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**Sonoma County
Department of Agriculture**

**Agricultural Crop
Report**



1953

**FARM LABOR OFFICE #618
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
606 HEALDSBURG AVENUE
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA**

**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 1953 Annual 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 1953 amounted to \$68,995,972 which is \$1,304,595 less than the 1952 income. Frost damage and a general decline in the value of agricultural products accounted for the drop.

Apple producers had a very favorable year and returns were greater than all other fruit and nut products combined. Prune and pear crops were severely hit by frost. Grape prices were low especially on white varieties. Berry producers had a good year and yields were exceptionally high.

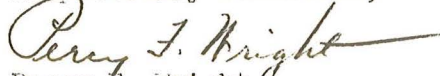
The hop acreage dropped from 2,562 to 967 and the few producers left had a very unfavorable year on account of mildew and a poor growing season. Some of the land taken out of hops was planted to green beans for freezing which look very good as a new crop for this county. Hay growers had a good crop but prices were considerably lower.

The value of poultry products increased. Egg prices remained relatively high throughout the year. Turkey numbers decreased and prices were higher. Chickens for meat decreased in value.

Market milk continues its upward trend with more dairies producing Grade A milk. More wool was produced than in the previous year. Sheep numbers are increasing. The value of cattle was down considerably due to the nation wide slump in cattle prices.

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

1953 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>Fresh 2/</u>				
Gravenstein	5,416	584,125 boxes @ \$ 2.22	\$1,296,757	
Late Varieties	2,910	195,285 boxes @ 2.98	581,949	
<u>Processed</u>				
<u>Gravenstein</u>				
Canned		16,322 tons @ 56.88	928,395	
Juice-Cider		4,255 tons @ 37.70	160,413	
<u>Late Varieties</u>				
Canned		12,549 tons @ 71.26	894,242	
Juice-Cider		1,914 tons @ 40.19	76,924	
<u>Dried</u>				
Gravenstein		17,000 green tons @ 44.27	752,590	
Late Varieties		11,250 green tons @ 70.00	787,500	
<u>Peels and Cores</u>				
Vinegar-Wine		11,877 tons 3/ @ 7.30	86,702	
				\$ 5,565,472
<u>CHERRIES</u>				
	518			
Processed		832 tons @ 260.00	216,320	
Fresh		100 tons @ 300.00	30,000	
				246,320
<u>GRAPES, WINE</u>				
	11,689			
Black		22,500 tons @ 43.75	984,375	
White		5,500 tons @ 33.75	185,625	
				1,170,000
<u>PEARS</u>				
	1,802			
Canned		4,406 tons @ 72.50	319,435	
Dried		290 green tons @ 17.50	5,075	
Fresh		50 tons @ 80.00	4,000	
				328,510
<u>PLUMS</u>				
	132			
Canned		48 tons @ 58.00	2,784	
Fresh		1,000 lugs @ 1.50	1,500	
				4,284
<u>PRUNES</u>				
	13,778			
French		9,072 tons @ 250.00	2,268,000	
Imperial	2,362	1,031 tons @ 300.00	309,300	
				2,577,300
<u>WALNUTS</u>				
	1,480	430 tons @ 450.00		193,500
<u>MISC. ORCHARD</u>				
	125			12,500
				\$10,097,886

1/ Naked fruit delivered to packing house or processor.

2/ Fresh apples - Gravensteins, 42 pound box; Lates, 44 pound box.

3/ Do not include this figure in calculating total production - a by-product of canned and dried apples.

VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ARTICHOKES	8	600 crates @ \$ 2.50	\$ 1,500	
ASPARAGUS	5	5,000 lbs. @ .12	600	
BEANS				
Snap	2	4,000 lbs. @ .10	400	
Green, Freezer	126	1,010 tons @ 123.00	124,230	
BERRIES, BUSH	585			
Fresh		30 tons @ 500.00	15,000	
Processed		1,309 tons @ 285.00	373,065	
CABBAGE	10	1,650 crates @ 1.55	2,558	
CARROTS	2	600 sacks @ 1.50	900	
CAULIFLOWER	5	300 crates @ 1.00	300	
CORN, SWEET	42	28,150 dozen @ .40	11,260	
GARLIC	1	4,000 lbs. @ .22	880	
LEEK	1/2	30 lugs @ 1.50	45	
LETTUCE				
Head	29	6,900 crates @ 1.50	10,350	
Leaf	2	500 crates @ 1.00	500	
PEPPERS	1	160 crates @ 2.20	352	
POTATOES	68	7,685 sacks @ 2.21	16,984	
RHUBARB	7	1,000 lugs @ 1.25	1,250	
SQUASH				
Summer	8	3,300 lugs @ 1.25	4,125	
Late	12	30 tons @ 40.00	1,200	
STRAWBERRIES	5	7,500 crates @ 2.25	16,875	
TOMATOES	223			
Cannery		2,556 tons @ 23.50	60,066	
Fresh		5,775 lugs @ 1.00	5,775	
OTHER BERRIES AND VEGETABLES (12 acres Blueberries)	50		15,000	
				\$ 663,215

