	294	26.87	7,900	ton	\$ 40.83	\$ 322,600
	1997	214	20.56	4,400	ton	\$ 47.34	\$ 208,300
Oats, Silage (a)	1998	4,388	11.73	51,453	ton	\$ 35.83	\$ 1,843,600
	1997	4,228	9.14	38,651	ton	\$ 42.33	\$ 1,636,100
Hops (b)	1998			128	lb	\$ 4.47	\$ 600
	1997			133	lb	\$ 4.47	\$ 600
Straw	1998						\$ 15,050
	1997						\$ 62,200
Pasture, Irrigated	1998	9,450			acre	\$ 100.00	\$ 945,000
	1997	9,500			acre	\$ 100.00	\$ 950,000
Grassland	1998	206,400			acre	\$ 10.00	\$ 2,064,000
	1997	206,425			acre	\$ 10.00	\$ 2,064,300
Woodland	1998	172,750			acre	\$ 1.00	\$ 172,750
	1997	172,800			acre	\$ 1.00	\$ 172,800
Miscellaneous (c)	1998						487,700
	1997						390,900
TOTAL	1998						\$ 7,987,200
	1997						\$ 7,881,000

(a) Much of the green chop and ensilage is not sold, but used on the farm. The value is determined by its feed equivalent of hay after it is cut, loaded and ensiled.

(b) This includes Mt. Hood, Tetnanger, Willamette, Cascade and miscellaneous varieties.

(c) Includes alfalfa, barley, safflower, wheat, rye, vetch, sudan, etc.

# VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Dollar Value
Miscellaneous Truck farms (d)	1,998	1,334	\$ 18,325,700
	1,997	1,507	\$ 21,774,000

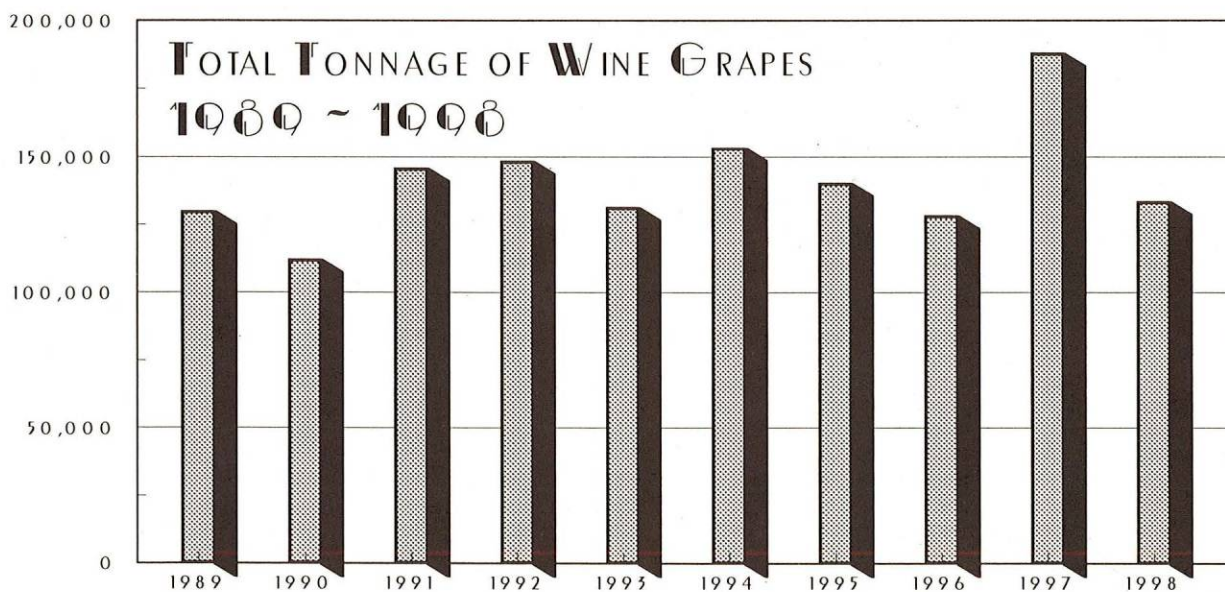
(d) Includes melons, mushrooms, potatoes, pumpkins, sprouts, squash, tomatoes, lettuces, etc.

# MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

1	WINE GRAPES	\$	231,828,000
2	MARKET MILK	\$	95,223,700
3	MISC. LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND AQUACULTURE	\$	26,918,800
4	VEGETABLES	\$	18,325,700
5	MISC. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$	15,348,200
6	CATTLE AND CALVES	\$	14,473,700
7	GRAPEVINES	\$	8,153,600
8	MISC. NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$	7,207,100
9	NURSERY ~ ORNAMENTALS	\$	5,578,300
10	APPLES ~ LATE VARIETIES	\$	4,707,500
11	NURSERY ~ CUT FLOWERS	\$	2,501,300
12	NURSERY ~ BEDDING PLANTS	\$	2,358,500
13	OAT SILAGE	\$	1,843,600
14	OAT HAY	\$	1,233,300
15	APPLES ~ GRAVENSTEINS	\$	1,205,300

# WHITE WINE GRAPE PRODUCTION

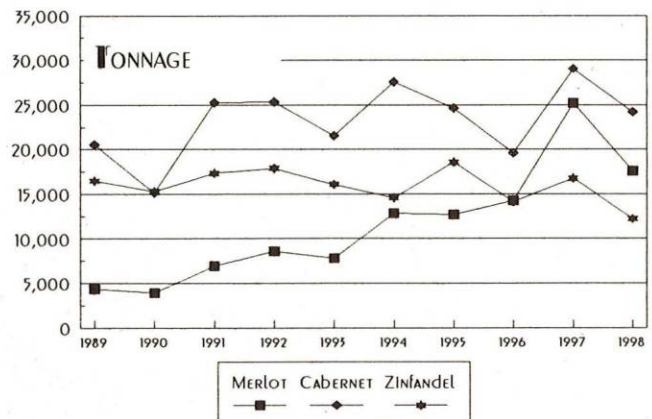
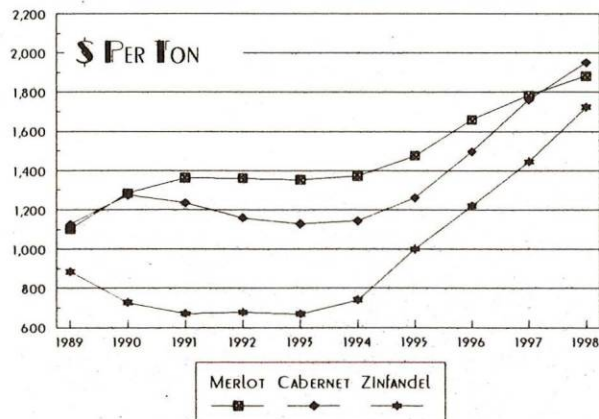
VARIETY	YEAR	ACRES			PRODUCTION		
		BEARING	NON-BEARING	TOTAL	TONS	DOLLAR PER TON	TOTAL VALUE
Chardonnay	1998	12,130	2,207	14,337	50,265	\$ 1,749.20	\$ 87,923,400
	1997	12,277	1,381	13,658	71,456	\$ 1,646.60	\$ 117,660,100
Chenin Blanc	1998	136	0	136	601	\$ 604.32	\$ 363,000
	1997	211	0	211	1,182	\$ 596.52	\$ 705,200
French Colombard	1998	279	0	279	1,417	\$ 541.44	\$ 767,000
	1997	321	0	321	2,531	\$ 532.53	\$ 1,347,800
Gewurztraminer	1998	254	8	262	468	\$ 1,070.54	\$ 501,400
	1997	272	7	279	1,312	\$ 988.03	\$ 1,296,000
Muscat Blanc	1998	38	0	38	97	\$ 1,552.92	\$ 150,800
	1997	29	1	30	142	\$ 1,428.87	\$ 203,500
Pinot Blanc	1998	121	2	123	275	\$ 1,275.67	\$ 350,600
	1997	121	2	123	438	\$ 1,120.55	\$ 490,700
Sauvignon Blanc	1998	1,403	403	1,806	7,496	\$ 1,168.60	\$ 8,759,900
	1997	1,384	231	1,615	9,609	\$ 1,074.19	\$ 10,322,300
Semillion	1998	142	26	168	633	\$ 1,153.12	\$ 729,600
	1997	132	22	154	829	\$ 1,104.35	\$ 915,400
Viognier	1998	107	19	126	171	\$ 1,904.21	\$ 324,900
	1997	73	50	123	377	\$ 1,541.99	\$ 581,500
White Riesling	1998	115	1	116	375	\$ 1,032.49	\$ 387,200
	1997	161	4	165	509	\$ 904.33	\$ 915,400
Other Whites	1998	162	482	644	495	\$ 1,015.16	\$ 545,700
	1997	99	150	249	781	\$ 888.62	\$ 694,100
TOTAL WHITES	1998	14,887	3,148	18,035	62,292	\$ 1,618.25	\$ 100,803,500
	1997	15,080	1,848	16,928	89,167	\$ 1,515.50	\$ 135,132,000



