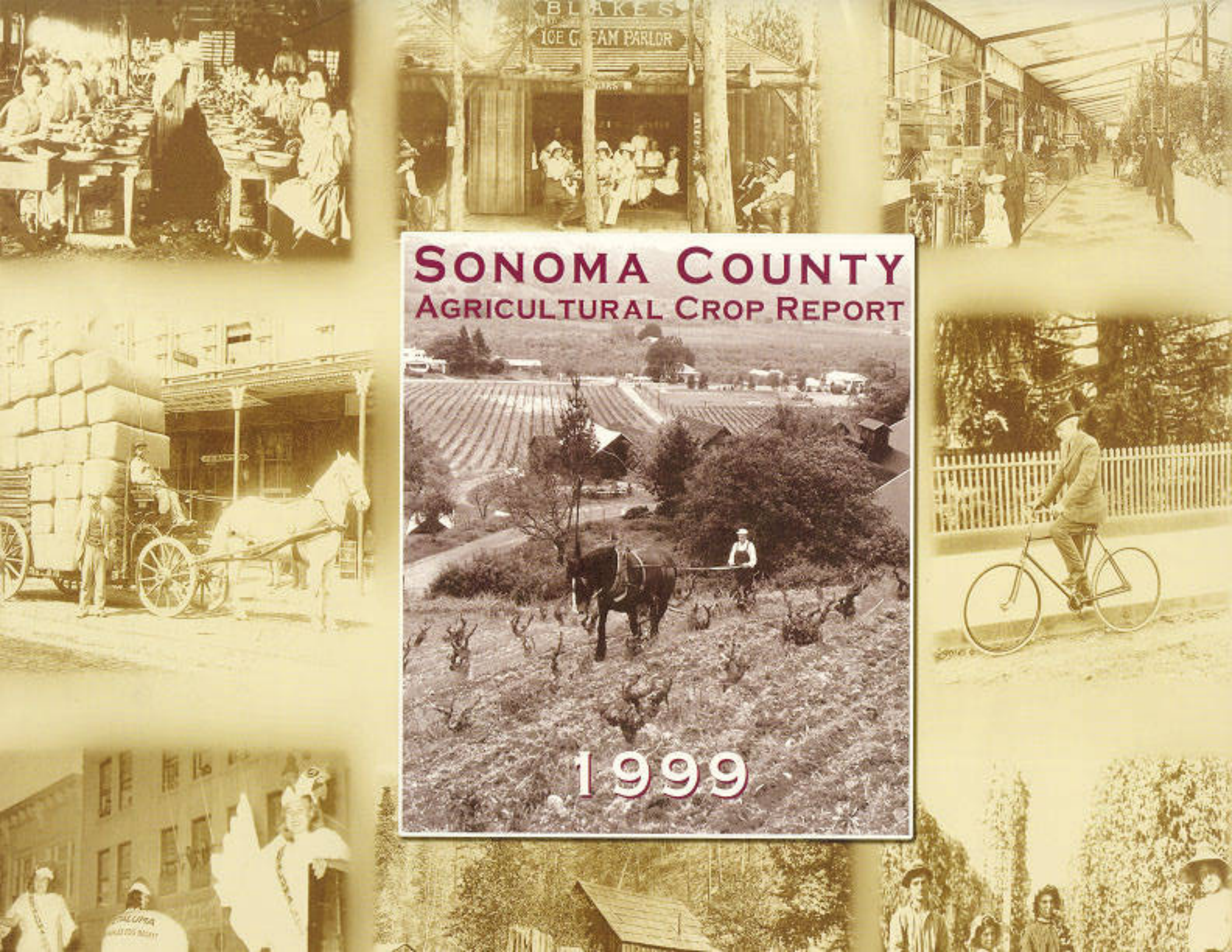

SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

1999

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JOHN WESTOBY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

MICHAEL SMITH
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

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

April 2000

Sonoma County Board Of Supervisors:
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Tim Smith - District 3
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Mike Kerns - District 2
Paul L. Kelley - District 4

The Sonoma County crop report for 1999 shows a value of **$483,033,600** for the raw commodities that were sold from our farms and ranches. This is the second highest total value ever produced in this county. The continued demand for Sonoma County's premium varietal wine grapes and a moderate increase in tonnage pushed the 1999 total value up 6.5% over 1998.

This year our cover shows many scenes of agriculture from the first part of the twentieth century. A new century is dawning and it does help to look back, but we can't go back in time. Sonoma agriculture is more successful today, in total production value, than in, what many believe, were its golden years.

Vegetables, Nursery, Livestock and Poultry Products and Field Crops all experienced decreases in the value of their production in 1999. A large vegetable grower moved to more profitable grapes, ornamental nursery production was down, milk prices were down although production increased, and oat hay production acreage was down.

Fruit and nut values did increase on the strength of the value of wine grapes. Apple production was up by close to 7,000 tons, but prices were $22 a ton less than the previous year. Livestock, Poultry and Aquaculture was up by over $8 million because of higher beef prices and greater numbers of cattle and sheep going to market. Also, values received for fryers, roasters and ducks increased from the previous year.

Staff has been working diligently to update wine grape acreage and we are reporting a total of 51,470 acres. Also we are happy to report that the Bodega Bay fish landing report is back in the report after one year's absence.

It is the County's farmers and ranchers that provide a substantial amount of the information necessary to produce this report. Users of this report are reminded the values listed indicate gross production and are not meant to reflect or infer net farm income.

This report is dedicated to Bonnie Sallee who has been responsible for the production of this crop report since 1989. Bonnie has done an excellent job of tracking down the facts necessary to make this publication reliable, useful and attractive. Bonnie, enjoy your retirement, we will miss you!

Respectfully submitted,

John Westoby
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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LOOKING BACK TO THE FUTURE
THE LAST 100 YEARS IN SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURE

To think about Sonoma County you must think of its geography and the beauty of the diversity of its landscape, the magnificent seacoast, the Mayacamas, Sonoma Mountain, the Coast Range and the myriad valleys in between. Sonoma County has a magical climate, none too hot and none too cold, with adequate water, good soils and niches of environment that allow the production of many special commodities.

In the twentieth century many found the delights of this chosen spot, Native Americans, Spanish, Mexican, Italian, English, Irish, German, Japanese, Chinese, Africans, Russians, Swiss, Danes, Portuguese and others. In the first half of this century the people that found their way to Sonoma County did so in the main to raise agricultural commodities or to support that effort. In the second half of the Nineteenth Century the first immigrants had paved the way for the agricultural production that made Sonoma County the eighth ranking county in the nation by 1920. The diversity of production has not been matched since then as wine grapes, dairies, prunes, eggs, poultry, apples, cherries, hops, olives, berries, potatoes, asparagus, melons and other vegetables and livestock were produced and processed locally or shipped fresh to the largest market on the West Coast, San Francisco. The value of the 1920 production in today's dollars would equal $400 million.

As the century progressed, a number of events affected the face of Sonoma County agriculture, both positively and negatively. World War I, Prohibition, the Depression, World War II, urbanization of our county and competition from other areas, all made changes to the local agribusiness.

