

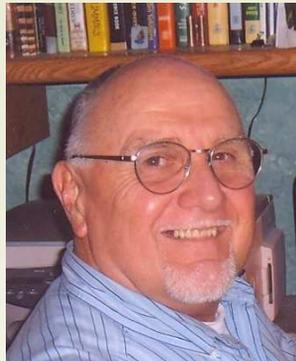
San Benito County



2009 Annual Crop Report



Paul J. Matulich
February 18, 1943 – September 28, 2009



This year's crop report is dedicated to Paul J. Matulich who served as San Benito County's Agricultural Commissioner from 2004 until his untimely death in 2009. Paul's career with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office spanned four decades. Raised on a family farm outside of Hollister, Paul was first hired by the Department in 1965 as a seasonal employee. In 1968, Paul was appointed a full time Inspector and worked his way up to become the Commissioner in 2004. During his tenure as Commissioner, the Department's mosquito abatement program was established to protect human health from mosquito borne diseases.

Paul was an avid car racing fan and followed the national race events faithfully each year. Paul's knowledge of local agriculture and his sense of humor will be greatly missed by all.



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

RONALD C. ROSS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER and SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES
3224 Southside Road, Hollister, CA 95023 Telephone (831) 637-5344, FAX (831) 637-9015

July 1, 2010

A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture, and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, and

Susan Thompson, County Administrative Officer

In accordance with the requirements of Section 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 2009 annual crop report for San Benito County.

In 2009, the overall value of the county's crop production decreased by nearly \$19 million dollars from 2008. This was primarily due to the nursery industry cutting back as a result of the nation's weak economy. The continuing drought also impacted the numbers of cattle on our rangelands. Lower commodity prices led to a slight decline in the gross value of last year's vegetable crops. On the positive side, tomato acreage was up considerably as many tomato producers relocated their crop to this county due to the uncertainty in the central valley's water supply.

Despite the overall dollar decline, agriculture remains an important part of the county's economy and contributes to California's large agricultural bounty. San Benito County is one of the top five producing counties for eight different crops. San Benito County also ranks in the state's top ten counties for organic farm acreage.

It should be emphasized that these figures are gross values only, and do not represent net profit to the producers.

I wish to thank the many farmers, ranchers and businesses that have cooperated in providing the information required for the compilation of this report

Sincerely,

Ronald C. Ross

Agricultural Commissioner



San Benito County Board of Supervisors

Margie Barrios	District 1
Anthony Botelho, Vice Chair	District 2
Patricia Loe	District 3
Reb Monaco, Chair	District 4
Jaime De La Cruz	District 5

Susan Thompson, County Administrative Officer
Rich Inman, Assistant County Administrative Officer



San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Front Row:

Sergio Garcia, Agricultural Technician
Gordon McClelland, Deputy Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures
Ronald Ross, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures
Ken Griffin, Agricultural Technician
Rosemary Bridwell, Agricultural Technician

Back Row:

Christy Clayton, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector III
Sally Boden, Senior Agricultural Biologist/Inspector
Julie Dikes, Office Assistant I
Ronald Terry, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector III
Lorie Tilley, Agricultural Technician
Christine Nordmeyer, Agricultural Technician
Mark Klassen, USDA Wildlife Services Specialist
Donna Carbonaro, Agricultural Biologist/Inspector III
Jean Gillaspie, Secretary II

Absent:

Tony Wilson, Agricultural Technician

Commodity Summary



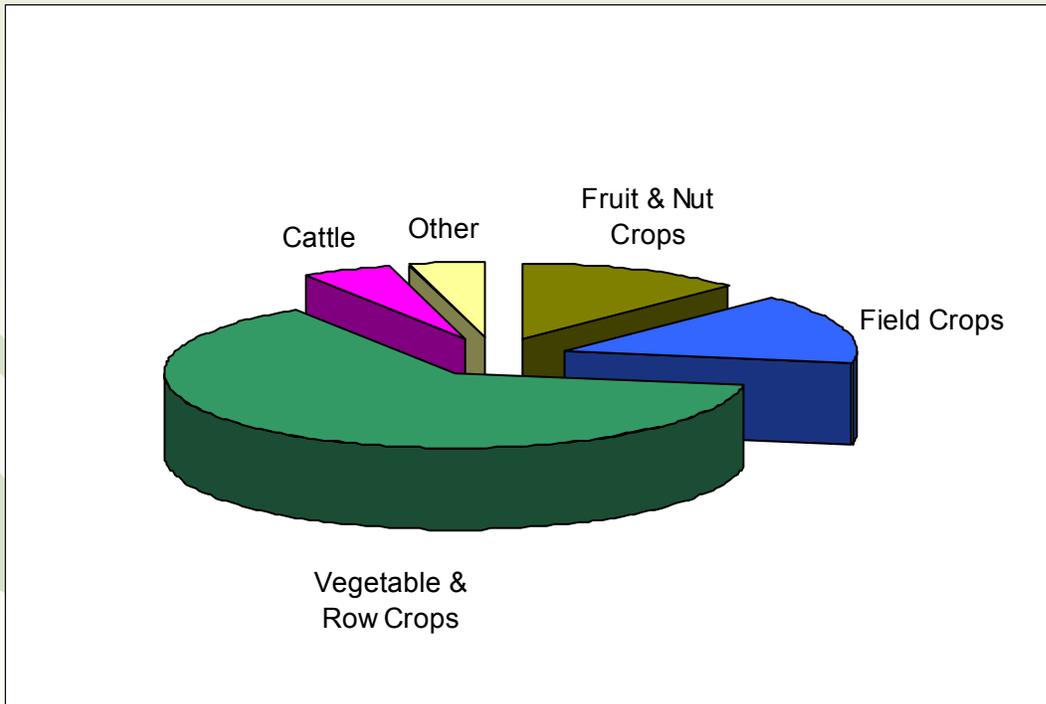
Field Crops	2009	\$ 30,501,000
	2008	\$ 49,135,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	2009	\$ 37,112,000
	2008	\$ 30,785,000
Vegetable and Row Crops	2009	\$ 153,433,000
	2008	\$ 156,549,000
Cattle	2009	\$ 12,169,000
	2008	\$ 13,452,000
Other Livestock/ Livestock & Poultry Products	2009	\$ 9,972,000
	2008	\$ 12,111,000
TOTALS	2009	\$ 243,187,000
	2008	\$ 262,032,000

