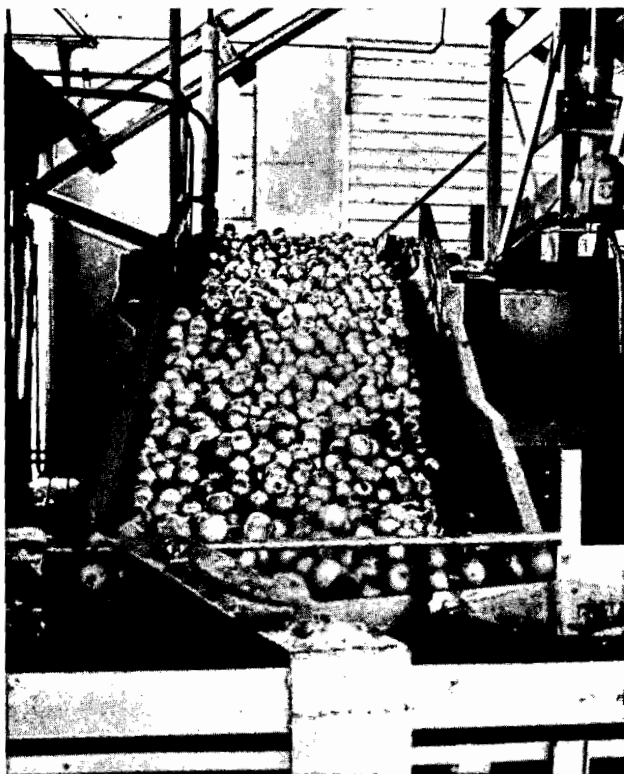


Fruit & Nuts
Apples

AP-NC-68

JUL 22 1968

apple production



for
sonoma county

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

CoAgXT 101 Sonoma County



APPLE PRODUCTION
For
Sonoma County

Sonoma County is one of the more colorful counties in the state of California insofar as history is associated with agriculture. Many firsts were here as was irrigated agriculture and most of the major deciduous fruits.

The apple industries of the Sebastopol area, which was established around the turn of the century, saw the Gravenstein apple brought in from the middle west as grafting stock only to find some years later, that this variety was brought in by the Russians many years earlier. Sonoma County will continue to make history, no doubt, insofar as tree fruit production because it is in a favored area of study and development. With time and demand for other varieties, Sonoma County now produces most varieties asked for by the consumer.

There is very little value in categorizing counties other than to impress people. If the fact that we are the second largest prune producing county in California with a strong likelihood it may be in number one position in the not too distant future means anything, then our number one position in apples and a growing industry in pears, too, is important. The area is climatically very well suited for other tree fruits, plums, sweet and sour cherries, but because of man's preference and diseases, these crops have not grown to any significant importance. Sweet cherry was important as a crop in the county not too many years back and, we feel, will be again when research finds ways to control these diseases.

CLIMATE

WEATHER and its effect on deciduous tree fruit production has favored the North Bay counties. These deciduous fruits must have enough cold weather in the winter time, (termed winter chilling) to put them properly at rest in order to come out and do a good job of bearing fruit the following season. Much of California has trouble supplying this chilling need. We need warm enough weather in the spring for good pollination and a long enough and warm enough season to build sugars and quality without destroying it with too much heat. Thus, the North Bay counties can boast an ideal climate for deciduous tree fruit production which gives the consumer fresh, dried or in the can a superb quality.

OUTLOOK

Agricultural technology will, no doubt, have more to do with increasing or expanding acreage than they have in the past. Man's attitude or desire for a crop has been, in the main, responsible for enterprise selection. The weather data, an understanding of fruit quality, land capability along with sound management decisions, is the basis of selecting the crop to be grown today. The tree fruit picture in Sonoma County is expected to hold or gain in stature as scientific knowledge is put to use.

Apple acreage has been fairly static for some time but is a crop that has staggering competition for a dollar profit. Present production levels are, for the most part, lower than many of the competitive areas. Cost of production, because of production and land values, are usually higher than the other areas of the nation. The possibility of organized state and national pooling or sales organizations is possible and

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE APPLES FOR PROCESSING IN SONOMA COUNTY

Based on a 15-ton yield

PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS:

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>Your Cost</u>	
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>
Pruning: 60 trees @ \$1.64	\$98.40			
Brush disposal: 3 man & 1 tractor hours	6.94			
Fertilize: 0.3 hr. man & tractor	.96			
Fertilizer: 120 lbs. N @ 11¢ + zinc in spray 1/2" = \$1.15	14.35			
Spray: 6 times-3 hrs. man, tractor & sprayer	22.98			
Spray material	54.00			
Dust for blight: 3 times-3/4 hr. man & tractor	2.41			
Dust: 150 lbs. @ 10¢	15.00			
Cultivate: 3 man, 1 crawler & 2 wheel tractor hrs.	10.08			
Thin: Various methods incl spray, hand thin & pole	40.00			
Prop: 6 man & 3 tractor hrs.	14.55			
Misc. labor incl gopher cont: 6 man, 2 tract & 2 truck hours	17.52			
Misc. material incl gopher control	7.00			
County taxes	43.00			
Office, car, int. on oper. capital, etc.	29.61			
Repairs, except tractors, truck & sprayer	4.50			
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH AND LABOR COSTS	\$381.30	\$25.42		