Wine grapes were one of the county's first leading commodities. The first peak of acreage and production was reached, oddly enough, in the middle of Prohibition. Grapes were being shipped by railcar back east where private citizens could still make 200 gallons of wine per year. After that time it was difficult for anyone to continue to purchase grapes or wine as the Depression took its toll on disposable income. Egg production reached its zenith in the first half of the century. Petaluma was the Egg Basket of the World, until after World War II, when other parts of California could out compete our free range chickens, with eggs produced from caged hens in temperature controlled houses that had no seasons. Other commodities like hops, prunes and apples had great success in the first half of the century. Prunes and apples were dried and shipped worldwide. Hops were needed locally for brewing and their price and demand was affected worldwide by increases and decreases of production. World Wars I and II, sent hop prices soaring as foreign production decreased and demand to keep the Doe boys and GIs happy increased. After World War II, change in taste, in favor of less heavily flavored beers, disease and competition from the Pacific Northwest spelled the doom of Sonoma County grown hops. Gravenstein apples, which had been the first apple variety on the supermarket shelves each year, lost out to the apple producing areas that developed cold storage and could provide apples all year round. Prunes were still successful into the 1960's, but competition from the Sacramento Valley, where more tons could be produced for less cost, again spelled the end of one of Sonoma County staples. Dairy production had remained strong into the 1980's, but costs, some tied to environmental requirements, have decreased the number of Sonoma County dairies dramatically from over 800, at one point in this century, to less than 100 today.

The tale of this last century agriculturally speaking is a clear one in annuals of business success. Supply and demand and beating the competition are the biggest factors whether agriculture or any business

can survive in an area. Urbanization has driven land prices higher and higher in Sonoma County, growers, as they have throughout the history of this county, have grown the commodities that will allow them to pay the bills, send the kids to school and put away some money for their later years. Today the commodity that provides the necessities for the most farmers is wine grapes.

To be sure we still see a remnant of the diversity of the early part of the century. Apples and prunes are still in existence, but are only shadows of their peak importance. Dairy farms continue the battle to remain viable and are looking at strategies like North Coast Excellence and organic to compete with the large valley farms. Vegetables have increased, but their value has not replaced the loss of hops and pears. The nursery industry has grown to supply the demand for premium varietal wine grapes and rootstock. The livestock industry is still a big value, but gone are the many egg ranches and vast sheep herds. Urbanization has filled the 101 corridor and large portions of our valleys with homes and businesses.

The twentieth century has created change for Sonoma County agriculture, but that is to be expected. As the twenty-first century dawns we still see a beautiful countryside that can be reached quickly from almost any city. We see a successful agriculture that is producing more in raw commodity value, $483 million, than when Sonoma County was 8th in the nation back in the twenties. Our rank is now 33rd in the nation, not too shabby. The citizens of Sonoma County know the value of productive agriculture and have passed the open space district initiative. Growers are living with ever increasing laws and regulations and are stepping up to produce high value products in the safest ways possible.

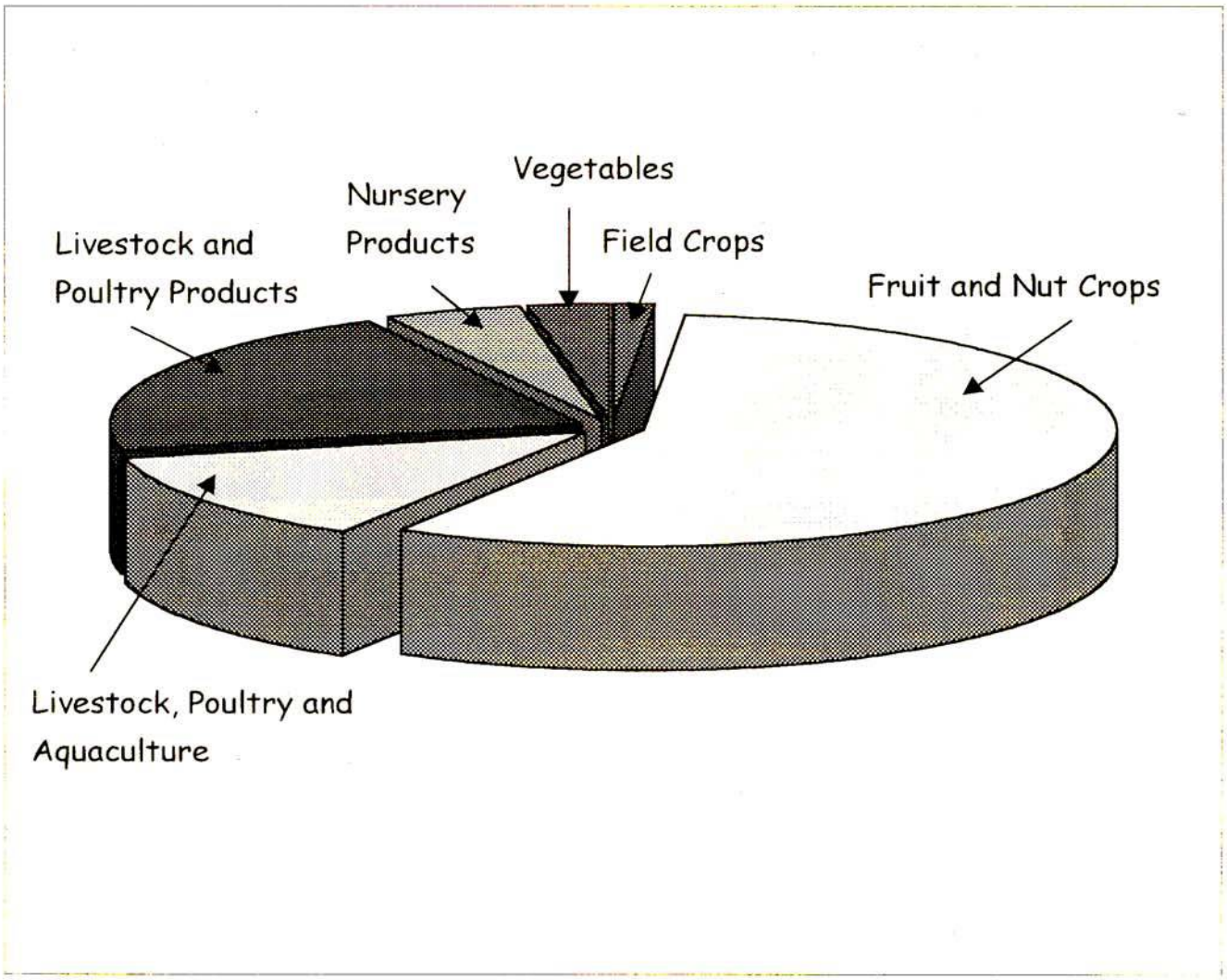
Sonoma County Agriculture will survive in this next century, if it can compete with the global economy. That is how it always has been. That is how it will remain.

