

Sonoma County  
Department of Agriculture

**Agricultural Crop  
Report**

*Office Copy*



1952

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 1952 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.

The total returns to agriculture for the year 1952 amounted to \$70,300,567 which is \$1,265,472 less than the 1951 income. There was a marked fluctuation in values from the previous year with some commodities showing much greater returns and others correspondingly less returns.

Apples, with higher yields, and prunes, with higher prices, showed a marked increase in value. Pears and grapes, primarily due to low prices, showed marked decreases. Berry growers had a poor harvest season.

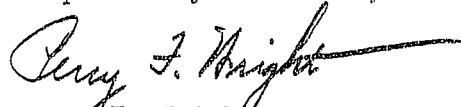
Hop producers had a disastrous year. Prices were lower; sixty-five percent of the crop was harvested under terms of the marketing order; and, in addition, considerable acreage was abandoned. On the other hand, hay growers had an excellent year with good yields and prices.

The value of poultry products dropped considerably. Egg prices were lower and the production of meat birds dropped due to the unfavorable ratio between feed and the price paid for poultry.

Market milk continued its upward trend with more dairies producing Grade A milk. Wool prices were much lower than the previous year and fleeces were extremely light due to the heavy winter rains. The value of cattle was down due to the slump in cattle prices towards the end of the year.

I wish to express my appreciation to all those who cooperated in contributing information for this report.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Percy F. Wright

Agricultural Commissioner  
of  
Sonoma County

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1952 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</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>APPLES</u>				
<u>Fresh</u>				
Gravenstein	6,792	839,114 boxes @ \$ 1.51	\$1,267,062	
Late Varieties	3,484	227,000 boxes @ 1.56	354,120	
<u>Processed</u>				
<u>Gravenstein</u>				
Canned		14,721 tons @ 35.00	515,235	
Juice-Cider		2,843 tons @ 17.36	49,354	
Vinegar		2,162 tons @ 4.00	8,648	
<u>Late Varieties</u>				
Canned		11,971 tons @ 45.00	538,695	
Juice-Cider		4,166 tons @ 20.00	83,320	
Vinegar		280 tons @ 4.00	1,120	
<u>Dried</u>				
Gravenstein		23,375 green tons @ 23.50	549,312	
Late Varieties		9,375 green tons @ 39.00	365,625	
<u>Peels and Cores</u>				
Vinegar-wine		10,417 tons @ 4.25	44,272	
<u>CHERRIES</u>				
Processed	637	1,560 tons @ 160.00	249,600	
Fresh	669	200 tons @ 240.00	48,000	
<u>GRAPES, WINE</u>				
	13,463	26,500 tons @ 40.00		
<u>PEARS</u>				
Canned	1,975	10,986 tons @ 41.00	450,426	
Dried		540 green tons @ 15.00	8,100	
Fresh		224 tons @ 60.00	13,440	
<u>PLUMS</u>				
Canned	169	145 tons @ 50.00	7,250	
Fresh		574 lugs @ 1.50	861	
<u>PRUNES</u>				
<u>Standard</u>				
French	14,336	17,336 tons @ 235.00	4,073,960	
Imperial	2,578	3,490 tons @ 260.00	907,400	
<u>Below Standard</u>				
French	16,914	3,060 tons @ 100.00	306,000	
Imperial		184 tons @ 100.00	18,400	
<u>WALNUTS</u>				
	1,131	439 tons @ 360.00		
<u>MISC. ORCHARD</u>				
	225			
				22,500
				\$ 11,100,740
				9 719 075

\* Naked fruit delivered to packing house or processor.  
Fresh apples - basis 42 pound box.

VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ARTICHOKES	98	2,100 crates @ \$ 2.50	\$ 5,250	
ASPARAGUS	7	5,000 lbs. @ .20	1,000	
BEANS, GREEN	5	6,000 lbs. @ .08	480	
BERRIES	670			
Fresh		30 tons @ 500.00	15,000	
Processed		723 tons @ 280.00	202,440	
CABBAGE	8	1,050 crates @ 2.00	2,100	
CARROTS	2	600 sacks @ 1.50	900	
CAULIFLOWER	5	150 crates @ 1.00	150	
CORN, SWEET	42	20,750 dozen @ .38	7,885	
LETTUCE	33	4,525 crates @ 2.00	9,050	
PEPPERS	4	500 crates @ 2.00	1,000	
POTATOES	129	18,800 sacks @ 3.00	56,400	
RHUBARB	7	800 lugs @ 1.00	800	
SQUASH	10	3,200 boxes @ 1.60	5,120	
TOMATOES				
Fresh	15	2,125 lugs @ 1.10	2,338	
Cannery	119	1,389 tons @ 25.00	34,725	
MIXED VEGETABLES	60		12,000	

