

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
Department of Agriculture

1998
CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT



“The Little Bug That Did a Great Big Job...”

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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EUREKA, CA 95503

THE LITTLE BUG THAT DID A GREAT BIG JOB

Klamath Weed (*Hypericum perforatum*) is a native of Europe where it is commonly called St. John's Wort. It was first reported in the U.S. in 1793 near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. By 1900 it had spread to California, where it was first discovered in the northern part of the state around the Klamath River—thus the plant's common name, Klamath weed. In 1929 a survey showed that this weed pest had spread to 19 counties in northern California and covered an area in excess of 100,000 acres of range land. By the 1940's the infestation had increased to 27 counties and covered some 250,000 acres. Wherever it grew land values depreciated.

Many attempts have been made to control this perennial weed with chemicals such as borax, 2,4-D and others, but these efforts proved too expensive and the land to be treated was often too extensive and not easily accessible.

In both Europe and Australia, successful attempts were made in the early 1900's to control weed pests with the use of certain insects. Subsequently, in 1944 efforts by researchers at the University of California in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture led to the first importation of 2 species of leaf-feeding beetles and a root borer. And on February 12, 1946, two colonies of beetles were released on the Fort Seward and Tooby and Prior ranches in southern Humboldt County. This was the first attempt in North America to control a plant with plant-feeding insects (James K. Holloway-Scientific American, Vol. 197, July, 1957).

By 1951 it was estimated that 234 square miles of Klamath weed in Humboldt County were under control with the help of these "little bugs with a big appetite". Areas where the weed had been destroyed were returning to their natural grass cover. Ranchers had collected enough colonies of these little bugs to assure county-wide coverage. The agricultural commissioner's office continued to collect and distribute colonies where needed. And gone was the need for borax and other herbicides, control grazing, weed-free abatement districts and educational tours. At the conclusion of the Klamath Weed Control Project, a letter of apology was received from one land owner, presumably with a guilty conscience for having made remarks that the farm advisor and University were crazy in telling people that hundreds of square miles of Klamath weed could be controlled by a "little bug".

Humboldt County's Department of Agriculture in cooperation with neighboring counties, the California Department of Food & Agriculture and the U.C. Cooperative Extension Service is continuing the legacy pioneered by the many distinguished biocontrol researchers. In addition to the ongoing control of Klamath weed assisted by a root weevil (*Chrysolina quadrigemina*) and a leaf-eater (*C. gemellata*), we have established 4 sites for the control of Tansy Ragwort by the Ragwort flea beetle; seed-head/hairy weevils and a gallfly are helping to control Yellowstar thistle on 35 sites throughout the county; a Bull thistle gallfly is established on 3 sites; and a seed weevil is doing its best on 1 site to help limit the spread of Italian thistle.

Ref: "Poisonous Plants of the United States and Canada, John M. Kingsbury
"The Little Beetle that KO'd Klamath Weed", W.D. Pine



William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Stan Dixon, Chairman, First District
Roger Rodoni, Second District
John Woolley, Third District
Bonnie Neely, Fourth District
Paul Kirk, Fifth District

This Report of Agricultural Production for Humboldt County covers the 1998 calendar year and is being presented in accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. The following Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report represents gross farmgate values and does not reflect production costs or net income to the producers.

The County's total gross value of agricultural production for 1998 is \$286,130,149 which is a 10.1% decrease from 1997 total values. This production is related to a significant decrease in the volume and price of harvested timber; nevertheless, Humboldt County continues to be ranked first in the state for timber production. In addition, local weather conditions contributed to this year's total gross value reduction by adversely affecting our field and vegetable crop production. Our leading agricultural commodities are ranked as follows:

Timber Production	\$	203,494,572
Milk and Milk Products	\$	39,055,200
Nursery Stock (cut flowers, ornamental and forest tree production)	\$	23,226,500
Livestock (beef cattle & calves, dairy cows, sheep & lambs, etc.)	\$	11,409,077
Field Crops (alfalfa, silage, range, etc.)	\$	8,177,800
Vegetable Crops	\$	676,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$	91,000

A word of personal thanks goes to departmental secretary, Susan Thomas, the county's agricultural industry, other agencies and to all individuals whose expertise and information made this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,


