

2023 Sutter County
CROP
and
LIVESTOCK
REPORT





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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.

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Staff

**Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures**

Lisa D. Herbert

**Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures**

Nicolas Oliver

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Scott Bowden

Andrea Oilar

Rebecca Mendonza

Agriculture & Standards Biologist III

Haily Dutton

Kim Hicks

Janet Kirkman

Courtney Krause

Sean Nelson

Kevin Putman

Agriculture & Standards Biologist II

Jacqueline Araujo

Simarjit Bains

Kathleen Parks

Kally Pascua

Agriculture & Standards Biologist I

Alice Alves

Animal Damage Control Specialist

Jim Kincaid

Support Staff

Ashley Thibodeau – Accounting Technician II

Karina Escobar - Secretary

Kerry Haynes - Secretary

Extra Help

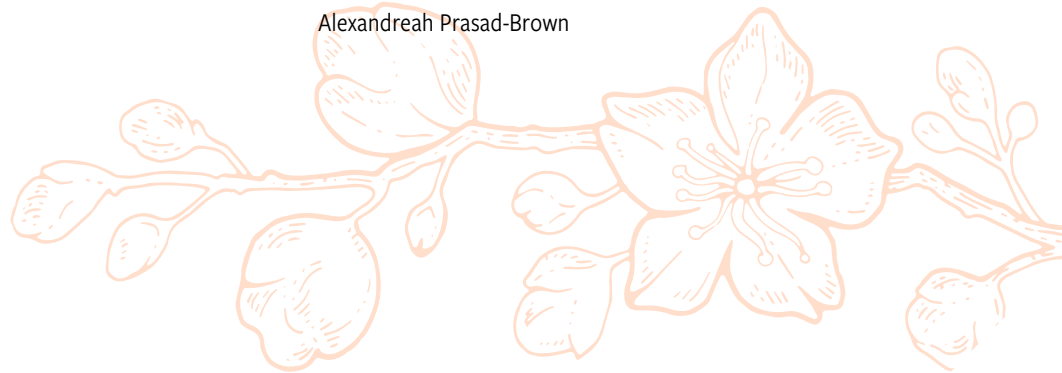
Alyssa Amos

Madison Escherman

Jacob Hodge

Chancellor Poma-Sweet

Alexandrea Prasad-Brown





OFFICE OF THE
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

LISA D. HERBERT
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

October 2024

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Sutter County
Mat Conant, District 5, Chair
Nick Micheli, District 1
Dan Flores, District 2
Mike Ziegenmeyer, District 3
Karm Bains, District 4

I am pleased to present the 2023 Crop and Livestock Report for Sutter County. The report is prepared pursuant to Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code and is a summary representing estimated acreage, yield, and gross values. The gross value of Sutter County agricultural production for 2023 was \$771,820,000. This is an increase of \$203,248,000 or 35.7% from the 2022 total value.

Rice remains the top-ranking crop in 2023 with a total value of \$272,271,000 driven by a 134.9% increase in harvested acreage which offset a 35.5% decrease in price resulting in a 49% increase in total value from 2022. Remaining second, processing tomatoes increased in price and yield to a total value of \$117,718,000, a 31.3% increase from 2022. Cling Peaches remained in third due to an increase in yield and price to a total value of \$67,650,000, a 39.7% increase from 2022. Dried prunes remained fourth with a total value of \$61,850,000 through a rise in price and yield increasing 30% from 2022. Walnuts remained fifth due to moderate increases in price and yield with a total value of \$51,649,000 which is an 18.7% increase from 2022.

This issue highlights 100 years of peach history in Sutter County by featuring the California Canning Peach Association and the Sutter County origins of the Loadel and Rio Oso Gem varieties. Also highlighted is the story of Harry Hooper, a major league baseball player from 1909 through 1925 who owned several hundred acres of alfalfa, seedless grapes, and pomegranates in the Tierra Buena area.

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 Becky Mendonza for compiling and analyzing the data. This report represents gross values only and does not reflect net profits or losses to the producers.

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://co.sutter.ca.us/doc/government/depts/ag/aghome>.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa D. Herbert
Agricultural Commissioner

2023

\$235,740,000

2022

\$163,200,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

| CROP | YEAR | ACRES HARVESTED | PRODUCTION PER ACRE | TOTAL | UNIT | VALUE PER UNIT | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------|----------------|---------------|
| Almonds, Meats | 2023 | 18,500 | 0.59 | 10,900 | Ton | \$3,533 | \$38,510,000 |
| | 2022 | 18,008 | 0.24 | 4,322 | Ton | \$2,969 | \$12,832,000 |
| Olives | 2023 | 753 | 5.37 | 4040 | Ton | 1,047 | 4,230,000 |
| | 2022 | 656 | 0.25 | 164 | Ton | 630 | 103,000 |
| Peaches, Clingstone | 2023 | 7,050 | 15.62 | 110,000 | Ton | 615 | 67,650,000 |
| | 2022 | 7,086 | 12.16 | 86,166 | Ton | 562 | 48,425,000 |
| Prunes, Dried | 2023 | 12,600 | 2.03 | 25,600 | Ton | 2,416 | 61,850,000 |
| | 2022 | 13,324 | 1.90 | 25,316 | Ton | 1,877 | 47,518,000 |
| Walnuts, English | 2023 | 37,000 | 1.74 | 64,400 | Ton | 802 | 51,649,000 |
| | 2022 | 37,533 | 1.52 | 57,050 | Ton | 763 | 43,529,000 |
| Miscellaneous ¹ | 2023 | 758 | | 1,400 | Ton | 4,599 | 6,439,000 |
| | 2022 | 1,520 | | 2,641 | Ton | 2,668 | 7,046,000 |
| Orchard By-Product | 2023 | | | | Ton | | 5,412,000 |
| | 2022 | | | | Ton | | 3,747,000 |
| TOTAL | 2023 | | | | Ton | | \$235,740,000 |
| | 2022 | | | | Ton | | \$163,200,000 |

