

Office of
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
MARIN COUNTY

February 17, 1937

Honorable Board of Supervisors,
Marin County.

Gentlemen:

The annual report of this office has been rendered to the Director of the State Department of Agriculture according to Section 65 of the Agricultural Code.

The purpose of this narrative report is to acquaint the Board with the general activities of the office in a manner more interesting than the tabulated forms.

Various commodity groups and farm organizations are constantly requesting legislation which ultimately makes the commissioner the enforcing officer. These many duties added to the office, without considering that extra help must be provided, often create an overburdened office and render that particular law somewhat weak in some counties.

Regardless of this fact I have, to the best of my ability and with what help I have, endeavored to discharge my duties faithfully and I want to thank the Supervisors for their splendid cooperation.

Respectfully,

THOS. W. PERYAM,
Agricultural Commissioner

PLANT QUARANTINE

(Inter - State)

Most States of the Union have a plant inspection system and the reason is reasonably clear why California takes an active interest in this work. Our State produces one fourth of all the fruit and vegetables grown in the United States, and amounts to more than \$500,000,000 annually. Agriculture is our most important industry. "Our range of climate and a large variety of host plants grown make California a suitable environment for the establishment of almost any insect or disease pest occurring in other states or foreign countries."

Continuing the policy set forth in our state and federal quarantines there has been a thorough enforcement of all quarantine provisions.

There were 696 interstate and foreign shipments of plant products and other commodities consisting of 1562 parcels, not including outstate hay shipments, tabulated as follows:

Boxes of deciduous fruit.....	68
Packages of vegetables.....	26
Bags of nuts.....	3
Bales of peat.....	30
Boxes of household goods.....	21
Packages of seed.....	158
Car lots of alfalfa hay(Nevada).....	131
Deciduous fruit trees & grape vines.....	602
Bulbs (Narcissus).....	1,392
Bulbs (Other).....	127,548
Ornamental shrubs & rose plants.....	9,078
Cuttings.....	24
Miscellaneous shipments.....	36
Berry plants.....	191
.....	
Interceptions for quarantine violations, insect and disease infestations.....	17

Quarantine (Interstate) continued

Under quarantine authority, field and warehouse inspection were made and certificates issued for 41 carlots of potatoes for export and domestic shipping.

Under the seed inspection and quarantine laws, 2 commercial interstate shipments of grass seed were seized and held pending proper germination and weed seed test.

APIARY INSPECTION AND BEE DISEASE QUARANTINE

Number of apiaries registered.....	27
Number of colonies.....	140
Entering county.....	1
Inspected for foulbrood.....	3
Found infected and burned.....	1

NURSERY AND NURSERY STOCK INSPECTION

Coincident with the increase of home building in the county during the year, the nursery industry showed a very good business year. Less stock was shipped in from the outside but increase of business is noted from stock on hand and field and greenhouse propagation. Wholesale greenhouse and field florist growers show a 20% increase for the year.

Orchid and begonia growers have increased their stock. Two new industries in bulb and cut flower stock have put in approximately 40 acres in areas near Larkspur, Stinson Beach and Tamalpais Valley. One new nursery was licensed in San Anselmo.

NURSERY STOCK INSPECTIONS: Tabulation

A total of 1,648 shipments during the year consisted of:

Deciduous fruit trees.....	2,815
Grape Vines.....	406
Nut trees.....	196
Sub-tropical fruit trees.....	166
Berry plants.....	4,034

Nursery Stock Inspections: Tabulation (continued)

Ornamental trees & shrubs.....	17,832
Bedding plants.....	62,781
Bulbs (all).....	82,830
Vegetable plants.....	8,943
Rose plants.....	5,496
Number of shipments rejected.....	12

Rejections were made on the basis of actual infestations, infections or appearance of previous infestations.

A general inspection of 23 nurseries and growing grounds was conducted and assistance given in the control of wire-worms, black vine weevil and plant disease infestations.

