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# AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



1955

**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 1955 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 1955 amounted to \$70,278,514 which is \$7,429,684 more than was reported in the year 1954.

A large part of this increase is in poultry income and does not necessarily mean that the poultrymen had a better year. An accurate survey was made of the production of poultry meat as this office will be responsible for the inspection of poultry meat as to its classification after July 1. A substantial increase in the production of poultry meat is shown over 1954 largely due to obtaining more accurate records. Egg and turkey values increased due to a slight increase in production and prices.


Apples dropped considerably in value and prunes took a big jump due to a good crop and better prices. Other fruit and nut crops increased in value.

Vegetable crop production remained quite constant. Many growers are still searching for a pay crop to replace removed hop acreage. Considerable sweet corn acreage was planted, but it is doubtful whether growers will continue in this crop due to low returns. A good deal of interest is being shown in the production of strawberries.

Market milk continued its upward trend in the amount produced. Lambs produced increased in number due to a good lambing year. Cattle production remained the same, but prices were lower on cows and calves.

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

1955 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>Gravensteins</u>	5,551				
Fresh 2/		11,826 tons	@ \$ 61.32	\$ 725,170	
Canned		24,339 tons	@ 38.57	938,755	
Juice-Cider		4,992 tons	@ 19.77	98,692	
Vinegar		1,674 tons	@ 9.21	15,418	
Dried		26,150 green tons	@ 31.18	815,357	
		68,981 total tons			\$ 2,593,392
<u>Lates</u>					
<u>Lates</u>	3,122				
Fresh 3/		6,047 tons	@ 101.84	615,826	
Canned		11,596 tons	@ 42.87	497,121	
Juice-Cider		3,260 tons	@ 22.34	72,828	
Vinegar		329 tons	@ 9.51	3,129	
Dried		6,550 green tons	@ 38.00	248,900	
		27,782 total tons			1,437,804
<u>CHERRIES</u>					
<u>Processed</u>	507	1,429 tons	@ 210.00	300,090	
<u>Fresh</u>		100 tons	@ 300.00	30,000	
					330,090
<u>GRAPES, WINE</u>					
<u>Black</u>	11,168	25,416 tons	@ 50.00	1,270,800	
<u>White</u>		6,984 tons	@ 46.00	321,264	
					1,592,064
<u>PEARS</u>					
<u>Canned</u>	1,783	9,644 tons	@ 72.50	699,190	
<u>Fresh</u>		70 tons	@ 80.00	5,600	
<u>Dried</u>		450 tons	@ 15.00	9,750	
					714,540
<u>PLUMS</u>					
<u>Canned</u>	120	300 tons	@ 60.00	18,000	
<u>Fresh</u>		500 lugs	@ 1.50	750	
					18,750
<u>PRUNES</u>					
<u>French</u>	13,788	20,250 tons	@ 325.00	6,581,250	
<u>Imperial</u>	2,339	2,750 tons	@ 390.00	1,072,500	
					7,653,750
<u>WALNUTS</u>					
	1,451	610 tons	@ 570.00		347,700
<u>MISC. ORCHARD</u>					
	155				15,500
					<u>\$14,703,590</u>

1/ Naked fruit delivered to packing house or processor.

2/ Gravenstein -- 563,143-42 lb. box @ \$1.288

3/ Lates -- 274,824-44 lb. box @ \$2.24

VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ARTICHOKES	8	1,600 crates @ \$ 2.00	\$ 3,200	
ASPARAGUS	5	7,000 lbs. @ .10	700	
BEANS, GREEN	384	2,862 tons @ 120.00	343,440	
BERRIES, BUSH	550	1,200 tons @ 189.00	226,800	
BROCCOLI	2	100 crates @ 3.60	360	
CABBAGE	13	1,750 crates @ 1.91	3,343	
CARROTS	3	300 sacks @ 2.33	699	
CAULIFLOWER	3	300 crates @ 1.75	525	
CELERY	1	200 crates @ 2.25	450	
*CORN, SWEET	287	178,990 dozen @ .18	32,218	
CUCUMBERS	1	270 lugs @ 2.13	575	
GARLIC	15	36,100 lbs. @ .13	4,693	
LEEKs	2	100 lugs @ 1.50	150	
LETTUCE	36	6,450 crates @ 1.93	12,449	
PEPPERS, BELL	2	320 crates @ 2.46	787	
POTATOES	88	7,150 cwt. @ 2.31	16,517	
RASPBERRIES	2	3,000 flats @ 2.00	6,000	
RHUBARB	7	2,000 flats @ 1.00	2,000	
SQUASH				
Summer	8	3,700 lugs @ 1.28	4,736	
Late	12	52 tons @ 40.77	2,120	
STRAWBERRIES	15	26,137 flats @ 2.39	62,467	
TOMATOES, FRESH	14	5,000 lugs @ 1.17	5,850	
OTHER BERRIES	50			
AND VEGETABLES (16 acres Blueberries)			<u>25,000</u>	

\$755,079

\*Sweet Corn - Not all of this acreage harvested.