¹ Includes Apples, Apricots, Berries (Blackberries, Boysenberries & Raspberries), Cherries, Chestnuts, Citrus (Grapefruit, Lemons, Limes, Mandarins, Oranges, Tangerines), Feijoa, Figs, Grapes, Jujubes (Chinese Date), Kiwifruit, Kumquat, Nectarines, Nectaplums, Peaches (Freetone), Peacotum, Pears, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachio Nuts, Plums, Pluots, Pomegranates, Quince, Strawberries, Walnuts (Black) and other miscellaneous fruit and nut crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

BEARING & NON-BEARING ACREAGE

| CROP | BEARING ACRES | | NON-BEARING ACRES | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 |
| Almonds | 18,500 | 18,008 | 5,140 | 5,011 |
| Olives | 753 | 656 | 0 | 17 |
| Peaches, Clingstone | 7,050 | 7,086 | 836 | 393 |
| Prunes, Dried | 12,600 | 13,324 | 854 | 476 |
| Walnuts, English | 37,000 | 37,533 | 4,370 | 5,450 |
| Miscellaneous ¹ | 758 | 1,520 | 55 | 111 |
| TOTAL | 76,661 | 78,127 | 11,255 | 11,458 |

¹ Includes Apples, Apricots, Berries (Blackberries, Boysenberries & Raspberries), Cherries, Chestnuts, Citrus (Grapefruit, Lemons, Limes, Mandarins, Oranges, Tangerines), Feijoa, Figs, Grapes, Jujubes (Chinese Date), Kiwifruit, Kumquat, Nectarines, Nectaplums, Peaches (Freetone), Peacotum, Pears, Pecans, Persimmons, Pistachio Nuts, Plums, Pluots, Pomegranates, Quince, Strawberries, Walnuts (Black) and other miscellaneous fruit and nut crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

APIARY PRODUCTS

| ITEM | YEAR | PRODUCTION | UNIT | VALUE PER UNIT | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|------|------------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| Pollination | 2023 | 24,500 | Colony | \$193 | \$4,729,000 |
| | 2022 | 70,447 | Colony | \$108 | \$7,608,000 |
| Miscellaneous ¹ | 2023 | | | | 911,000 |
| | 2022 | | | | 2,244,000 |
| TOTAL | 2023 | | | | \$5,640,000 |
| | 2022 | | | | \$9,852,000 |

¹ Includes Package Bees, Queen Bees, Honey and Wax.

2023

\$5,640,000

2022

\$9,852,000

VEGETABLE CROPS

2023
\$122,863,000

2022
\$97,343,000

| CROP | YEAR | ACRES HARVESTED | PRODUCTION PER ACRE | TOTAL | UNIT | VALUE PER UNIT | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------|----------------|----------------------|
| Tomatoes, Processing | 2023 | 16,300 | 50.86 | 829,000 | Ton | \$142 | \$117,718,000 |
| | 2022 | 17,855 | 46.91 | 837,578 | Ton | \$107 | \$89,621,000 |
| Miscellaneous ¹ | 2023 | 453 | | 5,280 | Ton | | 5,145,000 |
| | 2022 | 947 | | 12,067 | Ton | | 7,722,000 |
| TOTAL | 2023 | 16,753 | | | | | \$122,863,000 |
| | 2022 | 18,802 | | | | | \$97,343,000 |

¹ Includes Artichoke, Asparagus, Basil, Beets, Bitter Melons, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chard, Cilantro, Collards, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Gourds, Greens (incl. micro) Green Beans, Herbs, Honeydew, Jicama, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Melons (Mixed), Mustard, Okra, Onions, Parsnips, Peas, Peanuts, 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.

2023
\$329,428,000

2022
\$221,473,000

FIELD CROPS

| CROP | YEAR | ACRES HARVESTED | PRODUCTION PER ACRE | TOTAL | UNIT | VALUE PER UNIT | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------|----------------|----------------------|
| Bean, Dried, Edible ¹ | 2023 | 4,870 | 0.66 | 3,200 | Ton | \$1,730 | \$5,536,000 |
| | 2022 | 5,569 | 0.88 | 4,901 | Ton | \$1,579 | \$7,739,000 |
| Corn, Field Grain | 2023 | 4,540 | 5.73 | 26,000 | Ton | 326 | 8,476,000 |
| | 2022 | 4,527 | 6.20 | 28,067 | Ton | 376 | 10,553,000 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 2023 | 6,260 | 4.95 | 31,000 | Ton | 249 | 7,719,000 |
| | 2022 | 3,880 | 5.77 | 22,388 | Ton | 316 | 7,075,000 |
| Hay, Grain | 2023 | 4,440 | 3.60 | 16,000 | Ton | 252 | 4,032,000 |
| | 2022 | 2,442 | 2.58 | 6,301 | Ton | 193 | 1,216,000 |
| Rice ² | 2023 | 125,000 | 4.33 | 541,000 | Ton | 488 | 264,008,000 |
| | 2022 | 50,787 | 4.41 | 223,971 | Ton | 759 | 169,994,000 |
| Safflower | 2023 | 2,780 | 1.38 | 3,840 | Ton | 650 | 2,496,000 |
| | 2022 | 2,505 | 1.65 | 4,133 | Ton | 688 | 2,844,000 |
| Wheat, Grain | 2023 | 15,000 | 4.33 | 65,000 | Ton | 485 | 31,525,000 |
| | 2022 | 12,200 | 4.08 | 49,776 | Ton | 325 | 16,177,000 |
| Miscellaneous ³ | 2023 | 70,500 | | | | | 5,636,000 |
| | 2022 | 70,737 | | | | | 5,875,000 |
| TOTAL | 2023 | 233,390 | | | | | \$329,428,000 |
| | 2022 | 152,647 | | | | | \$221,473,000 |

¹ 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.

² Includes USDA Support Price.

³ Includes Barley, Corn (Silage), Cotton, Grass Hay, Industrial Hemp, Oats (Silage), Pasture (Irrigated), Pasture (Range Dry), Popcorn, Triticale, Vetch, Sorghum and other miscellaneous field crops of a limited number of growers/processors in Sutter County.