FIELD CROPS

BARLEY	750	18,750 cwt. @ 2.85	53,438	
BEANS, DRY	6	40 cwt. @ 8.00	320	
CORN, ENSILAGE	1,000 -	12,500 tons @ 8.00	100,000	
CORN, GRAIN	407	8,140 cwt. @ 3.35	27,269	
HAY				
Alfalfa	600 -	2,400 tons @ 25.00	60,000	
Grain	21,465 -	59,029 tons @ 21.50	1,269,124	
Straw	7,500 -	7,500 tons @ 9.50	71,250	
HOPS	967	3,990 bales @ 80.00	319,200	
OATS	10,725	268,125 cwt. @ 3.15	844,594	
PASTURE				
Perm. Irrig.	11,000		605,000	
WHEAT	1,366	27,320 cwt. @ 3.75	102,450	
				\$3,452,645

VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>			<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ARTICHOKES	8	600 crates	@ \$ 2.50	\$ 1,500		
ASPARAGUS	5	5,000 lbs.	@ .12	600		
BEANS						
Snap	2	4,000 lbs.	@ .10	400		
Green, Freezer	126	1,010 tons	@ 123.00	124,230		
BERRIES, BUSH	585					
Fresh		30 tons	@ 500.00	15,000		
Processed		1,309 tons	@ 285.00	373,065		
CABBAGE	10	1,650 crates	@ 1.55	2,558		
CARROTS	2	600 sacks	@ 1.50	900		
CAULIFLOWER	5	300 crates	@ 1.00	300		
CORN, SWEET	42	28,150 dozen	@ .40	11,260		
GARLIC	1	4,000 lbs.	@ .22	880		
LEEK	1/2	30 lugs	@ 1.50	45		
LETTUCE						
Head	29	6,900 crates	@ 1.50	10,350		
Leaf	2	500 crates	@ 1.00	500		
PEPPERS	1	160 crates	@ 2.20	352		
POTATOES	68	7,685 sacks	@ 2.21	16,984		
RHUBARB	7	1,000 lugs	@ 1.25	1,250		
SQUASH						
Summer	8	3,300 lugs	@ 1.25	4,125		
Late	12	30 tons	@ 40.00	1,200		
STRAWBERRIES	5	7,500 crates	@ 2.25	16,875		
TOMATOES	223					
Cannery		2,556 tons	@ 23.50	60,066		
Fresh		5,775 lugs	@ 1.00	5,775		
OTHER BERRIES	50					
AND VEGETABLES (12 acres Blueberries)				15,000		
					\$ 663,215	

FIELD CROPS

BARLEY	750	18,750 cwt.	@ 2.85	53,438	
BEANS, DRY	6	40 cwt.	@ 8.00	320	
CORN, ENSILAGE	1,000	12,500 tons	@ 8.00	100,000	
CORN, GRAIN	407	8,140 cwt.	@ 3.35	27,269	
HAY					
Alfalfa	600	2,400 tons	@ 25.00	60,000	
Grain	21,465	59,029 tons	@ 21.50	1,269,124	
Straw	7,500	7,500 tons	@ 9.50	71,250	
HOPS	967	3,990 bales	@ 80.00	319,200	
OATS	10,725	268,125 cwt.	@ 3.15	844,594	
PASTURE					
Perm. Irrig.	11,000			605,000	
WHEAT	1,366	27,320 cwt.	@ 3.75	102,450	
					\$3,452,645

NURSERY CROPS

<u>CROP</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
PRUNE TREES		13,198 No. 1's @ \$.75	\$ 9,899	
		5,960 No. 2's @ .48	2,861	
		10,485 No. 29's @ .38	3,984	
PEAR TREES		1,850 @ .65	1,203	
GRAPE VINES		52,000 No. 1's @ 200.00 M	10,400	
		4,000 No. 2's @ 100.00 M	400	
		16,900 St. Geo. @ 75.00 M	1,268	
				\$ 30,015
ORNAMENTAL, FLOWER, AND BEDDING PLANTS ^{1/}				215,000
				\$ 245,015

