

2000



SOLANO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



AGRICULTURAL CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT

SUSAN COHEN
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures



WILLIAM J. FERLATTE
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
501 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533
Phone (707) 421-7465 Fax (707) 429-0827

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

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Solano County:

Skip Thomson, Chairman, District 5
Barbara Kondylis, District 1
John Silva, District 2,
Duane Kromm, District 3
William Carroll, District 4

Michael D. Johnson, County Administrator

The year 2000 annual crop report presents statistical data on the acreage, production and gross values for the agricultural commodities produced within Solano County. Net farm income is not reflected as the crop report reflects only the gross values for agricultural production and does not show the costs of production or marketing.

The gross value dipped to \$185,109,100 or 5% lower than the prior year. Agriculture continues to be a significant influence on the county's economy, generating a total sales impact of \$1.5 million each year.

The crop report for the year 2000 reflects that nursery stock is now the #1 commodity produced in Solano County. Processing tomatoes, due to decreased acreage and prices, are now in second place. Nursery stock increased 21% to the highest value it has ever been in Solano County. Values for field crops, the largest acreage crops grown in Solano County, were reduced 16% from the prior year, largely due to decreased planted acres. Processing tomato values declined 23% due to decreased acreage and weaker prices. Fruit and nut crops maintained their value overall. Seed crops were reduced in acreage and significantly in value. Livestock prices were up from previous years, resulting in a 23% increase in value.

Much appreciation extends to Agriculture Department staff who compiled this report, with special recognition to Lenny DaMassa and Dustin Robinson. The information within the crop report is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of farmers and ranchers who produce the beauty and bounty enjoyed by all Solano County residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Cohen'.

Susan Cohen
Agricultural Commissioner

Solano County Department Of Agriculture

501 Texas Street, Fairfield, California 94533

Ph: (707) 421-7465 Fax: (707) 429-0827

www.solanocounty.com

2000 STAFFING

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Susan Cohen

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

William J. Ferlatte

DEPUTY SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Dave Singh, Acting

SUPERVISING AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGISTS

Lenny DaMassa Jeffrey Erwin

DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGISTS

Janet Jessen Richard Low

Joseph Mraz

SENIOR AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGISTS

Shirley Tavare Laura Tripp

AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGIST/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS

Johnnie Johnson Linda Pinfold

Dustin Robinson Donald Stewart

AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGIST/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTOR TRAINEE

Janet Kirkman

OFFICE SUPERVISOR

Nancy Page

OFFICE COORDINATOR

Kathy Gillespie

OFFICE ASSISTANT II

Rosalie Brieno Lisa Barnett

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Solano County Fruit and Nut Acreage Statistics.....	1
Field Crops : Acreage, Production and Value.....	2,3
Nursery Stock.....	3
Fruit and Nut Crops : Acreage, Production and Value.....	4,5
Vegetable Crops : Acreage, Production and Value	6
Solano County – Historical Production of Processing Tomatoes.....	6
Map of Solano County	7,8
Seed Crops : Acreage, Production and Value	9
Livestock, Poultry and Apiary Products and Value	10
Livestock and Poultry : Production and Value	11
Solano County – Crop Production by Major Commodities.....	11
Grand Total of All Agricultural Products.....	12
Solano County – Twenty Years of Agricultural Production	12
Solano County – Ten Year Comparative Value Summary.....	12
Solano County – Distribution of Farm Acreage	13
Acreage Distribution	13
Solano County – Top Ten Crops by Value	14
Solano County – Share of California’s Production.....	14
Million Dollar Crops	15
Annual Sustainable Agricultural Report.....	16
General Information.....	17

**FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE
2000**

<u>Orchard Crop</u>	<u>Bearing Acreage</u>	<u>Non-Bearing Acreage</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>
Almonds	1,531	586	2,117
Apples	96	26	122
Apricots	539	51	590
Cherries	95	5	100
Figs	2	0	2
Grapes (Wine)	3,853	778	4,631
Kiwi	26	1	27
Nectarines	11	0	11
Olives	12	0	12
Oranges	26	0	26
Peaches (Freestone)	313	0	313
Pears (Bartlet)	1,036	0	1,036
(Other)	40	51	91
Pecans	3	0	3
Pluots	0	9	9
Persimmons	6	0	6
Pistachio Nuts	24	0	24
Plums	19	3	22
Prunes	2,223	88	2,311
Tangerines	13	0	13
Walnuts (English)	5,150	2,001	7,151
Walnuts (Black)	25	0	25
Totals	15,043	3,599	18,642

**FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE**

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Production</u>			<u>Average Value</u>		
		<u>Harvested Acreage</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>\$ Per Unit</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
Barley	2000	3,354	2.30	7,714	Ton	95.00	686,500
(Irrigated)	1999	4,700	2.30	10,810	Ton	95.00	1,027,000
Barley	2000	822	1.19	978	Ton	89.00	87,000
(Dryland)	1999	1,078	1.27	1,877	Ton	95.00	178,300
Beans, Dry	2000	4,400	0.92	4,048	Ton	565.00	2,287,000
Edible, All Classes *	1999	4,900	0.99	4,851	Ton	546.00	2,648,600
Corn, Field	2000	22,713	5.20	118,107	Ton	87.00	10,275,300
	1999	15,600	5.04	78,624	Ton	90.00	7,076,200
Hay, Alfalfa	2000	26,920	6.20	166,904	Ton	92.00	15,355,200
	1999	29,571	6.39	188,958	Ton	92.00	18,328,900
Hay, Grain	2000	3,500	2.67	9,345	Ton	63.00	588,700
	1999	4,000	2.72	10,880	Ton	63.00	685,400
Hay, Grass	2000	3,600	2.61	9,396	Ton	64.00	601,300
	1999	3,000	2.00	6,000	Ton	45.00	270,000
Oats, Grain	2000	2,760	2.60	4,230	Ton	140.00	604,800
	1999	1,361	1.50	2,041	Ton	140.00	285,700
Pasture, Irrigated	2000	22,500	---	-----	Acre	90.00	2,025,000
	1999	22,500	---	-----	Acre	90.00	2,025,000
Pasture, Rangeland	2000	143,650	---	-----	Acre	15.00	2,154,800
	1999	143,650	---	-----	Acre	15.00	2,154,800
Safflower, Oil	2000	7,287	1.06	7,724	Ton	223.00	1,722,500
	1999	9,977	1.25	12,471	Ton	300.00	3,741,300
Sorghum/Milo	2000	322	2.50	805	Ton	85.00	68,400
	1999	2,605	2.60	6,773	Ton	85.00	575,700
Sudangrass	2000	4,500	4.45	20,025	Ton	101.00	2,022,500
	1999	3,679	2.75	10,117	Ton	97.00	981,300

(Continued)

* Value and Yield Vary By Variety

**FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE**

(Continued)