Current & Past Years Totals

2009	\$ 243,187,000
2008	\$ 262,032,000
2007	\$ 293,090,000
2006	\$ 270,940,000
2005	\$ 268,846,000
2004	\$ 266,007,000
2003	\$ 238,767,000
2002	\$ 214,841,000
2001	\$ 201,580,000
2000	\$ 208,899,000
1999	\$ 179,848,000

Commodity Summary

Field Crops	\$30,501,000	13%
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$37,112,000	15%
Vegetable and Row Crops	\$153,433,000	63%
Cattle	\$12,169,000	5%
Other Livestock	\$9,972,000	4%
Total	\$243,187,000	100%



Field Crops



		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
*Misc. Field Crops	2009	525				\$ 366,000
	2008	3,335				\$ 812,000
Grain Hay	2009	15,109	1.67	25,232 tons	78	\$ 1,968,000
	2008	13,490	1.85	24,957 tons	182	\$ 4,542,000
*Nursery Stock	2009	378				\$ 20,401,000
	2008	703				\$ 36,538,000
Pasture/Rangeland	2009	510,000		acres	10.80	\$ 5,508,000
	2008	510,000		acres	10.80	\$ 5,508,000
Permanent Pasture	2009	1,000		acres	450	\$ 450,000
	2008	1,000		acres	450	\$ 450,000
*Seed Crops	2009	298		acres	4,782	\$ 1,425,000
	2008	254		acres	4,154	\$ 1,055,000
Wheat	2009	1,701	1.50	2552 tons	150	\$ 383,000
	2008	900	1.60	1440 tons	160	\$ 230,000
TOTALS 2009						\$ 30,501,000
2008						\$ 49,135,000

*See page 12 for specific list

Vegetable and Row Crops



		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		Acres	Per Acre	TOTAL	\$ Per Unit	\$ TOTAL
Broccoli	2009	460	8.50	3,910 tons	828	\$ 3,237,000
	2008	733	6.92	5,072 tons	704	\$ 3,571,000
Cabbage	2009	276	24.25	6,693 tons	326	\$ 2,182,000
	2008	254	19.50	4,953 tons	454	\$ 2,249,000
Celery	2009	382	36.83	14,069 tons	363	\$ 5,107,000
	2008	254	19.50	4,953 tons	454	\$ 2,249,000
Lettuce, Iceberg	2009	896	22.75	20,384 tons	375	\$ 7,644,000
	2008	1,327	21.85	28,995 tons	280	\$ 8,119,000
Lettuce, Leaf (mixed)	2009	665	10.69	7,109 tons	788	\$ 5,602,000
	2008	1,327	21.85	28,995 tons	280	\$ 8,119,000
Lettuce, Romaine	2009	2,203	10.59	23,330 tons	449	\$ 10,475,000
	2008	2,939	11.17	32,829 tons	414	\$ 13,591,000
* Lettuce, Salad	2009	4,654	2.83	13,171 tons	1,602	\$ 21,100,000
	2008	3,740	2.71	10,135 tons	1,620	\$ 16,419,000
** Misc.Veg. & Row Crops	2009	5,729				\$ 39,885,000
	2008	5,296				\$ 31,986,000
Onions, Dry Bulb	2009	899	19.9	17,890 tons	283	\$ 5,063,000
	2008	807	17.65	14,244 tons	316	\$ 4,501,000

Vegetable and Row Crops (cont.)