SEED CROPS

VEGETABLE SEED	792	418,890 lbs. @ .242	101,371	
FLOWER SEED	49	16,827 lbs. @ .30	5,048	
PASTURE GRASS SEED	647	139,105 lbs. @ .35	48,687	
COMMON RYE (Recovered Seed)		14,500 lbs. @ .06	870	
VETCH SEED		973,750 lbs. @ .0475	46,253	
RED KIDNEY BEANS	80	64,000 lbs. @ .11	7,040	
				\$ 209,269

POULTRY PRODUCTS

EGGS		39,538,928 doz. @ .52	20,560,242	\$20,560,242
HATCHING EGGS				
Light Breeds		1,565,733 doz. @ .849	1,329,307	
Heavy Breeds		1,023,911 doz. @ .949	971,691	
				2,300,998
CHICKENS SOLD FOR MEAT				
Broilers		5,005,139 lbs. @ .2732	1,367,404	
Fryers		10,832,619 lbs. @ .2938	3,182,623	
Hens		7,446,881 lbs. @ .2075	1,545,228	
				6,095,255
TURKEYS				
Meat Birds		201,814 birds @ 8.00	1,614,512	
Hatching Eggs		872,678 eggs @ .375	327,254	
				1,941,766
DUCKS				
Meat Birds		1,700 birds @ 1.10	1,870	
Hatching Eggs		55,100 eggs @ .07	3,857	
				5,727
POULTRY FERTILIZER		157,400 tons @ 3.00	472,200	472,200
				\$31,376,188

HATCHERY BUSINESS

<u>NO. OF HATCHERIES</u>	<u>KIND OF BIRDS</u>	<u>% HATCH</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
29	Chicken - Light Breeds	64.5	10,174,705	@ \$.1714	\$1,743,944
21	Chicken - Heavy Breeds	67.0	8,143,919	@ .18125	1,476,085
6	Turkeys - Poults	57.5	312,649	@ .756	236,362
3	Ducks - Ducklings	67.2	37,000	@ .282	10,434
					\$3,466,825 ^{2/}

^{1/} Ninety-six nurseries - county grown stock.

^{2/} This is an informative figure. Only the farm value of hatchery eggs is used in the overall county crop valuation total.

APIARY PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRODUCTION</u>	<u>GROSS FARM VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HONEY	176,697 lbs. @ \$.1025	\$ 18,111	
WAX	5,445 lbs. @ .40	2,178	
PACKAGE BEES	600 pkg. @ 4.00	2,400	
POLLINATION		<u>12,870</u>	
			\$ 35,559

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

<u>MILK</u>			
Market	10,791,000 lbs. fat @ 1.33	14,352,030	
Manufactured	2,209,000 lbs. fat @ .92	<u>2,032,280</u>	
			\$16,384,310
<u>SWINE</u>	13,000 head @ 45.00		\$ 585,000
<u>SHEEP</u>			
Lambs	96,000 head @ 15.00	1,440,000	
Wool - 12 Months	1,045,000 lbs. @ .65	679,250	
Lambs Wool	127,000 lbs. @ .50	<u>63,500</u>	
			\$ 2,182,750
<u>CATTLE AND CALVES</u>	45,500 head		\$ 3,649,835
<u>RABBITS</u>			
Fryers	448,742 lbs. @ .25	112,185	
Stews	2,115 rabbits @ 1.00	<u>2,115</u>	
			\$ 114,300
			<u>\$22,916,195</u>

SUMMARY

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$11,100,740	\$10,097,886
VEGETABLE AND BERRY CROPS	356,638	663,215
FIELD CROPS	4,713,239	3,452,645
NURSERY CROPS	134,646	245,015
SEED CROPS	348,505	209,269
POULTRY PRODUCTS	29,781,863	31,376,188
APIARY	22,522	35,559
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	<u>23,842,414</u>	<u>22,916,195</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$70,300,567</u>	<u>\$68,995,972</u>

