



That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is fact long known, but lately often forgotten. — *Aldo Leopold*

# **SAN MATEO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT 1988**

**County of San Mateo  
Department of Agriculture/  
Weights and Measures  
P.O. Box 999  
Redwood City, CA 94064**

Mr. Jack Parnell - Director  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
and  
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
1st District - M. Griffin; 2nd District - T. Huening;  
3rd District - A. Eshoo; 4th District - T. Nolan;  
5th District - W. Schumacher

I am pleased to submit the 1988 Annual Crop Report for San Mateo County in compliance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code.

The total gross value of San Mateo County agricultural production for 1988 was \$198,210,800. This represents a decrease of approximately 2.5% from 1987. Production is given in acreage, yields and gross values of commodities produced and does not represent net income.

The single most significant factor contributing to the decrease in gross production value was continuing drought conditions. Field acreage relying on run-off waters was greatly reduced, up to 30% in some areas. Multi-cropping of acreage was discontinued due to lack of water. Another factor influencing the drop was the susceptibility of weakened plants to insect and disease attacks. This also affected the quality of flowers and vegetables resulting in a reduced return to the growers. The water shortage led to lower production and lower quality for brussels sprouts, artichokes and most field crops. More acreage was apportioned to dry land crops, such as dry beans and pasture.

Another factor unrelated to the drought was the loss of floral greenhouses to housing developments on the bay side of San Mateo County.

There was a continuing increase in potted nursery stock in 1988, especially flowering potted plants. Production in specialty crops, such as potted christmas trees, mushrooms and bush berries continued to rise.

Although agriculture has been negatively affected by the drought, it continues to be a viable industry in San Mateo County.

I wish to express my continued appreciation to all individuals, growers and agencies who contributed information necessary for the preparation of this report. Special thanks goes to Kyra Kingore and other members of my staff who helped compile this report.

Sincerely,

George Ginlio  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

## SAN MATEO COUNTY

# ANNUAL CROP REPORT

### VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	Year	PRODUCTION				VALUE	
		Acres	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Artichokes <sup>1</sup>	1988	1,150	2.00	2,300	Ton	\$1,050	\$ 2,415,000
	1987	1,150	2.00	2,300	Ton	1,100	2,530,000
Beans, Snap	1988	120	4.21	505	Ton	913	481,000
	1987	125	4.24	530	Ton	940	498,000
Brussels Sprouts <sup>1</sup>	1988	850	6.31	4,100	Ton	408	1,673,000
	1987	850	6.40	4,160	Ton	430	1,788,800
Lettuce, All Varieties	1988	75	5.30	398	Ton	410	163,000
	1987	85	5.30	450	Ton	580	261,000
Peas	1988	600	1.88	1,130	Ton	860	972,000
	1987	600	1.88	1,130	Ton	900	1,017,000
Pumpkins	1988	300	12.20	3,660	Ton	210	789,000
	1987	300	12.40	3,720	Ton	205	762,600
Miscellaneous Vegetables Field and Indoor Grown <sup>2</sup>	1988	200					24,030,000
	1987	200					23,560,000
TOTAL	1988	3,095					\$30,483,000
	1987	3,110					\$30,417,800

<sup>1</sup> Includes Processed  
<sup>2</sup> Includes Cabbage, Celery, Mushrooms, Potatoes, Spinach, Swiss Chard, etc.