HARVESTING COSTS:

Picking: 10 T @ \$6/bin + S.S. & Comp ins = \$11.90 per T; 5 T from ground @ \$9/T inc tractor	\$164.00	\$10.93		
Supervision: 8 man hours	15.28	1.02		
Move & load bins: 7 hrs man & fork lift tract.	22.47	1.50		
Haul: 8 hrs. man & truck	31.28	2.09		
Bin rental @ 50¢ per ton	7.50	.50		
TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS	\$240.53	\$16.04		
TOTAL CASH AND LABOR COSTS	\$621.83	\$41.46		

DEPRECIATION COSTS: (per acre on 80 acres)

Trees: Cost \$1,500 - 30 years bearing life	50.00			
Bldgs for equip: \$50-25 yrs; housing \$125-30 yrs	6.17			
Tractors, fork lift, truck & pickup \$340-12 1/2 yrs	27.20			
Sprayer and duster: cost \$100-10 yrs life	10.00			
Props, ladders & pick bags: cost \$98-10 yrs.	9.80			
Tillage & other equip: cost \$40-10 yrs.	4.00			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION COSTS	\$107.17	\$ 7.14		
TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS	\$729.00	\$48.60		

INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 6% (per acre on 80 acres)

Trees: on 1/2 cost (\$750)	45.00			
Bldgs for equip & housing: on 1/2 cost	5.25			
Tractors, fork lift, truck & pickup: on 1/2 cost (\$170)	10.20			
Sprayer & duster: on 1/2 cost (\$50)	3.00			
Props, ladders & pick bags: on 1/2 cost (\$49)	2.94			
Tillage & other equip: on 1/2 cost (\$20)	1.20			
Land at \$1,500	90.00			
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	\$157.59	\$10.51		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$886.59	\$59.11		

COSTS PER TON AT VARYING YIELDS

	Yield, tons per acre				
	10	15	20	25	30
Total cash & labor cost	\$54.17	\$41.46	\$35.11	\$31.29	\$28.75
Depreciation cost	10.72	7.14	5.36	4.29	3.57
Interest cost	15.76	10.51	7.88	6.30	5.25
Total cost of production	\$80.65	\$59.11	\$48.35	\$41.88	\$37.57

will help promote greater use of this fruit. The present trend is one of outside areas shipping into California and these growers are tooling up to meet this competition.

SOILS

Apples are grown in each community of Sonoma County and on a wide range of soil types. In Sebastopol, the principal area of production, you find the trees growing in deep, sandy loam to sandy, clay soils. Many of these soils are very deep and have excellent water holding qualities. These soils have fine tilth making the job of tillage an easy operation. These soils are classified as GOLDRIDGE fine sandy loam. Apples are also grown in the main valley on deep Yolo loams from Healdsburg north to the county line.

IRRIGATION

In the past ten years, Sonoma County's irrigable tree fruit acreage has grown by leaps and bounds. Growers are finding that, in many instances, yields can be doubled through the use of good water management. At the present time, approximately 40 per cent of the prune orchards and 75 per cent of the pears are irrigated. Very few apple orchards get supplement water. The availability of water in the apple area is a problem. An exerted effort needs to be made by all to help get water onto any orchards that are not now under irrigation management. This seems feasible as Northern California starts development of the natural resources, Warm Springs, Sulfur Springs and Knights Valley dams, could supply the agriculture of the region.

APPLE ACREAGES & PRICE SHEET-1966

	<u>Production (in tons)</u>			<u>Value</u>
	<u>Bearing Acreage</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>	<u>Total</u>
APPLES, ALL	8,570	126,500	\$56.66	\$7,168,000
Gravenstein	4,399	69,000	56.26	3,882,200
Fresh		4,480	110.00	493,000
Canned		30,300	61.20	1,854,000
Juice Cider		15,100	40.00	604,000
Dried		18,800	49.00	921,000
Misc.		320	32.00	10,200
LATE APPLES	4,171	57,500	57.14	3,285,800
Fresh		3,700	102.00	377,000
Canned		18,900	55.60	1,051,000
Juice Cider		8,780	39.00	342,000
Dried		24,900	58.90	1,467,000
Misc.		1,220	40.00	48,800

ESTIMATED APPLE ACREAGES AND VARIETIES-1968

	<u>Bearing Acres</u>	<u>Non-bearing Acres</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
Gravenstein	5,086	287	5,373
Delicious	756	88	844
Delicious, Golden	579	174	753
Jonathan	707	25	732
Newtown	95	5	100
Rome	1,235	387	1,622
All Others	581	74	655
TOTAL	9,039	1,040	10,079

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