FIELD CROPS

BARLEY	550	11,000 cwt. @ 2.35	25,850	
BEANS, DRY	230	2,000 cwt. @ 9.00	18,000	
CORN, ENSILAGE	1,500	22,500 tons @ 7.00	157,500	
*CORN, GRAIN	450	4,000 cwt. @ 3.00	12,000	
HAY				
Alfalfa	350	1,400 tons @ 22.00	30,800	
Grain	22,400	56,000 tons @ 26.00	1,456,000	
Straw		4,300 tons @ 11.00	47,300	
HOPS	450	3,421 bales @ 81.90	280,180	
OATS	9,600 <i>seed</i>	192,000 cwt. @ 2.60	499,200	
PASTURE				
Perm. Irrig.	12,000		720,000	
WHEAT	105	2,100 cwt. @ 4.00	8,400	
MIXED GRAIN	246	3,690 cwt. @ 3.00	<u>11,070</u>	

\$3,266,300

\*CORN, GRAIN -- Two hundred and fifty acres flood loss.

NURSERY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
APPLE TREES		4,610	@ \$ .85	\$ 3,919	
GRAPE VINES, BUDDED		79,067	@ 240.00M	18,976	
GRAPE VINES, St. Geo.		39,000	@ 80.00M	3,120	
PEAR TREES, BARTLETT		1,460	@ .74	1,080	
PRUNE TREES, FRENCH		33,094	@ .69	22,835	
PRUNE TREES, IMPERIAL		343	@ .77	264	
PRUNE TREES, 29 <sup>1</sup> s		11,783	@ .41	4,831	
ORNAMENTAL, FLOWER AND BEDDING PLANTS <u>1</u> / CUT FLOWERS				290,000	
				<u>1,500</u>	
				\$	346,525

SEED CROPS

VEGETABLE SEED	733	285,870 lbs.	@ .50	142,935	
FLOWER SEED	62	24,800 lbs.	@ .85	21,080	
PASTURE GRASS SEED	929	278,700 lbs.	@ .35	97,545	
VETCH SEED		601,000 lbs.	@ .0825	<u>49,583</u>	
					311,143

POULTRY PRODUCTS

EGGS		<u>41,626,235</u> doz.	@	.4143	<u>17,245,749</u>	17,245,749
HATCHING EGGS						
Light Breeds		<u>771,810</u> doz.	@	.6543	504,995	
Heavy Breeds		<u>508,801</u> doz.	@	.8443	<u>429,581</u>	
						934,576
CHICKENS SOLD FOR MEAT						
Broilers		3,299,100 lbs.	@	.25	824,775	
Fryers & Roasters		17,563,980 lbs.	@	.2811	4,937,234	
Hens		9,054,566 lbs.	@	.161	<u>1,457,785</u>	7,219,794
TURKEYS						
Meat Birds		229,225 birds	@	6.94	1,590,822	
Hatching Eggs		761,210 eggs	@	.37	<u>281,648</u>	
						1,872,470
DUCKS						
Meat Birds		1,500 birds	@	1.00	1,500	
Hatching Eggs		110,300 eggs	@	.07	<u>7,721</u>	
						9,221
POULTRY FERTILIZER		67,785 tons	@	2.60	176,241	<u>176,241</u>
						\$27,458,051

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

APIARY PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM</u> <u>VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HONEY	235,059 lbs.	@ \$ .11	\$ 25,856	
WAX	2,985 lbs.	@ .53	1,582	
PACKAGE BEES	2,100 lbs.	@ .50	1,050	
POLLINATION			<u>12,028</u>	
				\$ 40,516

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

<u>MILK</u>				
Market	11,159,000 lbs. fat	@ 1.26	14,060,340	
Manufactured	2,831,000 lbs. fat	@ .86	<u>2,434,660</u>	16,495,000
SWINE	13,000 head	@ 40.00		520,000
<u>SHEEP</u>				
Lambs	112,500 head	@ 13.50	1,518,750	
Wool	1,200,000 lbs.	@ .60	<u>720,000</u>	2,238,750
CATTLE AND CALVES	46,325 head			4,125,500
<u>RABBITS</u>				
Fryers	63,000 lbs.	@ .26	16,380	
Stews	21,000 lbs.	@ .08	<u>1,680</u>	18,060
				<u>\$23,397,310</u>

SUMMARY

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$12,417,524	\$14,703,590
VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS	737,403	755,079
FIELD CROPS	2,892,470	3,266,300
NURSERY CROPS	287,154	346,525
SEED CROPS	421,372	311,143 <
POULTRY PRODUCTS	23,369,287	27,458,051
APIARY	34,200	40,516
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	<u>22,689,420</u>	<u>23,397,310</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$62,848,830</u>	<u>\$70,278,514</u>