

agricultural

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HUMBOLDT



COUNTY

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statistics

To: Mr. Richard E. Rominger
 Director of Food and Agriculture

and

HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Harry Britchard, Chairman, Weott
 Sara Parsons, Arcata
 Eric Hedlund, McKinleyville
 Danny Walsh, Eureka
 Irvin Renner, Eureka

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Section 2279 of the Food and Agriculture Code of the State of California, I am pleased to present a report of the agricultural production of the county of Humboldt for 1978. The figures represent value of production, regardless of utilization.

Field crop acreage was approximately the same as 1977. Acreage planted for silage however, rose markedly. Rainfall during growing season was inadequate for good growth resulting in lower yields and production. Crop values also declined. Demand for irrigated pasture was strong, bringing about higher value. Rangeland remained unchanged.

Acreage planted to vegetable crops dropped as more producers converted to field crops or went out of business. Commercial potatoes, sweet corn, and tomatoes continued their downward trend. A portion of this acreage was planted to various cucurbits and other vegetables. Production was generally better than 1977. Low rainfall and warm temperatures over the growing season helped reduce crop damage and permitted more complete harvesting. The fall tomato crop however, was completely destroyed by unseasonal rain. Crop values were generally above last year.

Severe weather conditions during tree bloom caused some orchards to lose their entire production. Acreage from these orchards were not included in this report which indicates a decline. Actually fruit acreage rose modestly. Apple production surpassed 1977 as crop harvest was more complete. Again, crop values were higher.

Production of nursery stock increased primarily in cut flowers and especially in forestry where reforestation practices changed from direct seeding to planting. Production of ornamentals declined while bedding plants took an upward trend. Values for all stock rose moderately.

There was a modest rise in beef production from last year. Improved feed conditions and strong market may have been some of the factors influencing the increase. Sheep production continued to drop despite a strong market. Lamb loss from depredation continued to plague producers. Livestock values were much higher than 1977.

Appreciation is expressed to the many people who aided gathering this data.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hart
 John F. Hart,
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Beans, dry	1978	12	25.7	309	cwt.	\$34.26	\$10,585
	1977	18	21.7	390	cwt.	33.09	12,905
Hay, all	1978	5,147	3.2	16,262	ton	50.57	822,459
	1977	4,987	8.1	40,631	ton	55.78	2,266,263
Alfalfa	1978	409	2.9	1,188	ton	56.54	67,169
	1977	307	3.9	1,189	ton	64.55	76,745
Grass-clover	1978	4,386	3.3	14,337	ton	49.80	713,980
	1977	4,195	9.1	38,298	ton	55.49	2,125,183
*Oat	1978	352	2.1	737	ton	56.05	41,310
	1977	485	2.4	1,144	ton	56.24	64,335
Silage, all	1978	3,145	8.9	27,902	ton	14.10	393,376
	1977	341	15.2	5,194	ton	23.72	123,190
Pasture							
Irrigated	1978	19,800				125.00	2,475,000
	1977	20,000				100.00	2,000,000
Range	1978	415,000				8.55	3,548,250
	1977	415,000				8.55	3,548,250
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TOTAL	1978						\$7,249,670
	1977					** *	\$7,950,608

* Includes barley

**Corrected error in 1977 total value

VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Corn, sweet	1978	46	5.93	272.63	ton	\$135.09	\$36,830
	1977	52	2.50	130.00	ton	\$265.31	\$34,491
Tomatoes	1978	8	17.82	142.59	ton	\$210.19	\$29,971
	1977	13	13.60	177.00	ton	\$144.55	\$25,586
Potatoes	1978	553	16.19	8,954.00	ton	\$ 83.43	\$747,074
	1977	633	13.95	8,830.50	ton	\$ 80.84	\$713,900
Misc. Cucurbits	1978	29	---	111.3	ton	---	\$ 26,612
	1977	16	---	67.20	ton	---	\$ 13,525
Misc. Vegetables	1978	9	---	44.32	ton	---	\$ 53,672
	1977	3	---	35.23	ton	---	\$ 33,038
TOTAL	1978	645	---	9,524.84	ton	---	\$894,159
	1977	717	---	9,239.93	ton	---	\$820,540

FRUIT AND NUTS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Total	Unit	Value
					Total
*Apples, all	1978	46	149.73	ton	\$38,312
	1977	46	124.26	ton	\$24,784
Misc. fruits	1978	20	35.24	ton	\$19,450
	1977	45	32.43	ton	\$16,205
Misc. nuts	1978	11	1.74	ton	\$ 1,843
	1977	9	1.19	ton	\$ 1,286
TOTAL	1978	77	186.71	ton	\$59,605
	1977	100	158.08	ton	\$42,275

*Includes processed

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: PRODUCTION AND VALUE

NURSERY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Item	Year	Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
*Cut flowers & decoratives	1978	217					\$928,430
	1977	144					648,500
Plants ornamentals	1978						703,186
	1977						817,791
Tree, forest nursery	1978		28,779		M	\$79.20	2,279,324
	1977	23		20,409	M	\$72.48	1,479,255
Bedding	1978						39,800
	1977						26,000
Cert. nursery stock	1978						---
	1977						---
TOTAL	1978						\$3,950,740
	1977						\$2,971,546

* Includes bulbs.