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Production</u>			<u>Average Value</u>		
		<u>Harvested Acreage</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>\$ Per Unit</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Sugar Beets	2000	818	23.28	19,043	Ton	30.76	585,800
	1999	5,800	27.72	160,776	Ton	39.95	6,423,000
Wheat, Irrigated	2000	25,541	2.43	62,065	Ton	88.00	5,461,700
	1999	29,164	2.68	78,159	Ton	90.00	7,034,300
Wheat, Dryland	2000	10,510	1.45	15,240	Ton	88.00	1,341,100
	1999	7,106	2.20	15,633	Ton	90.00	1,407,000
Misc. Field Crops	2000	2,993					1,179,600
	1999	2,961					1,117,300
<hr/>							
Total Field Crops	2000	286,130				\$	47,047,300
	1999	291,652				\$	55,959,800

NURSERY STOCK: ACREAGE AND VALUE

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Average Value</u>
		<u>Acreage</u>	<u>\$ Value</u>
Nursery Stock **	2000	986	\$ 35,044,700
	1999	875	\$ 28,978,000
<hr/>			
Total Nursery Stock	2000	986	\$ 35,044,700
	1999	875	\$ 28,978,000

** Nursery Stock includes cuttings, buds, scions, Christmas trees, turf, root-stock, greenhouse, timber, firewood, ornamentals, etc.

**FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE**

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Average Production</u>			<u>Average Value</u>			
	<u>Year</u>	<u>Bearing Acreage</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>\$ Per Unit</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
Almonds							
Meats	2000	-----	-----	461.0	Ton	1,731.00	798,000
	1999	-----	-----	608.7	Ton	1,576.00	959,300
Hulls	2000	-----	-----	576.2	Ton	50.00	28,800
	1999	-----	-----	760.8	Ton	60.00	45,600
Total Almonds	2000	1,531	0.301	461.0	Ton	-----	826,800
	1999	1,506	0.404	608.7	Ton	-----	1,004,900
Apricots							
Dried (6.7:1)*	2000	-----	-----	40.0	Ton	4,762.00	190,500
	1999	-----	-----	40.0	Ton	6,000.00	240,000
Fresh Market	2000	-----	-----	129.4	Ton	610.00	78,900
	1999	-----	-----	50.0	Ton	1,200.00	60,000
Total Apricots	2000	539	0.737	397.4	Ton	-----	269,400
	1999	543	0.578	314.0	Ton	-----	300,000
Cherries							
Fresh Market	2000	95	1.850	175.7	Ton	2,000.00	351,400
	1999	95	0.500	47.5	Ton	3,000.00	142,500
Grapes, Wine**							
Dark Varieties	2000	-----	-----	8421.0	Ton	1,105.00	9,305,200
	1999	-----	-----	6119.8	Ton	1,130.00	6,915,300
White Varieties	2000	-----	-----	9577.8	Ton	920.00	8,811,600
	1999	-----	-----	7186.9	Ton	1,004.00	7,215,600
Total Grapes	2000	3,853	4.671	17,998.80	Ton	-----	18,116,800
	1999	3,390	3.925	13,306.70	Ton	-----	14,130,900
Kiwi	2000	26	6.500	169.0	Ton	1,000.00	169,000
	1999	11	6.000	66.0	Ton	1,000.00	66,000

(Continued)

* Drying Ratio

** Price Varies By Variety

**FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE**

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Production</u>		<u>Average Value</u>			
		<u>Bearing Acreage</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>\$Per Unit</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
<u>Peaches</u>							
Freestone	2000	----	----	91.5	Ton	4,330.00	396,200
(Dried 6.5:1)*	1999	----	----	73.0	Ton	4,330.00	316,000
Fresh Market	2000	----	----	6.7	Ton	1,174.00	7,900
	1999	----	----	----	Ton	----	----
Total Peaches	2000	313	1.921	601.4	Ton	----	404,100
	1999	277	2.002	554.8	Ton	----	316,000
<u>Pears</u>							
Canned #1	2000	----	----	5,486.0	Ton	216.00	1,185,000
	1999	----	----	10,439.0	Ton	220.00	2,296,600
Dried (6.3:1)*	2000	----	----	----	Ton	----	----
	1999	----	----	365.0	Ton	3,000.00	1,095,000
Juice and Fermentation	2000	----	----	274.0	Ton	30.00	8,200
	1999	----	----	137.0	Ton	60.00	8,200
Fresh Market	2000	----	----	2,071.0	Ton	165.00	341,700
	1999	----	----	2,272.0	Ton	200.00	454,400
Total Pears	2000	1,036	7.558	7,831.0	Ton	----	1,534,900
	1999	1,036	14.620	15,147.0	Ton	----	3,854,200
<u>Prunes **</u>							
	2000	2,223	0.967	2,150.0	Ton	910.00	1,956,500
	1999	2,256	1.624	3,665.0	Ton	857.00	3,140,900
<u>Walnuts</u>							
	2000	5,150	0.651	3,356.0	Ton	1,164.00	3,906,400
	1999	4,922	0.733	4,893.0	Ton	891.00	4,359,700
<u>Misc. Fruits and Nuts ***</u>							
	2000	296	----	----	----	----	2,266,500
	1999	340	----	----	----	----	2,263,300
TOTAL FRUIT AND NUT CROPS						\$	29,801,800
						\$	29,578,400

* Drying Ratio

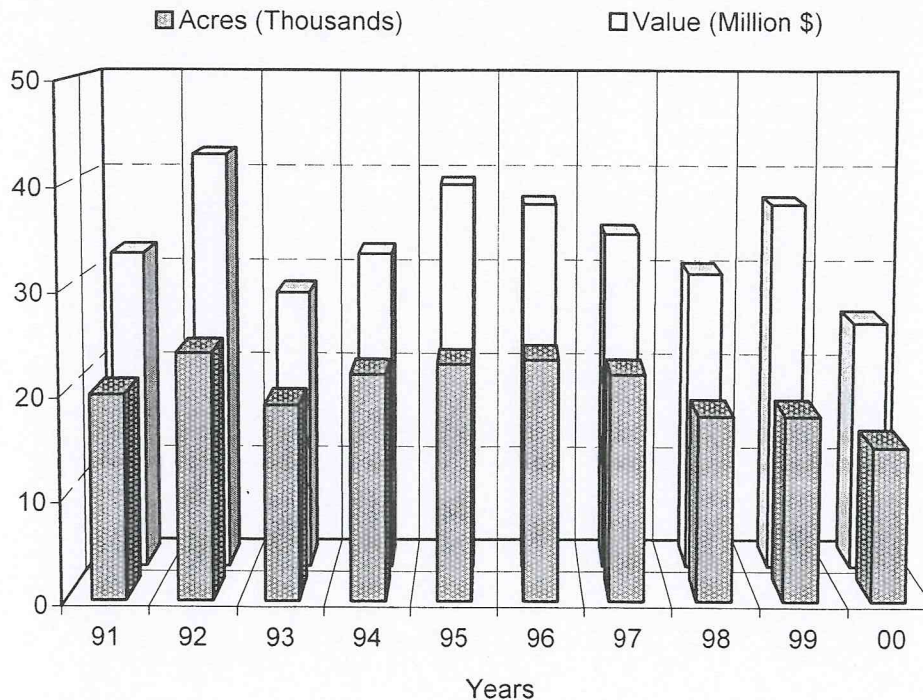
** Price Varies By Variety

*** (Apples, Asian Pears, Black Walnuts, Figs, Jojoba, Olives, Oranges, Pecans, Plums, Persimmons, Pistachios, Strawberries, Tangerines and other Fruits, Juices and Nuts)

**VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE**

Crop	Year	Average Production			Average Value		
		Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	\$ Per Unit	Total \$
Tomatoes, Processing	2000	15,415	35.14	541,683	Ton	47.00	25,459,100
	1999	18,341	34.58	634,231	Ton	58.00	36,785,400
Misc. Vegetables	2000	1,287					8,434,800
	1999	928					7,500,000
TOTAL VEGETABLE CROPS	2000	16,702					33,897,900
	1999	19,269					44,285,400

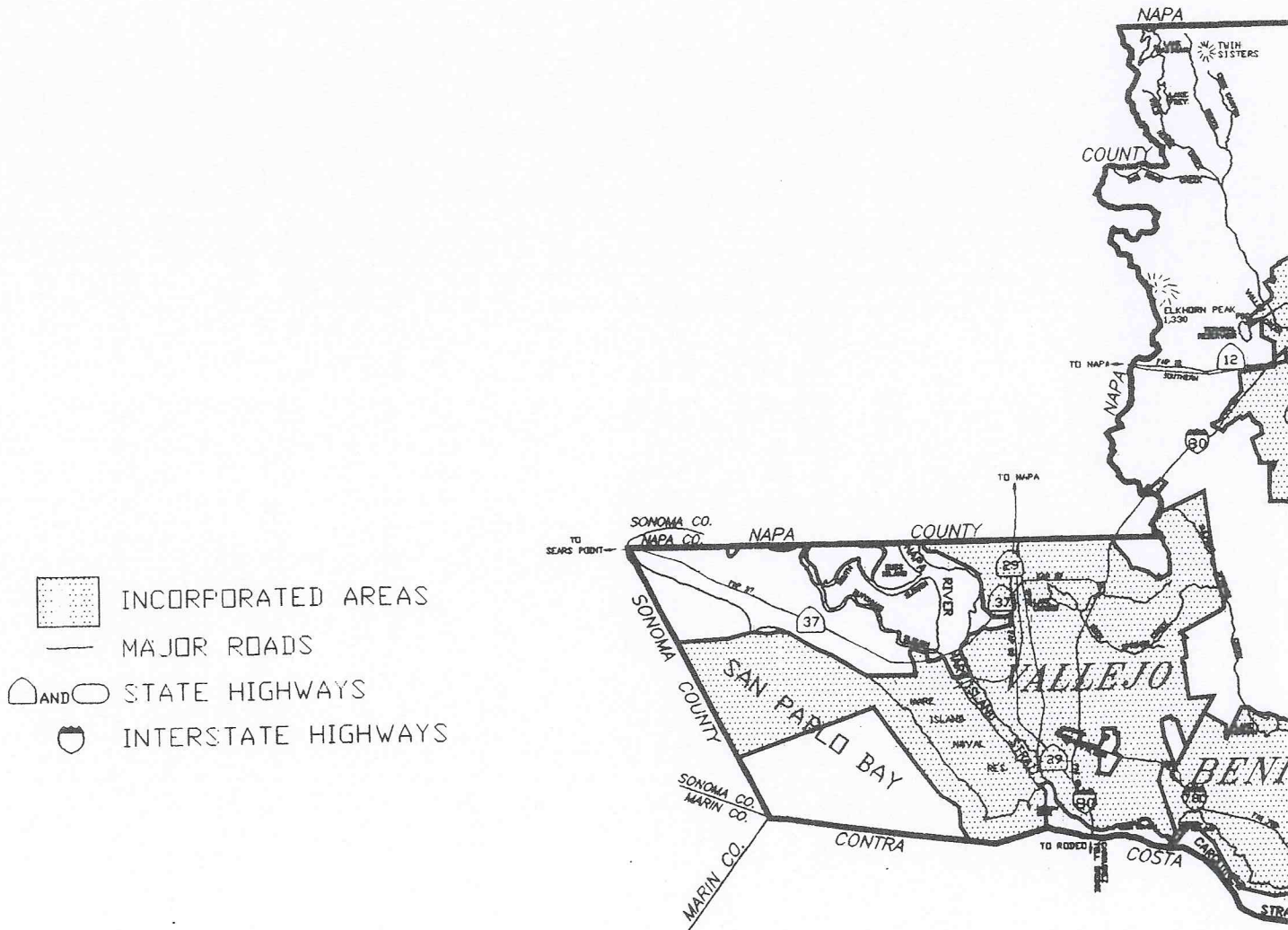
Historical Production of Processing Tomatoes in Solano County