ORCHARD INSPECTION AND PLANT PEST CONTROL

State law requires that the commissioner shall advise himself with reference to all agricultural and horticultural pests that may exist in the county or likely to exist therein for the purpose of acquainting orchardists and other land owners of the most efficacious methods of controlling said pests and for the purpose also of taking legal steps, if necessary, to control or prevent the spread of such pests.

Agricultural pests are interpreted as anything detrimental to agriculture in any of its phases and includes anything from insects and plant diseases to noxious weeds and rodents.

104 premises, nurseries, and fruit orchards were inspected for insect and disease. An infestation of European Earwig, a very damaging insect, was found in Mill Valley-- control measures were adopted with apparent success.

Strong efforts were made, with success, to put through a standard program of spraying in the orchards. The increased yield of quality fruit offset the cost of spray application as shown by growers' returns.

NOXIOUS WEEDS AND RODENTS

Several acres of Canada thistle were eradicated in the vicinity of Tomales. Later inspections show the infestation to be more extensive than the areas treated. Plans are under way for control measures during 1937 by application of calcium chlorate.

Noxious Weeds and Rodents (continued)

From the amount allowed this office for rodent control, 540 pounds of poisoned grain was distributed to farmers for the control of ground squirrels through various farm agencies and direct contact with the farmers.

Continued inspections were made in suburban sections and assistance given in rat control.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STANDARDIZATION

This work has become one of the most important functions of the agricultural regulatory work. It insures the public of standard quality produce and prevents fraud and deception in the marketing and sale of the commodities in question.

Point of origin inspections has also had some material effect on the standards of artichokes and peas where weekly inspections were made at the packing houses of those industries.

Records show the following standardization inspections:

Number crates & bags cleared at point of origin...	3,531
Number of car load lots.....	25
Number of parcels rejected (unfit for consumption)...	31
Number of parcels reconditioned.....	187
Number of court cases	1
Number of man days spent on standardization.....	102

As Collaborator for the California Department of Agriculture the Commissioner, along with standardization duties and in conjunction with state officials, functioned in the prevention of poisonous spray residue on fruit and vegetables, caused such products to be removed from sale, reconditioned or destroyed.

Ex-officio duties of the Commissioner
and his Inspectors

In correlating duties of the agricultural regulatory service, the commissioners have been made collaborators of the State Department of Agriculture which brings them in closer relation to the Department and correlates the work throughout the State.

Ex-officio duties of the Commissioner (continued)

It has rendered possible more efficient service to growers throughout the county. This work has been shown during the past year where the commissioner has been instrumental in collecting money due growers from produce buyers where legal action was necessary through the Bureau of Market Enforcement.

EGG STANDARDS

The egg standardization law has greatly improved the quality of eggs on the retail market. The general public has greatly benefited by this law. One of the new enforcement duties, delegated to the commissioners, has greatly taxed their capacity due to lack of help to enforce the regulations. Every effort possible in Marin County has been made to make proper inspections.

TABULATION OF INSPECTIONS

Number of inspections made.....	38
Total number dozen eggs, represented by all samples.....	3,911
Total number dozen eggs rejected.....	101
Rejected as below quality marked, no. dozens.....	71
Rejected account of lack of proper markings, no. dozens.....	31

ANNUAL CROP REPORT

Throughout the year every effort is made to gather and compile data of commercial agricultural commodities. These statistics are attached to this report.

