

Office of
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
MARIN COUNTY

February 25, 1936

Hon. Board of Supervisors,
Marin County.

Gentlemen:

Herewith is the annual report of activities of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office for 1935. This report is in addition to the regular report submitted annually to the Director of Agriculture.

In this report, I have followed the course set forth in Section 65 of the Agricultural Code, to acquaint those concerned with agricultural and horticultural conditions of the County,-- to advise against the eradication of all agricultural pests-- and gather data and statistics, as well as general routine duties.

I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Supervisors for their splendid cooperation.

Respectfully,

THOS. W. PERYAM
Agricultural Commissioner

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Q U A R A N T I N E

(Inter - State)

Quarantine regulations have demonstrated to be lower in cost than either eradication or control methods. The importance of the work is apparent from the fact that it is demanded by the agricultural and horticultural interests of the State. It is one of the principal activities of this office and is under supervision and control of the State Department of Agriculture. There has been a thorough enforcement of all quarantine activities to prevent the introduction of, and spread within the county, serious pests from State and Inter-State sections.

There were 648 Inter-State and Foreign shipments of 1131 parcels, a tabulation which is rendered below:

Boxes of deciduous fruit.....	52
Packages of Vegetables.....	27
Bags of nuts.....	5
Bales of Peat.....	60
Boxes of household goods.....	15
Packages of seed.....	1376
Car Lots of hay (Nevada by Permit).....	4
Deciduous fruit trees.....	634
Bulbs (all types).....	173,716
Ornamental shrubs & roses.....	2,790
Miscellaneous shipments.....	100
.....	
Interceptions for quarantine violations and insect and disease infestations.....	45

To meet requirements of other States, inspections were made in 700 acres of vegetable fields, particularly potatoe fields, and on the basis of findings certificates issued on 39 car loads.

Certificates were issued on nursery stock shipments to New Zealand, Germany, Canada, England, and Phillippines Islands.

One field inspection was made of narcissus plantings to meet requirements of other states in event of shipping to those market, and 200 packages of plant shipments were inspected and cleared for Inter-State destinations.

NURSERY AND NURSERY STOCK INSPECTION

The nursery industry reports an increase in business over 1934 of 25%. However, several small nurseries have discontinued operations, the larger nurseries have shown a decided increase in business and two growers have established nurseries for specialized types of growing, which will be ready for the market early in 1936.

Two nurseries were cited for violations of nursery laws and were released after complying with the regulations. Three growers were granted exemptions under the laws and three cited to show cause for not obtaining licenses.

NURSERY STOCK INSPECTIONS: Tabulation

A total of 1124 shipments during the year consisting of:

Deciduous fruit trees.....	1,649
Grape vines.....	1,551
Nut trees.....	221
Sub-Tropical fruit trees.....	450
Berry Plants.....	33,329
Ornamental trees & shrubs.....	26,063
Bedding Plants.....	57,096
Bulbs.....	79,818
Vegetable plants.....	1,427
Cuttings.....	5,000
Number of shipments rejected.....	35

The shipments rejected were found infested or infected with the following pests: Citrophilus and Bakers Mealy Bugs, Crown and Root Borers, Bulb Basal Rot, Scab, Bulb Mites, Hairy-root Disease, Crown Gall and Root Knot Nematode.

A general inspection of all nurseries was made during the year and in general the stock was found to be free from serious pests. Assistance was given from time to time in connection with the pest surveys and disease control. Wonderful cooperation was rendered by nurserymen.

Nursery and Nursery Stock Inspection (Continued)

The Nursery Industry is one of the larger industries of the county and with the present trend of business and the normal increase in population incident to the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge, the nursery and greenhouse business will grow accordingly. Climatic conditions, conducive to growing specialized types, and proximity to large markets, will be the prime factors in the increase of the industry.

Growers from other districts have this year made inquiries as to available lands and sites.

There are twenty-three licensed nurserymen in the County a list of which will be found on the page preceding the commodity crop report.