YEAR	TOTAL CROP REPORT VALUE	MOST VALUABLE CROP
1929	$ 6,386,400 (Only fruit, nuts, vegetables)	Apples ~ $ 1,327,200
1934	$ 17,515,100	Poultry (all) ~ $ 8,415,000
1939	$ 20,699,500	Poultry (all) ~ $ 9,376,000
1944	$ 60,081,700	Poultry (all) ~ $ 30,145,200
1949	$ 67,065,200	Poultry (all) ~ $ 35,045,500
1954	$ 62,848,800	Poultry (all) ~ $ 23,369,300
1959	$ 71,009,300	Dairy Products ~ $ 18,178,000
1964	$ 72,828,600	Dairy Products ~ $ 22,203,000
1969	$ 76,607,100	Dairy Products ~ $ 27,245,000
1974	$ 123,406,700	Dairy Products ~ $ 42,751,000
1979	$ 186,206,000	Dairy Products ~ $ 52,050,000
1984	$ 216,124,000	Dairy Products ~ $ 61,558,000
1989	$ 297,749,100	Wine Grapes ~ $ 122,306,600
1994	$ 339,228,800	Wine Grapes ~ $ 152,280,700
1999	$ 483,033,600	Wine Grapes ~ $ 269,271,000

(To convert to today's value; for 1929 divide by .1, for 1949 divide by .14, for 1969 divide by .24 and for 1989 divide by .78)

RECAPITULATION

	1998	1999
Apiary	$ 116,500	$ 116,000
Field Crops	$ 7,987,200	$ 6,577,800
Fruit and Nut Crops	$ 238,353,300	$ 275,907,100
Livestock, Poultry and Aquaculture	$ 52,922,400	$ 61,799,200
Livestock and Poultry Products	$ 107,993,100	$ 102,685,000
Nursery Products	$ 27,836,400	$ 23,133,200
Vegetable Crops	$ 18,325,700	$ 12,819,800
Total	$ 453,534,600	$ 483,038,100



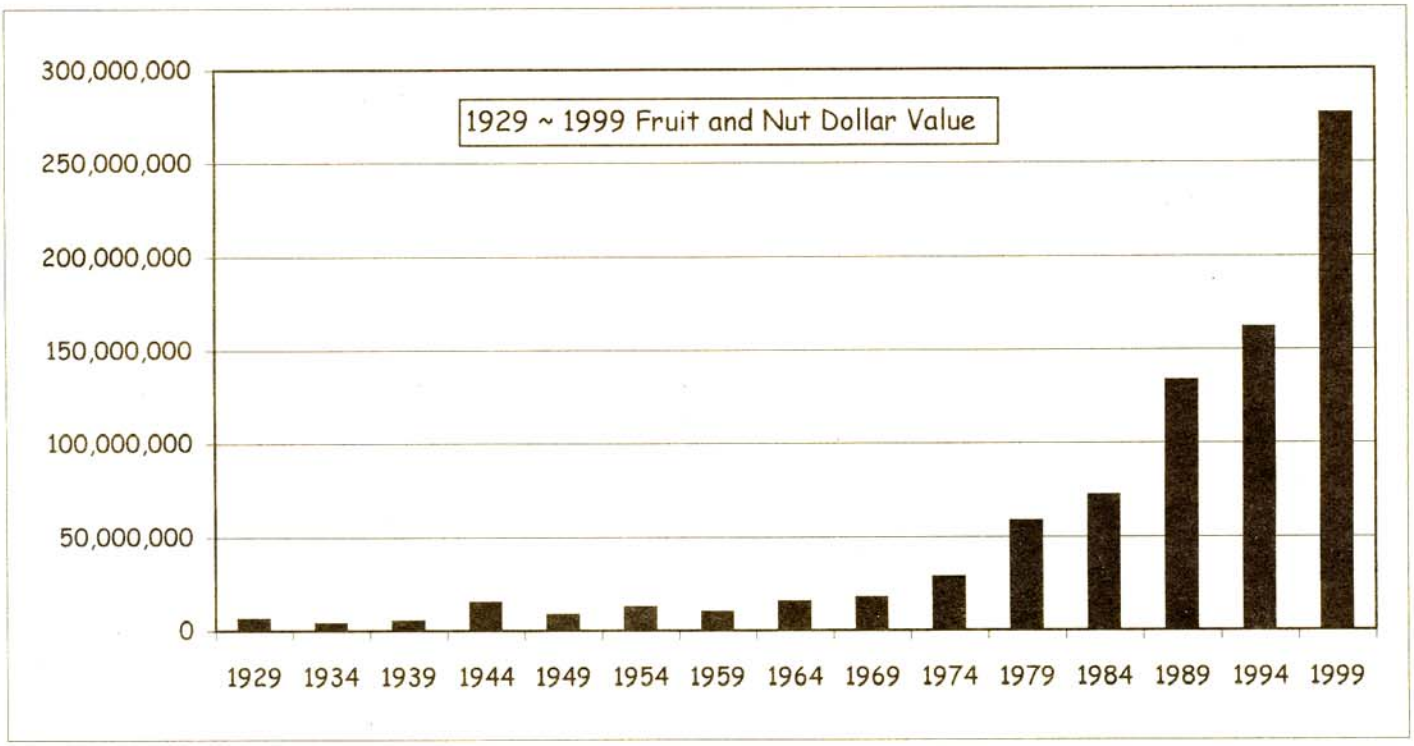
FRUIT AND NUT SUMMARY

Crop	Year	Bearing Acres	Tons/ Acre	Total Tons	Dollar Value $/Ton	Dollar Value Total
Apples (all)	1999	4,047	11.30	45,713	$ 129.73	$ 5,930,300
	1998	4,144	9.17	37,996	$ 155.62	$ 5,912,800
Fresh	1999					$ 737,300
	1998					$ 493,103
Processed (A)	1999					$ 5,193,000
	1998					$ 5,419,653
Grapes (wine)	1999	42,227	3.37	142,477	$ 1,890.00	$ 269,271,000
	1998	35,334	3.77	133,258	$ 1,739.69	$ 231,828,000
Prunes (B)	1999	318	0.96	305	$ 891.80	$ 272,000
	1998	377	1.32	496	$ 510.28	$ 253,100
Walnuts	1999	192	0.57	109	$ 869.41	$ 95,100
	1998	219	0.13	29	$ 1,078.53	$ 30,900
Miscellaneous (C)	1999					$ 338,700
	1998					$ 326,800
TOTAL	1999					$ 275,907,100
	1998					$ 238,353,300

(A) Includes canned, juice/cider, vinegar

(B) Dry tons

(C) Includes bush-berries, kiwi, black walnuts, plums, all pears, strawberries, figs, chestnuts, olives, etc.