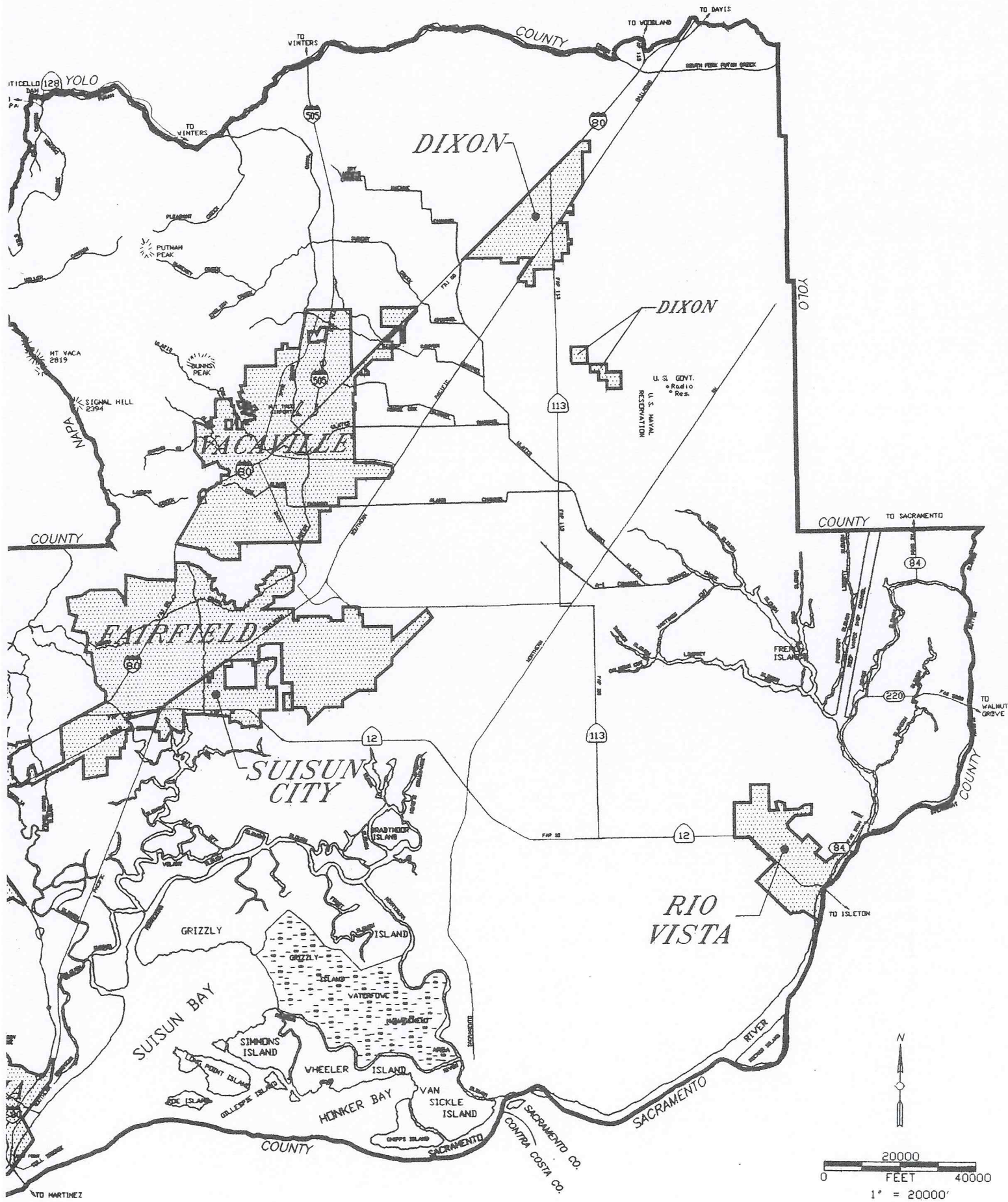


Map of Solano County

Area of County (Square Miles - Land) 823 Square Miles
 Area of County (Acres - Land) 526,720 Acres

Major Farming Districts
 Dixon, Winters, Rio Vista - Ryer Island, Suisun Valley, East Vacaville





**SEED CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE**

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Production</u>			<u>Average Value</u>		
		<u>Harvested Acreage</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>\$ Per Unit</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
Beans, Dry, All Market Classes *	2000	782	0.85	665	Ton	660.00	438,900
	1999	932	0.78	727	Ton	640.00	465,300
Beans, Dry All Market Classes Certified	2000	1,446	0.79	1,142	Ton	660.00	753,700
	1999	1,113	0.63	701	Ton	640.00	448,600
Cantaloupe	2000	32	300.00	9,600	Lb.	2.15	20,600
	1999	97	500.00	48,500	Lb.	3.20	155,200
Cucumber	2000	212	244.00	51,728	Lb.	8.50	416,400
	1999	476	350.00	166,600	Lb.	3.40	566,400
Safflower	2000	3,500	1.00	3,500	Ton	218.00	763,000
	1999	898	0.53	476	Ton	300.00	142,800
Squash	2000	94	321.00	30,174	Lb.	6.85	206,700
	1999	159	585.00	93,015	Lb.	5.00	465,100
Sunflower, Certified	2000	1,233	0.52	641	Ton	1,228.00	787,100
	1999	4,491	0.48	2,156	Ton	1,470.00	3,169,300
Watermelon	2000	428	292.00	124,976	Lb.	3.75	468,700
	1999	465	303.00	140,900	Lb.	3.00	422,700
Wheat, Certified	2000	1,133	2.50	2,832	Ton	90.00	254,900
	1999	735	2.50	1,838	Ton	100.00	183,800
Misc. Seed	2000	1,229					941,800
	1999	1,457					1,234,900
Total Seed Crops	2000	10,089					\$ 5,051,800
	1999	11,185					\$ 7,987,200

* Yield and Value Vary By Variety

**LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND APIARY
PRODUCTS AND VALUE**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Average Production</u>			<u>Average Value</u>		
	<u>Year</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>\$ Per Unit</u>	<u>Total \$</u>	
Bees	-- Honey	2000	19,500	Lb.	0.58	11,300
		1999	19,000	Lb.	0.55	10,500
	-- Packages *	2000	2,450	Pkg.	31.00	76,000
		1999	1,500	Pkg.	15.50	23,300
	-- Pollination **	2000	8,432	Colony	-----	271,700
		1999	6,630	Colony	-----	152,100
	-- Queens	2000	17,000	Each	9.50	161,500
		1999	6,042	Each	7.50	45,300
	-- Wax	2000	-----	----	----	-----
		1999	-----	----	----	-----
Milk	-- Market	2000	317,281	Cwt.	12.42	3,940,600
		1999	290,134	Cwt.	14.47	4,198,200
	-- Manufacturing	2000	661	Cwt.	9.49	6,300
		1999	6,253	Cwt.	13.20	82,500
Wool	2000	407,245	Lb.	0.32	130,300	
	1999	381,182	Lb.	0.31	118,200	
TOTAL LIVESTOCK POULTRY, AND APIARY PRODUCTS AND VALUE		2000			\$ 4,597,700.00	
		1999			\$ 4,630,100.00	

* Packages Include 2 Lbs. Bees Plus a Queen

** Pollination Fee Varies By Crop, Crops Pollinated Include
Alfalfa, Almonds, Kiwi, Onion, Prune, Sunflower, and Vine Seed

