



# *San Benito County*

## **Annual Crop Report 2008**

*Rajkovich Cherry Orchard  
located near Hollister*

*Guggenberger & Edwards Ranch  
Charolais Cattle  
near San Juan Bautista*

Photos courtesy of Dina Bies  
Executive Secretary/Safety Coordinator  
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Cover designed by Jean Gillaspie  
Department Secretary





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# COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

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PAUL J. MATULICH AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES  
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May 1, 2009

A.G. Kawamura, Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of San Benito County and  
Susan Thompson, County Administrative Officer

It is my pleasure to submit the 2008 Crop Report for San Benito County, which indicates agricultural, and livestock production and values. This report is produced in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

With a gross value of \$262,032,000 in 2008, agriculture continues to be the county's major industry despite an unprecedented decline of nearly 11% from the 2007 total. The lowest total since 2003 and in part due to reduced water supplies.

For the third consecutive year, Nursery Stock held its spot as the top crop with a gross value in excess of \$36 million dollars. Of the top ten Commodities/Categories, only Nursery Stock and Misc. Vegetable & Row Crops realized any notable increase from 2007. The largest decrease was in Wine grapes of over 10 million. This was due primarily to a decline in yields as a result of frost damage and diminishing water supplies. Bell Peppers also showed a significant drop in total value because of decreased yields and prices.

Because of the drought trend over the past two and a half years, cattle producers have had to reduce their herd sizes. That fact coupled with declining prices, has brought down the Cattle total over 36% since 2006.

Despite the declining value for 2008, San Benito County's agricultural income of over \$262 million dollars shows the economic importance that agriculture, horticulture and livestock have on the quality of life of its residents.

***Please bear in mind that these figures are for gross income only and not net profit to the grower. In some cases, crops are actually produced at a loss.***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many growers and handlers of agricultural products, and the personnel of other government agencies for their assistance in obtaining these figures. Without their help, this report would not have been possible. I would also like to acknowledge my staff and in particular Sally Boden who compiled this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Matulich  
San Benito County  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures



Pat Loe, Jaime De La Cruz, Anthony Botelho, Margie Barrios & Reb Monaco

*San Benito County  
Board of Supervisors*

District One	Margie Barrios	
District Two	Anthony Botelho	(Chair)
District Three	Patricia Loe	
District Four	Reb Monaco	(Vice-Chair)
District Five	Jaime De La Cruz	

*Administration*

County Administrative Officer	Susan Thompson
Asst. County Administrative Officer	Rich Inman



*San Benito County  
Agricultural Commissioner's Office*

Front row:

Tony Wilson, Agricultural Technician; Julie Dikes, Typist Clerk; Paul J. Matulich, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures; Lorie Tilley, Agricultural Technician; Maya Flores, Agricultural Technician; Mark Klassen, USDA Wildlife Services Specialist; Sean Miller, Vector Control Technician II

Back row:

Jean Gillaspie, Department Secretary II; Ron Ross, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner; Gordon McClelland, Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures; Ron Terry, Ag. Biologist/Inspector I; Sally Boden, Ag. Biologist/Inspector III; Donna Carbonaro, Ag. Biologist/Inspector II; Christy Clayton, Ag. Biologist/Inspector II