# RED WINE GRAPE PRODUCTION

VARIETY	YEAR	ACRES			PRODUCTION		
		BEARING	NON-BEARING	TOTAL	TONS	DOLLAR PER TON	TOTAL VALUE
Cabernet Franc	1998	437	100	537	1,877	\$ 1,923.04	\$ 3,608,600
	1997	479	38	517	2,498	\$ 1,784.36	\$ 4,456,500
Cabernet Sauv.	1998	6,196	1,738	7,934	24,217	\$ 1,950.42	\$ 47,232,700
	1997	6,272	987	7,259	29,046	\$ 1,761.26	\$ 51,158,300
Carignane	1998	234	0	234	617	\$ 1,117.61	\$ 689,900
	1997	223	0	223	976	\$ 1,075.64	\$ 1,050,000
Merlot	1998	4,806	1,367	6,173	17,585	\$ 1,882.09	\$ 33,096,200
	1997	3,873	1,420	5,293	25,213	\$ 1,784.48	\$ 44,991,900
Meunier	1998	121	11	132	334	\$ 1,508.94	\$ 504,400
	1997	97	24	121	607	\$ 1,255.29	\$ 761,700
Napa Gamay	1998	141	0	141	335	\$ 992.02	\$ 332,300
	1997	165	0	165	1,034	\$ 931.85	\$ 963,300
Petite Sirah	1998	259	64	323	692	\$ 1,751.85	\$ 1,212,300
	1997	254	16	270	720	\$ 1,508.45	\$ 1,085,900
Petite Verdot	1998	106	19	125	144	\$ 1,920.37	\$ 276,700
	1997	86	12	98	255	\$ 1,715.54	\$ 438,100
Pinot Noir	1998	3,416	1,748	5,164	9,779	\$ 1,784.17	\$ 17,447,000
	1997	3,040	884	3,924	17,384	\$ 1,584.01	\$ 27,536,400
Sangiovese	1998	229	83	312	890	\$ 1,672.67	\$ 1,488,500
	1997	161	81	242	1,288	\$ 1,575.23	\$ 2,028,600
Syrah-shiraz	1998	248	358	606	1,314	\$ 1,813.58	\$ 2,383,800
	1997	175	124	299	1,265	\$ 1,628.41	\$ 2,060,400
Zinfandel	1998	3,925	553	4,478	12,230	\$ 1,724.58	\$ 21,091,800
	1997	3,845	261	4,106	16,771	\$ 1,445.68	\$ 24,245,200
Other Reds	1998	329	158	487	952	\$ 1,744.23	\$ 1,660,300
	1997	371	185	556	1,450	\$ 1,544.35	\$ 2,239,000
Total Reds	1998	20,447	6,199	26,646	70,966	\$ 1,846.30	\$ 131,024,500
	1997	19,041	4,032	23,073	98,507	\$ 1,654.87	\$ 163,015,300
Total All Wine Grapes	1998	35,334	9,347	44,681	133,258	\$ 1,739.69	\$ 231,828,000
	1997	34,121	5,880	40,001	187,674	\$ 1,588.64	\$ 298,147,300