LIVESTOCK, POULTRY and AQUACULTURE

Item	Year	Number of Head	Total Live Weight	Unit	Dollar Value $/Unit	Dollar Value Total
Cattle/Calves	1999	54,875	318,834	cwt.	$ 64.82	$ 20,667,100
	1998	51,414	298,609	cwt.	$ 57.64	$ 17,211,700
Sheep/Lambs	1999	16,625	17,954	cwt.	$ 68.38	$ 1,227,800
	1998	8,962	9,679	cwt.	$ 69.57	$ 673,300
Hogs	1999	2,552	6,095	cwt.	$ 32.62	$ 198,800
	1998	2,578	6,158	cwt.	$ 32.61	$ 200,800
Miscellaneous (A)	1999					$ 39,705,500
	1998					$ 34,836,600
TOTAL	1999					$ 61,799,200
	1998					$ 52,922,400

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

LIVESTOCK and POULTRY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Dollar Value $/Unit	Dollar Value Total
Milk, Market	1999	6,456,837	cwt.	$ 14.12	$ 91,171,000
	1998	6,061,344	cwt.	$ 15.71	$ 95,223,700
Milk, Manufacturing	1999	28,644	cwt.	$ 13.37	$ 383,000
	1998	38,751	cwt.	$ 14.60	$ 565,800
Wool	1999	97,767	lb.	$ 0.25	$ 24,400
	1998	99,589	lb.	$ 0.45	$ 44,900
Miscellaneous Products (B)	1999				$ 11,106,600
	1998				$ 12,158,700
TOTAL	1999				$ 102,685,000
	1998				$ 107,993,100

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

APIARY PRODUCTS

Total Value	1999	Includes honey, wax and pollination	$	116,000
	1998		$	116,500

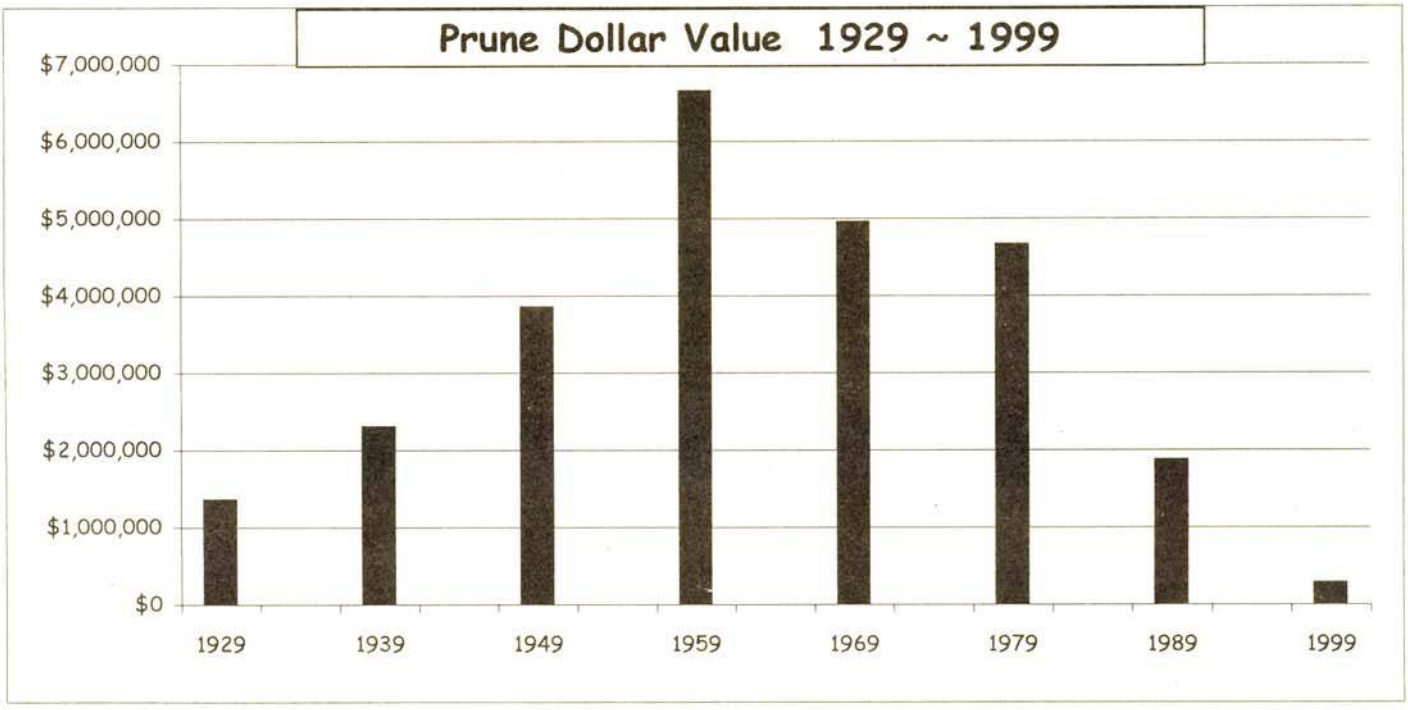
NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Units Sold	Unit	DOLLAR VALUE $/Unit	DOLLAR VALUE Total
Grapevines (A)	1999				$ 7,500,600
	1998				$ 8,153,700
Ornamentals	1999	476,434	plant (B)	$ 6.29	$ 2,997,000
	1998	963,963	plant (B)	$ 5.79	$ 5,578,300
Bedding Plants	1999	138,384	flat	$ 15.15	$ 2,097,200
	1998	173,062	flat	$ 13.63	$ 2,358,500
Cut Flowers	1999				$ 1,843,900
	1998				$ 2,501,300
Christmas Trees	1999	15,087	each	$ 26.65	$ 402,000
	1998	15,884	each	$ 28.45	$ 451,900
Miscellaneous Products (C)	1999				$ 8,292,500
	1998				$ 8,792,700
TOTAL	1999				$ 23,133,200
	1998				$ 27,836,400

(A) Includes field grown non-grafted, bench grafts, greenhouse propagation

(B) Average unit price includes all type trade containers

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



FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Ton/ Acre	Total Tons	Units	DOLLAR VALUE $/Unit	DOLLAR VALUE Total
Hay, Oat	1999	4,497	2.87	12,920	ton	$ 66.83	$ 863,500
	1998	6,705	2.33	15,646	ton	$ 78.82	$ 1,233,300
Hay, Volunteer	1999	1,160	1.66	1,924	ton	$ 60.60	$ 116,600
	1998	2,470	2.62	6,463	ton	$ 52.70	$ 340,600
Green Chop (A)	1999	1,369	9.78	13,388	ton	$ 21.70	$ 290,500
	1998	917	11.82	10,842	ton	$ 28.93	$ 313,700
Oats, Grain	1999	1,427	1.35	1,923	ton	$ 147.48	$ 283,600
	1998	1,245	0.77	954	ton	$ 260.27	$ 248,300
Ensilage, Corn (A)	1999	370	20.85	7,715	ton	$ 34.00	$ 262,300
	1998	294	26.87	7,900	ton	$ 40.83	$ 322,600
Oats, Silage (A)	1999	3,670	11.56	42,435	ton	$ 29.00	$ 1,230,600
	1998	4,388	11.73	51,453	ton	$ 35.83	$ 1,843,600
Straw	1999						$ 66,200
	1998						$ 15,050
Pasture, Irrigated	1999	9,450			acre	$ 100.00	$ 945,000
	1998	9,450			acre	$ 100.00	$ 945,000
Grassland	1999	206,350			acre	$ 10.00	$ 2,063,500
	1998	206,400			acre	$ 10.00	$ 2,064,000
Woodland	1999	172,725			acre	$ 1.00	$ 172,700
	1998	172,750			acre	$ 1.00	$ 172,750
Miscellaneous (B)	1999						$ 283,300
	1998						$ 487,700
TOTAL	1999						6,577,800
	1998						7,987,200