SEED CROPS

2023
\$44,424,000

2022
\$39,753,000

| CROP | YEAR | ACRES HARVESTED | PRODUCTION PER ACRE | TOTAL | UNIT | VALUE PER UNIT | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|------|----------------|---------------------|
| Cucumbers | 2023 | 285 | 292 | 83,200 | Lb | \$6.80 | \$566,000 |
| | 2022 | 274 | 75 | 21,000 | Lb | \$18.52 | \$389,000 |
| Pumpkins & Squash | 2023 | 265 | 263 | 69,700 | Lb | 18.67 | 1,301,000 |
| | 2022 | 274 | 239 | 65,000 | Lb | 13.15 | 855,000 |
| Rice | 2023 | 3,860 | 8,920 | 34,431,000 | Lb | 0.24 | 8,263,000 |
| | 2022 | 4,061 | 8,618 | 34,998,000 | Lb | 0.36 | 12,599,000 |
| Sunflower | 2023 | 10,100 | 1,286 | 12,989,000 | Lb | 2.09 | 27,147,000 |
| | 2022 | 11,163 | 1,059 | 11,822,000 | Lb | 1.71 | 20,216,000 |
| Watermelons | 2023 | 908 | 205 | 186,000 | Lb | 22.47 | 4,179,000 |
| | 2022 | 1,127 | 205 | 231,000 | Lb | 16.20 | 3,742,000 |
| Miscellaneous ¹ | 2023 | 1,020 | | 1,281,000 | Lb | | 2,968,000 |
| | 2022 | 1,715 | | 7,778,000 | Lb | | 1,952,000 |
| TOTAL | 2023 | 16,438 | | | | | \$44,424,000 |
| | 2022 | 18,614 | | | | | \$39,753,000 |

¹ 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, Safflower, Sugar Peas, Swiss Chard, Tomato, Tomatillo, Triticale, Wheat, Wild Rice and other miscellaneous seed crops of a limited growers/processors in Sutter County.

2023
\$27,455,000

2022
\$27,892,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS

| ITEM | YEAR | FIELD ACRES | QUANTITY SOLD | TOTAL |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Trees and Vines (Fruit and Nut, Bareroot and Potted) | 2023 | 324 | 3,465,000 | \$27,455,000 |
| | 2022 | 350 | 5,435,991 | \$27,892,000 |
| Miscellaneous ¹ | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 2023 | 324 | 3,465,000 | \$27,455,000 |
| | 2022 | 350 | 5,435,991² | \$27,892,000² |

¹ Includes Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, and other Nursery Stock.

² Quantity Sold and Total price revised for 2022.

LIVESTOCK

2023
\$6,270,000

2022
\$9,059,000

| ITEM | YEAR | NUMBER | LIVE WEIGHT | UNIT | UNIT VALUE | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|------|------------|------------------|
| Cattle & Calves ¹ | 2023 | 2,640 | 22,200 | Cwt. | \$174 | \$3,863,000 |
| | 2022 | 2,800 | 23,433 | Cwt. | \$147 | \$3,445,000 |
| Miscellaneous ² | 2023 | | | | | 2,402,000 |
| | 2022 | | | | | 5,609,000 |
| Livestock By-Products | 2023 | | | | | 5,000 |
| | 2022 | | | | | 5,000 |
| TOTAL | 2023 | | | | | 6,270,000 |
| | 2022 | | | | | 9,059,000 |

¹ Includes USDA Support Price.

² 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.

TEN LEADING CROPS

| CROP | 2023 | CROP | 2022 |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| RICE ¹ | \$272,271,000 | RICE ¹ | \$182,593,000 |
| TOMATOES, PROCESSING | \$117,718,000 | TOMATOES, PROCESSING | \$89,621,000 |
| PEACHES, CLINGSTONE | \$67,650,000 | PEACHES, CLINGSTONE | \$48,425,000 |
| PRUNES, DRIED | \$61,850,000 | PRUNES, DRIED | \$47,518,000 |
| WALNUTS | \$51,649,000 | WALNUTS | \$43,529,000 |
| ALMOND, MEATS | \$38,510,000 | NURSERY PRODUCTS ² | \$27,892,000 |
| WHEAT, GRAIN | \$31,525,000 | SUNFLOWER, SEED | \$20,216,000 |
| NURSERY PRODUCTS | \$27,455,000 | WHEAT, GRAIN | \$16,177,000 |
| SUNFLOWER, SEED | \$27,147,000 | ALMONDS | \$12,832,000 |
| CORN, FIELD GRAIN | \$8,476,000 | CORN, FIELD GRAIN | \$10,553,000 |

¹ Includes Seed, does not include Wild Rice.

² Total for 2022 revised.

SUMMARY

| CATEGORIES | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| FRUIT & NUT CROPS | \$235,740,000 | \$163,200,000 |
| FIELD CROPS | \$329,428,000 | \$221,473,000 |
| SEED CROPS | \$44,424,000 | \$39,753,000 |
| VEGETABLE CROPS | \$122,863,000 | \$97,343,000 |
| NURSERY PRODUCTS ¹ | \$27,455,000 | \$27,892,000 |
| LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS | \$6,270,000 | \$9,059,000 |
| APIARY PRODUCTS | \$5,640,000 | \$9,852,000 |
| TOTAL¹ | \$771,820,000 | \$568,572,000 |

¹ Total for 2022 revised.