### FLORAL AND NURSERY CROPS INDOOR GROWN

Item	Year	Square Feet	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Per Unit	Total
Cut Flowers							
Carnations	1988	720,000	13,900,000	Bloom	\$ 180	\$ 2,394,000	
	1987	720,000	13,320,000	Bloom	175	2,331,000	
Chrysanthemums							
Total	1988	490,000				687,000	
	1987	750,000				1,620,000	
Standard	1988	(270,000)	745,000	Bloom	\$ 490	365,000	
	1987	(410,000)	1,126,000	Bloom	470	(529,200)	
Pompon	1988	(220,000)	230,000	Bunch	1,400	322,000	
	1987	(340,000)	357,000	Bunch	1,400	499,800	
Roses	1988	850,000	17,150,000	Bloom	252	4,322,500	
	1987	850,000	17,000,000	Bloom	240	4,080,000	
Miscellaneous Cut Flowers <sup>3</sup>	1988	2,750,000				13,250,000	
	1987	2,750,000				13,200,000	
Potted Plants							
Flowering							
African Violets	1988	750,000	2,019,000	Pot	1.75	3,533,000	
	1987	950,000	2,878,200	Pot	2.20	6,332,500	
Chrysanthemums	1988	1,750,000	2,980,000	Pot	3.20	9,472,000	
	1987	1,750,000	2,960,000	Pot	3.20	9,472,000	
Lilies	1988	510,000	845,000	Pot	3.60	3,042,000	
	1987	480,000	768,000	Pot	3.50	2,688,000	
Poinsettias	1988	960,000	1,995,000	Pot	4.40	7,016,000	
	1987	960,000	1,993,000	Pot	4.38	6,832,200	
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	1988	4,530,000				44,168,000	
	1987	4,150,000				40,450,000	
Foliage <sup>5</sup>	1988	1,370,000				20,070,000	
	1987	1,750,000				25,250,000	
Subtotal	1988	14,480,000				\$107,956,000	
	1987	15,090,000				111,784,200	
Prepatted							
Bedding Plants	1988	100,000				560,000	
(Ivy, Impatiens, Marigolds, etc.)	1987	100,000				550,000	
Cuttings and Liners	1988	330,000				625,000	
(Ferns, Hydrangea, Ivy, etc.)	1987	330,000				610,500	
TOTAL	1988	14,910,000				\$109,141,000	
	1987	15,520,000				112,924,700	
Total Glass and Plastic Areas ..... 6,740,000 Square Feet							

<sup>3</sup> Includes Freesia, Gardenia, Lilies, Orchids, Snapdragons, etc.  
<sup>4</sup> Includes Azaleas, Cyclamen, Gardenias, Gerberas, Hydrangeas, Primulas, Roses, Tulips, Orchids, etc.  
<sup>5</sup> Includes Dieffenbachia, Ficus, Ivy, Philodendron, Pottoes, etc.

### FLORAL AND NURSERY CROPS OUTDOOR GROWN

Item	Year	Acres	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Per Unit	Total
Heather	1988	240	335,000	Bunch	\$2.70	\$ 905,000	
	1987	240	335,000	Bunch	2.90	971,500	
Iris	1988	85	834,000	Bunch	2.44	1,547,000	
	1987	85	837,500	Bunch	2.40	1,530,000	
Daisies	1988	470	4,275,500	Bunch	55	2,352,200	
	1987	490	4,950,000	Bunch	55	2,722,500	
Strawflowers <sup>6</sup>	1988	100	1,050,000			1,400,000	
	1987	100	1,050,000			1,530,000	
Miscellaneous Flower/Foliage <sup>7</sup>	1988	310				4,340,000	
	1987	320				4,480,000	
Subtotal	1988	1,205				\$10,194,000	
	1987	1,235				11,104,000	
Ornamentals							
Herbaceous Perennials <sup>8</sup>	1988	21				\$ 6,100,000	
	1987	21				6,100,000	
Christmas Trees	1988	390				3,335,000	
	1987	390				4,446,000	
Nursery Stock	1988	160		(Includes Heather & Mini Christmas Trees)		\$2,860,000	
	1987	140				30,850,000	
TOTAL	1988	1,776				\$52,429,000	
	1987	1,786				\$2,500,000	

<sup>6</sup> Includes Fresh and Dried  
<sup>7</sup> Includes Calla Lily, Eucalyptus, Eubonymus, Pittosporum, Stock, Yarrow, etc.  
<sup>8</sup> Includes Cinerarias, Fuschias, Impatiens, Primrose, etc.

### FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
							Per Unit	Total
Beans, Dry Edible	1988	80	.34	27	Ton	\$355.00	\$ 9,600	
	1987	48	.38	18	Ton	350.00	6,300	
Grain								
Barley	1988	100	.92	92	Ton	103.00	9,500	
	1987	100	1.22	122	Ton	103.00	12,500	
Oats	1988	1,000	.96	960	Ton	135.00	129,600	
	1987	1,200	1.04	1,248	Ton	142.00	177,200	
Hay								
Oats	1988	2,000	2.50	5,200	Ton	75.00	390,000	
	1987	2,000	3.00	6,000	Ton	76.00	456,000	
Volunteer	1988	300	2.30	690	Ton	60.00	41,400	
	1987	300	2.50	750	Ton	60.00	45,000	
Pasture								
Irrigated	1988	200				140.00	28,000	
	1987	300				140.00	42,000	
Other	1988	30,000				9.00	270,000	
	1987	29,000				9.00	261,000	
TOTAL	1988	33,680				\$ 1,878,100		
	1987	32,948				1,900,500		

### FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

TOTAL	1988					\$ 570,000
	1987					550,000

### FOREST PRODUCTS

TOTAL	1988	6,873,000 Board Feet	\$ 927,000
	1987	10,810,000 Board Feet	1,608,000

### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Item	Year	Number	Total Liveweight	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	1988	4,500	27,500	CWT	\$ 62.00	\$ 1,705,000	
	1987	5,700	35,000	CWT	64.00	2,240,000	
Sheep and Lambs	1988	300	300	CWT	65.00	19,500	
	1987	600	600	CWT	67.00	40,200	
Hogs and Pigs	1988	200	500	CWT	53.00	26,500	
	1987	200	500	CWT	56.00	28,000	
TOTAL	1988					\$ 1,751,000	
	1987					2,308,200	

### LIVESTOCK AND APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
					Per Unit	Total
Wool	1988	6,200	LB.	\$ .82	\$ 5,100	
	1987	9,400	LB.	.80	7,520	
Honey	1988	34,500	LB.	.75	25,900	
	1987	38,000	LB.	.75	28,500	
Beeswax	1988	400	LB.	1.80	700	
	1987	450	LB.	1.80	800	
TOTAL	1988				\$ 31,700	
	1987				34,570	

### JANUARY 1 INVENTORY OF LIVESTOCK—1988-1989

Item	January 1, 1988		January 1, 1989	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Cattle and Calves				
All		6,000		6,000
Milk Cows, 2 years and over				
Sheep and Lambs		300		500
Hogs and Pigs		100		50

# RECAPITULATION

## PRODUCTION VALUES

	1988	1987
Vegetable Crops.....	\$ 30,483,000	\$ 30,417,600
Flower and Nursery Crops.....	161,570,000	165,424,700
Field Crops.....	878,100	1,000,050
Fruit and Nut Crops.....	570,000	550,000
Forest Products.....	927,000	1,608,000
Livestock.....	1,751,000	2,308,200
Livestock and Apiary Products.....	31,700	34,570
TOTAL.....	\$ 196,210,800	\$ 201,343,120

## MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

	1988	1987	Difference
Ornamental Nursery Stock.....	\$ 38,900,000	\$ 36,950,000	+ 1,950,000
Chrysanthemum (potted).....	9,472,000	9,472,000	-
Poinsettia (potted).....	7,018,000	6,932,200	+ 85,800
Roses.....	4,322,000	4,080,000	+ 242,000
African Violets (potted).....	3,533,000	6,332,000	- 2,799,000
Christmas Trees.....	3,335,000	4,446,000	- 1,111,000
Lilies (potted).....	3,042,000	2,688,000	+ 354,000
Artichokes.....	2,415,000	2,530,000	- 115,000
Carnations.....	2,394,000	2,331,000	+ 63,000
Daisies.....	2,352,000	2,722,500	- 370,500
Cattle and Calves.....	1,705,000	2,240,000	- 535,000
Brussels Sprouts.....	1,673,000	1,788,800	- 115,800
Iris.....	1,547,000	1,530,000	+ 17,000
Strawflowers.....	1,050,000	1,400,000	- 350,000

### Department of Agriculture

## COASTSIDE RAIN STATIONS

	Half Moon Bay	Pescadero
1977/1978.....	36.21 inches	34.88 inches
1978/1979.....	24.37 inches	22.01 inches
1979/1980.....	30.07 inches	29.93 inches
1980/1981.....	33.03 inches	32.48 inches
1981/1982.....	42.49 inches	43.98 inches
1982/1983.....	50.95 inches	54.70 inches
1983/1984.....	25.87 inches	24.38 inches
1984/1985.....	27.39 inches	24.12 inches
1985/1986.....	33.76 inches	34.52 inches
1986/1987.....	19.58 inches	21.26 inches
1987/1988.....	14.34 inches	13.21 inches