

A close-up photograph of an olive tree branch with several ripe, dark olives. The sun is shining brightly through the leaves, creating a starburst effect and casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The background is filled with more green leaves and branches, some in soft focus.

# SUTTERO COUNTY

CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT

---

2016



From fledgling farmer's cooperative to the industry's leader, Sunsweet Growers Inc. celebrates its history and looks forward to the next 100 years.

The California prune industry began in 1850 when French immigrant Louis Pellier grafted d'Agen prune cuttings onto rootstock and watched them thrive. Steady growth in acreage expanded production to 90,000 acres in the Santa Clara Valley by 1900. With 85 packing plants, fierce competition from Europe, and wildly fluctuating markets, in 1900 prune farmers faced a confusing future. Recognizing the need for an organization to standardize quality, improve production and increase profits, farmers experimented with cooperative marketing.

Learning from earlier attempts, Sunsweet Growers Inc. was organized in 1917 as the California Prune and Apricot Growers Association, dedicated to realistic pricing, orderly marketing, and a national program of brand advertising. The Association selected "Sunsweet" as the brand name to present its products to the nation's consumers.

Early growing pains at times threatened the Association, but through hard work, belief in the ultimate success of the co-op, and strong leadership, the Sunsweet name became synonymous with its products.

Listening to the concerns of the grower members, tremendous innovations in product and processing, along with good business sense has resulted in the Sunsweet name being recognized around the world.

Today, Sunsweet's nearly 200 grower members provide the prunes to support 40,000 cases of high quality fruit and juice products coming out of the Sunsweet international headquarters in Yuba City every day. In celebration of Sunsweet's 100th Anniversary, let's take a look at how this journey began.

**The 1920s: A Period of Adjustment**

*The industry continued to grow through innovations, marketing and strengthening relationships between growers and their co-op.*

The Association increased advertising efforts and held the first-ever Prune Week in 1922, celebrated from February 27 through March 4. Radio opened up new avenues of advertising and one broadcast resulted in hundreds of inquiries about the benefits of prunes. Elaborate store displays and print advertising in magazines and newspapers promoted the flavor and health benefits of prunes.

Inventive minds in the industry were already working to develop critical process changes made possible by new techniques such as tunnel drying. The transition from sun drying to tunnel drying marked an important period in Sunsweet history. Drying plums in the sun had always produced suitable prunes, but weather conditions and other uncertainties often made the process a stressful endeavor. In 1919, the West Side Fruit Dryers' Association fashioned the world's first mechanical prune dryer. During the 1920s, their crude dryer evolved into more sophisticated models, and sun drying of prunes eventually became virtually obsolete in California.



**1930-1940: Sunsweet During the Great Depression and World War II**

*Innovation and government supports enabled the Association's members to survive the Great Depression and nourish the United States and its Allies during World War II.*

The Great Depression in the 1930s resulted in difficult times for the country and the Association's members were no exception. The co-op looked for opportunities to cut costs as well as reach more patrons. The establishment of cooperative dryers increased efficiency while innovations in products appealed to the public.

**Cover:** Sutter County Prunes by Michelle Zearfoss Photography

**Inside:** Article and photographs provided by Sunsweet Growers Inc.



In 1932, Sunsweet Prune Juice appeared on the market and was an immediate hit. Bottles of prune juice flew off the shelves. The product introduced an all-natural digestive remedy to the market. Innovation continued with a new process to “tenderize” prunes bringing a ready-to-eat product to market. After drying, the prunes were allowed to “plump” and regain a bit of moisture. This innovation reduced preparation time and made prunes enjoyable to eat right out of the box.

**1950-1960: Post-War Rise of Marketing**

*“Six or seven prunes a day Are good for you in every way.”*

Post-war production soared, but the market couldn’t support it. The government assured growers it would assist them after the war and between 1947 and 1951, the Federal government poured over 40 million dollars into the prune industry.

After the war, the Association began setting aside a small portion of its returns for plant replacement, modernization, streamlining operations and adoption of labor-saving equipment where possible. Post-war urbanization of the Santa Clara Valley resulted in growers shifting to the Sacramento Valley to plant new orchards. With this move, new techniques had to be developed. In the coastal valleys, fruit tended to fall from the tree when ripe, but in the interior valley the fruit stuck fast and a combination of catching frames and mechanical shakers were required to harvest the fruit.

The most visible change for the California Prune and Apricot Growers Association took place in 1958 when their name was changed to Sunsweet Growers Inc. Not only did this change take advantage of all those years of advertising the Sunsweet brand, but reflected the new reality of the Association. Sunsweet was now growing, dehydrating, packing, and marketing its products as part of its plan to control as many pieces of the business as possible. The name change reflected a major expansion of the business. Always searching for ways to reduce costs and increase efficiency, eleven independent cooperative dryers owned by Sunsweet members joined together to form Sunsweet Dryers in 1959.

**1960 –1980: Innovation and Consolidation**

*Between 1960 and 1980, Sunsweet introduced the pitted prune to consumers, consolidated its plants, and expanded its overseas market.*

For some time it was clear that a pitted prune would be a boon to Sunsweet. In 1965 Sunsweet engineer John Cantoni developed an automated prune pitter that did the job without damaging fruit or leaving part of the pit in the fruit. Pitted prunes were a huge hit in the test markets and demand outstripped production immediately, but with the technology in hand, Sunsweet soon had pitted prunes in markets all over the world.

Heading into the 1970s, Sunsweet stepped up its focus on marketing – both nationally and internationally. Construction of a central plant in Yuba City was completed in 1975, and by 1977 all the operations of Sunsweet were consolidated in the new 825,000 square foot site.