GROSS PRODUCTION VALUE

| YEAR | VALUE | YEAR | VALUE | YEAR | VALUE | YEAR | VALUE | YEAR | VALUE |
|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1959 | \$50,707,000 | 1973 | \$159,204,000 | 1987 | \$216,183,600 | 2001 | \$264,673,000 | 2015 | \$538,147,000 |
| 1960 | \$50,536,000 | 1974 | \$179,719,000 | 1988 | \$201,345,800 | 2002 | \$291,061,100 | 2016 | \$514,408,000 |
| 1961 | \$55,585,000 | 1975 | \$187,517,000 | 1989 | \$243,940,200 | 2003 | \$307,322,300 | 2017 | \$583,996,000 |
| 1962 | \$57,322,000 | 1976 | \$178,554,000 | 1990 | \$217,400,000 | 2004 | \$299,219,300 | 2018 ¹ | \$609,058,000 |
| 1963 | \$55,155,000 | 1977 | \$200,878,000 | 1991 | \$268,941,900 | 2005 | \$305,190,190 | 2019 | \$698,680,000 |
| 1964 | \$66,740,000 | 1978 | \$220,502,000 | 1992 | \$285,622,700 | 2006 | \$358,845,200 | 2020 | \$568,857,000 |
| 1965 | \$64,564,000 | 1979 | \$258,666,900 | 1993 | \$292,108,300 | 2007 | \$377,940,800 | 2021 | \$621,366,000 |
| 1966 | \$71,627,000 | 1980 | \$299,014,700 | 1994 | \$340,171,300 | 2008 | \$498,195,200 | 2022 ² | \$568,572,000 |
| 1967 | \$69,313,000 | 1981 | \$316,465,900 | 1995 | \$330,170,500 | 2009 | \$475,691,100 | 2023 | \$771,820,000 |
| 1968 | \$80,275,000 | 1982 | \$247,784,100 | 1996 | \$302,706,400 | 2010 | \$521,640,570 | | |
| 1969 | \$74,006,000 | 1983 | \$205,335,300 | 1997 | \$277,169,700 | 2011 | \$518,198,460 | | |
| 1970 | \$77,238,000 | 1984 | \$262,285,500 | 1998 | \$268,323,100 | 2012 | \$528,253,000 | | |
| 1971 | \$82,209,000 | 1985 | \$255,449,600 | 1999 | \$347,939,000 | 2013 | \$597,530,000 | | |
| 1972 | \$95,118,000 | 1986 | \$229,364,800 | 2000 | \$340,176,000 | 2014 | \$726,066,000 | | |

¹ 2018 Total Value revised.

² 2022 Total Value revised.



100 Years of PEACH HISTORY

Written by Madison Escherman and Kevin Putman

It's no secret that the peach industry is a prominent staple within Sutter County and is rich in history. The thought of the commodity's historical presence over the last 100 years poses a multitude of questions, such as how our county has helped catapult the industry forward, how much it has grown, and what varieties originated locally. As the industry continues to grow and is coming up on what could be the most successful season since 2015, it is important to recognize the magnitude of the peach industry.

According to the "Tree and Vine Planting" in Sutter County for 1923, there were a total of 3,788 acres of peach trees including a total of 378,764 trees. To put this into perspective, a total of 7,887 acres of peaches were grown in Sutter County in 2023. This is almost double the acreage grown 100 years ago.

The California Canning Peach Association was established in 1922 right here in Sutter County.

In 1916, 60 percent of Sutter County peach growers were under five-year contracts with canners to secure a steady and reliable income. Growers would receive a \$25 per ton fixed price during their contract. After the inflation of World War I, only two years into their contracts, growers were struggling to continue operating on the \$25 per ton income. A group of growers organized the Sutter Growers Association and hired the very first Sutter County Horticultural Commissioner, Harry Stabler to travel across the state in an effort to find other peach growers who were struggling with the same financial issues. After growers throughout California united to make a change, they were able to raise the price per ton to \$85 by 1920. In the mid-1920s, the Sutter County Farm Bureau assigned Dr. Edward S. Moulton, a local peach grower, to be the chairman of the newly founded Peach Growers Department. Moulton later represented over 200 peach growers in Sutter

County. In 1921, this group of growers formed what they named Sutter Peach Growers Inc., with Moulton serving as president. This became the foundation of the California Canning Peach Association. After concluding that one county could do nothing to affect the industry, Moulton and the members decided it was time to grow Sutter Peach Growers Inc. They launched a campaign in August of 1921 and by December of that same year, what was once a small county organization became statewide and was named California Canning Peach Growers. The name was later changed to the California Canning Peach Association in 1922 and the rest is history! Today, over 100 years later, the association is known for its willingness to work together with growers toward a common goal and Dr. Edward S. Moulton will always be remembered as the father of California Canning Peach Growers.

Eat California Canned Cling Peaches

June 1, 1923.

Cling Peach Industry In Sutter County, California.

Figures Compiled by Office of County Horticultural Commissioner.

Bearing average, 5974; non-bearing average, 8471; total average clings, 14,445.

CLING PEACH ACREAGE BY VARIETIES.

| Varieties | Bearing | | Total Acres |
|---|---------|-------------|-------------|
| | Bearing | Non-bearing | |
| Tuscans | 3469 | 1306 | 4775 |
| Milamamers, New | 1140 | 3208 | 4348 |
| Milamamers, Old | 428 | 304 | 642 |
| Phillips | 1884 | 3650 | 5534 |
| Lery | 43 | 12 | 55 |
| Seedlings to be budded to clings this year... | — | 91 | 91 |
| Total | 5974 | 8471 | 14,445 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Tonnage of Cling Peaches in Sutter County 1922 | 70,000 tons |
| Average tonnage per acre 1922 | 13 tons |
| Number of Cling Peach orchards in Sutter County | 812 |
| Largest Cling Peach orchard in County | 534 acres |
| Number of peach canning factories in County | 1 |
| Number of outside canning factories drawing supplies of cling peaches from Sutter County | 21 |
| Number of cling peach nurseries in Sutter County | 16 |

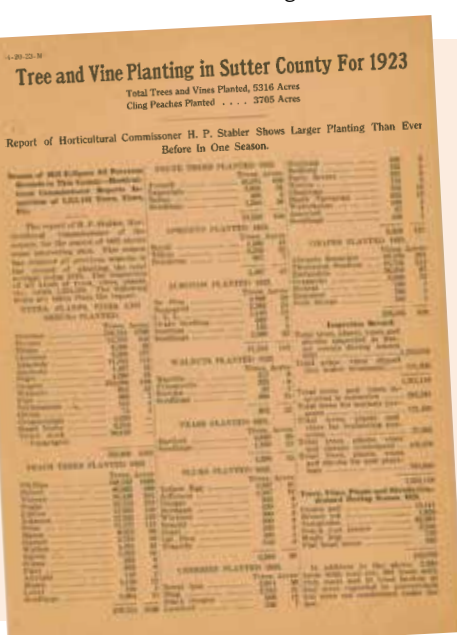
Tonnage and prices of cling peaches in Sutter County for past eight years:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1915 | 3788 tons | \$ 7.50 per ton |
| 1916 | 10,257 tons | 30.00 per ton |
| 1917 | 10,861 tons | 45.00 per ton |
| 1918 | 19,216 tons | 60.00 per ton |
| 1919 (partly estimated) | 40,000 tons | 75.00 per ton |
| 1920 (partly estimated) | 38,000 tons | 100.00 per ton |
| 1921 (fruit in April) | 12,000 tons | 35.00 per ton |
| 1922 | 70,000 tons | 60.00 per ton |

The Tuscans was imported by Mr. Phillips from Georgia and was first grown in California in Sutter County. The Phillips originated in Ordley, Butte County.