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

VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Dollar Value
Miscellaneous	1999	847	$ 12,819,800
Truck Farms (C)	1998	1,334	$ 18,325,700

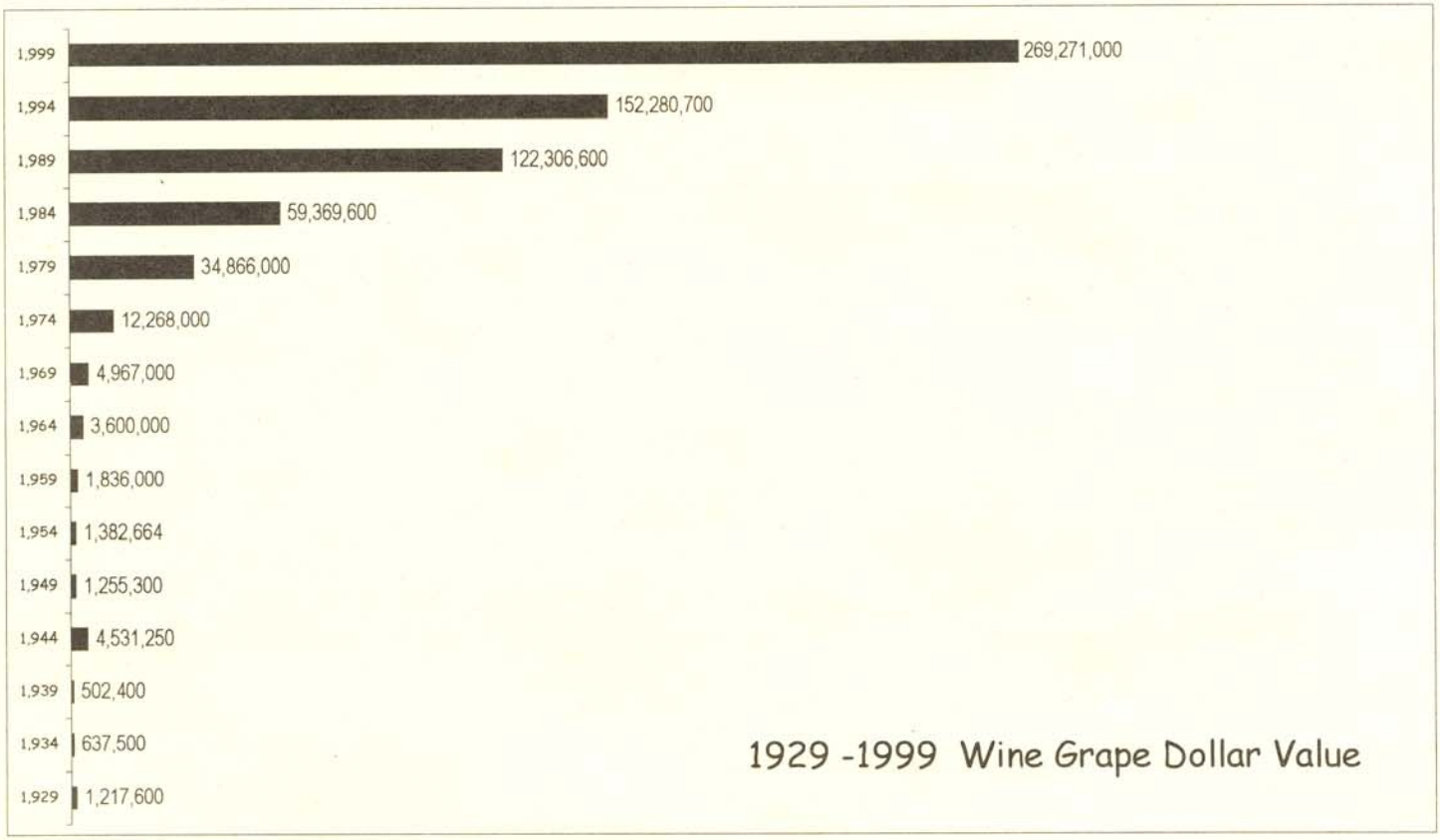
(C) Includes melons, mushrooms, potatoes, pumpkins, sprouts, squash, tomatoes, lettuces, etc.

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

1	Wine Grapes	$	269,271,000
2	Market Milk	$	91,171,000
3	Misc. Livestock, Poultry and Aquaculture	$	39,705,500
4	Cattle and Calves	$	20,667,100
5	Vegetables	$	12,819,800
6	Misc. Livestock and Poultry Products	$	11,106,600
7	Misc. Nursery Production	$	8,292,500
8	Grapevines	$	7,500,600
9	Apples ~ All Varieties	$	5,930,300
10	Nursery ~ Ornamentals	$	2,997,000
11	Nursery ~ Bedding Plants	$	2,097,200
12	Nursery ~ Cut Flowers	$	1,843,900
13	Oat Silage	$	1,230,600
14	Sheep and Lambs	$	1,227,800