Over the next decade, Sunsweet entered into agreements with other cooperatives as their goals merged and then separated when interests diverged. Sun-Land Marketing was formed with Sun-Maid and Valley Fig to combine sales representation under a single organization. A long term bottling relationship was developed with Ocean Spray which led to a reciprocal bottling and distribution deal, allowing easier distribution on the east coast and expanding the use of the Yuba City facility.

(Continued on page 6)

Sutter County Library also celebrates 100 years of service to Sutter County this year. On October 18, 1917 the Board of Supervisors voted to establish a county library system. Interestingly, the first library shared space in Mission Hall with the Farm Advisor, Horticultural Commissioner and the Justice of the Peace. Before the automobile was in wide use, the library had 41 stations to distribute books and other materials. These were often located in stores, post offices, farm homes and clubhouses.

Today, most library patrons are served through the main branch in Yuba City, the Barber Branch in Live Oak and the Sutter Branch in the town of Sutter. Library card holders are able to check out materials from the branches and also pick up items delivered from libraries in Folsom, Woodland, Colusa and Sacramento.

Sutter County Library has worked with the Master Gardener Program and the librarians have spoken to local 4H clubs on many occasions. There are nearly 2,000 Agriculture related titles available on the library catalog. Library staff are also trained to help people find the materials they need – such as the digitized copies of crop reports dating back to 1940 which can also be found on the Department of Agriculture’s website.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Sunsweet Celebrates 100 Years
2	Sutter County Library
3	Mission Statement
4	Agricultural Commissioner's Letter
5	Fruit & Nut Crops
6	Nursery Products
	Sunsweet Celebrates 100 Years (cont.)
7	Field Crops
8	Seed Crops
9	Apiary Products
	Livestock
10	Vegetable Crops
	Organic Farming
11	Ten Leading Crops
12	Gross Production Value
13	Exports by Country
14	Department Statistics - Sustainable
15	Department Statistics - General
17	Staff Retirements
	100+ Years of Ag Commissioners
18	Staff

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to serve the public's interest by ensuring equity in the marketplace, promoting and protecting agriculture, assuring environmental quality and protecting the health, safety and welfare of Sutter County's citizens.

We fulfill our mission through the following programs: Pest Exclusion, Pesticide Use Enforcement, Pest Detection, Fruit and Vegetable Standardization, Egg Quality Control, Pest Management, Nursery Inspection, Pest Eradication, Seed Inspection, Weights and Measures Enforcement, Predatory Animal Control and other non-regulatory and special services programs.



Sunsweet Growers



OFFICE OF THE  
**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**  
**SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

**LISA D. HERBERT**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures

September 2017

Karen Ross, Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
and  
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Sutter County  
Jim Whiteaker, District 4, Chairman  
Ron Sullenger, District 1  
Dan Flores, District 2  
Larry Munger, District 3  
Mat Conant, District 5

I am pleased to present the 2016 Crop and Livestock Report for Sutter County. The report is prepared pursuant to Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code and is a summary representing estimated acreage, yield and gross values. The gross value of Sutter County agricultural production for 2016 was \$514,408,000. This is a decrease of \$23,739,000 or 4.4% below the 2015 total value.

Rice remains the top ranking crop in 2016 with acreage rising 27% due to increased water allocations with a total value of \$127,469,000. The total value of walnuts increased 53% in 2016 due to higher acreage and yields, rising to \$118,750,000 after crashing to \$77,454,000 in 2015. Processing peaches rose to the third spot due to a slight increase in acreage and price to a total value of \$56,801,000. Nursery products took fourth despite a total value decrease of 10% to \$35,651,000. Processing tomatoes ranked fifth with a 23% decrease in acreage and a total value of \$34,889,000. Almonds came in sixth due to increases in acreage and yields despite a dip in price to a total value of \$31,435,000.

Falling from third place to seventh, prunes were hit the hardest by significant rainfall followed by high winds and low temperatures in March. The prune crop was devastated, leading to a 54% loss in production and 55% loss of total value at \$24,569,000. This report represents gross values only and does not reflect net profits or loss to the producers.

While this Crop Report focuses on the 2016 estimated acreage, yield and gross values, two centennial anniversaries were too significant to wait another year to address. Therefore, this issue highlights their contributions to local agriculture and the Sutter County economy.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation of all the growers, organizations and individuals who provided us the data that allows this report to be compiled. Thank you to all my staff, especially Nick Oliver for compiling and analyzing the data and Allyson Wadkins for the graphic design. Thank you to Sunsweet Growers, Michelle Zearfoss Photography, Sutter County Library and the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County for their contributions and use of photographs.

To learn more about the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the services we provide including crop reports dating back to 1940, please visit our website at <http://www.co.sutter.ca.us/doc/government/depts/ag/aghome>.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa D. Herbert".