A card index of cling peach orchards, with name and address of owner, acreage, varieties and age of trees is on file in this office.

H. P. STABLER,
Yuba City,
Horticultural Commissioner Sutter County.



The Loadel Cling Peach

The Loadel, a popular early variety of clingstone peach, is named after Loadel Harter Piner, who recently passed at the age of 95. The agricultural importance of the Harter family in Sutter County cannot be overstated. George Harter first came west and settled here in 1864, and thus began this multi-generational farming enterprise, culminating with the formation of the Harter Packing Company, in 1918. This was Sutter County's only packing cannery for much of the early 1900s. Through the decades, this company would grow to have over 100 employees and process upwards of 30,000 tons by the 1970s, when Sutter County was known as the "Peach Bowl" of the world. George's grandson Howard was among those instrumental in the formation and operation of this company, and it was he who began experimenting and developing early variety peaches in the late 1940s. He found the new peach variety growing as a sprout in one of the family's experimental tree plots. After several years of experimenting with this variety, Harter decided to develop it and later named it after his daughter, Loadel. This peach has a very rich flavor like a freestone peach with small pit that cut out easily, which makes it ideal for canning. Although other early varieties have since been developed, the Loadel is still comprises around 10-15% of the early variety acreage. The peach ripens in mid-to late-July and is thus one of the first peaches of the season to be canned. Loadel and her husband Norm Piner were very active in support of the Sutter County Museum, which Loadel's parents conceived and endowed. Today the Museum—and the Loadel Peach—live on as her lasting legacy.

Peach Grower Seeks Patent On Freak From Famed Fruit

By Valley News Service

YUBA CITY—And comes now the latest wrinkle in the peach world. An entirely new type, the freak offspring of an eating peach that, like Topsy "just growed" a lot of years ago. First—the eating peach—resulted in the Rio

Oso Gem and the second brought a new peach which is yet to be named by its finders, the Perry M. Reedy household, Yuba City.

Initial discovery began with Mrs. Reedy's father, W. F. Yerkes, Live Oak highway. The Yerkes were cultivating a small patch of garden just outside their back porch door which Mrs. Yerkes tended during its growing period.

ONE DAY they noticed a tiny peach tree forcing its way up among the flowers. It was protected and allowed to mature. At maturity the tree bore a large, sweet freestone, different from other peaches of the nearby orchards.

The peach received so much attention from neighbors that Yerkes sent a box of the fruit to the Bergholdt nursery in Auburn. The first box was evidently greener because for some reason, the nursery paid no attention to it. A week later Yerkes sent off a second box and Bergholdt saw the possibilities and came right down to make royalty arrangements with the Sutter County farmer for the buds.

Yerkes named his peach the "Rio Oso Gem" and its fame grew all over the United States as an especially delicious eating peach.

YERKES DIED in May, 1948, and just before he died he be-moaned the fact to his son-in-law, Perry Reedy, that there were no Rio Oso Gems in the family. He offered to buy 125 trees for Reedy's Live Oak highway ranch if he would devote about an acre to the Gems. When the trees, purchased by his father-in-law first bloomed, Reedy noticed one had tiny, pale pink blossoms like a cling instead of the large deep rose color of the Rio Oso Gem. Reedy watched this tree and when it bore fruit he discovered he wasn't growing his father-in-law's invention. It was even better.

The fruit was bigger and much ruddier in color. The peaches had no trouble meeting the 1949 two and half inch requirement. Many of them were 12 inches in circumference and weighed over one pound.

THEODORE URBANUS, Sutter County agricultural commissioner, and Herman Graser, Sutter County assistant farm adviser, were both consulted. They could not identify the peach. Specialist at the University of California at Davis said it was "a stranger to me" and advised Reedy to apply for a patent.

To further test the peach, Reedy took it to the A. D. Atterbury Co. They froze a sample and praised the way it held up. The peach failed to turn brown even after thawing 15 hours.

Reedy has budded about an acre of his orchard to the new peach. He expects his patent in 19 months. If his "accidental" peach proves as popular on breakfast tables as his father-in-law's "Rio Oso Gem," he'll be able to say "lightning can strike twice."

FEDERAL PATENT GIVEN ON PEACH

The Phillips and other peaches "invented" in Sutter county were never protected for the benefit of those who developed them, but the new Rio Oso Gem, which has been developed in the past few years, is patented.

Under a recent federal enactment patents are obtainable for new plants and fruits. W. F. Yerkes of Rio Oso district has "Plant Patent No. 84" on the Rio Oso Gem, guaranteeing to him for 17 years the right to the propagation and sale of the trees.

The peach was a seedling that came up in the rear yard of his home. It bore its first fruit in 1926, and the peaches were of such a distinctive appearance and flavor that he protected the tree and took scions from it, developing an acre of the fruit. The small quantities that have become available have been readily disposed of, and Yerkes has turned over to J. E. Bergholdt, Newcastle, the handling of the nursery rights. Many thousands of the trees were sold last year, and rights have been disposed of in several states so far, where nurseries will propagate the trees.

The Rio Oso Gem is a freestone but has good canning qualities as well, the meat taking on some of the firm characteristics of the clingstone varieties, probably due to cross-pollination of the peach blossom that resulted in the seed dropped in the Yerkes back yard.

RIO OSO GEM, NEW VARIETY OF FREESTONE, ATTRACTS NOTICE

"Chance Seedling" Discovered and Developed by Sutter County Farmer; Ripens During Lull in Peach Season

GRIDLEY — Rio Oso Gem peaches, a valuable new freestone variety of superior quality, are attracting much interest on exhibit at the office of C. W. Chase, local nursery dealer.

The peaches are a part of the first picking from the "Gem" orchard of William F. Yerkes of Rio Oso, Sutter County, who propagated the variety from a chance seedling of unknown origin found in his strawberry patch in 1922 and which four years later produced surprising fruit.