## TOP 3 RED VARIETALS

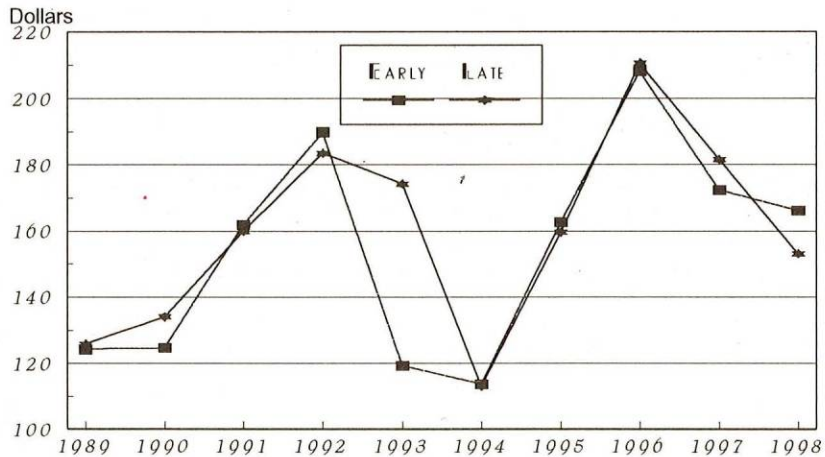


# APPLE PRODUCTION

Crop	Year	Bearing Acres	Tons/Acre	Total Tons	DOLLAR VALUE	
					\$/Ton	Total
Gravenstein	1998	1,299	5.58	7,252	\$ 166.20	\$ 1,205,300
	1997	1,361	11.55	15,718	\$ 172.24	\$ 2,707,200
Fresh	1998			288	\$ 528.92	\$ 152,390
	1997			459	\$ 782.47	\$ 359,345
Processed (a)	1998			6,964	\$ 151.18	\$ 1,052,887
	1997			15,259	\$ 153.87	\$ 2,347,882
Late Apples	1998	2,945	10.44	30,744	\$ 153.12	\$ 4,707,500
	1997	3,097	11.44	35,417	\$ 181.53	\$ 6,429,200
Fresh	1998			821	\$ 415.05	\$ 340,713
	1997			981	\$ 798.47	\$ 783,449
Processed (a)	1998			29,923	\$ 145.93	\$ 4,366,766
	1997			34,436	\$ 163.95	\$ 5,645,759
Total	1998	4,244	8.95	37,996	\$ 155.62	\$ 5,912,800
	1997	4,458	11.47	51,135	\$ 178.67	\$ 9,136,400

(a) includes canned, juice, vinegar, cider and dried

APPLES  
A TEN YEAR COMPARISON  
DOLLARS PER TON



# TIMBER HARVEST

(Informational Only)

Crop	Year	Production	Unit (b)	Value (c)
Timber	1997	31,739,000	board feet	\$ 11,137,200

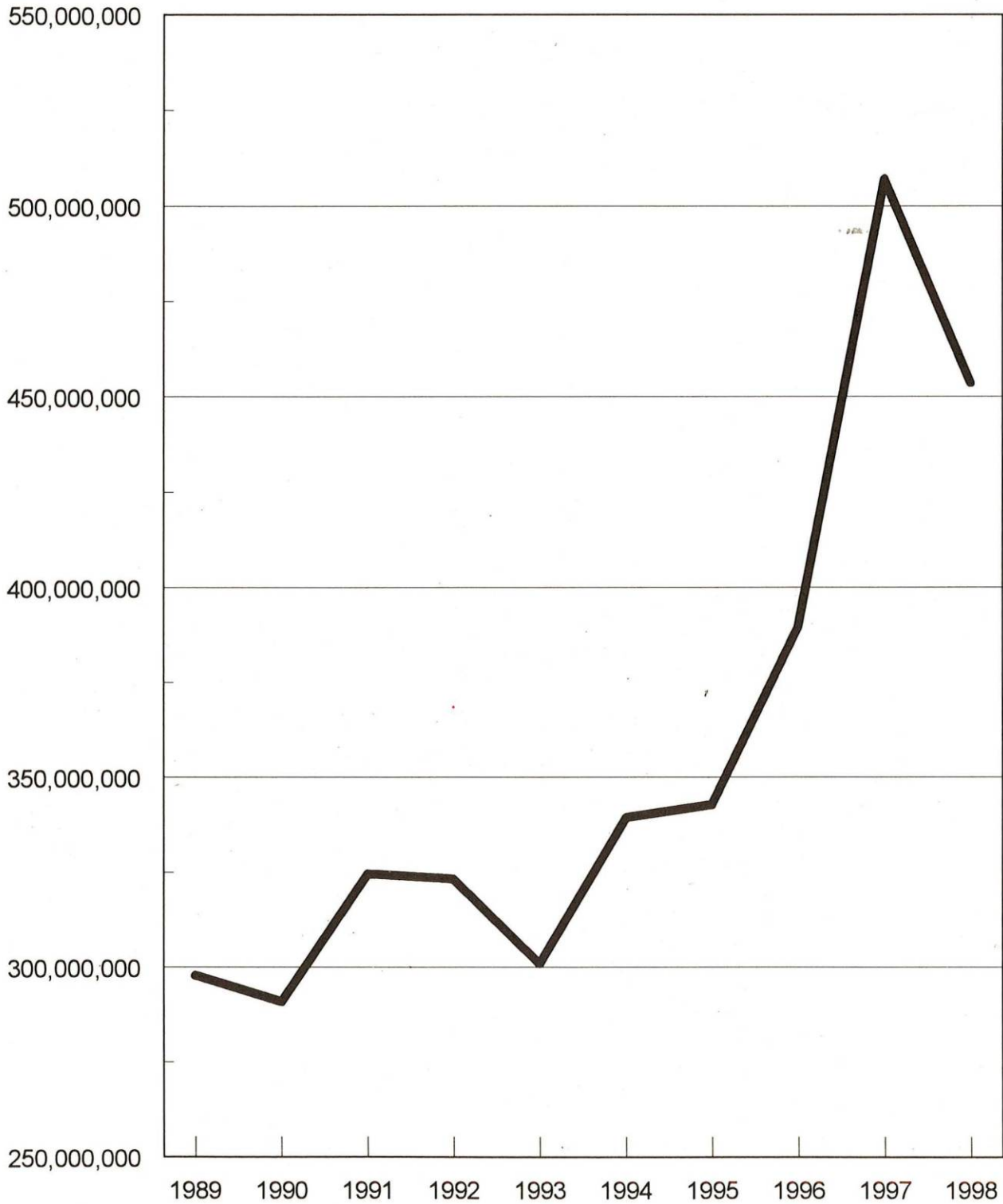
(b) Board feet is the quantity of timber cut and scaled