Lisa D. Herbert  
Agricultural Commissioner

---

142 Garden Highway • Yuba City, California 95991 • (530) 822-7500 • FAX (530) 822-7510

# FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Almonds, Meats	2016	9,445	0.60	5,667	Ton	\$5,547	\$31,435,000
	2015	7,152	0.45	3,218	Ton	\$7,088	\$22,809,000
Almonds, Hulls	2016			7,085	Ton	100	709,000
	2015			4,023	Ton	100	402,000
Kiwifruit	2016	87	10.78	938	Ton	1,400	1,313,000
	2015	87	5.46	475	Ton	1,007	478,000
Olives	2016	883	2.59	2,287	Ton	490	1,121,000
	2015	883	6.66	5,881	Ton	625	3,676,000
Peaches, Clingstone	2016	7,252	16.05	116,395	Ton	488	56,801,000
	2015	6,555	16.41	107,568	Ton	454	48,836,000
Persimmons	2016	173	8.93	1,545	Ton	867	1,340,000
	2015	166	8.46	1,404	Ton	457	642,000
Prunes, Dried	2016	14,256	0.86	12,260	Ton	2,004	24,569,000
	2015	14,150	1.86	26,319	Ton	2,071	54,507,000
Walnuts, English	2016	28,786	2.35	67,647	Ton	1,755	118,750,000
	2015	26,496	1.66	43,983	Ton	1,761	77,454,000
Miscellaneous <sup>1</sup>	2016	576		1,876	Ton		3,134,000
	2015	682		3,284	Ton		3,471,000
Orchard By-Products	2016						4,752,000
	2015						4,428,000
TOTAL	2016	61,458					\$243,924,000
	2015	56,171					\$216,703,000

CROP	BEARING ACRES		NON-BEARING ACRES	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Almond	9,445	7,152	1,534	975
Kiwifruit	87	87	0	0
Olive	883	883	0	0
Peach, Clingstone	7,252	6,555	1,181	1,439
Persimmon	173	166	17	13
Dried Plum (Prune)	14,256	14,150	2,244	1,382
Walnut, English	28,786	26,496	6,396	6,623
Miscellaneous <sup>1</sup>	577	682	58	68
TOTAL	61,459	56,171	11,430	10,500

<sup>1</sup> Includes Apples, Apricots, Berries (Blackberries, Boysenberries & Raspberries), Cherries, Chestnuts, Citrus (Grapefruit, Lemons, Limes, Mandarines, Oranges, Tangerines), Feijoa, Figs, Grapes, Jujubes (Chinese Date), Nectarines, Peaches (Freestone), Pecans, Pears, Pistachio Nuts, Plums, Pomegranates, Strawberries, Walnuts (Black) and other miscellaneous fruit and nut crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

# NURSERY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	FIELD ACRES	QUANTITY SOLD	UNIT	TOTAL
<b>Trees and Vines</b> <sup>1</sup> (Fruit and Nut, Bareroot and Potted)	2016	195	9,092,000		\$35,196,000
	2015	183	8,114,000		\$39,090,000
<b>Miscellaneous</b> <sup>2</sup>	2016	7	43,000		455,000
	2015	7	48,000		506,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2016</b>				<b>\$35,651,000</b>
	<b>2015</b>				<b>\$39,596,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised 2015 Fruit and Nut Trees and Vines Quantity Sold

<sup>2</sup> Includes Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and other Nursery Stock.

## Sunsweet Celebrates 100 Years (cont.)

### 1980-2000: Expansion & Technological Advances

*Plant expansion, focused marketing and new products are the keys to Sunsweet's growth.*

In 1990, Sunsweet purchased a 350,000 square foot juice production facility in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania. The new facility could not only meet Sunsweet's needs, but could co-pack juices under other brands. By 1993, the plant was upgraded with a highspeed line that supported plastic bottles, provided more co-packing capacity and reduced per-ton overhead costs.

By 1998, the Yuba City plant had expanded to 1,200,000 square feet. Maintaining the highest standards of quality has always been key to Sunsweet's success. State of the art diagnostic machinery ensured that only the highest quality prunes bear the name Sunsweet. Computerized separation equipment employed a constant photographic process to remove substandard fruit.

New products included Lemon Essence and Orange Essence pitted prunes. Sunsweet Pitted and Chopped Dates, introduced in 1996, became the number one date in the American marketplace. Marketing focused on younger demographics and emerging overseas markets such as Italy, Germany, Malaysia and Australia.

In 2000, Sunsweet launched its first website (<https://www.sunsweet.com>) and presented the first Superior Performance Awards to honor outstanding growers.

### 2000-2017: Into the 21st Century

*Sunsweet continues to expand its facilities, improve and expand its product line, and work with new partners to prepare for their second hundred years.*

In the past decade, Sunsweet has continued to meet the needs of consumers with innovation in their product lines. In 2006, Sunsweet launched Ones Individually Wrapped Prunes with great success. After the launch of Ones, Sunsweet followed with D'Noir Prunes, a preservative free premium prune, and Amaz'n Diced Prunes, the first worldwide introduction of diced prunes with a low pit incidence. In juices, new products included PlumSmart, made from fresh plum juice and Amaz'n Prune Light, a reduced sugar prune juice. Today, Sunsweet also sources a full variety of dried fruit and is a top brand in dates, apricots, and mango.

Sunsweet continues to emphasize the health benefits of prunes to consumers. Prunes add to a healthy diet and are a good source of fiber, iron, vitamin A, potassium, and antioxidants. Recent research indicates that eating prunes can support bone health and prevent bone loss in postmenopausal women. Beginning in 2015, Sunsweet became an Official Partner for World Osteoporosis Day, a day of awareness organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation. The old jingle "Six or seven prunes a day, Are good for you in every way" is as true today as when it first hit the airwaves decades ago.

Looking to the future, Sunsweet Growers Inc. continues to grow its business and provide superior customer value by continuing to invest in the Sunsweet brand, continuing to innovate and improve production and farm practices, and continuing to value the people who make up the Sunsweet family.



# FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Bean, Dried, Edible <sup>1, 2</sup>	2016	6,595	0.92	6,077	Ton	\$915	\$5,564,000
	2015	6,323	0.81	5,122	Ton	\$1,475	\$7,555,000
Corn, Field Grain	2016	8,309	7.09	58,911	Ton	177	10,427,000
	2015	8,936	6.99	62,463	Ton	207	12,930,000
Hay, Alfalfa	2016	5,713	6.42	36,677	Ton	160	5,868,000
	2015	5,496	6.64	36,493	Ton	201	7,335,000
Hay, Grain <sup>2</sup>	2016	4,642	3.36	15,588	Ton	81	1,260,000
	2015	4,855	2.94	14,255	Ton	145	2,067,000
Pasture, Irrigated	2016	10,000			Acre	140	1,400,000
	2015	10,000			Acre	140	1,400,000
Pasture, Range Dry <sup>3</sup>	2016	63,250			Acre	20	1,265,000
	2015	63,450			Acre	20	1,269,000
Rice <sup>4</sup>	2016	113,084	4.37	494,177	Ton	247	122,061,000
	2015	88,591	4.53	401,317	Ton	342	137,250,000
Rice, Wild	2016	1,953	1.05	2,051	Ton	1,981	4,063,000
	2015	1,347	1.08	1,455	Ton	2,014	2,930,000
Safflower	2016	3,613	1.08	3,902	Ton	427	1,666,000
	2015	3,321	1.17	3,886	Ton	520	2,021,000
Wheat, Grain	2016	5,654	2.71	15,322	Ton	169	2,589,000
	2015	6,695	2.75	18,411	Ton	204	3,756,000
Miscellaneous <sup>5</sup>	2016	9,437		12,783	Ton		2,802,000
	2015	9,542		13,623	Ton		3,185,000
Field Crops By-Products	2016			68,849	Ton		3,236,000
	2015			61,825	Ton		2,906,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>232,250</b>					<b>\$162,201,000</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>208,556</b>					<b>\$184,604,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes all varieties of edible Dried Bean, including Lima, Blackeye, Garbanzo, Light and Dark Red Kidney Bean, and other miscellaneous beans of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

<sup>2</sup> Total Production and Total Value may not calculate due to rounding of data.

<sup>3</sup> The valuation is not an animal production figure but a land value (rental equivalent).

<sup>4</sup> Includes USDA Support Price.

<sup>5</sup> Includes Barley, Corn (Silage), Cotton, Grass Hay, Oats (Silage), Popcorn, Triticale, Vetch, Sorghum and other miscellaneous field crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.



Dougherty Farms



# SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cucumbers	2016	423	164	69,000	Lb	16.42	\$1,139,000
	2015	488	181	88,328	Lb	9.42	\$832,000
Pumpkins & Squash	2016	294	551	162,000	Lb	4.75	770,000
	2015	268	434	116,308	Lb	6.35	739,000
Rice	2016	2,831	8,684	24,584,000	Lb	0.22	5,408,000
	2015	2,671	9,284	24,798,000	Lb	0.20	4,960,000
Safflower	2016	662	2,160	1,430,000	Lb	0.21	300,000
	2015	391	3,179	1,243,000	Lb	0.24	298,000
Sunflower	2016	7,536	538	4,054,000	Lb	1.47	5,959,000
	2015	5,976	759	4,536,000	Lb	1.52	6,895,000
Watermelons	2016	812	320	260,000	Lb	14.42	3,749,000
	2015	999	229	228,771	Lb	18.72	4,283,000
Wheat	2016	893	5,000	4,465,000	Lb	0.12	536,000
	2015	1,087	6,000	6,522,000	Lb	0.30	1,957,000
Miscellaneous <sup>1,2</sup>	2016	643		374,000	Lb		1,771,000
	2015	903		1,079,000	Lb		1,746,000
<b>TOTAL <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>14,094</b>					<b>\$19,632,000</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>12,783</b>					<b>\$21,710,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes Alfalfa, Arugula, Basil, Fresh Beans, Dried Beans (Blackeye, Cowpea, Cranberry, Lima, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red Kidney), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Coriander, Gourds, Kale, Lettuce, Onion, Peppers, Mixed Melons, Okra, Radish, Sugar Peas, Swiss Chard, Tomato, Tomatillo, Triticale, Wild Rice and other miscellaneous seed crops of a limited growers/processors in Sutter County.

<sup>2</sup> Revised 2015 Miscellaneous Seed Acreage, Total Production, Total Value and Seed Crop Total Value.



# APIARY PRODUCTS

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Pollination	2016	48,772	Colony	\$77	\$3,765,000
	2015	37,280	Colony	\$81	\$3,020,000
Miscellaneous <sup>1</sup>	2016				1,190,000
	2015				1,244,000
TOTAL	2016				\$4,955,000
	2015				\$4,264,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes Package Bees, Queen Bees, Honey and Wax.



Kathryn Garvey, UC Davis

# LIVESTOCK

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER	LIVE WEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle & Calves <sup>1</sup>	2016	3,120	23,414	Cwt	\$114	\$2,669,000
	2015	4,720	38,575	Cwt	\$148	\$5,709,000
Sheep & Lambs	2016	4,114	6,514		114	743,000
	2015	6,489	7,353		122	897,000
Miscellaneous <sup>2, 3</sup>	2016					2,265,000
	2015					8,750,000
Livestock By-Products	2016					3,000
	2015					3,000
TOTAL <sup>3</sup>	2016					\$5,680,000
	2015					\$15,359,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes USDA Support Price.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Alpaca & Angora Fur, Aquaculture, Chickens, Chicken Eggs, Ducks, Fish Bait, Geese, Goats, Hogs, Milk (Market), Game Birds, Musk Oxen, Pheasants, Pigeons, Rabbits, Rabbit Hides, Turkeys, Water Buffalo, Wool and other miscellaneous livestock and poultry of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

<sup>3</sup> Revised 2015 Miscellaneous Total Value and Livestock Total Value.

# VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Melons, Honeydew	2016	506	14.52	7,347	Tons	\$500	\$3,674,000
	2015	640	12.82	8,205	Tons	\$454	\$3,725,000
Tomatoes, Processing	2016	9,718	49.18	477,931	Tons	73	34,889,000
	2015	12,654	48.80	617,500	Tons	80	49,400,000
Miscellaneous <sup>1, 2</sup>	2016	927		9,372	Tons		3,802,000
	2015	399		5,324	Tons		2,606,000
TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	2016	11,151					\$42,365,000
	2015	13,693					\$55,731,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes Artichoke, Asparagus, Basil, Beets, Bitter Melons, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chard, Cilantro, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Gourds, Green Beans, Herbs, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Melons (Mixed), Mustard, Okra, Onions, Parsnips, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radishes, Rhubarb, Rutabagas, Shallots, Spinach, Sprouts, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes (Fresh), Turnips, Watermelons, Winter Squash, Zucchini and other miscellaneous vegetables of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

<sup>2</sup> Revised 2015 Miscellaneous Total Value and Vegetable Crop Total value.



# ORGANIC FARMING

California is the only state with its own organic program. Organic agriculture in California accounts for more than twenty percent of all organic production in the nation.

Thirty-three farms, totaling approximately 15,220 acres of crop land were registered as organic in Sutter County in 2016. Utilizing organic principles defined in the Federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, and the California Organic Product Act of 2003, these farms produce a wide array of commodities such as almonds, stone fruit, beans, herbs, corn, popcorn, miscellaneous vegetables, apples, grapes, pears, pomegranates, melons, squash, oats, peas, prunes, rice, seed crops, tomatoes, walnuts and wheat. The total estimated value of organic production in Sutter County in 2016 was \$26,272,857. In comparison, 2015 had 10,336 production acres with an estimated value of \$21,429,614.

Sutter County Agricultural Biologists assist organic growers with their registration and cost-share applications. They also inspect registered organic products at point of production, certified farmers' markets and retail locations. Our biologists also obtained five random produce samples from our producers and retail locations for submission to CDFA's Center for Analytical Chemistry for assuring organic production standards in 2016.

# TEN LEADING CROPS

CROP	2016	CROP	2015
RICE <sup>1</sup>	\$127,469,000	RICE <sup>1</sup>	\$142,210,000
WALNUTS	\$118,750,000	WALNUTS	\$77,454,000
PEACHES, PROCESSING	\$56,801,000	PRUNES, DRIED	\$54,507,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$35,651,000	TOMATOES, PROCESSING	\$49,400,000
TOMATOES, PROCESSING	\$34,889,000	PEACHES, PROCESSING	\$48,836,000
ALMONDS	\$31,435,000	NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$39,596,000
PRUNES, DRIED	\$24,569,000	ALMONDS	\$22,809,000
CORN, FIELD	\$10,427,000	CORN, FIELD	\$12,930,000
SUNFLOWER, SEED	\$5,959,000	BEANS, DRIED	\$7,555,000
ALFALFA	\$5,868,000	ALFALFA	\$7,335,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes Seed, does not include Wild Rice.



Penning Farms

# GROSS PRODUCTION VALUE

CATEGORIES	2016	2015
FRUIT & NUT CROPS	\$243,924,000	\$216,703,000
FIELD CROPS	\$162,201,000	\$184,604,000
SEED CROPS <sup>1</sup>	\$19,632,000	\$21,710,000
VEGETABLE CROPS <sup>1</sup>	\$42,365,000	\$55,731,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$35,651,000	\$39,596,000
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS <sup>1</sup>	\$5,680,000	\$15,539,000
APIARY PRODUCTS	\$4,955,000	\$4,264,000
<b>TOTAL <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$514,408,000</b>	<b>\$538,147,000</b>

