



MARIN
COUNTY
1939

ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE
of
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Compiled by
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

CROP REPORT FOR 1939

MARIN COUNTY

This annual crop report has been compiled in accordance with Section 65.5 of the Agricultural Code and is intended to serve those people, organizations, financial institutions and others seeking information on agricultural valuations.

In addition to the commercial crop report, there is included a resume of all work accomplished by this Department during the year as well as a few statistics of interest to the public.

Thos. W. Peryan,

Agricultural Commissioner

PLANT QUARANTINE

Prevention is cheaper than control, therefore, through the medium of plant quarantine our agricultural and horticultural industries are protected from the introduction of harmful and costly pests and diseases.

During the year there were 1,737 interstate shipments of commodities under those regulations and out of this lot there were 15 shipments rejected for various causes.

There were 10 direct violations of state quarantines and one federal quarantine violation.

Nursery stock inspection shows 2,073 shipments, with 16 rejections.

Periodical pest control inspections were made of all nurseries during the year. There were 21 nurseries selling plants in the county during the season.

In instances where pests of a serious nature were found, steps were taken and recommendations for control or eradication were made.

The nursery industry showed a very prosperous year and certain specialized growers, such as gardenias and orchids, have so increased their investments to make the industry a very important one in the agricultural and horticultural field.

Owing to limited facilities, orchard inspection was only carried on by request from the orchardist. Some orchards suffered from infestations of red spider and shot-hole beetle.

PEST CONTROL

One of the principal phases of pest control was in connection with our suburban and city homes.

ELM LEAF BEETLE

Elm leaf beetle was discovered on elms along the state highway near the northern county border. This pest was first discovered and is now a very bad pest on elm trees in Sacramento.

This pest will eventually be a serious problem in Marin County and preliminary steps have been made to meet this emergency.

GRASSHOPPERS

Grasshoppers threatened to do considerable damage to certain sections of the county during June and July 1939. This is the first invasion of damaging proportions ever reported in Marin County.

The necessary material such as bran and arsenic was procured from the State Department of Agriculture and the Federal Government and was furnished free to farmers by the County through this Department for preparations of poisoned bait. A central depot was established with attendants in charge and farmers called for the material as requirements necessitated. Five tons of bran was broadcast over the infested areas which resulted in checking the spread at that time.

Surveys have been made throughout the County and from findings of egg beds it is anticipated that we will experience another "hopper" invasion for 1940 unless weather conditions intervene at the proper time and prevent the normal hatch of eggs.

WEED CONTROL

The program of noxious weed control was carried on in the northern part of the County against Canada thistle, gorse and briar.

Labor was furnished by the W.P.A. and chemical control was employed on Canada thistle. The area infested was covered on three different periods with a combined total of 4,000 acres and 9 miles of county roads, using 2 1/2 tons of chlo-rates. All applications were applied by knapsack sprayers.

An area of 1,330 acres was cleared of gorse and briar by grubbing and pulling.

RODENT CONTROL

There was distributed, under direction of this office, 1,200 pounds of strychnine treated barley for ground squirrel control, and 4,155 acres of land was covered by the program, in addition to the many individual farmers who secured treated grain and placed it out at their convenience.

SEED INSPECTION AND FIELD CERTIFICATION

Most of our growers purchase their seed through dealers in Petaluma, Sonoma County, which naturally has been inspected by the Commissioner of that county.

Occasional inspections have been made where uncertified lots have arrived in the county.

There were 80 acres of vetch inspected and certified in accordance with section 154.2 of the Agricultural Code for seed.

APIARY INSPECTION

Regardless of this county not being considered in honey production, 71 colonies of bees or 12 apiaries are registered; not of any particular value, yet under the law they must be registered and inspected annually.

FRUIT, NUT, VEGETABLE AND EGG STANDARDIZATION

The commodities listed under this branch of the enforcement work are protected in marketing from fraud and deception and the buying public is protected from receiving inferior products.

With the limited facilities of this office, this work occupies considerable of our time. There were 91 condemnations made of fruit and vegetables below standards and 1 violator cited before the District Attorney.

In egg standardization inspections, there were 436 inspections, representing 3,251 dozen eggs; from those lots inspected there were 741 dozen rejected for various causes.

This work is to be increased during 1940 with an inspector assigned only to standardization.

In addition to the Department's regular administrative duties, the commissioner assisted in collaboration with the State Department of Agriculture on matters pertaining to the Division of Markets, Bureau of Chemistry, Bureau of Nursery Service, Bureau of Field Crops and the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The office records show that there were 1,809 outside official calls made by members of the office staff on all phases of work during the year.

ACREAGE PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 1939

Compiled by

Thos. W. Peryam, Agricultural Commissioner

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Returns F.O.B.</u>
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS			
Apples	54.1	111 tons	\$ 2,210
Apricots	53.4	* 20 "	800
Cherries	3.3	4 "	240
Peaches	19	76 "	2,210
Pears	204	504 "	3,780
Prunes	103	206 "	3,093
Almonds	7.4	1,260 pounds	151
Walnuts	72	41,000 "	5,712
Grapes	305	760 tons	<u>10,640</u>
			<u>28,836</u>
* Practically no crop for season.			
PRODUCE CROPS			
Artichokes	900	72,000 boxes	115,200
Peas	800	68,000 bu. crates	71,400
Tomatoes and other			
Vegetable Crops	62	930 tons	<u>12,090</u>
			<u>198,390</u>
BEEES & HONEY			
Colonics	100	5,000 pounds	<u>1,000</u>
			<u>1,000</u>
FIELD CROPS			
Vetch Seed	622	502 tons	65,260
Grain Hay	5,215	"	49,374
Barley	350	23 "	552
Oats	520	250 "	6,250
Wheat	718	649 "	<u>18,172</u>
			<u>139,608</u>
ANIMAL INDUSTRY			
Hogs for market			22,000
Beef cattle returns			27,300
Lamb sales			30,000
Wool production		83,752 pounds	<u>20,938</u>
			<u>100,238</u>

	Yield	Returns F.O. . .
DAIRY INDUSTRY		
Milk fat production from June 30, 1938 to June 30, 1939	6,797,140 pounds	\$ 2,989,745
EGG PRODUCTION		
Eggs	32,090 cases	180,987
(Average price per case \$5.64)		
(Average price per case \$7.50 (for 1939))		
NURSERY & GREENHOUSE	Acreage 40	<u>134,500</u>
	GRAND TOTAL	3,773,604

GENERAL STATISTICS

ANIMALS	Number	Value
Beef cattle	205	5,900
Dairy cattle (all)	31,416	358,450
Horses & Mules	1,211	49,340
Sheep	10,469	26,855
Hogs	2,238	18,408
Goats	205	515
Poultry (all)	158,215	30,680
	Total valuation	<u>600,648</u>

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

	Acres
Total Farm & Plough land	50,496
" Pasture land	172,973

NON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Brush and Wood	47,296
Tide and Swamp	8,481
Other	3,116

NUMBER OF FARMS

2 to 50 acres	588 farms
51 to 160 "	103 "
161 to 11,000 acres	301 "

Hay and forage raised and consumed on farms	19,171 tons
--	-------------