		<u>Production</u>			<u>Value</u>	
		<u>Acres</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ Per Unit</u>	<u>\$ TOTAL</u>
Peppers, Bell	2009	1,170	20.99	24,558 tons	526	\$ 12,918,000
	2008	1,578	21.17	33,406 tons	390	\$ 13,028,000
Radicchio	2009	<u>(See Misc. Crops)</u>			-	-
	2008	165	4.10	677 tons	1,922	\$ 1,301,000
Spinach	2009	2,993	4.40	13,169 tons	1,388	\$ 18,279,000
	2008	2,698	3.97	10,711 tons	1,407	\$ 15,070,000
Tomatoes, Canning	2009	3,906	51.32	200,456 tns	89	\$ 17,841,000
	2008	1,384	48.00	66,429 tons	70	\$ 4,650,000
Tomatoes, Market	2009	495	13.21	6,539 tons	627	\$ 4,100,000
	2008	732	9.51	6,961 tons	2,055	\$ 14,325,000
TOTALS	2009				\$ 153,433,000	
	2008				\$ 156,549,000	

* 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 and Green Mustard, Tat-Soi, Frisee, Red and Green Chard, Radicchio and 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	2009	335	13.88	4,650 tons	259	\$ 1,204,000
	2008	354	17.60	6,230 tons	279	\$ 1,738,000
Apricots	2009	634	2.34	1,484 tons	572	\$ 849,000
	2008	729	1.85	1,349 tons	771	\$ 1,041,000
Cherries	2009	558	3.61	2,014 tons	2,054	\$ 4,137,000
	2008	650	3.78	2,457 tons	2,857	\$ 7,020,000
Grapes (wine)	2009	3,806	4.75	18,079 tons	1,043	\$ 18,856,000
	2008	3,806	3.30	12,560 tons	1,107	\$ 13,904,000
*Misc.Fruits & Nuts	2009	326				\$ 10,342,000
	2008	196				\$ 5,243,000
Olives	2009	110	0.710	78 tons	1,608	\$ 125,000
	2008	110	0.880	97 tons	1,528	\$ 148,000
Walnuts	2009	1,735	0.600	1,041 tons	1,536	\$ 1,599,000
	2008	1,796	0.571	1,025 tons	1,650	\$ 1,691,000
TOTALS 2009						\$ 37,112,000
2008						\$ 30,785,000

*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	2009	39,400			
	2008	38,700			
Calves	2009	10,300	63,030 cwt.	94.00	\$ 5,925,000
	2008	12,300	73,800 cwt.	95.00	\$ 7,011,000
Pasture and Stockers	2009	22,400	49,280 cwt.	92.00	\$ 4,534,000
	2008	23,000	51,750 cwt.	93.00	\$ 4,813,000
Cows	2009	2,900	34,570 cwt.	43.00	\$ 1,487,000
	2008	3,200	33,600 cwt.	44.00	\$ 1,478,000
Bulls	2009	200	3,600 cwt.	62.00	\$ 223,000
	2008	200	3,000 cwt.	50.00	\$ 150,000
TOTALS 2009					\$ 12,169,000
2008					\$ 13,452,000

Other Livestock/Livestock & Poultry Products

		<u>Production</u>	<u>Value</u>
			<u>\$ Total</u>
*Misc.Livestock & Poultry Products	2009		\$ 9,972,000
	2008		\$ 12,111,000
TOTALS 2009			\$ 9,972,000
2008			\$ 12,111,000

*See Page 12 for Specific List

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
Broccoli	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
Mixed Vegetables	Mushrooms	Mustard	Napa Cabbage
Okra	Oriental Kale	Parsley	Parsnips
Peas	Peppers, spice	Potatoes	Pumpkins
Radicchio	Radishes	Rapini	Rutabagas
Shallots	Snow Peas & shoots	Squash	Tomatillos
Turnips	Vegetable Sprouts	Watermelons	

Field Crops

Alfalfa Barley Honey & Pollination

Fruit & Nut Crops

Avocados	Blackberries	Figs	Kiwi
Lemons	Misc Fruit	Peaches	Pears
Persimmons	Plums	Raspberries	Strawberries

Seed Crops

Flowers Vegetable Crops Vine Crops Field Crops

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

Sustainable Agricultural Report



Biological Control

PEST
Yellow Starthistle
Centaurea solstitialis

AGENT
Hairy Weevil
Eustenopus Villosus

SCOPE OF PROGRAM
21 previous releases/
ongoing collection & relocation

Pest Eradication

PEST
Scotch Thistle
Onopordum Acanthium

MECHANISM
Mechanical/Chemical

SCOPE OF PROGRAM
2 sites

Artichoke Thistle
Cynara Cardunculus

Chemical

4 sites

Pest Detection

At the peak season, our office deploys up to 950 insect detection traps throughout the county. These traps are designed to intercept new exotic and non-native insect species before they become established. Some of the insects we are monitoring for are:

Asian citrus psyllid
European Pine Shoot Moth
Japanese Beetle
Mediterranean Fruit Fly

European Corn Borer
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter
Khapra Beetle
Melon Fruit Fly

European Grapevine Moth
Gypsy Moth
Light Brown Apple Moth
Oriental Fruit Fly

Organic Farm Statistics

The county has approximately 34 organic growers, growing 65 different crops on over 8,000 acres.