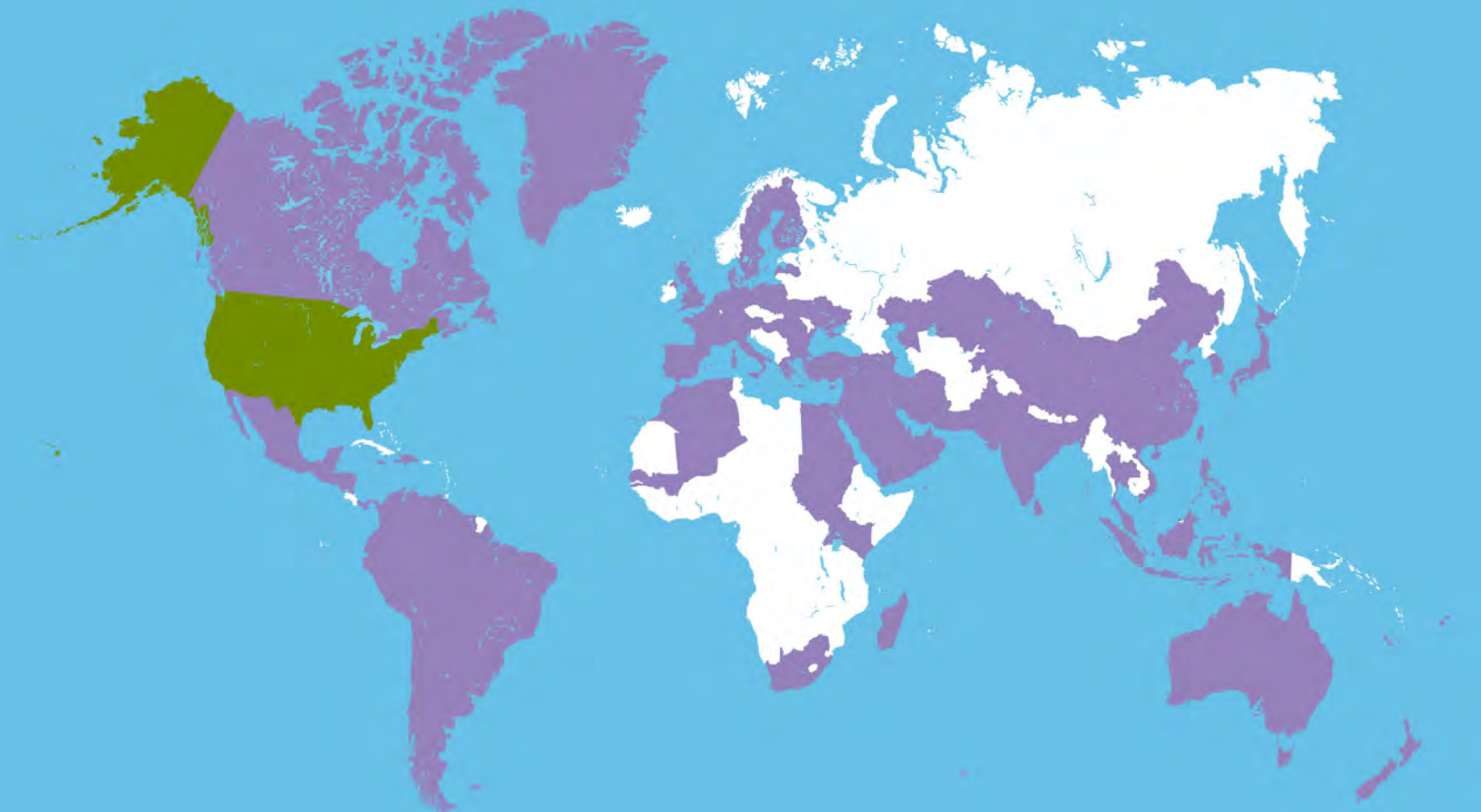
<sup>1</sup> Revised 2015 Seed Crops total value, Vegetable Crops total value, Livestock Products total value.

<sup>2</sup> Revised 2015 overall total value.

YEAR	VALUE	YEAR	VALUE	YEAR	VALUE
1957	\$41,313,000	1977	\$200,878,000	1997	\$277,169,700
1958	38,786,000	1978	220,502,000	1998	268,323,100
1959	50,707,000	1979	258,666,900	1999	347,939,000
1960	50,536,000	1980	299,014,700	2000	340,176,000
1961	55,585,000	1981	316,465,900	2001	264,673,000
1962	57,322,000	1982	247,784,100	2002	291,061,100
1963	55,155,000	1983	205,335,300	2003	307,322,300
1964	66,740,000	1984	262,285,500	2004	299,219,300
1965	64,564,000	1985	255,449,600	2005	305,190,190
1966	71,627,000	1986	229,364,800	2006	358,845,200
1967	69,313,000	1987	216,183,600	2007	377,940,800
1968	80,275,000	1988	201,345,800	2008	498,195,200
1969	74,006,000	1989	243,940,200	2009	475,691,100
1970	77,238,000	1990	217,400,000	2010	521,640,570
1971	82,209,000	1991	268,941,900	2011	518,198,460
1972	95,118,000	1992	285,622,700	2012	528,253,000
1973	159,204,000	1993	292,108,300	2013	597,530,000
1974	179,719,000	1994	340,171,300	2014	726,066,000
1975	187,517,000	1995	330,170,500	2015 <sup>1</sup>	538,147,000
1976	178,554,000	1996	302,706,400	2016	514,408,000

<sup>1</sup> Revised 2015 overall total value.

# EXPORTS BY COUNTRY



Algeria	Fiji	Latvia	Senegal
Argentina	Finland	Lebanon	Singapore
Armenia	France	Madagascar	South Africa
Australia	Germany	Malaysia	South Korea
Austria	Greece	Mali	Spain
Azerbaijan	Grenada	Malta	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	Guatemala	Mauritius	Sudan
Bangladesh	Guyana	Mexico	Suriname
Belgium	Haiti	Morocco	Sweden
Belize	Honduras	Netherlands	Switzerland
Bolivia	Hungary	New Zealand	Syria
Brazil	India	Nicaragua	Taiwan
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Oman	Thailand
Canada	Iran	Pakistan	Turkey
Chile	Iraq	Panama	Uganda
China	Israel	Paraguay	Ukraine
Colombia	Italy	Peru	United Arab Emirates
Cyprus	Jamaica	Philippines	United Kingdom
Denmark	Japan	Poland	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Jordan	Portugal	Venezuela
Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Qatar	Viet Nam
Egypt	Kenya	Romania	Yemen
El Salvador	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	

In 2016, the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office issued 2,190 Federal Phytosanitary Certificates for international shipments to 91 countries and 40 State Phytosanitary Certificates for shipments within the United States.

## Pest Exclusion

This program provides the first line of defense for California agriculture and the environment against the invasion of exotic pests. Inspections provide protection from the introduction of plant and animal insect and disease pests that may be introduced into the state through the movement of legal or illegal trade. This program also involves inspections of plant material being delivered to other states and countries and the issuance of certificates documenting compliance with their entry requirements.

A total of 314 premise visits were conducted in 2016. A total of 2,305 shipments of plant material were inspected during these visits. Inspections occurred at express carriers, nurseries and other farms. There was one rejection of plant material issued, which is a 66 percent decrease from 2015. Rejected plant material may be returned to the shipper, reconditioned and released or destroyed. To assist our industry, we issued 2,190 federal phytosanitary certificates for international shipments and 40 state phytosanitary certificates for shipments to other states.