White Wine Grape Production

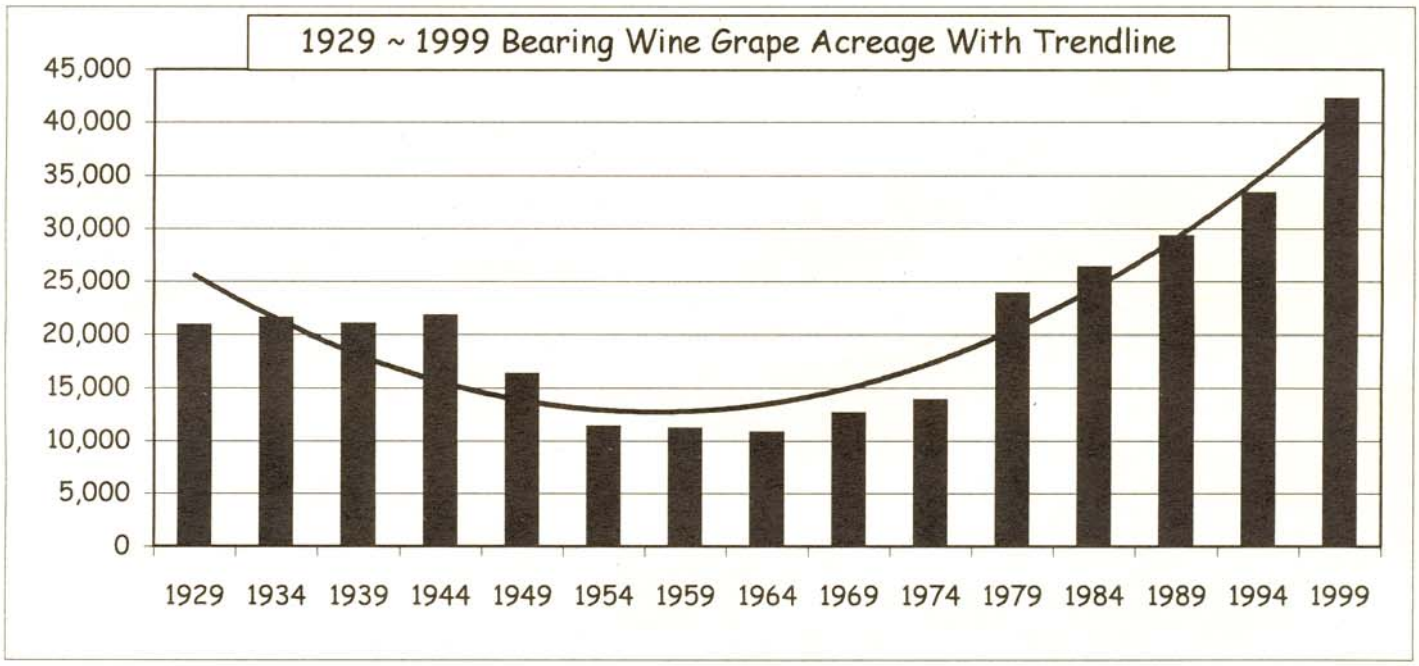
VARIETY	YEAR	Acres BEARING	Acres NON-BEARING	Acres TOTAL	Production TONS	Production DOLLAR PER TON	Production TOTAL VALUE
Chardonnay	1999	13,565	1,841	15,406	52,411	$ 1,857.10	$ 97,331,500
	1998	12,130	2,207	14,337	50,265	$ 1,749.20	$ 87,923,400
Chenin Blanc	1999	75	0	75	588	$ 611.78	$ 359,700
	1998	136	0	136	601	$ 604.32	$ 363,000
French Colombard	1999	212	0	212	1,305	$ 561.93	$ 733,100
	1998	279	0	279	1,417	$ 541.44	$ 1,347,800
Gewürztraminer	1999	213	3	216	915	$ 1,151.91	$ 1,054,200
	1998	254	8	262	468	$ 1,070.54	$ 501,400
Muscat Blanc	1999	39	0	39	93	$ 1,640.72	$ 153,200
	1998	38	0	38	97	$ 1,552.92	$ 150,800
Pinot Blanc	1999	112	5	117	441	$ 1,442.51	$ 635,900
	1998	121	2	123	275	$ 1,275.67	$ 350,600
Sauvignon Blanc	1999	1,624	276	1,900	5,754	$ 1,278.21	$ 7,354,600
	1998	1,403	403	1,806	7,496	$ 1,168.60	$ 8,759,900
Semillon	1999	177	16	193	704	$ 1,291.65	$ 909,300
	1998	142	26	168	633	$ 1,153.12	$ 729,600
Viognier	1999	183	4	187	267	$ 2,101.48	$ 561,900
	1998	107	19	126	171	$ 1,904.21	$ 324,900
White Riesling	1999	49	0	49	84	$ 1,323.83	$ 111,200
	1998	115	1	116	375	$ 1,032.49	$ 387,200
Other Whites	1999	281	292	573	728	$ 1,505.91	$ 1,096,300
	1998	162	482	644	495	$ 1,015.16	$ 545,700
TOTAL WHITES	1999	16,530	2,437	18,967	63,289	$ 1,742.81	$ 110,300,900
	1998	14,887	3,148	18,035	62,292	$ 1,618.25	$ 100,803,500



1929 -1999 Wine Grape Dollar Value

Red Wine Grape Production

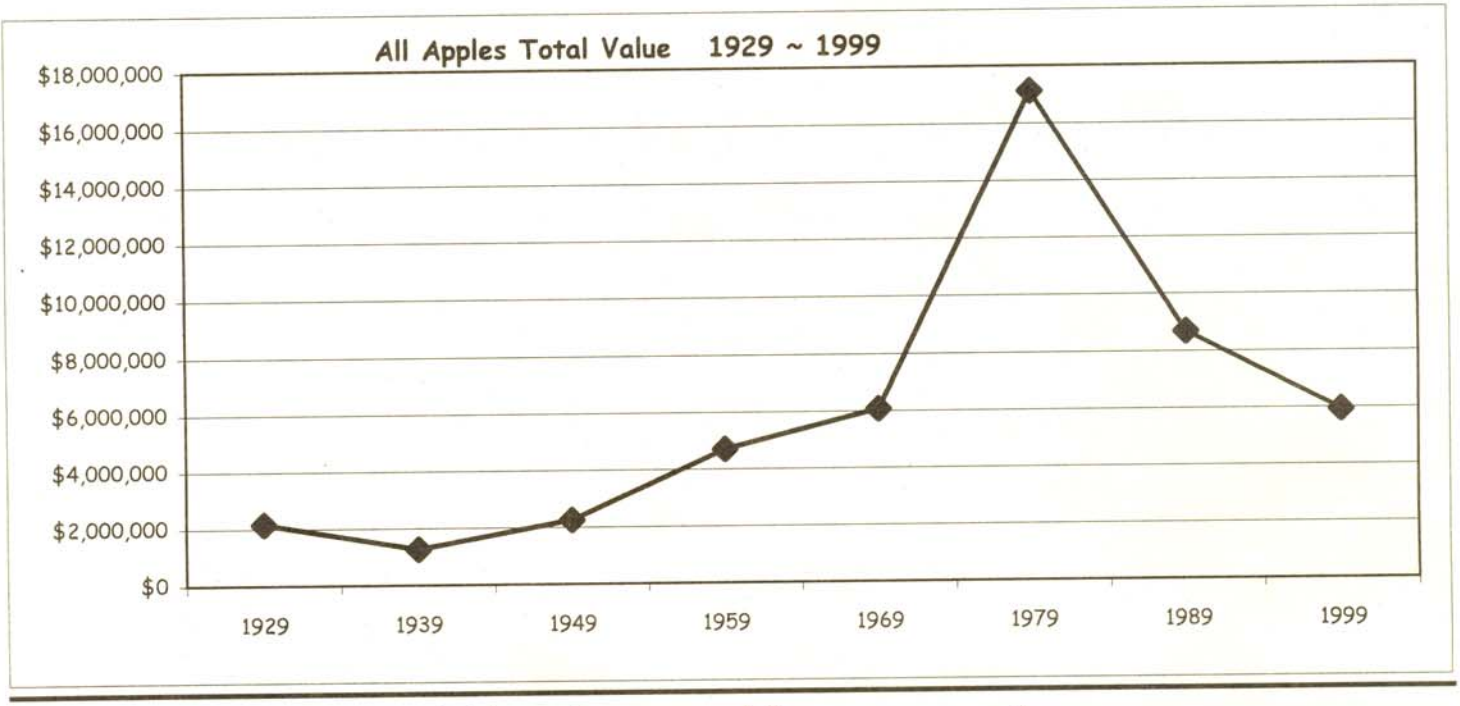
VARIETY	YEAR	Acres BEARING	Acres NON-BEARING	Acres TOTAL	Production TONS	Production DOLLAR PER TON	Production TOTAL VALUE
Cabernet Franc	1999	578	101	679	1,769	$ 2,047	$ 3,622,400
	1998	437	100	537	1,877	$ 1,923	$ 3,608,600
Cabernet Sauv.	1999	7,625	2,298	9,923	21,037	$ 2,158	$ 45,400,600
	1998	6,196	1,738	7,934	24,217	$ 1,950	$ 47,232,700
Carignane	1999	201	1	202	590	$ 1,215	$ 717,200
	1998	234	0	234	617	$ 1,118	$ 689,900
Merlot	1999	6,276	848	7,124	24,558	$ 1,979	$ 48,599,700
	1998	4,806	1,367	6,173	17,585	$ 1,882	$ 33,096,200
Meunier	1999	129	17	146	426	$ 1,817	$ 774,800
	1998	121	11	132	334	$ 1,509	$ 504,400
Napa Gamay	1999	101	0	101	283	$ 966	$ 273,600
	1998	141	0	141	335	$ 992	$ 332,300
Petite Sirah	1999	285	59	344	787	$ 1,991	$ 1,567,600
	1998	259	64	323	692	$ 1,752	$ 1,212,300
Petite Verdot	1999	96	22	118	244	$ 1,970	$ 479,900
	1998	106	19	125	144	$ 1,920	$ 276,700
Pinot Noir	1999	4,744	2,344	7,088	13,792	$ 1,968	$ 27,146,600
	1998	3,416	1,748	5,164	9,779	$ 1,784	$ 17,447,000
Sangiovese	1999	297	41	338	1,469	$ 1,796	$ 2,638,800
	1998	229	83	312	890	$ 1,673	$ 1,488,500
Syrah-shiraz	1999	559	238	797	2,089	$ 1,989	$ 4,154,900
	1998	248	358	606	1,314	$ 1,814	$ 2,383,800
Zinfandel	1999	4,316	471	4,787	10,777	$ 1,943	$ 20,942,000
	1998	3,925	553	4,478	12,230	$ 1,725	$ 21,091,800
Other Reds	1999	491	363	854	1,366	$ 1,901	$ 2,652,000
	1998	329	158	487	952	$ 1,744	$ 1,660,300
Total Reds	1999	25,697	6,803	32,501	79,188	$ 2,008	$ 158,970,100
	1998	20,447	6,199	26,646	70,966	$ 1,846	$ 131,024,500
Total All Wine Grapes	1999	42,227	9,240	51,467	142,477	$ 1,890	$ 269,271,000
	1998	35,334	9,347	44,681	133,258	$ 1,740	$ 231,828,000