THE TREND OF PERMANENT CROPS IN SONOMA COUNTY

<u>CROP AND VARIETY</u>	1953 <u>NON-BEARING ACREAGE</u>	1953 <u>BEARING ACREAGE</u>	1953 <u>TOTAL ACREAGE</u>	1948 <u>TOTAL ACREAGE</u>
ALMONDS, ALL	2	2	4	7
APPLES				
Alexander		7	7	7
Arkansas Black		44	44	53
Astrachan		2	2	2
Baldwin		70	70	100
Ben Davis		7	7	7
Black Twig		7	7	7
Delicious, Standard	3	85	88	149
Delicious, Red Strains	125	383	508	396
Delicious, Golden	70	202	272	229
Esopus Spitzenburg	2	77	79	144
Gravenstein	36	5,375	5,411	7,747
Gravenstein, Red	39	18	57	18
Hoover		12	12	24
Jonathan	76	624	700	700
McIntosh	4	8	12	8
Rhode Island Greening	5	200	205	285
Rome Beauty	186	695	881	700
Smith Cider		11	11	13
Stayman Winesap		5	5	5
Tompkins King	2	62	64	82
Wagener		63	63	105
Winter Banana		12	12	12
Yellow Bellflower		38	38	38
Yellow Newton Pippin	1	90	91	143
June		9	9	9
Other	33	218	251	744
TOTAL	<u>584</u>	<u>8,326</u>	<u>8,910</u>	<u>11,734</u>
APRICOTS, ALL		10	10	39
CHERRIES				
Bing	12	16	28	26
Royal Ann	49	446	495	575
Tartarian	1	24	25	34
Other	2	30	32	29
TOTAL	<u>64</u>	<u>516</u>	<u>580</u>	<u>664</u>
CHESTNUTS	1	4	5	5
FIGS, ALL		19	19	29
FILBERTS	2	15	17	19

<u>CROP AND VARIETY</u>	1953 NON-BEARING <u>ACREAGE</u>	1953 BEARING <u>ACREAGE</u>	1953 TOTAL <u>ACREAGE</u>	1948 TOTAL <u>ACREAGE</u>
GRAPES, TABLE		14	14	33
GRAPES, WINE				
Alicante Bouschet	2	650	652	957
Barbera		51	51	33
Burgundy		36	36	36
Burger	1	124	125	223
Cabernet Sauvignon		131	131	147
Carignane	31	2,093	2,124	2,382
Chianti		82	82	84
Colombard	8	181	189	141
Golden Chasselas	14	780	794	1,050
Grand noir		161	161	268
Green Hungarian		42	42	62
Grenache		5	5	16
Malvoisie		23	23	46
Mataro		8	8	15
Mission		43	43	66
Petite Bouschet		8	8	8
Petite Sirah	26	1,553	1,579	1,881
Pinot Noir	15	51	66	58
Riesling	10	116	126	138
Ruby Cabernet	19	15	34	11
Sauvignon		341	341	556
Semillon		140	140	84
Sylvaner	3	41	44	60
Zinfandel	23	4,623	4,646	7,384
All Other Varieties	<u>11</u>	<u>442</u>	<u>453</u>	<u>1,112</u>
TOTAL	163	11,740	11,903	16,818
LEMONS		3	3	3
OLIVES		29	29	35
ORANGES		7	7	7
PEACHES, CLINGSTONE	3	26	29	44
PEACHES, FREESTONE	8	29	37	62
PEARS, BARTLETT	175	1,802	1,977	2,187
PLUMS				
Eldorado		3	3	3
Green Gage		7	7	7
Jefferson	1	102	103	121
Santa Rosa	4	13	17	22
Shiro		12	12	25
Others	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	7	139	146	182

<u>CROP AND VARIETY</u>	<u>1953 NON-BEARING ACREAGE</u>	<u>1953 BEARING ACREAGE</u>	<u>1953 TOTAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>1948 TOTAL ACREAGE</u>
PRUNES				
Burton		5	5	14
French	1,019	13,670	14,689	16,383
Imperial	92	2,357	2,449	3,020
Robe de Sargent		31	31	36
Sugar	2	71	73	89
Others	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>37</u>
TOTAL	1,116	16,140	17,256	19,579
QUINCE				
		5	5	5
WALNUTS				
Concord		4	4	4
Eureka		14	14	11
Franquette	188	1,016	1,204	1,127
Hartley	4	59	63	62
Mayette	3	119	122	119
Payne	2	5	7	5
Miscellaneous	<u>39</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>156</u>
TOTAL	236	1,480	1,716	1,484
BLACK WALNUTS				
		56	56	24