Absent: Christine Nordmeyer and Cameron Stelling, Agricultural Technicians

## Commodity Summary

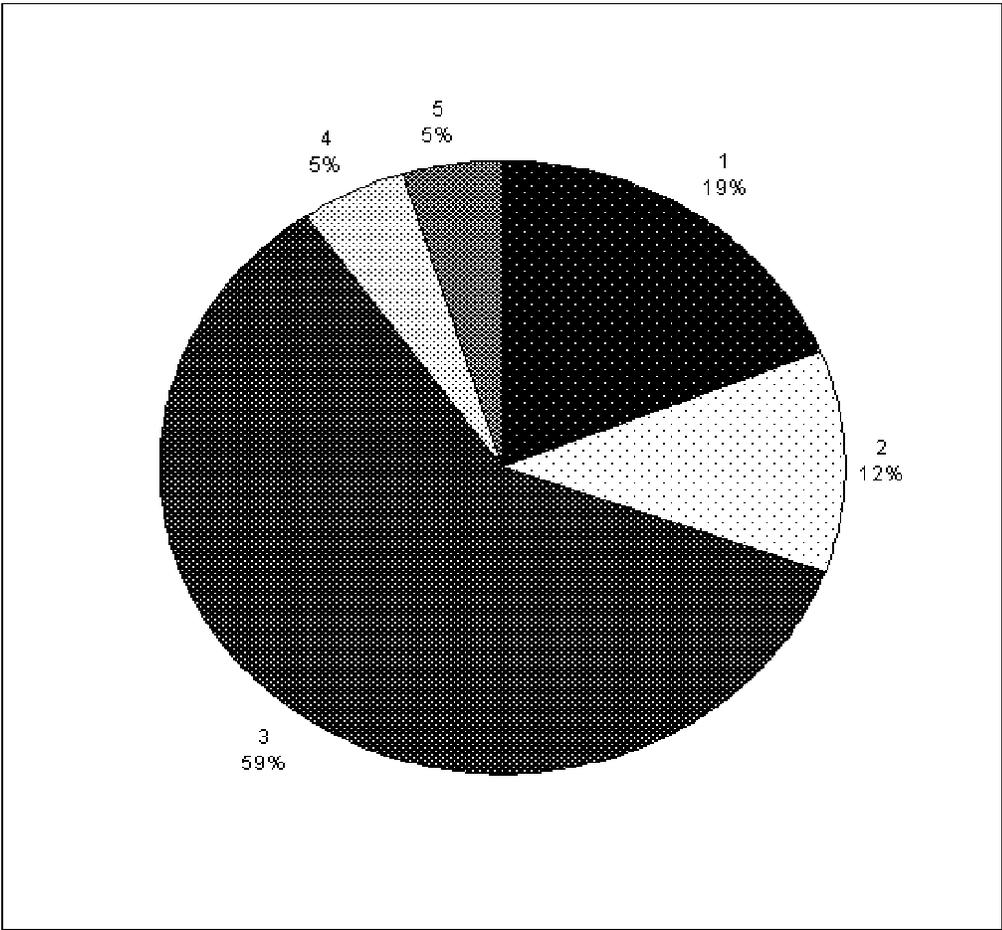
<b>Field Crops</b>	2008	\$ 49,135,000
	2007	\$ 41,939,000
<b>Fruit and Nut Crops</b>	2008	\$ 30,785,000
	2007	\$ 37,938,000
<b>Vegetable and Row Crops</b>	2008	\$ 156,549,000
	2007	\$ 182,264,000
<b>Cattle</b>	2008	\$ 13,452,000
	2007	\$ 17,358,000
<b>Other Livestock/ Livestock &amp; Poultry Products</b>	2008	\$ 12,111,000
	2007	\$ 13,591,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>\$ 262,032,000</b>
	<b>2007</b>	<b>\$ 293,090,000</b>

## Current & Past Years Totals

<b>2008</b>	\$ 262,032,000
<b>2007</b>	\$ 293,090,000
<b>2006</b>	\$ 270,940,000
<b>2005</b>	\$ 268,846,000
<b>2004</b>	\$ 266,007,000
<b>2003</b>	\$ 238,767,000
<b>2002</b>	\$ 214,841,000
<b>2001</b>	\$ 201,580,000
<b>2000</b>	\$ 208,899,000
<b>1999</b>	\$ 179,848,000
<b>1998</b>	\$ 160,647,000

# Commodity Summary

Field Crops	\$49,135,000	19%
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$30,785,000	12%
Vegetable & Row Crops	\$156,549,000	59%
Cattle	\$13,452,000	5%
Other Livestock & Poultry	\$12,111,000	5%
Total	<hr/> \$262,032,000	<hr/> 100%



## Top 10 Commodities/Categories

2008		2007	
<b>Nursery Stock</b>	\$36,538,000	<b>Nursery Stock</b>	\$34,420,000
<b>Misc.Veg.&amp; Row Crops</b>	\$31,986,000	<b>Misc.Veg.&amp; Row Crops</b>	\$29,054,000
<b>Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)</b>	\$18,540,000	<b>Grapes, Wine</b>	\$24,296,000
<b>Lettuce, Salad</b>	\$16,419,000	<b>Peppers, Bell</b>	\$22,500,000
<b>Spinach</b>	\$15,070,000	<b>Lettuce, Salad</b>	\$19,174,000
<b>Tomatoes, Market</b>	\$14,325,000	<b>Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)</b>	\$18,638,000
<b>Grapes, Wine</b>	\$13,904,000	<b>Lettuce, Romaine</b>	\$17,210,000
<b>Lettuce, Romaine</b>	\$13,591,000	<b>Spinach</b>	\$17,060,000
<b>Peppers, Bell</b>	\$13,028,000	<b>Tomatoes, Market</b>	\$14,289,000
<b>Other Livestock / Livestock &amp; Poultry Products</b>	\$12,111,000	<b>Other Livestock / Livestock &amp; Poultry Products</b>	\$13,591,000

