

# AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



1956

**Sonoma County  
Department of Agriculture**

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

PERCY F. WRIGHT  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

County of Sonoma  
Department of Agriculture

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SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

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

Gentlemen:

I hereby submit the 1956 Annual Agricultural 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 1956 amounted to \$66,270,729.00 which is \$4,007,785.00 less than was reported in the year 1955. <sup>826,995.00</sup> <sup>3,451,519.00</sup>

The value of poultry dropped considerably due to lower egg prices and a large drop in the production of fryers and roasters. Many of the meat bird producers have found it impossible to stay in business at the prices being paid for poultry. Turkey production was up and prices lower.


Fruit crops grossed less money than in the previous year. Prune income was much lower due to smaller sizes and a reduced price. The crop was the largest since 1937. Bartlett pears also produced a record crop and prices were higher. Wine grape production was above normal and prices were slightly higher. Gravenstein apples produced 21,713 tons less than the previous year.

Green beans produced a record crop of 3472 tons on 340 acres - a yield of over 10 tons per acre. Strawberries are gradually becoming a significant crop in Sonoma County. For the first time, part of the crop was frozen.

Milk production remained about the same as the previous year, the first time this has occurred in years. However, a greater percentage of milk was of Grade A production which accounted for an increase in the value of milk. Sheep men had a very poor year due to excessive rainfall. There was about a fifty percent death loss in lambs and light wool fleeces. Cattle production remained constant with a slight improvement in prices.

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

1956 AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT FOR SONOMA COUNTY  
 COMPILED BY THE SONOMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>BEARING ACRES</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE 1/</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>APPLES</u>				
<u>Gravenstein</u>	5,451			
Fresh 2/		7,206 tons @ \$ 72.61	\$ 523,228	
Canned		11,500 tons @ 54.93	631,695	991,725
Juice-Cider		6,662 tons @ 30.26	201,592	
Chops		1,500 tons @ 25.00	37,500	
Dried		20,400 green tons @ 48.00	979,200	
		47,268 total tons		\$ 2,373,215
		53,268		2,733,245
<u>Lates</u>	3,105			
Fresh 3/		5,006 tons @ 106.74	534,340	
Canned		13,150 10,131 tons @ 59.12 60.47	598,945	793,781
Juice-Cider		3,370 tons @ 32.54	109,660	
Dried		8,800 green tons @ 62.00	545,600	
		27,307 total tons		1,788,545
		30,326		1,984,781
<u>CHERRIES</u>				
Processed	534	1,310 tons @ 240.00	314,400	
Fresh		90 tons @ 300.00	27,000	
				341,400
<u>GRAPES, Wine</u>				
Black	11,057	28,900 tons @ 53.50	1,546,150	
White		7,600 tons @ 50.00	380,000	
				1,926,150
<u>PEARS</u>				
Canned	1,783	11,624 tons @ 73.50	854,364	
Fresh		20 tons @ 100.00	2,000	
Dried		250 tons @ 20.00	5,000	
				861,364
<u>PLUMS</u>				
Canned	115	205 tons @ 37.50	7,688	
Fresh		1,000 lugs @ 1.50	1,500	
				9,188
<u>PRUNES</u>				
French	13,690	26,320 tons @ 193.00	5,079,760	
Imperial	2,342	3,589 tons @ 280.00	1,004,920	
				6,084,680
<u>WALNUTS</u>				
	1,474	536 tons @ 440.00		235,840
<u>MISC. ORCHARD</u>				
	148			14,800
				\$13,635,182
				14,193,448

1/ Naked fruit delivered to packing house or processor.  
 2/ Gravenstein -- 343,143 - 42lb. box @ \$1.52  
 3/ Lates -- 227,545 - 44lb. box @ \$2.35

VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>			<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ARTICHOKES	7	1,300 crates	@	\$ 3.00	\$ 3,900	
BEANS, GREEN	340	3,472 tons	@	120.00	416,640	
BERRIES, BUSH	570	1,133 tons	@	197.10	223,314	
CABBAGE	8	950 crates	@	2.13	2,024	
CORN, SWEET	66	66,750 dozen	@	.44	29,370	
GARLIC	4	17,000 lbs.	@	.18	3,060	
LETTUCE	17	3,625 crates	@	2.35	8,519	
PEPPERS, BELL	5	550 crates	@	2.40	1,320	
POTATOES	48	5,250 cwt.	@	2.27	11,918	
RHUBARB	5	1,000 crates	@	1.00	1,000	
SQUASH, SUMMER	9	3,550 lugs	@	1.43	5,077	
STRAWBERRIES	16					
Fresh		13,028 crates	@	2.29	29,834	
Freezer		76,320 lbs.	@	.16	12,211	
TOMATOES, FRESH	18	8,700 lugs	@	1.07	9,309	
OTHER BERRIES	60					
And VEGETABLES (16 acres Blueberries)					<u>30,000</u>	
						\$ 787,496