Apple Production

Crop	Year	Bearing Acres	Tons/Acre	Total Tons	Dollar Value $/Ton	Dollar Value	Total
Gravenstein	1999	1,267	10.80	13,681	$ 167.70		$ 2,294,300
	1998	1,299	5.58	7,212	$ 166.20		$ 1,205,300
Fresh	1999			636	$ 468.40	$ 297,900	
	1998			288	$ 528.92	$ 152,390	
Processed (A)	1999			13,045	$ 153.04	$ 1,996,400	
	1998			6,924	$ 151.18	$ 1,052,887	
Late Apples	1999	2,780	11.52	32,032	$ 113.51		$ 3,636,000
	1998	2,945	10.44	30,744	$ 153.12		$ 4,707,500
Fresh	1999			1,791	$ 245.34	$ 439,400	
	1998			821	$ 415.05	$ 340,713	
Processed (A)	1999			30,241	$ 105.70	$ 3,196,600	
	1998			29,923	$ 145.93	$ 4,366,766	
Total	1999	4,047	11.30	45,713			$ 5,930,300
	1998	4,244	9	37,956			$ 5,912,800

(A) Includes canned, juice, vinegar, cider



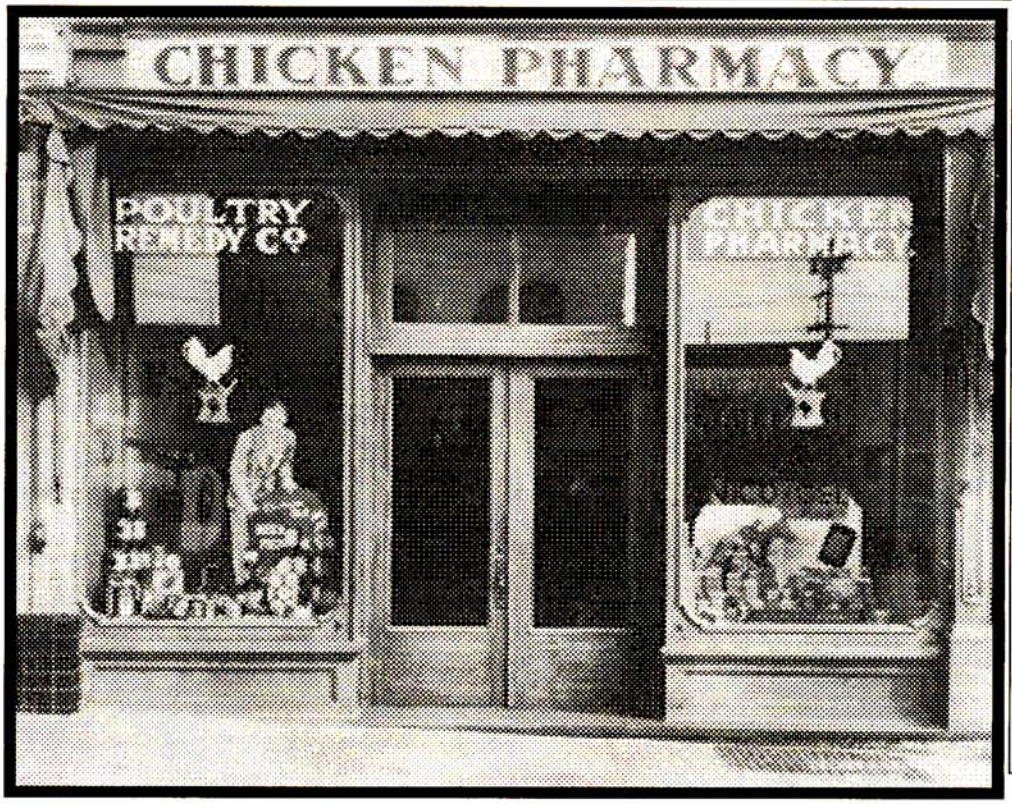
Timber Harvest

(Informational Only)

Crop	Year	Production	Unit (B)	Value (C)
Timber	1998	20,509,000	board feet	$7,768,000

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

(C) Value of the timber immediately before cutting



When Petaluma was the chicken capital of the world there was a need for a specialized poultry supply and medicine store.