John E. Falkenstrom, Agricultural Commissioner

srt

FIELD CROPS

ITEM	YR.	HARVEST ACREAGE	PRODUCTION		UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
			PER ACRE	TOTAL			

Hay (All) ¹	1998	950	3.50	3,325	Ton	101.00	335,800
	1997	1,004	3.50	3,514	Ton	105.00	368,970
Silage (All)	1998	702	16.00	11,232	Ton	28.00	314,500
	1997	843	12.50	10,538	Ton	31.06	327,310
Pasture (All)	1998	19,500			Acre	145.00	2,827,500
	1997	19,500			Acre	145.00	2,827,500
Range	1998	470,000			Acre	10.00	4,700,000
	1997	470,000			Acre	10.00	4,700,000

¹ Includes: Alfalfa, grass, clover, oats

TOTAL:	1998						8,177,800
TOTAL:	1997						8,223,780

VEGETABLE CROPS

ITEM	YEAR	VALUE TOTAL
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Vegetable Crops ¹	1998	676,000
	1997	897,050

¹ Includes: Corn, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, cabbage, beans, peppers, mushrooms, alfalfa sprouts, etc.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

ITEM	YEAR	VALUE TOTAL
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Miscellaneous Fruits and Nuts ¹	1998	91,000
	1997	78,000 ²

¹ Includes: apples, peaches, figs, cherries, berries, walnuts and chestnuts

² Revised

NURSERY PRODUCTION

ITEM	YEAR	VALUE TOTAL
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Cut flowers and decoratives, bedding plants, ornamentals and forest nursery tree production	1998	23,226,500
	1997	22,576,611

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Market Milk	1998	1,624,791	CWT	15.51	25,200,000
	1997				23,427,950
Manufacturing Milk	1998	798,611	CWT	17.31	13,828,000
	1997				12,615,000
Wool ¹	1998				27,200
	1997				24,700
Includes: Wool, mohair, apiary products				TOTAL:	
				1998	39,055,200
				1997	36,067,700

TIMBER

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	PER UNIT	VALUE TOTAL
Timber Production (all)	1998	450,629	MBF	203,494,572
	1997			238,011,000

Total includes softwood sawlogs and miscellaneous products (Christmas trees, cull logs, fuel wood, pulp chips, hardwood logs, poles and pilings and miscellaneous small saw logs).

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	YR.	NO. OF HEAD	TOT. LIVE WT.	UNIT	VALUE	
					PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beef Cattle and Calves ¹	1998	29,200	140,514	CWT	47.80	6,716,570
	1997	28,820	138,685	CWT	48.60	6,740,091
Dairy Cows and Calves (all)	1998	22,000		Head	1,270	4,357,130
	1997	22,800		Head	1,550	5,317,757
Sheep and Lambs (all)	1998	7,800	1,194	CWT	74.80	89,311
	1997	8,000	1,320	CWT	72.72	95,990
Swine (all)	1998	210	599	CWT	34.00	20,366
	1997	220	628	CWT	54.70	34,351
Misc. ²	1998					225,700
	1997					255,000
TOTAL:						
					1998	11,409,077
					1997	12,443,189

¹ Includes: Cows, calves, bulls, steers

² Includes: Aquaculture, Chickens, turkey, goats, emus, rabbits, etc.

RECAPITULATION

ITEM	YEAR	
	1998	1997
Field Crops	\$ 8,177,800	\$ 8,223,780
Vegetable Crops	\$ 676,000	\$ 897,050
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$ 91,000	\$ 78,000*
Nursery Production	\$ 23,226,500	\$ 22,576,611
Livestock & Poultry	\$ 11,409,077	\$ 12,443,189
Livestock & Poultry Products	\$ 39,055,200	\$ 36,067,700
Timber	\$ 203,494,572	\$ 238,011,000
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 286,130,149	\$ 318,297,330*

*Revised

PEST EXCLUSION involves the systematic inspection of incoming shipments of plant materials and other high risk articles which enter Humboldt County at post offices and other terminals (truck lines, United Parcel, air freight, and commercial vessels, etc.). The primary objective is to prevent the introduction into Humboldt County of plant diseases, insects, nematodes, weeds or vertebrate pests which are or could prove to be detrimental to the local and state agricultural industry and natural environment.