FIELD CROPS

BARLEY	563	11,395 cwt.	@	2.45	27,918	
BEANS, DRY	377	3,260 cwt.	@	8.00	26,080	
CORN, ENSILAGE	1,000	15,000 tons	@	8.00	120,000	
CORN, GRAIN	334	334 tons	@	60.00	20,040	
HAY						
Alfalfa	250	1,000 tons	@	30.00	30,000	
Grain	25,500	65,750 tons	@	25.00	1,643,750	
Straw		5,430 tons	@	11.50	62,445	
HOPS	450	3,351 bales	@	90.00	301,590	
OATS	6,048	113,035 cwt.	@	3.10	350,409	
PASTURE						
Perm. Irrig.	12,500				750,000	
Sudan Grass	500				20,000	
WHEAT	350	7,000 cwt.	@	4.00	<u>28,000</u>	
						\$3,380,232

NURSERY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>			<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
APPLE TREES		22,507	@	\$ .84	\$ 18,906	
GRAPE VINES, Budded		76,900	@	242.00M	18,610	
GRAPE VINES, St. George		48,925	@	83.00M	4,061	
PEAR TREES, BARTLETT		7,030	@	.88	6,186	
PRUNE TREES, Budded		58,612	@	.75	43,959	
PRUNE TREES, Seedling		12,746	@	.45	5,736	
ORNAMENTAL, BEDDING, Etc. <u>1/</u>					325,000	
CUT FLOWERS					<u>2,500</u>	
						\$ 424,958

SEED CROPS

VEGETABLE SEED	906	317,275 lbs.	@	.55	174,501	
FLOWER SEED	40	14,400 lbs.	@	.935	13,464	
PASTURE GRASS SEED	803	216,810 lbs.	@	.385	83,472	
VETCH SEED (recovered)		396,900 lbs.	@	.065	25,799	
RYE GRASS SEED (recovered)		80,000 lbs.	@	.03	<u>2,400</u>	
						299,636

POULTRY PRODUCTS

EGGS, Market		42,591,702 doz.	@	.378	16,099,663	16,099,663
EGGS, HATCHING						
Light Breeds		657,237 doz.	@	.623	409,459	
Dark Breeds		426,519 doz.	@	.76	<u>324,154</u>	733,613
CHICKENS SOLD FOR MEAT						
Broilers		3,375,045 lbs.	@	.22	742,510	
Fryers & Roasters		13,421,909 lbs.	@	.24	3,221,258	
Hens		9,663,660 lbs.	@	.13	<u>1,256,276</u>	
						5,220,044
TURKEYS						
Toms	156,222	4,139,883 lbs.	@	.262	1,084,649	
Hens	168,574	2,697,184 lbs.	@	.268	722,845	
Hatching Eggs		938,043 eggs	@	.31	<u>290,793</u>	
						2,098,287
POULTRY FERTILIZER		62,675 tons	@	2.35	147,286	<u>147,286</u>
						\$24,298,893

1/ One hundred and twelve nurseries -- county grown stock

APIARY PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>			<u>GROSS FARM</u> <u>VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HONEY	200,000 lbs.	@	\$ .13	\$ 26,000	
WAX	3,100 lbs.	@	.62	1,922	
PACKAGE BEES	3,400 lbs.	@	.50	1,700	
POLLINATION				<u>16,000</u>	
					45,622

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

<u>MILK</u>					
Market	11,693,000 lbs. fat	@	1.29	15,083,970	
Manufactured	2,217,000 lbs. fat	@	.86	<u>1,906,620</u>	
					16,990,590
<u>SWINE</u>					
	12,000 head	@	30.00		360,000
<u>SHEEP</u>					
Lambs	57,000 head	@	14.00	798,000	
Wool	1,200,000 lbs.	@	.60*	<u>720,000</u>	
					1,518,000
<u>CATTLE</u>					
Cows and Heifers	17,325 head	@	150.00	2,598,750	
Calves	21,000 head	@	25.00	525,000	
Steers and Bulls	8,000 head	@	170.00	<u>1,360,000</u>	
					4,483,750
<u>RABBITS</u>					
Fryers	172,000 lbs.	@	.26	44,720	
Stews	15,000 lbs.	@	.11	<u>1,650</u>	
					<u>46,370</u>
*Includes estimated incentive payment					
					<u>\$23,398,710</u>

S U M M A R Y

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$14,703,590	14,191,445
VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS	755,079	\$13,635,182
FIELD CROPS	3,266,300	787,496
NURSERY CROPS	346,525	3,380,232
SEED CROPS	311,143	424,958
POULTRY PRODUCTS	27,458,051	299,636
APIARY	40,516	24,298,893
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	<u>23,397,310</u>	45,622
GRAND TOTAL	\$70,278,514	<u>23,398,710</u>
		\$66,270,729
		466,826,995