Of interest to the commercial fruit growers in the County the following information may explain the loss of the local markets in fruit sales:

There were 2283 deciduous fruit trees shipped into the County during 1935; there were received during December of 1934, 2000 trees which were planted during 1935. Over 80 percent of these trees were planted in family and suburban orchards.

ORCHARD INSPECTION AND PEST CONTROL

Pest control surveys, a major function of this office, were carried on systematically throughout the year.

In suburban areas careful investigations were made of reports of serious pests and disease of plants. A new disease of plants not heretofore found in Marin County, (Dermatophora Root Rot) was discovered doing damage to hedge and ornamental plants in certain areas. After careful check of all nurseries it was not found to exist in them.

Two heavy infestations of Cottony Cushion Scale (icerya purchasi) were reported. Control measures were adopted by the use of beneficial parasites purchased (by courtesy) from the commissioner of San Diego County.

In the fruit growing sections of the County much is to be done in forcing through the proper spray program at the correct time. Reluctance on part of some growers to accept the program set forth by experts from the department of

Orchard Inspection and Pest Control (Continued)

agriculture and this office, may be blamed to lack of proper knowledge and the relative low returns on deciduous fruit over a period of 1932-33 which necessitated their seeking a cheaper method for control, naturally resulting in poor grade fruit and small yields.

It is not advisable to apply the provisions of the Agricultural Code under present conditions, but for the protection of those who are controlling pests, it will be necessary to do so in the future for their protection. Orchard surveys for the spring of 1936 will be made to that effect.

Owing to late rains during the spring of 1935, fruit crop production was less than 50% of normal in all fruits but grapes. Pear scab and prune thrips also added to the loss in heavy tolls.

With assistance from the U. S. Forest Pathological Laboratory, a survey of all plantings of chestnuts, part of a state-wide survey to determine if chestnut blight was present in the County, was made. All nurseries were checked for the disease.

Aid was rendered to the Pea Growers of Point Reyes in controlling an infestation of aphid, an insect that exacts a heavy toll from that industry.

Stockmen in Tomales area were assisted in inspecting fields for the presence of the snail, the host of liver fluke of sheep.

Section 150 of the Agricultural Code makes more stringent the regulations governing the practice of persons engaging in Pest Control for hire (Spraying, etc., for the control of plant pests). To that end a very careful check was made throughout the County, examinations held and those found qualified, given licenses to operate. A monthly report of work performed is requested from operators.

Cooperative Services rendered to Growers and Others through facilities of the State Department of Agriculture:

Bureau of Market Enforcement: Assistance was rendered to growers in filing claims against Deciduous Fruit Dealers for violation of contracts.

Bureau of Field Crops: In the matter of registering all dealers in commercial feeding stuffs.

Division of Chemistry: Spray Residue Control and the Fertilizer Salesmen Act.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STANDARDIZATION

Owing to lack of time it was impossible to render proper inspections at point of origin for the artichoke and pea industry. Due to stringent regulations in the metropolitan markets in regard to quality and packing standards, violations were frequent and there were many rejections for products below standard.

It is imperative that our growers produce and ship their commodities in conformity with state regulations. Standardization laws are intended, and do, create and maintain markets for produce of standard quality and inspection is necessary at point of origin to enforce these regulations. The loss entailed by these growers and the agricultural industry of the County is more than the cost of point of origin inspection.

It is my recommendation that the Board of Supervisors give this industry serious consideration. The pea and artichoke industry has grown in recent years, certification of potatoes has increased, and with the shortage of available land in areas near the large market the produce industry in Marin County gives promise to further expansion.

The growing of canning and market tomatoes is a new industry first undertaken during 1935.

The tomato pin worm which is very detrimental to southern crops does not thrive so well in this climate, control measures are not so expensive, therefore we can expect that industry to increase perceptibly within a short time. There were 31 acres commercially grown producing approximately 540 tons during the summer of 1935.