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

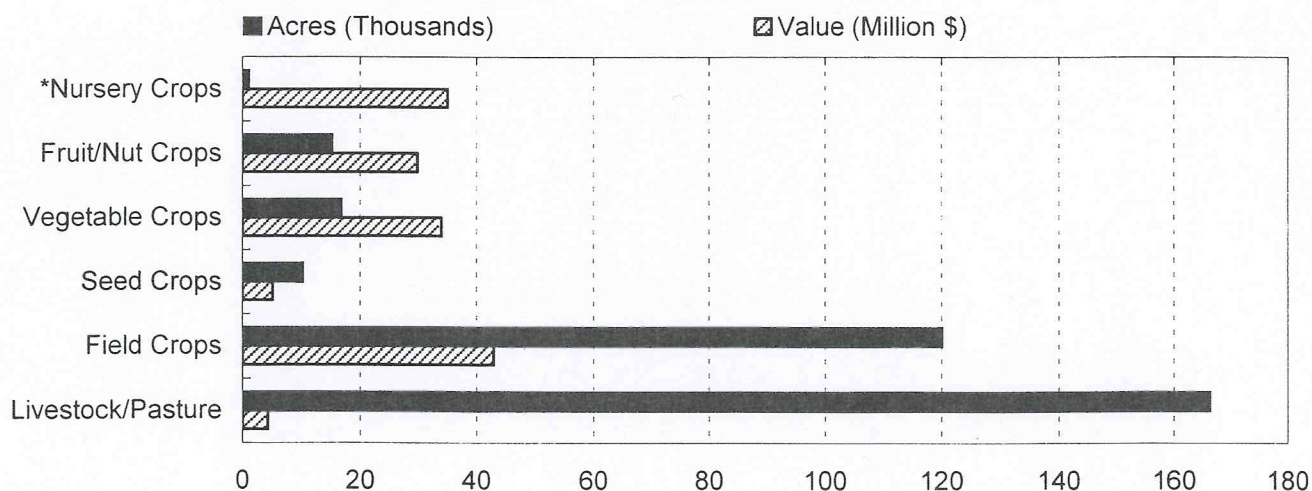
Average Production

Average Value

Item	Year	Head	Liveweight	\$ Per	Unit \$	Total \$	
				Unit			
Cattle & Calves	2000	30,500	236,375	Cwt.	66.23	15,655,100	
	1999	29,274	226,874	Cwt.	59.40	13,476,300	
Dairy Cows	2000	1,500	17,250	Cwt.	129.56	2,234,900	
	1999	-----	-----	Cwt.	-----	-----	
Hogs & Pigs	2000	200	400	Cwt.	44.10	17,600	
	1999	200	400	Cwt.	35.10	14,000	
Stock Sheep	2000	47,300	70,950	Cwt.	31.50	2,234,900	
	1999	46,360	55,632	Cwt.	28.70	1,596,600	
Feeder Lambs	2000	115,590	115,590	Cwt.	78.20	9,039,100	
	1999	113,325	113,325	Cwt.	74.80	8,476,700	
Miscellaneous	2000					486,200	
	1999					500,000	
TOTAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY							
						2000	\$ 29,667,800
						1999	\$ 24,063,600

Solano County Crop Production

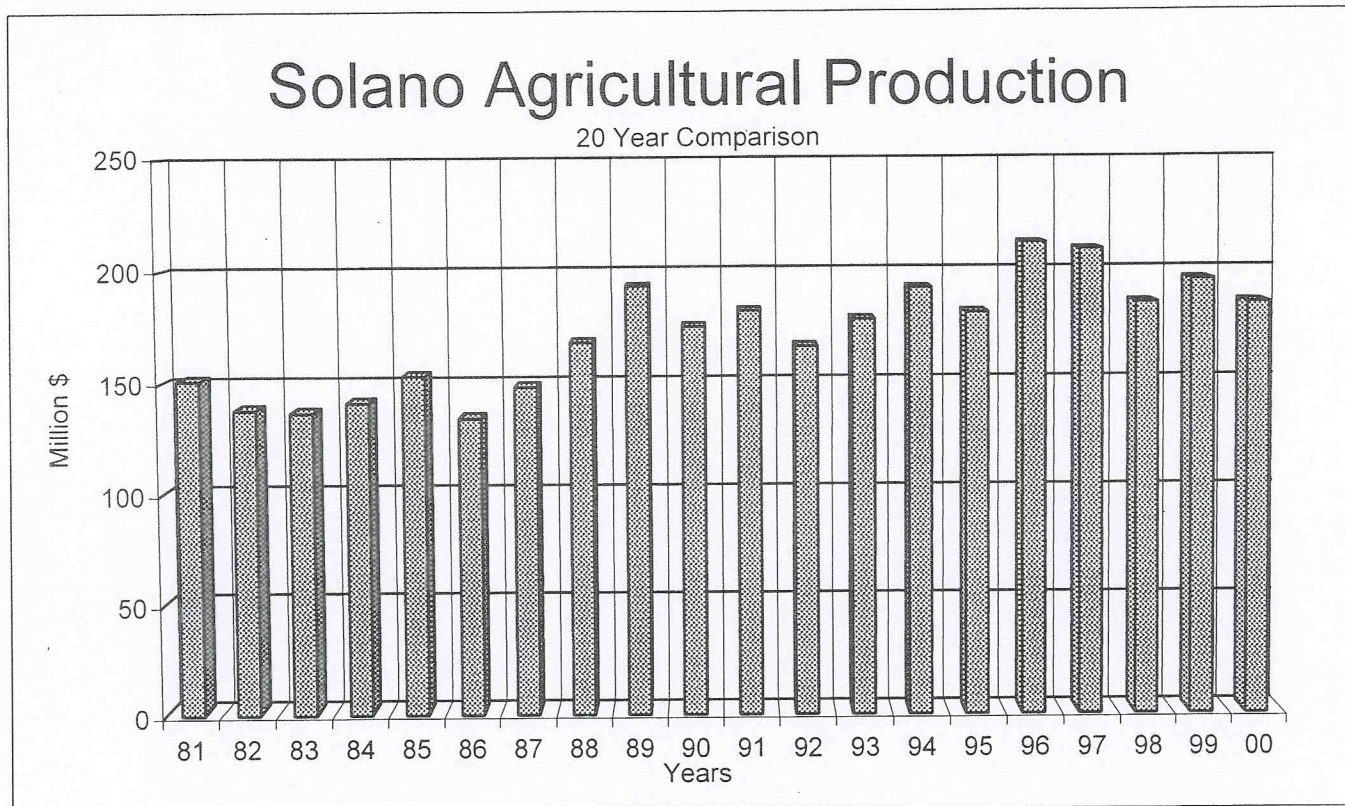
By Major Commodities for 2000



* 986 acres reported

PRODUCTION GRAND TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL	2000 -----	\$ 185,109,100
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	1999 -----	\$ 195,482,500



VALUE SUMMARY

Year	Field Crops	Fruit & Nut Crops	Seed Crops	Vegetable Crops	Animal Production	Totals
1991	77,881,400	25,522,000	8,025,600	45,040,400	25,305,600	181,775,000
1992	76,794,800	23,769,700	5,887,100	30,898,900	28,949,500	166,300,000
1993	81,808,400 *	24,288,000	6,787,200	35,848,200	28,973,300	177,705,100
1994	94,198,000 *	24,293,800	5,934,400	43,054,700	24,446,800	191,927,700
1995	86,769,900 *	23,975,300	7,658,600	39,935,600	21,876,500	180,206,900
1996	101,425,400 *	31,591,600	8,674,200	44,472,200	25,467,300	211,630,700
1997	94,110,000 *	34,858,700	10,594,500	41,007,000	28,843,700	209,140,900
1998	87,709,200 *	22,998,900	9,318,000	36,775,400	28,377,000	185,178,500
1999	84,937,800 *	29,578,400	7,987,200	44,285,400	28,693,700	195,482,500
2000	82,092,000 *	29,801,800	5,051,800	33,897,900	34,265,600	185,109,100