(c) Value of the timber immediately before cutting

FRUIT, CROP	NUT BEARING	AND GRAPEVINE		ACREAGE TOTAL
		BEARING	NON-BEARING	
Apples	4,144		10	4,154
Cherries	3		0	3
Figs	2		0	2
Grapes (Wine)	35,334		9,347	44,681
Kiwi	20		0	20
Olives	40		10	50
Peaches	5		0	5
Pears	66		0	66
Plums	7		0	7
Prunes	377		21	398
Walnuts	219		3	222
Miscellaneous	22			22
<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>40,240</b>		<b>9,391</b>	<b>49,631</b>

INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY					
(Number of Head as of January 1, 1999)					
ITEM	NUMBER				
Cattle and Calves, all	111,422				
<table> <tr> <td>Milk cows and heifers 2 years and over</td> <td>36,420</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beef cows and heifers 2 years and over</td> <td>27,038</td> </tr> </table>		Milk cows and heifers 2 years and over	36,420	Beef cows and heifers 2 years and over	27,038
Milk cows and heifers 2 years and over	36,420				
Beef cows and heifers 2 years and over	27,038				
Sheep and Lambs, all	13,851				
Hogs	2,864				
Laying Hens and Pullets	819,582				
Turkey Breeders	15,967				

**SONOMA COUNTY**  
**TOTAL CROP VALUE**  
**1989 ~ 1998**





**SONOMA COUNTY 1998 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT**

By Priscilla Lane

**BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROGRAM**

<i>Biological Control</i>	<i>Number of Release Sites</i>
<i>Yellow Starthistle Hairy Weevil (<u>Eustenopus villosus</u>)</i>	7

Four of the seven hairy weevil releases were made from collections at nursery sites located in Sonoma County. The yellow starthistle seedhead weevil (Bangasternus orientalis) has become established. Staff Biologists participated in two seminars emphasizing a multi systems approach to noxious weed control.

**ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS**

216 organic producers were registered in 1998

	<b>Producers</b>	<b>Properties</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Eggs</b>	3	3	
<b>Fruit/Nuts</b>	76	462	2665
<b>Milk</b>	2	2	
<b>Nurseries</b>	8	8	11
<b>Vegetables</b>	64	67	373
<b>Wine Grapes</b>	14	17	392
<b>Handlers</b>	3		

**PEST DETECTION**

**Trapping:** 13,734 trap servicing for exotic insect pests (includes Mediterranean and Oriental Fruit Flies, Melon Fly, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Khapra Beetle and Western Grapeleaf Skeletonizer)

**Entryway Survey:** 446 miles and 131 properties were surveyed for the presence of noxious weed and disease pests. Seven pet stores were inspected as well as properties for chrysanthemum white rust.