## Field Crops

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>		
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$	TOTAL
Barley	2008		(None)				
	2007	400	1.02	408 tons	100	\$	41,000
*Misc.Field Crops	2008	3,335				\$	812,000
	2007	1,250				\$	505,000
Grain Hay	2008	13,490	1.85	24,957 tons	182	\$	4,542,000
	2007	11,800	0.65	7,670 tons	119	\$	913,000
*Nursery Stock	2008	703				\$	36,538,000
	2007	669				\$	34,420,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2008	510,000		acres	10.80	\$	5,508,000
	2007	510,000		acres	9.20	\$	4,692,000
Permanent Pasture	2008	1,000		acres	450	\$	450,000
	2007	1,000		acres	450	\$	450,000
*Seed Crops	2008	254		acres	4,154	\$	1,055,000
	2007	155		acres	5,366	\$	832,000
Wheat	2008	900	1.60	1440 tons	160	\$	230,000
	2007	500	1.56	780 tons	110	\$	86,000
<b>TOTALS 2008</b>						<b>\$</b>	<b>49,135,000</b>
<b>2007</b>						<b>\$</b>	<b>41,939,000</b>

\*See page 12 for specific list

## Vegetable and Row Crops

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Per			\$ Per	
		Acres	Acre	TOTAL	Unit	\$ TOTAL
Broccoli	2008	733	6.92	5,072 tons	704 \$	3,571,000
	2007	476	7.50	3,570 tons	669 \$	2,388,000
Cabbage	2008	254	19.50	4,953 tons	454 \$	2,249,000
	2007	466	22.44	10,457 tons	325 \$	3,399,000
Celery	2008	756	36.00	27,216 tons	338 \$	9,199,000
	2007	1,010	36.00	36,360 tons	302 \$	10,981,000
Cilantro	2008	(See misc)				
	2007	333	8.49	2,827 tons	1,057 \$	2,988,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2008	1,327	21.85	28,995 tons	280 \$	8,119,000
	2007	2,082	20.45	42,577 tons	294 \$	12,518,000
Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)	2008	2,591	9.49	24,589 tons	754 \$	18,540,000
	2007	3,024	10.70	32,357 tons	576 \$	18,638,000
Lettuce, Romaine	2008	2,939	11.17	32,829 tons	414 \$	13,591,000
	2007	2,408	13.09	31,521 tons	546 \$	17,210,000
* Lettuce, Salad	2008	3,740	2.71	10,135 tons 1,309 tons	1,620 \$	16,419,000
	2007	3,727	3.72	13,864 tons 1,309 tons	1,383 \$	19,174,000
** Misc. Veg. & Row Crops	2008	5,296			\$	31,986,000
	2007	5,391			\$	29,054,000
Onions, Dry Bulb	2008	807	17.65	14,244 tons	316 \$	4,501,000
	2007	1,247	21.84	27,234 tons	240 \$	6,536,000

## Vegetable and Row Crops (cont.)

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Peppers, Bell	2008	1,578	21.17	33,406 tons	390 \$	13,028,000
	2007	1,667	26.57	44,292 tons	508 \$	22,500,000
Radicchio	2008	165	4.10	677 tons 974 tons	1,922 \$	1,301,000
	2007	313	4.56	1,427 tons 974 tons	1,476 \$	2,106,000
Spinach	2008	2,698	3.97	10,711 tons	1,407 \$	15,070,000
	2007	2,942	5.77	16,975 tons	1,005 \$	17,060,000
Tomatoes, Canning	2008	1,384	48.00	66,429 tons	70 \$	4,650,000
	2007	1,141	50.00	57,050 tons	60 \$	3,423,000
Tomatoes, Market	2008	732	9.51	6,961 tons	2,055 \$	14,325,000
	2007	1,064	18.73	19,929 tons	717 \$	14,289,000
<b>TOTALS 2008</b>					<b>\$ 156,549,000</b>	
<b>2007</b>					<b>\$ 182,264,000</b>	

\* May include: Baby Lettuces, (Red & Green Romaine, Red & Green Oak Leaf, Butter Lettuce, Lollo Rosa, Tango) Mizuna, Red & Green Kale, Arugula, Beet Tops, Baby Spinach, Mache, Red & Green Mustard, Tat-Soi, Frisee, Red & Green Chard, Radicchio & Herbs.

\*\* See page 12 for specific list

## Fruit and Nut Crops

		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Apples	2008	354	17.60	6,230 tons	279	\$ 1,738,000
	2007	395	15.05	5,945 tons	245	\$ 1,457,000
Apricots	2008	729	1.85	1,349 tons	771	\$ 1,041,000
	2007	729	3.50	2,552 tons	379	\$ 967,000
Cherries	2008	650	3.78	2,457 tons	2,857	\$ 7,020,000
	2007	650	3.22	2,093 tons	2,755	\$ 5,766,000
Grapes (wine)	2008	3,806	3.30	12,560 tons	1,107	\$ 13,904,000
	2007	3,806	5.41	20,590 tons	1,180	\$ 24,296,000
*Misc.Fruits & Nuts	2008	196				\$ 5,243,000
	2007	181				\$ 2,564,000
Olives	2008	110	0.880	97 tons	1,528	\$ 148,000
	2007	110	1.250	138 tons	820	\$ 113,000
Walnuts	2008	1,796	0.571	1,025 tons	1,650	\$ 1,691,000
	2007	1,796	0.713	1,281 tons	2,166	\$ 2,775,000
<b>TOTALS 2008</b>					<b>\$ 30,785,000</b>	
<b>2007</b>					<b>\$ 37,938,000</b>	