A principal asset of Rio Oso Gem is that it matures two weeks later than J. H. Hales, to which it is

similar in size, and at a time when there is no freestone peach of like quality available. It is believed the peach will become a staple variety and will prove profitable for local and various California, northwestern and eastern markets.

The Rio Oso Gem is a perfect freestone of extreme large size. The flesh is of deep yellow, fine grained and of firm texture and the flavor is rich, juicy and sweet. The surface color is excellent, being of a brilliant dark crimson, shading out to a bright red, mottled with orange yellow. In form the peach is globular, slightly elongated.

The Rio Oso Gem

Although there are many peach varieties, one that holds historic importance to our community goes by the name of the Rio Oso Gem. Although not grown commercially due to its sensitivity, the freestone peach is known for its impressive size and rich flavor. What makes the variety so unique is the story of how it came to be, a pleasant surprise one might say. In the 1920s, William Yerkes of Rio Oso found a peach tree shoot emerging from the soil in his backyard garden. Yerkes and his family continued to care for the tree and later found that it produced a high-quality freestone fruit. The tree was then propagated from this unknown chance seedling and Yerkes was able to produce an acre of trees from young shoots and buds. From there, J. E. Bertholdt of Newcastle California obtained nursery rights and thousands of trees were sold and propagated to nurseries in multiple states. Although the variety never took off in the production industry, it is a great tree for a backyard garden if you're wanting a delicious, high-quality peach. Today, the variety has spread as far as nurseries in Michigan and brings a small taste of Sutter County to locations around the world.

STATISTICS

CROP STATISTICS

As required by the California Food & 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 2023: 157

SEED LAW ENFORCEMENT AND 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 2023: 460

APIARY INSPECTION

This program 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 2023: 23

PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM

This program is funded by a grant from Feather River Air Quality Management District with the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office making an in-kind contribution of approximately 185 hours annually. Growers are encouraged to bring their empty pesticide containers to permanent recycling events held throughout the year. In 2023 we recycled 82,250 pounds of used pesticide containers. A total of 1,442,457 pounds have been recycled since the program began in 2007.

Total Hours Expended 2023: 185

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 2023: 12,036

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 two certified markets and 20 certified producers as well as Organic Program law enforcement are part of a program that provides for local protection to growers, marketers and consumers.

Total Hours Expended 2023: 560

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 2023: 2,885

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 147 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 125 traps placed in nurseries and urban areas for the detection of GWSS, which were serviced a cumulative total of 1,250 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 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 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.

In 2023, the County Agricultural Commissioner continued effort under a State weed grant to survey for and treat noxious weeds and weeds of concern.

Total Hours Expended 2023: 1,080

ORGANIC FARMING

43 farms, totaling approximately 15,732 acres of crop land were registered as organic in Sutter County in 2023. 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 values of organic production in Sutter County in 2023 was \$27,790,332. In comparison, 2022 had 17,043 production acres with an estimated value of \$30,624,665.

Total Hours Expended 2023: 247

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 2023, 77 hours were spent performing inspections at 47 locations, consisting of 322 acres.

Total Hours Expended 2023: 324

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 529 traps placed for detection of exotic insect pests including Mediterranean, Oriental and melon fruit flies, spongy moth, Japanese beetle, European pine shoot moth, khapra beetle, vine mealybug, European grapevine moth, light brown apple moth, Asian citrus psyllid, European Corn Borer and False Codling moth. Additionally, surveys were conducted for European Stone Fruit Yellows and Plum Pox virus. Over the course of the season, a cumulative total of 5,548 servicings were performed and 50 disease sites surveyed.

Total Hours Expended 2023: 1,984

PEST EXCLUSION

This program provides the first line of defense for California agriculture and the environment against the invasions of exotic pests. Inspections provide protection from the introduction of plant, animal, insect and disease pests that may be introduced into the state through the movement of legal and 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 349 premise visits were conducted in 2023. A total of 2,573 shipments of plant material were inspected during these visits. Inspections occurred at the express carriers, nurseries, and other farms. There were 2 rejections of plant material issued. Rejected plant material may be returned to the shipper, reconditioned, and released or destroyed. To assist our industry, we issued 1,590 federal phytosanitary certificates for international shipments and 29 state phytosanitary certificates for shipments to other states.

Total Hours Expended 2023: 5,720



Harry Hooper

Pomegranate King of Sutter County

Written by Kevin Putman and Charles Smith



Many Sutter County roads bear the names of former prominent county residents: Stabler, Blevins, Walton, Best, Onstott, Gray—these were all families who had significant farmland in the vicinity of their present namesake roads. While most of these families were at least locally well known, none were nationally famous. However, Hooper Road, in Tierra Buena, has an amazing backstory. This is the story of Sutter County's most famous fruit farmer—at least the most famous one many here have never heard of.

Harry Bartholomew Hooper does not have a peach or a seedless grape named after him, and he was not, like the County's namesake, the first large scale farmer in Northern California. In fact, as a landowner in Tierra Buena in the second and third decades of the 20th century, he had a foreman run things while he spent a lot of his time hunting and fishing in the fields and rivers, pursuing his off-season passions. His "on-season" passion? He was the captain, right fielder, and leadoff hitter for the 1912, 1915, 1916, and 1918 World Series champion Boston Red Sox. Considered by many, including teammate Babe Ruth, to be the best outfielder of the "dead ball" era, Harry Hooper, a onetime Sutter County landowner, farmer, and resident, is in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. He is credited with, among other things, pioneering and perfecting the sliding catch, and convincing the Red Sox to play Babe Ruth in the outfield on days the slugger was not pitching.

Harry was born the youngest of four children in 1877, in Bell Station, California, on the Pacheco Pass. When Harry was six years old, the Hooper family moved to the San Joaquin Valley where father Joe established farming and cattle ranching operation. This was the start of what would become a dizzying array of farming interests maintained by the Hoopers: from that first farm in Volta, California, to

subsequent operations in the Santa Clara Valley, and eventually land acquisitions in Yuba and Sutter counties. While Harry was on his way to his baseball career, his father and older brothers continued in expanding these agricultural interests.