**Total Hours Expended 2016: 5,187**

## Pest Detection

This program provides the second line of defense against exotic pests through the early detection of new introductions before they become widely established. Through early detection the likelihood of these pests becoming established in the state is lessened and the cost and environmental impact of eradication is minimized.

There were 699 traps placed for the detection of exotic insect pests including Mediterranean, Oriental and Melon Fruit Flies, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, European Pine Shoot Moth, Khapra Beetle, Vine Mealybug, European Grapevine Moth, Light Brown Apple Moth and Asian Citrus Psyllid. Over the course of the season a cumulative total of 6,292 servicings were performed.

**Total Hours Expended 2016: 1,920**

## Pest Management

The County Agricultural Commissioner is charged with the responsibility of managing nuisance pests of agriculture and human health. Many of these pests are introduced species that have become established despite our best pest exclusion efforts. If promising, programs are established to distribute biological agents for troublesome pests.

To prevent the spread of Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS), Sutter County inspected 132 shipments of nursery stock arriving from infested areas in California. There were zero shipments of plant material rejected for the presence of GWSS egg masses or other life stages. There were 121 traps placed in nurseries and urban areas for the detection of GWSS, which were serviced a total of 1,200 times.

The Biological Control program utilizes natural enemies to suppress populations of pests to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Following establishment, the agents are self-sustaining, reducing the need for chemical controls. A number of biological control agents are of general distribution or locally established, including agents for Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) and Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). The Puncturevine agents include Puncturevine Seed Weevil (*Microlarinus lareynii*) and Puncturevine Stem Weevil (*M. lypriformis*) and are distributed countywide. There are six Yellow Starthistle agents present in Sutter County. Additionally, the Lerp Psyllid Wasp (*Psyllephagus bliteus*) is present, which acts as a biocontrol for the Redgum Lerp Psyllid (*Glycaspis brimblecombei*), a pest of eucalyptus.

The Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office facilitates the local management of vertebrate pests by selling vertebrate baits to growers with restricted materials permits. In 2016, a total of 1,325 pounds of anticoagulant bait and 100 pounds of zinc phosphide bait were sold.

**Total Hours Expended 2016: 803**

## Nursery Inspection

Through this program inspections are performed at the growing, propagation, production and sales sites to ensure cleanliness from pests, varietal trueness and stock vigor prior to consumer sales. In 2016, 101 hours were spent performing inspections at 50 locations, consisting of 149 acres.

**Total Hours Expended 2016: 444**



## Measurement Standards

County Weights and Measures officials ensure the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices; verify the quantity of both bulk and packaged commodities; and enforce the quality, advertising and labeling standards for most petroleum products.

***Total Hours Expended 2016: 2,891***

## Pesticide Use Enforcement

This is a complex legislatively mandated program that provides for the proper, safe and effective use of pesticides essential for production of food and fiber and for protection of the public health and safety. It also protects the environment from potentially harmful pesticides by prohibiting, regulating or ensuring proper stewardship of pesticides. An important component of the program focuses on agricultural and pest control workers, ensuring safe working conditions, use of proper protective equipment and training for employees who work with or around pesticides. Other components of the program include pesticide use reporting, incident investigations, outreach activities promoting best management practices and monitoring applications in the field.

***Total Hours Expended 2016: 11,735***

## Seed Certification

Inspections are performed at retail and wholesale establishments that sell seed. Samples are drawn for germination and purity testing and labeling is inspected for compliance with state requirements. Through this program certification services are also available for growers and processors in cooperation with the California Crop Improvement Association.

***Total Hours Expended 2016: 218***

Top Left: Onstott Dusters planting rice seed.

Left: Rough rice for export, being sampled for nematodes.



### **Fruit, Nut and Vegetable Standardization**

This program ensures compliance with California's minimum standards regarding quality and marketing of all produce commercially grown and/or marketed in the state. Regulation of three certified farmers' markets and 27 certified producers as well as Organic law enforcement are part of a program that provides for local protection to growers, marketers and consumers.

***Total Hours Expended 2016: 1,002***

### **Apiary Inspection**

A program that emphasizes the registration and site location of honeybee colonies in the county. At the request of beekeepers or growers, the County Agricultural Commissioner inspects colonies for strength and health to ensure effective pollination.

***Total Hours Expended 2016: 109***

### **Crop Statistics**

As required by the California Food and Agricultural Code, the gross production and value of the county's commodities are compiled and recorded in the annual crop report. This valuable information helps associated businesses while promoting the production and prosperity of agriculture in California.

***Total Hours Expended 2016: 528***

### **Kill the Bug, Recycle the Jug**

This program is funded by a grant from the Feather River Air Quality Management District with the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office making an in kind contribution of approximately 97 man-hours annually. Growers are encouraged to bring their empty pesticide containers to permanent recycling locations or recycling events held throughout the year. In 2016 we recycled 171,100 pounds of used pesticide containers, an increase of 15% over 2015 numbers. A total of 853,596 pounds have been recycled since the program began in 2007.