\*See page 12 for specific list

## Cattle

		<u>Production</u>		<u>Value</u>	
		<u># of Head</u>	<u>Total Cwt</u>	<u>\$ per Cwt</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
All Cattle	2008	38,700			
	2007	45,200			
Calves	2008	12,300	73,800 cwt.	95.00	\$ 7,011,000
	2007	12,900	72,370 cwt.	110.00	\$ 7,961,000
Pasture and Stockers	2008	23,000	51,750 cwt.	93.00	\$ 4,813,000
	2007	28,000	82,600 cwt.	95.00	\$ 7,847,000
Cows	2008	3,200	33,600 cwt.	44.00	\$ 1,478,000
	2007	2,600	31,200 cwt.	45.00	\$ 1,404,000
Bulls	2008	200	3,000 cwt.	50.00	\$ 150,000
	2007	200	2,800 cwt.	52.00	\$ 146,000
<b>TOTALS 2008</b>					<b>\$ 13,452,000</b>
<b>2007</b>					<b>\$ 17,358,000</b>

## Other Livestock/Livestock & Poultry Products

		<u>Production</u>	<u>Value</u>
			<u>\$ Total</u>
*Misc.Livestock &	2008		\$ 12,111,000
Poultry Products	2007		\$ 13,591,000
<b>TOTALS 2008</b>			<b>\$ 12,111,000</b>
<b>2007</b>			<b>\$ 13,591,000</b>

\*See Page 12 for Specific List

# 2008

## Miscellaneous Crops and Products

\*Commodities in these categories are combined with other similar products because the number of producers of each commodity were less than three, or one producer is responsible for 60 percent or more of the product. This is to avoid disclosure of the business affairs of the firms involved.

### Vegetable & Row Crops

Artichokes	Arugula	Asparagus	Basil
Beans	Beets, table	Bok Choy	Borage
Braising Mix	Broccoflower	Cantaloupe	Carrots
Cauliflower	Celery Root	Chard	Chicory
Chinese Cabbage	Chinese Greens	Cilantro	Collards
Corn, ornamental	Corn, sweet	Cucumbers	Dandelion Greens
Eggplant	Endive	Escarole	Fennel
Frisee	Garbanzo Beans	Garlic	Herbs
Kale	Kohlrabi	Leafy Greens	Leeks
Melons	Micromix	Mixed Vegetables	Mizuna
Mushrooms	Mustard	Napa Cabbage	Okra
Oriental Kale	Parsley	Parsnips	Peas
Peppers, spice	Potatoes	Pumpkins	Radishes
Rapini	Rutabagas	Shallots	Snow Peas
Squash	Tomatillos	Turnips	Watermelons

### Field Crops

Alfalfa	Honey & Pollination	Oats	Safflower
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### Fruit & Nut Crops

Avocados	Figs	Kiwi	Lemons
Misc Fruit	Peaches	Persimmons	Plums
Raspberries	Strawberries		

### Seed Crops

Flowers	Vegetable Crops	Vine Crops	Field Crops
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### Nursery Stock

Cut Flowers (dry & fresh)	Mushroom Spawn	Nursery Plants & Trees
Turf	Vegetable Transplants	Christmas Trees

### Livestock & Poultry Products

Chicken	Eggs (chicken & turkey)	Hogs	Lambs	Milk	Turkeys	Wool
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## Sustainable Agricultural Report

### Biological Control

<u>PEST</u>	<u>AGENT</u>	<u>SCOPE OF PROGRAM</u>
Yellow Starthistle <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	Hairy Weevil <u>Eustenopus villosus</u>	21 previous releases/ ongoing collection & relocation

### Eradication

<u>PEST</u>	<u>MECHANISM</u>	<u>SCOPE OF PROGRAM</u>
Scotch Thistle <u>Onopordum acanthium</u>	Mechanical/Chemical	2 sites
Artichoke Thistle <u>Cynara cardunculus</u>	Chemical	3 sites

### Pest Detection

There are up to 815 pest detection traps placed throughout the county.

Champ Trap	European Corn Borer	Gypsy Moth
Japanese Beetle	Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Oriental Fruit Fly
Melon Fruit Fly	European Pine Shoot Moth	McPhail Trap
Khapra Beetle	Light Brown Apple Moth	Glassy-winged Sharpshooter

### Organic Farm Statistics

The county has approximately 30 organic growers, growing 60 different crops on over 6,100 acres.

# NOTES