Harry Hooper played major league baseball from 1909 through 1925, spending the bulk of his career with the Boston Red Sox, and the remainder with the Chicago White Sox. He retired holding many batting and fielding records for an outfielder, and still holds the record for most outfield assists (333) and double plays completed by a right fielder (86). In 1912, he was the first Red Sox batter to ever step up to the plate in Fenway Park, now the major league's oldest ballpark.

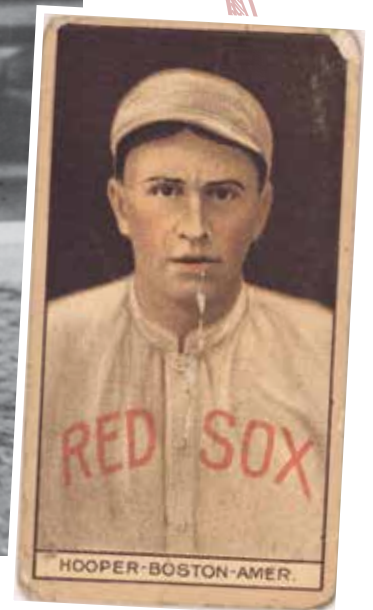
He was one of the few college graduates playing baseball at the time. Having graduated from St. Mary's College with an engineering degree, his initial interest was in the field of engineering—he signed to play baseball with the Sacramento team of the old Pacific Coast League right out of college on the condition he could find a job with one of the railroad lines crossing at the state capitol. Sacramento team owner Billie Curtin arranged for Harry to get a job as a surveyor with Western Pacific Railroad for \$75 a month, and paid Harry another \$85 a month to play baseball. One of Harry's first jobs was to survey a new line north from Sacramento to Pleasant Grove in Sutter County.

Harry spent one year with Sacramento before being recruited to play for the Boston Red Sox in 1909.

In that same year, The *Daily Appeal* headline declared, "**HOOPER MAKES GOOD USE OF MONEY.**" The article stated that Harry had purchased 80 acres in Tierra Buena, of which 25 acres were to be planted in Thompson seedless grapes, the balance in alfalfa, finally adding that



The Golden Outfield: Hooper, Speaker, Lewis



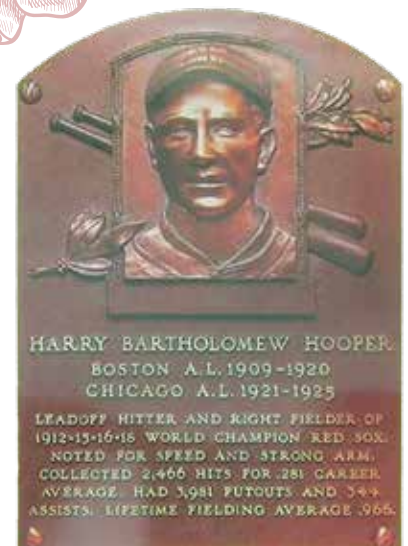
Baseball Card

“Mr. Hooper is one baseball player that will have a fine income-bearing property when he retires from the game.” This ranch would later expand to 120 acres, bisected by what would become Hooper Road. Tierra Buena School was later established on one of these parcels.

Soon thereafter, his Boston Red Sox became a baseball dynasty, winning four championships in a six year span. Hooper was part of the legendary “Golden Outfield,” considered one of the greatest outfields of all time, consisting of Hooper, Tris Speaker (also enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame), and Duffy Lewis. Hooper’s Red Sox had already won the first of those championship by the time the Red Sox signed a young pitcher by the name of George Herman Ruth in 1914. Hooper and Ruth then went on to win three more championships together in Boston. Hooper could see that Ruth

had exceptional talent as a hitter and lobbied the Boston manager Ed Barrow to find a way to play him every day. Barrow relented, and Ruth was soon in the lineup every day—at first base initially, and then in left field under Hooper’s tutelage. Barrow soon saw how right Hooper had been: a month into the season Ruth was hitting almost .500! His legendary career as a hitter and home run king had begun.

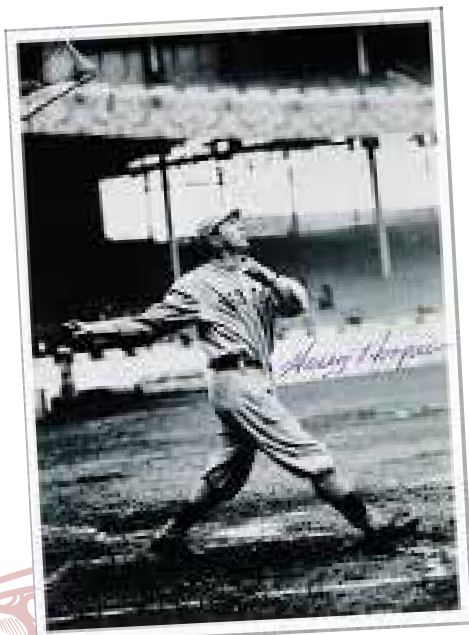
Both Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth said that the Golden Outfield of Hooper, Speaker, and Lewis was the best they had ever seen. They were all very fast and had strong throwing arms. While Hooper set assist records in right field, center fielder Speaker remains the all-time record holder for assists by any outfielder in baseball history (449). Combined, they threw out 782 baserunners!



Hall of Fame plaque



THE BOSTON RED SOX-AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS - SEASON 1915



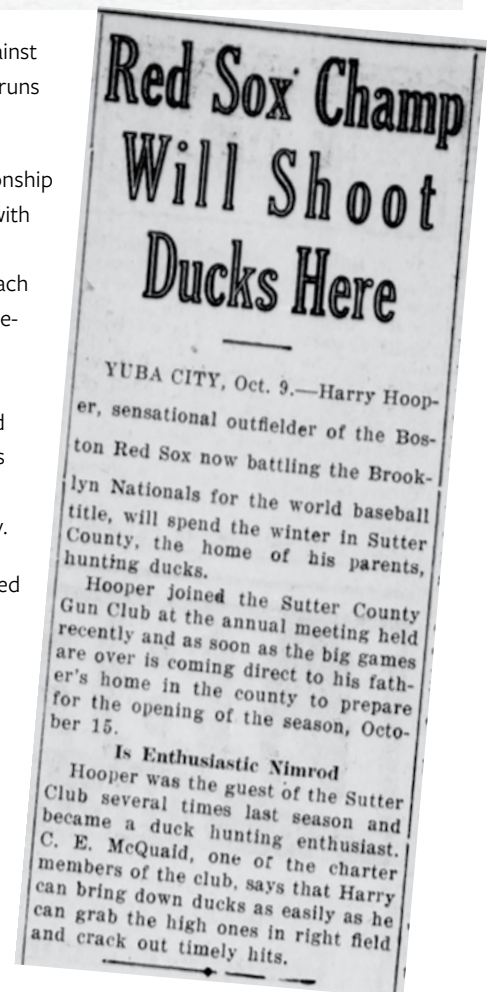
In the 1915 World Series victory against Pittsburgh, Hooper hit three home runs and was brilliant in the field.