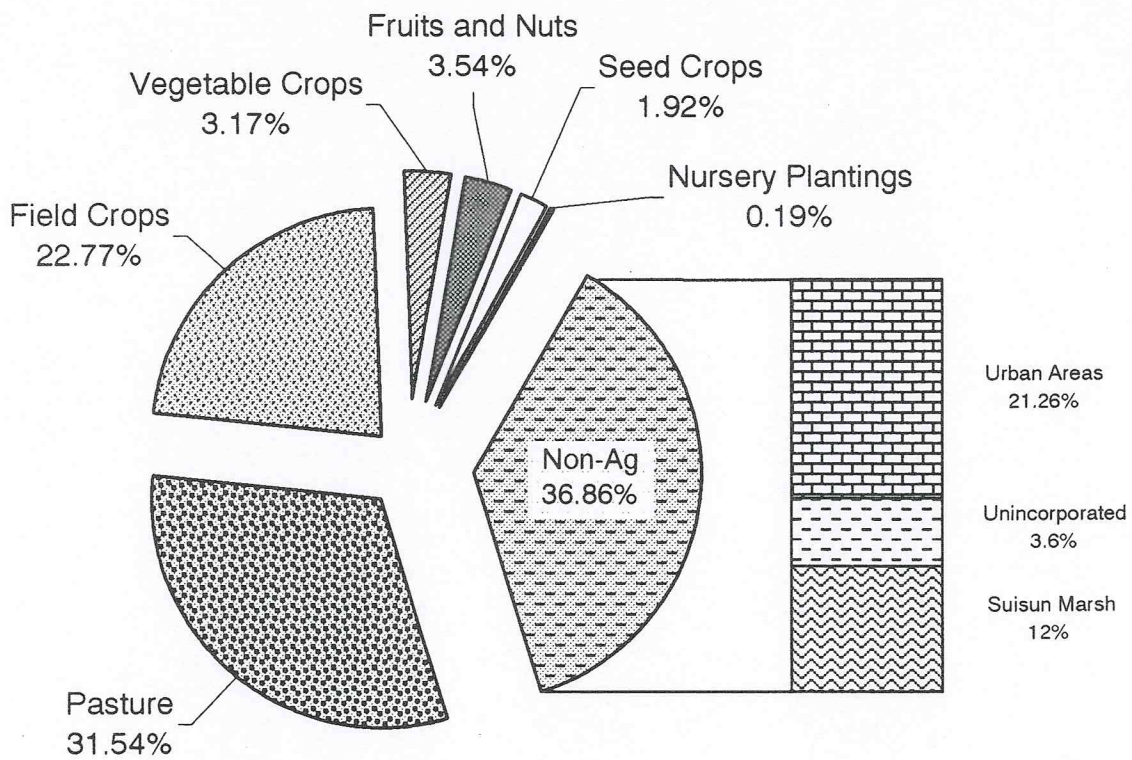
* Includes Nursery Stock

DISTRIBUTION OF FARM ACREAGE

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Field Crops	119,980	125,502
Fruit & Nut Crops	* 18,661	* 18,246
Pasture Lands	166,150	166,150
Seed Crops	10,089	11,185
Vegetable Crops	16,702	19,269
Nursery Stock	986	875
	-----	-----
Totals	332,568	341,227