MARIN COUNTY

COMMERCIAL CROP PRODUCTION (ONLY) 1936

Compiled by "

Thos. W. Peryam, Agricultural Commissioner

DECIDUOUS FRUITS AND NUTS

	Acres	Production tons	Value
Almonds	5.1	1.96	\$ 558
Apples	22.7	45.4	1,350
Apricots	52	150	520
Cherries	6.9	13.8	728
Grapes	277.3	693.25	15,251
Peaches	158	316	5,320
Prunes	81.5	460.45 Fresh tons)	
		184.17 Dry ")	11,050
Pears	139.2	428.46	6,426
		115 (To Dryer)	
Walnuts	32.2	48.6	13,608
	<u>774.9</u>	<u>2437.09</u>	<u>54,811</u>

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION (Commercial Only)

	Acres	Production	Unit Value	Farm Value
Artichokes	845	80,275 crates (40#)	\$2.00	\$160,275.00
Peas	514	32,400 " (30#)	1.62	52,488.00
Potatoes	477	42,930 bags (less 20% in grading)		
		19,200 bags (carlot loadings)	2.28	42,776.00
		5,580 bags (consumed on farm & local)	1.85	6,305.00
Tomatoes	10	3,000 lugs (30#)	.65 to	3,000.00
Other Veg.)			1.65	
Truck Garden)	30	3,520 crates (30#)	.65	2,288.00
	<u>1876</u>	<u>186,965</u>		<u>268,132.00</u>

NURSERY INDUSTRY

Field Acreage	Annual Business
Bulb & cut flowers 42	10,800.00
Ornamental Nurseries & Greenhouses Number of Nurseries 14	
	<u>339,300.00</u>
	<u>356,100.00</u>

FIELD CROPS - COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

	Acres	Production tons	Form Value
Beans (Horse)	155	66.84	\$ 8,355.00
Barley	700	438	14,239.00
Oats	80	48	1,943.00
Wheat	457	435.63	16,728.00
	<u>1402</u>	<u>986.47</u>	<u>41,265.00</u>

	Acres	Production tons	Form Value
Rye	47	46.2	2,842.00
Vetch	255	237.93	19,434.00
Beet	1	.75	960.00
Carrot	1	.25	250.00
Pea	40	14.76	5,600.00
	<u>344</u>	<u>299.89</u>	<u>29,086.00</u>

		HAY	Unit value	
Hay	1,173	3,438		32,650.00
Hay produced & consumed on farms	<u>17,852</u>	<u>30,241</u>	<u>\$9.50</u>	<u>287,289.00</u>
	<u>19,025</u>	<u>33,679</u>		<u>319,939.00</u>

ANIMAL INDUSTRY

	Number	
Dairy cows	19,081	477,025.00
" bulls	532	13,300.00
" heifers	4,431	62,034.00
Yearlings	141	2,115.00
Calves	3,251	39,012.00
Beef cattle	2,272	36,352.00
Sheep	10,969	21,931.00
Goats	20	40.00
Hogs	1,843	7,372.00
Horses	1,171	52,695.00
Mules	8	360.00
	<u>43,719</u>	<u>712,236.00</u>

POULTRY INDUSTRY

Chickens	13,521 dozen or 162,252 chickens	35,695.00
Eggs produced in County and marketed through cooperatives and other commercial channels:		
Number of cases.....	37,671	
Average price per case \$6.69	Total	252,018.00
Number of dozens	1,130,130	

Commercial Crop Production (continued)

Total incomes and fair value of all commercial crops (exclusive of dairy products) including hay on farm

Field crops.....	\$ 103,001
Animal Industry.....	712,276
Vegetable crops.....	267,132
Poultry.....	35,695
Eggs.....	252,018
Hay crop on farms.....	287,289
Deciduous fruits & nuts.....	54,611
Nursery Industry	
Bulbs & field stock.....	10,800
Greenhouses & ornamental dealers.....	339,300
	<u>TOTAL \$2,061,382</u>

MARIN COUNTY PRODUCES ANNUALLY:

Milk fat.....	5,587,601 lbs.
Manufactured cheese.....	1,017,830 "
" butter.....	1,013,230 "
" ice cream.....	38,208 "
Market milk processed & bottled.....	1,014,020 "
Number of farms of 2 acres and over.....	743
Total acreage in farm lands.....	261,381
Average acreage per farm.....	351.8
Value of farm lands and buildings.....	\$13,489,885

Valuable help is acknowledged in gathering data from the following agencies:

The County Assessor
State Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Extension Service