

## ME—THE FARMER

I'm glad I'm a farmer.

Sometimes I'm angry about being a farmer.  
And disappointed. Elated. Puzzled. Worried. And,  
I suppose, every emotion in the book.

But I'm glad I'm a farmer.

Because I know what I am. And what I feel.

I feel I'm akin to my land and the things that  
grow on my land . . .

And the sky over my land and the water that  
falls on it and flows through it . . .

And the livestock that sustains itself upon  
my land . . .

And the buildings that shelter me and my wife  
and our children and the machines that help to

make my land fruitful.

These are a bone-deep part of me.

As is sweat. Cloudburst. Drought. Repairs.  
Disease. Heartache. Market losses. And profits.  
Sowing. Reaping. And a hundred and one setbacks  
and successes, large and small, that other men  
may never know. But that I know. And am  
content with.

Not because farming is easy. It isn't. Or because  
a farmer enjoys fame. He doesn't. Or because a  
farmer like me is a wealthy man. I am not.

It's simply because I know what I am. And  
I know what I feel.

I wouldn't have me any other way.

Me — the farmer.

# SAN MATEO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT 1981

County of San Mateo  
Department of Agriculture  
P. O. Box 999  
Redwood City, Ca. 94064



Mr. Richard E. Rominger - Director  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
and

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
1st District - K. J. Speller, 2nd District - J. Ward,  
3rd District - E. Baccoccio, 4th District - A. Gregorio,  
5th District - W. Schumacher

I am pleased to submit our 1981 Annual Crop Report of San Mateo County. The efforts of our agricultural industry are given below as acreages, yields, and gross values of commodities produced.

The total gross value of San Mateo County agriculture continued to increase appreciably over 1980, rising 15% to \$1.1 billion. Although inflationary costs will account for the better part of the increase, the agricultural industry continues to play a significant role in the economy of San Mateo County.

Nursery, floral and vegetable products were among the most active commodities in San Mateo County. Potted plants rose by nearly 11 million dollars, a striking 18% over the 1980 value; while chrysanthemums, carnations, and strawflowers on the other hand, dropped collectively by 2.3 million dollars, a total decrease of 19% for these floral crops. Among the vegetable crops, ideal weather conditions favored a remarkable increase in artichoke production, resulting in a 48% rise in total value to 3.2 million dollars. Vegetable crops as a whole increased in value to 24 million dollars, a 20.4% overall increase from 1980.

I wish to express my thanks for the continuing cooperation of all individuals, growers, and agencies who contributed the information necessary for preparation of this report. Special thanks goes to my staff, particularly agricultural biologist Louis Masini, who compiled this report.

Sincerely,  
GeorgeGINO  
Agricultural Commissioner

## SAN MATEO COUNTY ANNUAL CROP REPORT VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	PRODUCTION				VALUE	
	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Total
Artichoke*	1981	960	4.50	4,300	Ton	\$744,000
	1980	900	3.00	2,700	Ton	800,000
Beans, Snap	1981	80	4.75	380	Ton	800,000
	1980	70	4.86	340	Ton	823,000
Brussels Sprouts	1981	800	7.00	5,600	Ton	436,000
	1980	1,050	6.29	6,600	Ton	440,000
Cabbage	1981	50	10.00	500	Ton	170,000
	1980	50	9.40	470	Ton	187,000
Letuce, All Varieties	1981	140	7.43	1,040	Ton	400,000
	1980	110	7.27	800	Ton	350,000
Peas, Market	1981	800	1.90	1,520	Ton	860,000
	1980	600	2.17	1,300	Ton	625,000
Potatoes	1981	25	18.00	450	Ton	220,000
	1980	25	17.00	425	Ton	200,000
Radish	1981	45	5.23	340	Ton	238,000
	1980	60	5.55	333	Ton	220,000
Spinach†	1981	140	8.00	1,120	Ton	480,000
	1980	150	7.67	1,150	Ton	461,000
Pumpkins	1981	350	12.30	4,300	Ton	200,000
	1980	350	12.00	4,200	Ton	200,000
Miscellaneous Vegetables	1981	200				14,700,000
Field and Indoor Grown	1980	165				11,000,000
TOTAL	1981	3,610				\$24,105,000
	1980	3,530				19,186,000

\*Includes Processed  
†Includes Spinach and New Zealand Spinach  
‡Includes Beets, Celery, Leeks, Mushrooms, Summer Squash, Swiss Chard, Etc.