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		UNIT	VALUE	
		NO. OF HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT		PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle and calves, all	1978	15,499	81,761	cwt.	\$44.46	\$3,634,743
	1977	12,400	65,410	cwt.	\$31.57	\$2,065,070
Cows	1978	4,572	37,494	cwt.	\$36.60	\$1,372,280
	1977	3,658	29,996	cwt.	\$24.70	\$ 740,891
Steers	1978	2,945	25,032	cwt.	\$51.50	\$1,289,148
	1977	2,356	20,026	cwt.	\$40.40	\$ 809,050
Bulls	1978	387	4,805	cwt.	\$45.80	\$ 220,069
	1977	310	3,844	cwt.	\$32.80	\$ 126,083
Calves	1978	7,595	14,430	cwt.	\$52.20	\$ 753,246
	1977	6,076	11,544	cwt.	\$33.70	\$ 389,046
Sheep & lambs, all	1978	14,994	13,821	cwt.	\$38.46	\$ 531,580
	1977	15,493	14,191	cwt.	\$30.79	\$ 436,899
Sheep	1978	5,500	6,985	cwt.	\$16.60	\$ 115,951
	1977	5,520	7,010	cwt.	\$10.90	\$ 76,413
Lambs	1978	9,494	6,836	cwt.	\$60.80	\$ 415,629
	1977	9,973	7,181	cwt.	\$50.20	\$ 360,486
Hogs	1978	200	414	cwt.	\$48.30	\$ 19,996
	1977	200	414	cwt.	\$40.90	\$ 16,933
Chickens	1978	---	---		---	---
	1977	6,650		head	\$.237	\$ 1,576
*Misc.	1978					\$ 4,655
	1977					\$ 4,237
TOTAL	1978					\$4,190,974
	1977					\$2,524,715

* Includes rabbits, earthworms and poultry.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
				Per Unit	Total
Milk, all	1978	1,652,000	cwt.	\$10.38	\$17,151,000
	1977	1,587,000	cwt.	9.96	15,800,000
Manufacturing	1978	640,000	cwt.	9.78	6,262,000
	1977	648,000	cwt.	9.330	6,046,000
Market	1978	1,012,000	cwt.	10.760	10,889,000
	1977	939,000	cwt.	10.388	9,754,000
Eggs	1978	63,840	doz.	.70	44,688
	1977	54,570	doz.	.70	38,251
Wool	1978	71,382	lbs.	.85	60,675
	1977	72,975	lbs.	.67	48,893
TOTAL	1978				\$17,256,363
	1977				\$15,887,144

JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
(in number of head)

Item	January 1979	January 1978
Cattle and calves	64,000	62,000
Milk cows, 2 years and older	16,000	15,900
Beef cows and calves (excluding steers)	24,000	24,500
Sheep and lambs		
Sheep (breeding stock)	27,600	23,000
Hogs	200	200
Poultry		
Hens and pullets of laying age	5,000	5,000

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Item	Year	Value	
		Per Unit	Total
Honey	1978		\$1,920
	1977		5,954
TOTAL	1978		1,920
	1977		5,954

RECAPITULATION

	1978	1977
Field crops	\$7,249,670	* \$ 7,950,608
Vegetable	844,159	820,540
Fruit and nut crops	59,605	42,275
Nursery stock	3,950,740	2,971,546
Livestock and poultry	4,190,974	2,524,715
Livestock and poultry products	17,256,363	15,887,144
Miscellaneous products	1,920	5,954
GRAND TOTAL	\$33,553,431	\$30,202,782

FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

1976 - 1978	\$30,863,341
1971 - 1975	19,979,350
1966 - 1970	14,334,554
1961 - 1965	12,673,305
1956 - 1960	11,740,257
1951 - 1955	15,105,355
1946 - 1950	14,030,702

ADENDA

ACP payment	\$113,000 estimate
Lamb payment	106,871
Wool payment	
Bark products	5,700
Decorative greens	7,000
Christmas trees	10,000
Timber cut	information unavailable

*Corrected error in 1977 value.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PERSONNEL

James Spellino, Assistant Commissioner
Richard Drewry, Senior Inspector
Richard Sorenson, Senior Inspector
Peter Haggard, Inspector II
Michael Kelly, Inspector II
Warren Simas, Inspector II
John Sievert, Inspector II
Ron Hunt, Inspector I
Paul Holzberger, Inspector I
Richard Spadoni, Inspector I
Stanley Pittman, Weed Control Operator
Alma Swanson, Secretary

The above staff wishes to express their appreciation to all those who assisted in the compilation of this report.