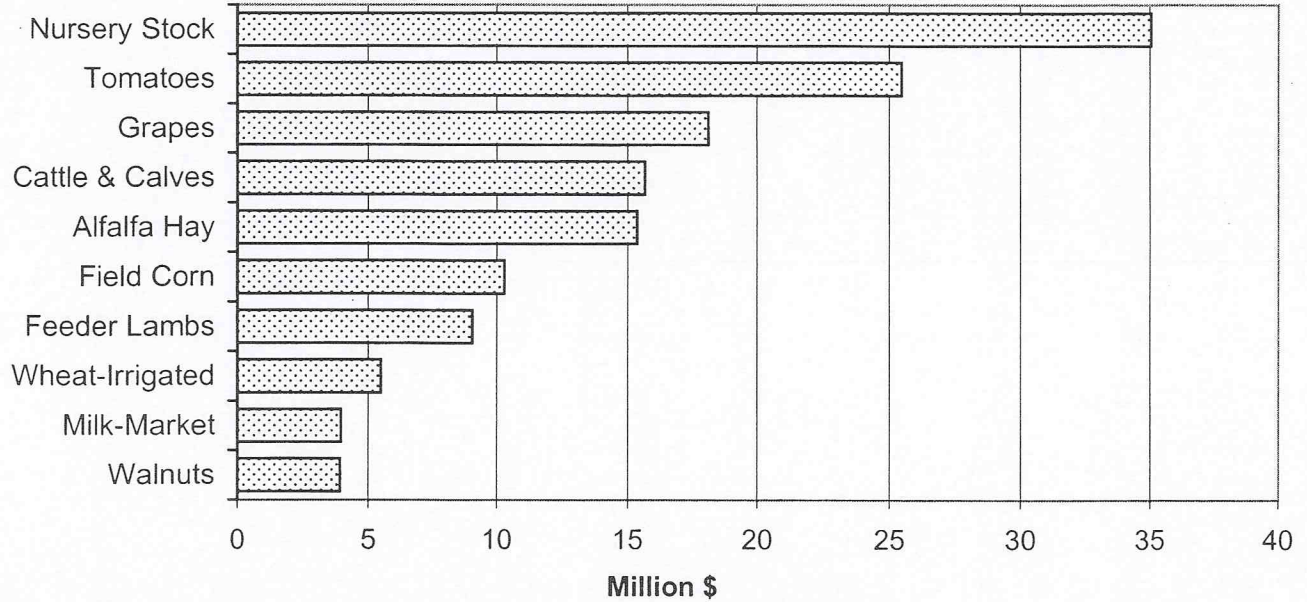
* Includes Non-bearing Acreage

Acreage Distribution

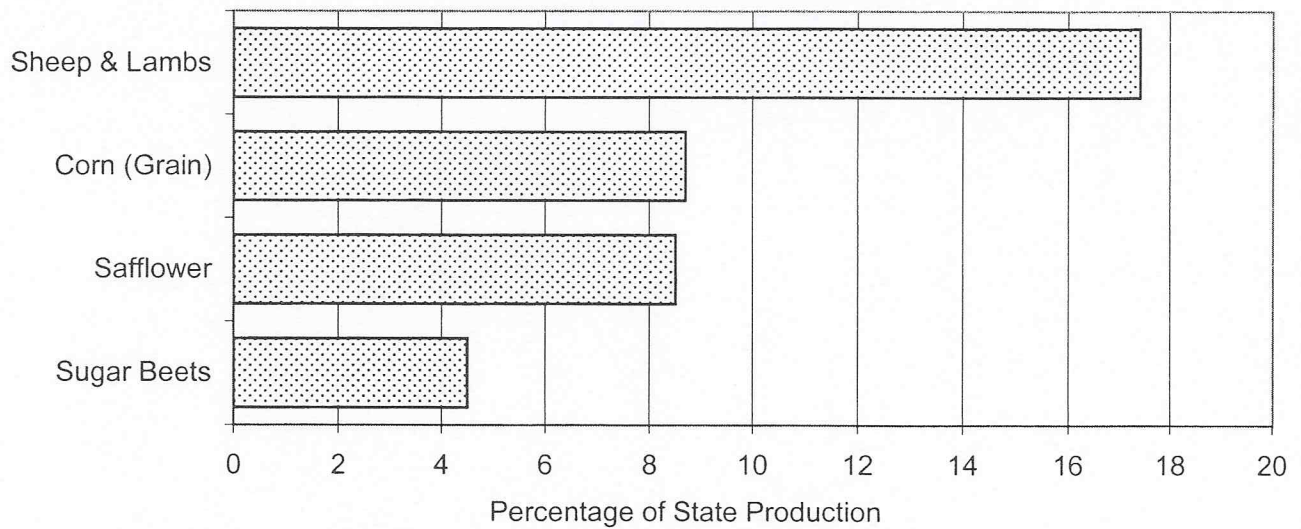


Top Ten Crops in Solano County

By Value for 2000



Solano County's Share of California Production



Values listed are a percentage of statewide production for crops in which Solano ranked in the top five in state gross value in 1999

\$ MILLION DOLLAR CROPS \$

			Ranking	
			<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
NURSERY STOCK	-----	\$ 35,044,700.00	1	2
TOMATOES, PROCESSING	-----	25,459,100.00	2	1
GRAPES, WINE	-----	18,116,800.00	3	4
CATTLE AND CALVES	-----	15,655,100.00	4	5
ALFALFA, HAY	-----	15,355,200.00	5	3
CORN, FIELD	-----	10,275,300.00	6	7
FEEDER LAMBS	-----	9,039,100.00	7	6
WHEAT, IRRIGATED	-----	5,461,700.00	8	8
MILK, MARKET	-----	3,940,600.00	9	11
WALNUTS	-----	3,906,400.00	10	10
BEANS, EDIBLE DRY	-----	2,287,100.00	11	16
STOCK SHEEP	-----	2,234,900.00	12	19
PASTURE, RANGELAND	-----	2,154,800.00	13	17
PASTURE, IRRIGATED	-----	2,025,000.00	14	18
SUDANGRASS	-----	2,022,500.00	15	--
PRUNES	-----	1,956,500.00	16	15
SAFFLOWER, OIL	-----	1,722,500.00	17	13
PEARS	-----	1,534,900.00	18	12
WHEAT, DRYLAND	-----	1,341,100.00	19	20

**ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORT
2000**

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

<u>Pest</u>	<u>Biocontrol Agent</u>	<u>Scope of Program</u>
Yellow Star Thistle <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Bud Weevil <i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>	9 Sites
	Flower Weevil <i>Larinus curus</i>	1 Site
	Hairy Weevil <i>Eustenopus villosus</i>	4 Sites
	Gall Fly <i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>	2 Sites
Purple Star Thistle <i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Weevil <i>Larinus minutus</i>	2 Sites
	Seed Head Fly <i>Terrelia Sp.</i>	

PEST EXCLUSION

Gypsy Moth <i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Household Goods 106 shipments inspected
Exotic Pests.....	2,391 inspections of packages, plant shipments, trucks, export, seed, etc. 483 Federal, State, and other Origin or Phytosanitary Inspection Certificates issued
Apple Maggot, Glassy-Winged Sharp-shooter, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Kaphra Beetle, Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Melon Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly delimitation	1,419 traps placed throughout the county to detect the presence of these pests
Seed for Export.....	2,779 Acres

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

<u>FARMS</u>	<u>PRODUCTS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
18	VARIOUS FRUITS & VEGETABLES	APPROX. 350
	(Apricots, Beans, Carrots, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Figs, Herbs, Lettuce, Mandarins, Melons, Mushrooms, Oranges, Peaches, Peppers, Persimmons, Plums, Prunes, Squash, Tomatoes, Walnuts, etc.)	

SOLANO COUNTY GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat – Fairfield

	County Population (January 1, 2000).....	399,000
Benicia – 29,000	Dixon – 15,550	Fairfield – 95,300
Rio Vista – 4,850	Suisun – 27,250	Vacaville – 91,500
	Vallejo – 114,700	
State Ranking For Agricultural Production Values (1999)		28 th
Ranking Among California Counties – Gross Values of Production 1999		
2 nd – Sheep and Lambs, 5 th - Corn (Grain), Sugar Beets, Safflower		
Total Secured Assessed Value (2000-01).....		\$22,175,539,868
Total Land Area in California (Acres- 1977)		100,000,000 Acres
California Agricultural Land (Acres- 1997)		27,698,779 Acres
Area of County (Square Miles- Land)		823 Sq. Miles
Area of County (Acres- Land)		526,720 Acres
Area of County (Acres- Urban Land)		93,894 Acres
Area of County (Water)		75.3 Sq. Miles
Area of County (Acres- Water)		48,192 Acres
Number of Full Time Farms in Solano County (1997)		403 Farms
Average U.S. Farm Size (Acres- 1997)		487 Acres
Average California Farm Size (Acres- 1997)		374 Acres
Average Size of Solano Farm (Acres- 1997)		455 Acres
Solano County Road Miles (January 1, 2001)		598.5 Miles
Number of Solano County Owned Bridges		113
Major Roadways – Interstates: 80, 505, 680, 780		
Highways: 12, 29, 37, 84, 113, 220		
Major Farming Districts – Dixon, Winters, Rio Vista- Ryer Island, Suisun Valley, East Vacaville		
Railroads – Amtrak, California Northern, Southern Pacific		
Facilities – Travis Air Force Base, University of California at Davis and Wolfskill Ranch, California Maritime Academy		

“IF THE SOLANO COUNTY WALLS COULD TALK”

During the month of November 2000, the Solano County Sesquicentennial Project Committee sponsored a countywide essay contest to commemorate the sesquicentennial. The contest was open to all fourth grade students and was based on the theme “If the Solano County Walls Could Talk.” Contestants were asked to describe an event or events that they believe had a major influence on the county. Winners’ essays are published on the crop report cover pages to share them more widely throughout the county and to honor students for their creativity and the wonderful differences in the ways that they describe the County of Solano.

Andrew Boutorwick, Holy Spirit School

My name is Andrew Boutorwick. I’m a reporter for the Daily Republic. It is 1850 and Fairfield, the town I live and work in, is one of the first towns in California. California was just admitted to the union this year, maybe because in 1849 there was the gold rush and lots of people came here to make a fortune and finally enough people came to make it a state.

It is now 1860, and I’m still a reporter. If you haven’t heard of me, my name is Andrew Boutorwick. This year Solano County and all the rest of America have been going through some tough times. First of all, reporters like me have been having a lot of stories to write, and there aren’t enough reporters to cover them. Second of all, we can’t get to half the stories because the places we need to go are blockaded. Then we reporters aren’t getting enough money because the country is using the money to build up armies because our country is probably going to go to war.