## FLORAL AND NURSERY CROPS OUTDOOR GROWN

Item	Year	Acres	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Total	Total
Heather	1981	210	270,000	Bunch	\$ 1.35	\$ 365,000	
	1980	210	290,000	Bunch	1.50	435,000	
Iris	1981	75	570,000	Bunch	1.60	912,000	
	1980	70	525,000	Bunch	1.75	919,000	
Daisies	1981	500	5,100,000	Bunch	.38	1,940,000	
	1980	500	5,000,000	Bunch	.36	1,800,000	
Strawflowers	1981	246	82,000	Box	36.00	2,952,000	
	1980	225	81,000	Box	38.00	3,078,000	
Miscellaneous Flowers†	1981	250				1,900,000	
	1980	200				1,500,000	
Sub-Total	1981	1,281				\$ 8,069,000	
	1980	1,205				7,732,000	
Ornamentals							
Herbaceous Perennials	1981	32				\$ 5,850,000	
	1980	30				6,000,000	
Christmas Trees	1981	325				\$ 1,400,000	
	1980	250				700,000	
Nursery Stock	1981	44				2,400,000	
	1980	45				2,250,000	
TOTAL	1981	1,682				\$18,459,000	
	1980	1,530				16,632,000	

\*Includes all commercially grown varieties  
†Includes Calla Lily, Chrysanthemum, Cut Foliage, Stock, Violets, Yarrow, Etc.

## FLORAL AND NURSERY CROPS INDOOR GROWN

Item	Year	Square Feet	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Total	Total
Cut Flowers							
Carnations	1981	1,210,000	23,000,000	Bloom	\$ .115	\$ 2,645,000	
	1980	1,600,000	30,500,000	Bloom	.11	3,355,000	
Chrysanthemums							
Total	1981	4,200,000				4,103,000	
	1980	5,400,000				5,585,000	
Standard*	1981	(3,000,000)	8,400,000	Bloom	.295	(2,478,000)	
	1980	(3,040,000)	8,200,000	Bloom	.30	(2,460,000)	
Pampom	1981	(1,200,000)	1,300,000	Bunch	1.25	(1,625,000)	
	1980	(2,360,000)	2,500,000	Bunch	1.25	(3,125,000)	
Roses	1981	1,200,000	23,000,000	Bloom	.20	4,600,000	
	1980	1,100,000	19,000,000	Bloom	.19	3,610,000	
Miscellaneous (Cut Flowers)†	1981	2,300,000				8,165,000	
	1980	1,100,000				4,250,000	
*Includes Fujii, Spiders, Disbuds, Anemone, Etc. †Includes Fern, Fressia, Gardenias, Lilies, Orchids, Snopdragons, Stephanotis, Etc.						2,904,000	
Pel Plants							
Flowering*	1981	5,300,000				\$37,100,000	
	1980	5,500,000				33,000,000	
Foliage	1981	3,000,000				32,550,000	
	1980	2,450,000				26,000,000	
Sub-Total	1981	17,210,000				\$89,163,000	
	1980	17,050,000				75,800,000	
Propagated							
Bedding Plants	1981	63,000				\$ 441,000	
	1980	65,000				390,000	
Cuttings and Liners	1981	210,000				263,000	
	1980	265,000				281,000	
TOTAL	1981	17,483,000				\$89,867,000	
	1980	17,370,000				76,471,000	
Total Glass and Plastic Area			9,300,000	Square Feet			

\*Includes African Violets, Chrysanthemums, Lilies, Orchids, Poinsettias, Etc.

## FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
							Total	Total
Beans, Dry Edible*	1981	80	.41	33	Ton	\$476.00	\$ 15,700	
	1980	30	.40	12	Ton	520.00	6,240	
Barley	1981	1,200	1.10	1,320	Ton	130.00	172,000	
	1980	1,500	1.20	1,800	Ton	140.00	252,000	
Hay								
Grain	1981	3,500	2.00	7,000	Ton	80.00	560,000	
	1980	4,000	2.00	8,000	Ton	100.00	800,000	
Other Tame	1981	700	1.25	875	Ton	60.00	74,000	
	1980	700	1.20	840	Ton	80.00	67,000	
Oats	1981	3,100	.77	2,400	Ton	160.00	385,000	
	1980	3,000	1.00	3,000	Ton	160.00	480,000	
Pasture								
Irrigated	1981	600					84,000	
	1980	600					140,000	
Other	1981	40,000					7,000	
	1980	40,000					7,000	
TOTAL	1981	49,180					\$ 1,570,700	
	1980	49,830					1,969,240	

\*Includes Fava Beans, Dry

## FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEED CROPS

TOTAL	1981					\$ 44,300
	1980					41,000

## FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

TOTAL	1981	155				\$ 353,000
	1980	140				295,000

## LIVESTOCK

Item	Year	Number Head	Total Live Weight	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
						Total	Total
Cattle and Calves	1981	4,550	23,000	CWT	\$37.00	\$ 1,311,000	
	1980	4,550	31,900	CWT	75.00	2,440,000	
Sheep and Lambs	1981	1,000	1,000	CWT	60.00	60,000	
	1980	1,200	1,320	CWT	74.00	98,000	
Hogs and Pigs	1981	200	500	CWT	50.00	25,000	
	1980	250	550	CWT	48.00	26,400	
Poultry	1981	500				1,500	
	1980	6,000				18,000	
TOTAL	1981					\$ 1,397,500	
	1980					2,542,400	

## LIVESTOCK AND APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Per Unit	VALUE	
					Total	Total
Wool	1981	8,000	LB.	\$ .75	\$ 6,000	
	1980	8,000	LB.	.80	6,400	
Honey	1981	48,000	LB.	.52	24,960	
	1980	29,000	LB.	.49	14,200	
Beeswax	1981	700	LB.	1.86	1,300	
	1980	1,600	LB.	1.81	2,900	
Total	1981				\$32,260	
	1980				23,500	

## JANUARY 1 INVENTORY OF LIVESTOCK — 1981 - 1982

Item	January 1, 1981		January 1, 1982	
	All	2 years and over	All	2 years and over
Cattle and Calves	6,800		6,800	
Milk Cows, 2 years and over		50		50
Sheep and Lambs	1,100		1,000	
Hogs and Pigs*		200		150

\*As of December 1, 1980 and 1981

## RECAPITULATION

### PRODUCTION VALUES

	1981	1980
Vegetable Crops .....	\$ 24,105,000	\$ 19,186,000
Flower and Nursery .....	108,326,000	93,103,000
Field Crops .....	1,570,700	1,969,240
Seed Crops .....	44,300	41,000
Fruit and Nut Crops .....	353,000	295,000
Livestock .....	1,397,500	2,542,400
Livestock and Apiary Products .....	32,260	23,500
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$135,828,760</b>	<b>\$117,160,140</b>

## MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

	1980	1981		Difference
Pot Plants .....	\$59,000,000	\$69,650,000	up	\$10,650,000
Chrysanthemums .....	5,585,000	4,103,000	down	1,482,000
Carnations .....	3,355,000	2,645,000	down	710,000
Ornamental Nursery Stock .....	8,590,000	8,691,000	up	101,000
Roses .....	3,610,000	4,600,000	up	990,000
Strawflowers .....	3,078,000	2,952,000	down	126,000
Brussels Sprouts .....	2,904,000	2,442,000	down	462,000
Cattle and Calves .....	2,400,000	1,311,000	down	1,089,000
Artichokes .....	2,160,000	3,200,000	up	1,040,000
Christmas Trees .....	700,000	2,140,000	up	1,440,000

Department of Agriculture

## COASTSIDE RAIN STATIONS

	Half Moon Bay	Pescadero
1972 / 1973 .....	36.45 inches	40.84 inches
1973 / 1974 .....	35.99 inches	35.07 inches
1974 / 1975 .....	21.37 inches	21.42 inches
1975 / 1976 .....	10.39 inches	10.03 inches
1976 / 1977 .....	14.58 inches	14.61 inches
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