**Above:** Cherry baskets ready for purchase at the Yuba City Certified Farmers' Market.

**Below:** Bee samples prepared for lab testing.



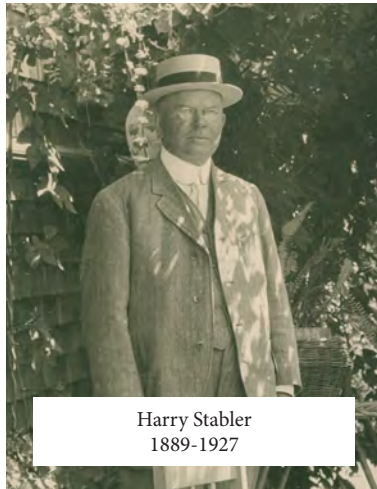
# STAFF RETIREMENTS

Paul Schwall began his career with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office on October 1, 1971 as an Agricultural Field Assistant-Extra Help. Paul was promoted to permanent status as Agricultural Field Assistant on October 1, 1972. He was promoted to Agricultural Field Assistant II on June 30, 1979 where he remained for the next 37 years. His duties have included noxious weed abatement, vertebrate pest control, phytosanitary field inspection program and office and grounds maintenance. One of his major accomplishments was building and maintaining a noxious weed abatement spray rig. His unofficial duties have been the office historian, mechanic, picture hanger and overall jack of all trades. Paul was nominated for the California Agricultural Commissioner's and Sealers Association Special Achievement Award in 1996 for the developing, testing and refining an effective electronic scarecrow device.

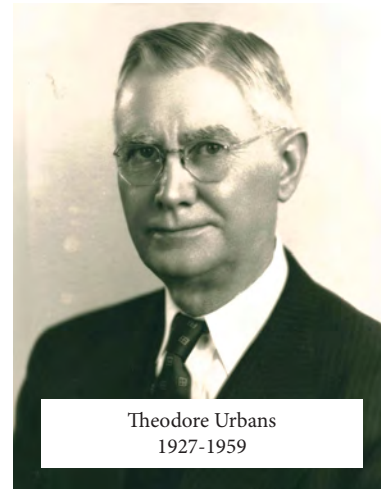


In his retirement, Paul enjoys spending time with family, hunting, traveling, vegetable gardening and catching up on his to-do list of home projects. His humble and kind demeanor is missed in the office, though we know that our next visit is only as far away as the next office luncheon!

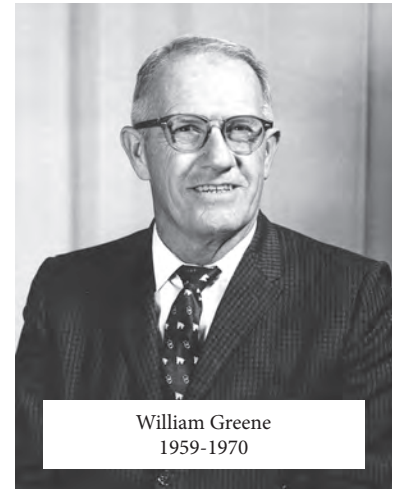
## 100+ YEARS OF AG COMMISSIONERS



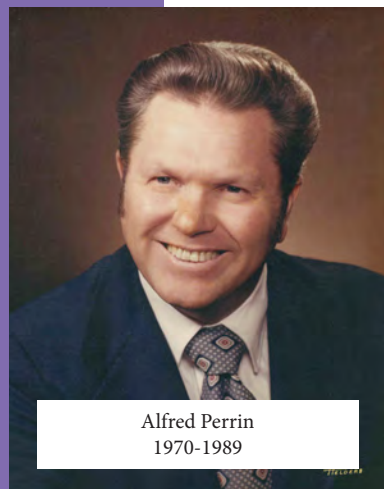
Harry Stabler  
1889-1927



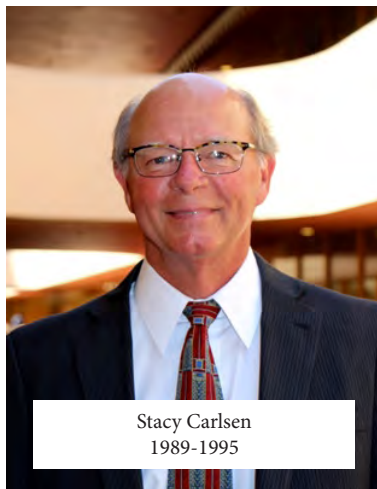
Theodore Urbans  
1927-1959



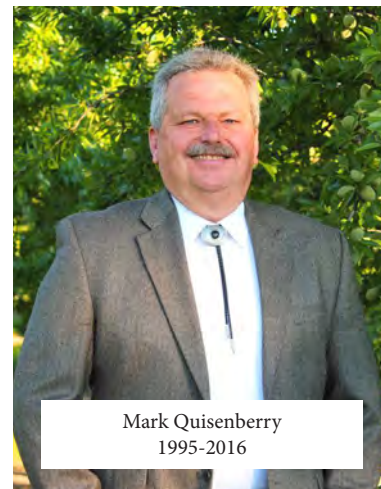
William Greene  
1959-1970



Alfred Perrin  
1970-1989



Stacy Carlsen  
1989-1995



Mark Quisenberry  
1995-2016



Lisa Herbert  
2016-Present

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Lisa D. Herbert

**ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Vacant

**DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER**

Scott Bowden

Nicolas Oliver

**AGRICULTURAL & STANDARDS BIOLOGIST III**

Hardeep Bains

Michael Berry

David Brown

Kim Hicks

Janice Kendel

Janet Kirkman

Kevin Putman

**AGRICULTURAL & STANDARDS BIOLOGIST I**

Ryan Coleman

Rebecca Mendonza

Sean Nelson

**AGRICULTURAL FIELD ASSISTANT II**

Paul Schwall

Sandra Schwall

**ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL SPECIALIST**

Jim Kincaid

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Tara Cole - Account Clerk III

Gina Krog - Secretary

Allyson Wadkins - Secretary