Standardization inspections are as follows:

Number of crates & bags cleared at point of origin.....	2,901
Number parcels of commodities rejected, unfit for consumption.....	64
Number of parcel reconditioned by owner.....	92
Number of man days spent on inspections.....	63½
Types of produce: artichokes, peas, tomatoes, potatoes, deciduous fruit and eggs, small fruits and melons.	

APIARY INSPECTION AND BEE DISEASES

Little time was given to this work. There are only two small commercial bee growers in the County. There were two inspections made for foulbrood and recorded in the office, 15 apiaries with 58 colonies.

WEED AND RODENT CONTROL

The S.E.R.A. project in the vicinity of Tomales against the infestation of gorse, or "Irish Whin" was terminated September 15, 1935. There was approximately 1100 acres cleared of this pest at a cost of \$2,051.00.

Several investigations were made relative to "Klamath Weed", the dread of stockmen. I do not believe it exists in the County. A serious weed pest, Canada Thistle, was found late in the fall of 1935, near Tomales. Eradication measures will be undertaken during the season of 1936.

In the control of rodents (ground Squirrels) this office, from the small sum set up for that purpose, distributed poison grain to farmers and with the aid of a field assistant covered the entire county where ground squirrels exist.

These rodents are destructive to agriculture and destroy annually thousands of dollars worth of products, aside from the health menace of harboring bubonic plague, which exists in several Counties of the State.

Rat control projects were instituted in the towns of San Anselmo and Mill Valley with some measure of success. Assistance was given to the Commander of Hamilton Field in putting into operation a control campaign against pocket gophers.

Office of
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
San Rafael, Calif.

MARIN COUNTY NURSERYMEN AND FLORISTS

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|--|---|
| 1. Andries, Carl (Specialty:
Azaleas, Rhododendrons and
general ornamentals-landscaping) | Bolinas |
| 2. Bolsa Dahlia Gardens
(H. C. Haake) | 197 Oakdale Ave.,
Mill Valley |
| 3. Burns, A. (Succulents) | 200 Mission St.,
San Rafael |
| 4. Butterfield Road Nursery
(Ornamental & Fruit Trees) | Butterfield Road,
San Anselmo |
| 5. Epidendio, Peter (Grower,
Gladioli bulbs, cut flowers) | Across track from
Rose Bowl, Larkspur |
| 6. Fairfax Nursery (Gus Aulsen) | Sir Francis Drake Blvd.,
Fairfax |
| 7. Highland Nursery (H. Mohr)
(General ornamental) | 1560 - 4th Street
San Rafael |
| 8. Hardee, Elizabeth (Iris) | P.O.Box 236, Kentfield |
| 9. Kirkwood, Thomas (Orchids) | Alta Vista, near Tiburon
Junction, Mill Valley P.O.
RFD |
| 10. Marin View Nursery (Hal L. Speer)
(Specialty: Giant Pansies,
Narcissus bulbs, Cypress &
Privet - cut flowers) | RR 1, Box 836, Mill Valley
(Ridge Road) |
| 11. Mill Valley Nurseries (L.H. Eggar)
(Orchids, general ornamental
and fruit trees) | 207 Sycamore Avenue
Mill Valley |
| 12. Niven Orchid Co.
(Orchids & Begonias) | Larkspur |
| 13. Novato Nurseries (Iris)
(Mrs. S. O. Scudder) | Wilson Ave., off
Pt. Reyes Blvd., Novato |

Marin County Nurserymen & Florists (Continued)

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|-----|--|---|
| 14. | Ross Street Nursery (Joe Pedroli)
(Ornamental - fruit trees) | 14 Ross St., San Rafael |
| 15. | Specialty Nursery
(Succulents, gen. ornamental) | Alta Vista, Tiburon
Junction, Mill Valley P.O. |
| 16. | Boyer Nursery (General)
(Mr. & Mrs. F. Boyer) | Redwood H'way, 3½ miles
north of San Rafael |
| 17. | West End Nursery (R. Lohrmann)
(Ornamental & fruit trees-
Greenhouse) | 5th Ave., San Rafael |
| 18. | Wilson's Nursery (A. Wilson)
(General ornamental & fruit trees) | Sir Francis Drake Blvd.,
San Anselmo |
| 19. | West, James (Succulent & Alpine)
(landscaping) | 745 - 5th Street,
San Rafael |
| 20. | Yolanda Nursery (A. Arata)
(Greenhouse & Gen. Nursery
business, garden supplies) | San Anselmo Ave
San Anselmo |