\$ <sup>468 581</sup>  
356,638

FIELD CROPS

BARLEY	750	16,500 cwt. @ 3.50	57,750
BEANS, DRY	7	51 cwt. @ 9.00	459
CORN, ENSILAGE	1,000	10,000 tons @ 9.00	90,000
HAY			
Alfalfa	400	1,600 tons @ 35.00	56,000
Grain	22,469	57,423 tons @ 29.35	1,685,365
Straw	9,719	9,719 tons @ 14.00	136,066
HOPS			
Total Crop	2,562	3,111,903 lbs.)	1,101,818
Harvested		2,015,029 lbs.)	
PASTURE			
Permanent Irrig.	10,000		500,000
OATS	9,719	280,475 cwt. @ 3.75	1,051,781
WHEAT	400	8,000 cwt. @ 4.25	34,000

\$4,713,239  
4,143,898

NURSERY CROPS

NURSERY			
Prune Trees		15,700 No. 1's @ .75	11,775
Prune Trees		1,480 No. 2's @ .60	888
Prune Trees		3,595 No. 29's @ .45	1,618
Grape Vines		37,000 No. 1's @ 250.00 M	9,250
Grape Vines		8,000 No. 2's @ 100.00 M	800
Grape Vines		4,200 St. Geo. @ 75.00 M	315

Ornamental, Flower and Bedding Plants

\$ 24,646  
110,000  
\$ 134,646  
~~443,406~~

136 646 - Nursery  
348,501 - Seed Crop  
483,147 - 1952  
493,400 - 1951

SEED CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>		<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
VEGETABLE SEED	756	551,886 lbs.	@ \$ .29	\$ 160,047	
SWEET PEA SEED	95	27,423 lbs.	@ .40	10,969	
PASTURE GRASS SEED	1,024	220,006 lbs.	@ .50	110,003	
COMMON RYE (Recovered Seed)		12,300 lbs.	@ .07	861	
VETCH SEED		1,025,000 lbs.	@ .065	66,625	
					\$ 348,505

APIARY PRODUCTS

HONEY		89,640 lbs.	@ .105	9,412	
WAX		1,500 lbs.	@ .34	510	
PACKAGE BEES		600 pkg.	@ 3.50	2,100	
POLLINATION		3,500 colonies	@ 3.00	10,500	
					\$ 25,501
					22,522

POULTRY PRODUCTS

EGGS		38,329,326 doz.	@ .4775	18,302,253	\$18,302,253
HATCHING EGGS					
Light Breeds		1,981,547 doz.	@ .75	1,486,160	
Heavy Breeds		1,154,500 doz.	@ .835	964,008	
					\$ 2,450,168
CHICKENS SOLD FOR MEAT					
Broilers		5,435,372 lbs.	@ .302	1,641,482	
Fryers		11,032,386 lbs.	@ .307	3,386,943	
Hens		8,528,996 lbs.	@ .214	1,825,205	
					\$ 6,853,630
TURKEYS					
Meat Birds		236,000 birds	@ 7.00	1,652,000	
Hatching Eggs		850,000 eggs	@ .38	323,000	
					\$ 1,975,000
DUCKS					
Meat Birds		3,000 birds	@ 1.10	3,300	
Hatching Eggs		130,233 eggs	@ .07	9,116	
					\$ 12,416
POULTRY FERTILIZER		72,460 tons	@ 2.60	188,396	188,396
					\$29,781,863

HATCHERY BUSINESS

<u>NO. OF HATCHERIES</u>	<u>KIND OF BIRDS</u>	<u>% HATCH</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
33	Chicken - Light Breeds	65.5	12,633,497	@ \$ .163	\$ 2,059,260
23	Chicken - Heavy Breeds	71.7	9,355,321	@ .172	1,609,115
5	Turkeys - Poults	59.7	318,335	@ .807	256,896
3	Ducks - Ducklings	61.7	67,200	@ .270	18,144
					\$ 3,943,415
					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</u>	
			<u>VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MILK				
Market	9,822,000 lbs. fat @	\$ 1.32	\$12,965,040	
Manufactured	2,128,000 lbs. fat @	1.00	<u>2,128,000</u>	
				\$15,093,040 <i>13,471</i>
SWINE	13,000 head	@ 45.00		\$ 585,000
SHEEP				
Lambs	84,000 head	@ 17.50	1,470,000	
Wool - 12 Months	726,000 lbs.	@ .64	464,640	
Lambs Wool	242,000 lbs.	@ .37	<u>89,540</u>	
				\$ <sup>3 204 550</sup> 2,024,180
CATTLE AND CALVES	45,401 head			\$ <sup>6 321 680</sup> 6,000,038
RABBITS				
Fryers	459,544 lbs.	@ .282	129,591	
Stews	105,650 lbs.	@ .10	<u>10,565</u>	
				\$ <sup>159 576</sup> 140,156
				\$23,842,414

SUMMARY

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$ 9,719,075	\$11,100,740
VEGETABLE CROPS	468,585	356,638
FIELD CROPS	4,143,898	4,713,239
NURSERY CROPS	121,000	134,646
SEED CROPS	372,400	348,505
APIARY	25,509	22,522
POULTRY PRODUCTS	33,504,297	29,781,863
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	<u>23,211,275</u>	<u>23,842,414</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$71,566,039	\$70,300,567 - <sup>71 565,039</sup>

*1-265 472*