**PEST EXCLUSION**

A total of 1,838 premise inspections for incoming shipments of plant material were made by the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Inspections occurred at the express carriers, nurseries, post office, feed mills, ethnic markets, post entry inspections and United Parcel Service. 569 rejections of plant material were made. Rejected plant material was either destroyed or reconditioned and released. The number of rejections increased significantly from 1997 due to the discovery of the Balsam fir gall midge complex, a member of the fly family. This orange colored midge was found on many holiday decorations shipped into California by mail order companies. The midge is a pest associated with balsam fir and eastern hemlock.

A new quarantine pest of significance, discovered in Southern California in 1998, was the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) Solenopsis invicta. Quarantine procedures established as a result of the RIFA discovery created additional inspections at various county locations where nursery stock from the area under quarantine for RIFA had been received.

**Listed below are a few of the economically important pest species intercepted in 1998**

Gypsy Moth <u>Lymantria dispar</u>	Apple Maggot <u>Rhagoletis pomonella</u>	Green Scale <u>Coccus vididis</u>	Balsam Fir Gall Midge Complex <u>Dasineura balsamicola</u>
Boxwood Scale <u>Pinnaspis buxis</u>	Eucalyptus Longhorn Beetle <u>Phoracantha semipunctata</u>	Quack Grass <u>Elytrigia repers</u>	Purple Loosestrife <u>Lythrum salccaria</u>

In ethnic markets the following items were found: Kaffir Lime Leaves, Szechwan Peppers, Guavas and Tejocate

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DAY  
GRAND PRIZE  
ESSAY / POEM

LUTHER BURBANK AND "SONOMA COUNTY THE CHOSEN SPOT"  
By Alexandra Merilatt

Today we have a lot of things to eat - such as potatoes, blackberries, plums and prunes. But have you ever thought of how we got these fruits?

I'm going to share with you about Luther Burbank. He is a very important man in the way you eat today.

Luther Burbank was born in 1849 in Massachusetts. From a child, Luther had loved plants. Luther would play with plants more than toys.

When Luther was a little older, he started trying to make a better potato. Because the only potatoes they had then were little, red potatoes. So, at age 20, Luther had made a long brown potato called the "Burbank Potato." Soon after that Luther sold some of his potatoes and earned \$150.00. He decided to come to Sonoma County, California. When Luther started to work with a lot of plants, Luther wrote to his mother in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and said, "This is the chosen spot of all earth as far as Nature is concerned."

When I think about Luther Burbank living here in Santa Rosa, it feels like a great honor to have had a plant inventor live here as he did.

While Luther was in Santa Rosa, a man named Warren Dutton asked Luther to make twenty-thousand prune seedlings. Well, of course, no one thought he could do it. Well, guess what? At the end of that year Mr. Dutton got his seedlings - all twenty-thousand of them!

I think I know why Luther Burbank chose Sonoma County. It is because of all the sunshine and rain that we get. It is a perfect place for growing plants because of the temperature. Since Luther loved growing plants, this is a perfect place for him to grow and work with his plants.

I just went to the Luther Burbank 150th birthday celebration. It was wonderful! I got to see the spineless cactus that Luther Burbank made.

When I think of Luther Burbank, I think of a man who was devoted to his work. Such as when he created a thornless blackberry, it took him thirty-one years to create this blackberry. Now that shows patience and devotion. I also think of a person who loved his work.

*This winning essay from the Agricultural Day essay / poem contest, sponsored by the North Bay Chapter, California Women for Agriculture, Sonoma County Farm Bureau and the Press Democrat is reprinted with the permission of Alexandra Merilatt and her parents.*

*Alexandra is a fourth grade student at Pacific Christian Academy in Graton. Alexandra's prize winning essay is titled:*

LUTHER BURBANK  
AND  
"SONOMA COUNTY  
THE  
CHOSEN SPOT"

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*Agricultural Commissioner*



MICHAEL SMITH

*Assistant Agricultural Commissioner*



PIERRE GADD, JR.

*Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner*



LISA CORREIA ~ STEFAN PARNAY ~ ALEXIS RAMEY

*Deputy Agricultural Commissioner*



JOSEPH GRAY ~ PRISCILLA LANE ~ MARILYN VERNON

*Senior Agricultural Biologist / Standards Specialist*

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*Agricultural Biologist / Standards Specialist III*

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JAMES O'BRIEN

*County Trapper*



CHARLENE FOGERSON ~ ESTHER MARTINEZ ~ JEANN NELSON

*Administrative Support Staff*



KATHERYNE JOHNSON ~ CREE MORGAN ~ HELEN RIVERA

*Support Staff*



STAN PETERSON ~ JANET ADAIR

*Detection Trapper*