PEST EXCLUSION

No. Inspections 15,678	METHOD OF CONVEYANCE	1998* No. Rejections 201
WILD GARLIC (Allium vineale)	UPS/Postal Shipments	6
CERTIFICATION VIOLATIONS	UPS/Postal Shipments/Fed-X	61
VARIOUS PLANT PESTS	UPS/Postal Shipments/Fed-X	129
NOXIOUS WEEDS	UPS/Postal Shipments	5

* Shipments rejected and/or destroyed.

PEST DETECTION activities are focused on the search for pests which are not known to exist in the State or are of limited distribution throughout California. Detection trapping activities are conducted locally for insect pests such as Gypsy Moth and Japanese Beetle. In addition, field surveys are continually being conducted throughout Humboldt County in order to locate and identify noxious weeds, plant diseases and vertebrate pest

PEST DETECTION

TYPE	INSECT TRAPS	NO. SERVICINGS
Gypsy Moth	205	1,520
Japanese Beetle	24	192

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY
1997 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT**

The implementation of agricultural practices and programs which promote the economic viability of agriculture while minimizing the impacts of these practices and programs on natural resources and the environment is sustainable agriculture. The scope of Humboldt County's biological control programs and organic farming practices are summarized below.

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

PEST	AGENT/MECHANISM	1998
TANSY RAGWORT (Senecio jacobaea)	Ragwort flea beetle (Longitarsus jacobaeae)	4 sites
YELLOWSTAR THISTLE (Centaurea solstitialis)	Seed-head weevil (Bangasternus orientalis)	14 sites
	Gall fly (Urophora sirunaseva)	5 sites
	Hairy weevil (Eustenopus villosus)	16 sites
KLAMATH WEED (Hypericum perforatum)	Leaf & root weevil (Chrysolina quadrigemina) (= C. gemellata)	Countywide
BULL THISTLE (Crisium vulgare)	Bull Thistle Gall Fly (Urophora stylata)	3 sites
ITALIAN THISTLE (Carduus pycnocephalus)	Seed weevil (Rhinocyllus conicus)	1 site

ORGANIC AND CERTIFIED PRODUCERS

Item	Year	No. Registrants	Est. Acres
Organic Registrants	1998	66	
	1997	80	
Certified Producers	1998	119	150
	1997	140	170
Farmer's Markets	1998	5	
	1997	5	

CROPS: Beans, berries, cabbage, carrots, cherries, corn, cucumbers, garlic, herbs, flowers, lettuce, mushrooms, onions, peaches, peas, potatoes, pumpkins,, sprouts, squash, tomatoes

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL GROSS VALUES
1989 - 1998**

Commodity Group	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Field Crops	7,211,000	6,405,000	6,642,000	7,407,000	7,411,000	7,379,000	7,054,000	7,039,600	8,223,780	8,177,800
Vegetable Crops	1,479,000	1,384,000	1,107,000	1,039,000	1,103,000	872,000	836,000	836,000	897,050	676,000
Fruit/Nut Crops	114,000	83,000	500,000	129,000	100,000	32,000	27,000	27,000	78,000	91,000
Nursery Stock	10,569,000	10,935,000	75,510,000	20,497,000	20,940,000	20,274,000	18,319,000	18,319,000	22,576,611	23,226,500
Livestock/ Poultry	6,633,000	7,402,000	6,773,000	15,300,000	15,289,000	12,278,000	11,226,000	10,830,537	12,443,189	11,409,077
Livestock/ Poultry Prod.	29,304,000	29,700,000	27,025,000	28,836,000	27,065,000	30,681,000	30,589,000	34,709,000	36,067,700	39,055,200
Misc. Products/ Timber	139,916,000	197,658,000	141,500,000	193,906,000	268,010,000	281,780,000	235,529,000	235,529,000	238,011,000	203,494,572
TOTAL	195,226,000	253,567,000	259,057,000	267,114,000	339,918,000	353,296,000	303,580,000	307,290,137	318,297,330	286,130,149

HUMBOLDT COUNTY PRODUCTION - 1989-1998