FLORISTS AND GROWERS

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. | The Blossom Shop (H. Higashi)
(Florists & Nursery Stock) | Sausalito |
| 2. | Burns, Frank C.
(Florist, greenhouse &
ornamental) | 719 - 4th Street
San Rafael |
| 3. | El Camino Flower Shop
(Florist & Potted Plants) | San Rafael |
| 4. | Flower Shop (Hilda Tilly)
(Florist & general nursery stock) | Sausalito, Princess St., |
| 5. | Grady's Flower Shop
(Florist & Potted Ornamentals) | 4th St., San Rafael |

Out of County Licenses -- Growing Grounds in Marin County

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Charles Varsi & Co (San Francisco)
(30 Acres, bulbs and cut flowers) | Growing Grounds, Larkspur |
| 2. | Salbach, Carl (Gladioli) | Growing Grounds, Novato |
| 3. | John Forstner (Bulbs & other
plants for cut flowers) | Growing Grounds,
San Geronimo |

M A R I N C O U N T Y

COMMERCIAL CROP AND PRODUCTION REPORTS
 Compiled by
 Thos. W. Peryam, Agricultural Commissioner

ANIMAL INDUSTRY and DAIRY

No. Dairy Cattle, 26,098 - (Value estimated.....\$1,565,880
 from sales)
 Stock cattle, sheep, hogs and goats, 16,063 head..... 113,005
 Poultry, all types, 140,388-Assessed value..... 25,696

PRODUCTION (Dairy)

Milk fat pounds, 5,257,707 - On basis of average
 price for year..... 2,891,738
 Cheese mfgd. 826,806 lbs.) On basis of average
 Ice cream mfgd. 35,280 ") income - yearly 396,432
 Butter, mfgd. 896,062 ") average price

NOTE! Milk, butter and cheese data compiled from 1934
 report. 1935 data not available at this time.

Eggs Produced and shipped through Poultry Producers and Local
 Dealers:
 26,910 cases - average price 27¢ per dozen- Returns 217,971

COMMERCIAL PRODUCE CROPS

Artichokes	- 875 acres-	Produced 35,400 crates-	Returns	30,052
Peas	514½ "	" - "	19,730 "	40,862
Potatoes	415 "	" "	32,014 sacks "	20,396
		Sold	16,057	
Tomatoes	31 "	Produced	540 tons	
		Shipped	7000 crates "	4,022
		" to Canneries	25 tons "	250

FIELD CROPS

Hay	- 3000 tons	Value	36,000
Grain	- 4800 bushels	"	2,880

Commercial Crop & Production Reports (Continued)

DECIDUOUS FRUITS AND GRAPES

976 Acres	542 Tons	Returns	15,840
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NURSERY INDUSTRY

Stock, land & equipment	Value & Investment	500,000
Annual Business		70,000

TOTAL INCOME & VALUATION OF ALL INDUSTRIES	\$ 5,469,750
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NOTE! Assistance was had from various branches of the State Department of Agriculture and other public agencies in gathering some of the above data and figuring estimates.

In gathering and compiling the statistics for 1935, the report shows the agricultural income well above the preceding 4 year average. Dairy cows have increased; hogs and sheep show a decrease. Produce crops showed a decrease in production, but increased income for their commodities. Deciduous fruit production, due to bad weather conditions, showed a reduction.

Poultrymen had a very good season. Average price received for eggs was 27¢, - higher than for several years. On basis of price of feed and returns, average cost of production of eggs was 15¢ per dozen. Growers should have netted \$1.00 to \$2.00 per hen. (Figures from Meyer).

Nursery industry showed a decided increase over 1934 and bids fair for a rapid growth in the near future.