It is 1861. The War Between the States has started because of the attack on Fort Sumter, and the union is losing lots of battles.

My name is Johnny Boutorwick. I’m a reporter for the Daily Republic just like my great grandpa. The year is 1930. Solano County is huge now. You can’t walk everywhere and know each other anymore, maybe because lots of people came from the plains states because of a drought. Even the city council, to everybody’s relief, made the first real grocery store. That is how big Solano County is.

My name is Frank Boutorwick. I’m 22 years old, and I work for the Daily Republic. It is 1943. The Air Force has decided to make a base in Fairfield. Its name is going to be Ragsdale Field. It is bringing in so many people who want jobs at the base!

It is now 1950. The Air Force base is being renamed after Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis who was in charge of the base and died in a B-29 crash.

My name is Brett Boutorwick. I’m a reporter. It is 1965. I think I might be drafted for the war in Vietnam; and if I am, I’m sure I’ll go through Travis AFB because almost everyone and every bit of equipment goes through there.

I am Andrew Boutorwick. I’m named after my great great great grandpa. I own the Daily Republic. For generations it has been the family business. This year we lost the Vietnam War, and many troops are returning through Travis and starting families here.

It is now 1993, and I still own the Daily Republic. This year a mall is being built, and they’re going to name it Westfield Shopping Mall. The Jelly Belly Factory has been built, too. My family has seen so many changes in 150 years!

Stephanie Herwatt, Holy Spirit School

If the Solano County walls could talk, they would probably say a lot of things. They might talk about the Native American tribe called the Patwin who lived in Solano County. The Patwins named this county after Chief Solano. They dieted on acorns, seeds, waterfowl, and fish. I think they had a big effect on Solano County.

Another thing the walls might talk about is the technology changes throughout the past. Before computers and cell phones were made, people looked in books for information and gathered together to talk. Now, people read less and less books and spend more and more time on computers. I think technology brought a big change, too.

The walls might also talk about the restaurants, freeways, houses, and hotels. When people started to build these things, more people came to live in Solano County, and that is how our population grew.

The walls might also talk about how Solano County has had two state capitals: a brief time in Vallejo and a longer time period in Benicia.

The walls might even say how lucky Benicia was. Benicia was so lucky because they had the first windmill, the first newspaper, had good coal, and the gold rush began there. I think Benicia is a very wealthy city.

One thing that I am sure the walls would talk about is how Solano County had the first Navy Yard in the Pacific. Also the walls would probably say how on May 11, 1943, a field that was being used in World War II was named Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER)

“IF THE SOLANO COUNTY WALLS COULD TALK” (CONTINUED)

The walls could talk about how wealthy Solano County's land is. At first all the farmers produced wheat. But in the 1870's wheat production began to fail, and the farmers had to find something else to grow. They chose to grow vineyards and make wine. Unfortunately, the disease phylloxera in 1875 killed all the grapes. The farmers then chose to grow fruit trees such as peaches, plums, and apricots. All of the markets wanted fresh fruit. The farmers then realized that they produced more fruit in their own orchard than wheat in their whole wheat harvest. During this process the famous Early Fruit Belt was born.

As you can see, Solano County has had a very busy past and the walls have seen it all.

Caroline Dimech, Matthew Turner School

Founded on February 18, 1850, Solano was one of California's original 27 counties and includes in its colorful history such early founding families as Vallejo, Wolfskill, Waterman, Von Pfister, Pena, Vaca, Armijo, Goodyear, Mizner, Semple, and Pleasants. Two of the county's cities – Vallejo and Benicia – served briefly as early state capitals. The development of Mare Island, Benicia Arsenal, and Travis Air Force Base played important roles in national military history. Known through time for its fruit industry, canneries, flour mills, asparagus, delta fishing, shipbuilding, mammoth dredges, celebrated roadside restaurants, biotechnology companies, high profile brewery, and rainbow hued jelly bellies, the county has long been a well-traveled crossroad where the Central Valley merges into the northern San Francisco Bay Area.

Gold-seekers from all over the world swarmed to California 150 years ago, and most of them headed to the western foothills of the Sierra hoping to find their fortune in the Mother Lode. A few, however, found their gold right here in Solano County on the golden hillsides where their cattle grazed in fields of golden grain and in orchards where golden apricots, peaches, and pears blossomed.

The glory days of fruit came during a 40-year period surrounding the turn of this century: a time when the county billed itself as the orchard of America.

In 1880, a single grower, A. T. Hatch, was producing nuts and fruits on 800 acres in the Suisun Valley. Within 20 years Vacaville growers were cashing in on the fact that theirs was among the first fruit in the country to ripen each spring. Thanks to newly developed refrigeration cars and the Transcontinental Railroad, they were able to command premium prices in the markets back East.

Since 1950, fruits and nuts have consistently represented about 15 percent of the county's agricultural production. Today's farmers also are following the time-honored tradition of changing with the times. Years ago, when fresh fruit became hard to sell, farmers switched to varieties that dried well. Now many are planting a crop that was well established here even before the fresh fruit boom – grapes.

Today's freeway motorists may only glimpse of an almond orchard in Dixon or pear trees in the Suisun Valley. Yet hidden behind the hills, subdivisions, and shopping centers, many more orchards still bloom and provide a livelihood for those who tend them.

Nathan Maroon, Matthew Turner School

If the Solano County walls could talk, they would talk about Nathan Semple. Nathan grew up in Benicia around the 1840-1850's. Nathan saw Benicia born; he saw the effect of the gold rush and the state capital established.

Nathan arrived at the location of Benicia with his father, Robert Semple, the founder of the city. Nathan's father received the land for the city from General Vallejo, a Mexican general who owned much of the land in Solano and Sonoma counties. Benicia was named after General Vallejo's wife, Francisca Benicia Carillo de Vallejo. Nathan had a lot of fun in the early days of Benicia. He played baseball in the old sandlot, fished at the end of First Street, and played hide and seek in the surrounding fields.

Nathan remembers the effect of the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill. The effect on Nathan and all the residents of Benicia was big. Nathan was playing with his friend in front of the town store when the news was heard that there was gold in the California foothills. People came on ships and landed in Benicia. The population grew much bigger almost overnight. Nathan's best friends moved away to work with their families in the gold fields. He sure missed them! Nathan also remembers that soon after the gold rush started, people that had gold were very happy and sometimes too rough. You would have to stay away from them.

It was very exciting when Benicia was named the state capital. Lots of very important people came to Benicia. The people who came were senators and assemblymen. Nathan enjoyed watching the important people walk into and out of the state capital.

Nathan enjoyed growing up in Benicia between the 1840's and 50's. It was exciting because Benicia was born as a town, the gold rush happened, and Benicia was named the state capital.