This Chicken Pharmacy gained fame in Santa Rosa's Robert Ripley's "Believe It or Not!".

INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

(Number of head as of January 1, 2000)

Item		Number
Cattle and Calves (all)		118,925
Milk Cows and heifers 2 years and over	38,796	
Beef cows and heifers 2 years and over	28,931	
Sheep and Lambs (all)		13,650
Hogs		2,835
Laying Hens and Pullets		757,528
Turkey Breeders		31,462
Horses		13,687

Fruit, Nut and Grapevine Acreage

Crop	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Apples	4,047	0	4,047
Cherries	3		3
Grapes (wine)	42,227	9,240	51,467
Kiwi	20		20
Olives	45	20	65
Peaches	8		8
Pears	48		48
Plums	3		3
Prunes	318	20	338
Walnuts	192	19	211
Miscellaneous	44	13	57
Total Acreage	**46,955**	**9,312**	**56,267**

Commercial Fish Catch ~ 1998

(informational only, figures furnished by California Dept. of Fish and Game)

Species	Pounds		Value
Crab, Dungeness	1,211,760	$	2,960,630
Rockfish, all	1,724,088	$	903,939
Salmon, Chinook	134,440	$	294,782
Urchin, all	513,659	$	315,296
Sole, all	441,398	$	180,460
Prawn, spot	19,528	$	132,621
Thornyhead, all	151,745	$	102,223
Sablefish	73,603	$	81,284
Caberon	24,470	$	65,604
Tuna, Albacore	49,467	$	61,550
Halibut, California	20,978	$	42,846
Swordfish	6,604	$	26,344
Crab, rock unspecified	9,106	$	15,555
Lingcod	17,916	$	14,468
Shrimp, bay	3,640	$	8,991
Grenadiers	48,498	$	7,098
Shrimp, Pacific Ocean	9,748	$	6,886
Herring	1,516	$	3,782
Salmon	1,073	$	3,317
Shark, all	5,461	$	3,686
Miscellaneous	21,745	$	11,721
Total	4,490,443	$	5,243,083

SONOMA COUNTY 1999 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT

By Priscilla Lane

Biological Control Program

Target Noxious Weed	Biological Control	# of Release Sites
PURPLE STARTHISTLE *(Centaurea calcitrapa)*	Lesser knapweed flower weevil *(Larinus minutus)* Broad-nosed seed head weevil *(Bangasternus fausti)*	1 2
YELLOW STARTHISTLE *(Centaurea solstitialis)*	Hairy Weevil *(Eustenopus villosus)*	6

Organic Farming Statistics

155 individual organic resistrants

Commodity	Registrants	Growing Locations	Acres
Eggs	5	5	N/A
Fruit/Nuts	72	489	2,359
Grain	2	2	148
Milk	3	3	N/A
Nurseries	14	15	12
Vegetables	83	95	327
Wine Grapes	16	43	399
Handlers	3	N/A	N/A

Pest Detection

Trapping: There were 11,132 traps serviced for the detection of exotic insect pests including Mediterranean and Oriental Fruit Flies, Melon Fly, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Khapra Beetle, Western Grapeleaf Skeletonizer and Olive Fruit Fly.

Entryway Survey: 700 miles and 89 properties were surveyed for the presence of noxious weed and disease pests.

Pest Exclusion

A total of 2,670 premise inspections for incoming shipments of plant material were made in 1999. This was a 31% increase in inspections over 1998. Inspections occurred at the express carriers, nurseries, post office, feed mills, post entry inspections, United Parcel Service and pet stores. 1,579 rejections of plant material were made. The number of rejections increased 64% over 1998 rejections. Rejected plant material was either destroyed or reconditioned and released. The increase in inspections and rejections were due to our new full time high-risk inspector and the finds of Balsam Fir Gall Midge and two new aquatic weeds. These weeds commonly called South American Sponge Plant and Water Velvet or Salvinia caused an extensive county wide detection survey and eradication program.

All nurseries in the county were surveyed for the presence of Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) *Solenopsis invicta*. Fortunately we did not detect RIFA, a non-native species, in our county. A Federal quarantine currently exists in Southern California due to the presence of this ant. The aquatic weed and RIFA surveys were conducted with the help and cooperation of our many local nurseries and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Listed below are a few of the economically important pest species intercepted in 1999:			
Balsam Fir Gall Midge *Paradiplosis tumifex*	Bark Beetle *Xyloborinus sp*	Black Twig Borer *Xylosandrrus compactus*	Boxwood Scale *Pinnaspis sp*
Croton Whitefly *Orchamoplatus mammaeferus*	Pecan Weevil *Curculio caryae*	Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*	Quack Grass *Elytrigia repens*
Red Orchid Scale *Furchaspis biformis*	Redgum Lerp Psyllid *Glycaspis brimblecombei*	South American Sponge Plant *Limnobium laevigatum*	Spiraling Whitefly *Alevrodieus dispersus*
Water Velvet *Salvinia auriculata complex*			

National Agricultural Day
Grand Prize
Essay/Poem

SONOMA COUNTY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM
By Teddy Diggs

I think Sonoma County Agriculture in the New Millennium is cool because we have crops that are good and animals.

The current crops and animals are very exciting. For example there are emus, turkeys, pheasants, chickens, ostrich, cows, pigs, sheep, and goats. And current crops there are so many I could only name a couple. There are peaches, apples, plums and grapes. Grapes are one of the most main crops; it gives us juice, wine and much more.

Grapes will become even bigger than it is now. I think grapes will continue to grow as an important crop. It gives us wine and more. Wineries will continue to grow and continue to bring visitors to see the beautiful Sonoma Valley. The apples will be a memory. Cows and sheep will continue to decrease as homes and families increase. The coast will continue fishing because of the people that come to the see the Pacific Ocean. The Redwood trees will continue to be protected in our parks. The farmers that raise chickens, turkeys and other birds will continue to be a thriving industry.

Sonoma County farmers and ranchers use science and technology to improve agriculture. Integrated Pest Management, (IPM) helps control pests using chemicals and insects. Bird boxes are used to attract birds that will eat insects. Raptor perches are used in vineyards. The birds of prey catch gophers and mice. Drip irrigation using drips of water, is a better way to give water to plants.

Sonoma County Agriculture in the New Millennium will be great.

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 Teddy Diggs and his parents.

Teddy is a fifth grade student at Pacific Christian Academy in Graton. Teddy's prize-winning essay is titled:

SONOMA COUNTY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

2000 STAFF

John Westoby

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 ~ Pricilla Lane ~ Marilyn Vernon

Senior Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist

Gary Bjork ~ Susan Bryant ~ Dan Curtin ~ Bruce McArthur ~ Sue Opbroek

Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist

Pete Albers ~ Bonnie Sallee

Senior Agricultural Program Assistant

James O'Brien

County Trapper

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Janet Adair ~ Stan Peterson

Other Support Staff