Each of the players on the championship team received a bonus of \$3,780, with which Hooper, on the advice of his father, began investing more in peach and raisin property in the Marysville-Yuba City area. Harry, his father, and his two older twin brothers also obtained land in the Hallwood area of Yuba County—and there is yet another Hooper Road slicing through that neighborhood today.

In the next season of 1916, the Red Sox were vying for their 3rd title, and second in succession. The **Marysville Appeal** announced

Red Sox Champ will Shoot Ducks Here

Yuba City, Oct 9. --Harry Hooper, sensational outfielder of the Boston Red Sox now battling the Brooklyn Nationals for the world baseball title, will spend the winter in Sutter County, the home of his parents, hunting ducks.



Hooper's off-season activities also included giving talks at local schools: "He used to come to the schools and talk to the kids," recalled long-time resident Woody Cornell of Yuba City, in 1974.

By 1916, the local farming operations had been shifted towards pomegranates. The *Marysville Appeal* proclaimed,

until 1925, when he requested his release to pursue a managing position. But he had one more professional game to play: In 1929, during one of his visits in Marysville, Harry was asked if he would fill in on the Marysville Giants, playing for a team member who was ill. The Giants offered him a one-game contract. At 42, he had a single and a double, and played error-free defense in right field.

business interests. By that time, the farming operation was also suffering from the effects of the Great Depression. An *Appeal Democrat* blurb from 1932 reported,

theft from the Harry Hooper ranch of several cases of empty pint bottles stored in a shed. The bottles were of the type used by the Hooper ranch in bottling of pomegranate juice.

Harry Hooper is Pomegranate King of Sutter County

YUBA CITY. Nov 6 — Harry Hooper, one of the heroes of the champion Boston Red Sox in the last World Series, has won more honors for himself. He is now known as the pomegranate king of Sutter County. Hooper recently shipped 370 boxes of his pomegranates to Boston (from his 3 year-old orchards in Tierra Buena).

Hooper's Red Sox went on to win one more title in 1918. They then infamously traded away Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1919. The Red Sox Dynasty was over. In 1921 Hooper was traded to the Chicago White Sox. He played with Chicago

In 1930, he became the manager of Princeton's baseball team, and remained in that position for 2 years, until budget cutting measures of the Great Depression sliced his salary by 40 percent, upon which he resigned to attend to his other

The pomegranate operation was still going, but it's likely that bootleggers decided they could use Hooper's bottles for their own purposes.

Over the years, Hooper had tried many business ventures—insurance agent, juice processing, oil drilling—but his focus on baseball, hunting, and fishing were no help in those pursuits. During the Great Depression, he lost his farming property to bank foreclosures in the Yuba City and Marysville area, and consolidated his remaining interests in the Santa Clara Valley. He took a job as postmaster of Capitola, which he held for several decades. Although his Sutter County farm is now gone, his name remains here as a distant reminder. He was named to National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971. He died in 1974.



Hooper, Speaker, Lewis, 1939 Old Timer's Game



SUTTER COUNTY EXPORTS

Sutter County exported Agricultural Commodities to 79 countries in 2023, the top five being The Republic of Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Australia, and Japan.

2023 FEDERAL PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES

Total of 1,590 issued to 79 countries

NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED

- The Republic of Türkiye - 180
- United Arab Emirates - 118
- Algeria - 114
- Australia - 90
- Japan - 89

TOP FIVE EXPORT COUNTRIES



WEIGHTS & MEASURES



MEASURING DEVICE INSPECTIONS

| DEVICE TYPE | INSPECTIONS COMPLETED |
|--|-----------------------|
| Fabric, Cord, Wire Meters | 11 |
| Liquid Propane Gas Meters | 33 |
| Retail Motor Fuel Meters | 1002 |
| Retail Meters | 19 |
| Retail Water Meters | 23 |
| Taximeters | 1 |
| Gas Vapor Submeters | 34 |
| Water Submeters | 10 |
| TOTAL MEASURING DEVICES INSPECTED | 1,133 |
| Compliance Rate: | 90.00% |

WEIGHING DEVICE INSPECTIONS

| DEVICE TYPE | INSPECTIONS COMPLETED |
|--|-----------------------|
| Computing Scales | 298 |
| Counter Scales | 53 |
| Dormant/Platform Scales | 160 |
| Hanging Scales | 11 |
| Hopper Scales | 4 |
| Livestock Scales | 5 |
| Misc. Weighing Device | 1 |
| Monorail & Meatbeam | 1 |
| Prescription/Jewelry | 5 |
| Vehicle Scale | 78 |
| TOTAL MEASURING DEVICES INSPECTED | 616 |
| Compliance Rate: | 92.10% |

PETROLEUM SIGNS & LABELING INSPECTION

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Inspections Completed | 72 |
| Consumer Complaints | 1 |
| Notices of Violations Issued | 306 |

QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTIONS

| PRICE VERIFICATION INSPECTIONS | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Locations Tested | 8 |
| Number of Inspections | 212 |
| OVERALL COMPLIANCE | 94% |

| TEST PURCHASE/SALE INSPECTIONS | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Locations Visited | 13 |
| Purchases/Sales Made | 9 |
| OVERALL COMPLIANCE | 66% |



County of Sutter

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

142 Garden Hwy, Yuba City, 95991

(530) 822-7500

suttercounty.org

