

Marin County ♦ 195 YEARS OF FAMILY FARMING



For 5,000 years, Coast Miwok fish, hunt, and gather wild foods before the arrival of Europeans.



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1830 – 1845: Ranchos are granted to Mexican settlers who raise cattle for hides and tallow.

1850: Dairy, beef, and crop farming was undertaken by easterners who came out west with the Gold Rush, and as they moved on, they were replaced by Irish, Swiss, and other immigrants.



1856: Joseph B. Sweetser and Frank DeLong plant 44,000 fruit trees and 8,000 grape vines in Novato.



1860: Marin is fourth in the state in potato production (133,500 bushels), mostly from northern Marin.



1862: Marin is the largest dairy county in California, providing a quarter of the state's butter.



1870: North Pacific Coast Railroad connects coastal towns to San Francisco, transporting a variety of agricultural products.



1875: First commercial oyster business operates at Millerton Point on Tomales Bay.



1884: Invention of milk bottle makes handling and distribution of milk easier.

1881: First Marin County Agricultural Commissioner is appointed.



1920: M.B. Boissevain is the first University of California farm advisor in Marin.

1921: The Marin County Farm Bureau is established.



1938: 800 acres of peas are farmed on the Point Reyes peninsula.



1950: 200 dairies operate in Marin County. Today there are 25 cow, 2 goat, 2 sheep, and one water buffalo dairy in Marin.

1983: The first certified Farmers' Market at the Civic Center opens.



Today, Marin has 13 certified farmers' markets. The Sunday Civic Center market is one of the largest in California. The New York Times referred to it as one of the top ten markets in the country.

1980: Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) is formed to preserve farmland.



1995: Many Marin dairies sell their milk to Clover Stornetta and supply 20% of the Bay Area's milk.



2000: Robert Giacomini and family of Point Reyes Station make California's first farmstead blue cheese.

2001: Marin Certified Organic Agriculture becomes accredited by the USDA. Today more than 20% of Marin agriculture acreage is certified organic.



2011: Sonoma Marin Cheese Trail, home to the largest concentration of artisan cheesemakers in California.



2013: More than 45,000 acres of Marin County farmland are preserved by MALT.

2013: "GROWN LOCAL, Marin County" is launched as a unifying campaign for all Marin County producers.



2012: Marin County Fair hosts Always Fresh, Fun & Local, a celebration of Marin's agricultural heritage and living legacy on today's farms and ranches.



2004: First grass-fed livestock certification in California created by Marin Agricultural Commissioner's office.

2009: Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden is launched by Conservation Corps North Bay, College of Marin, and UCCE Marin.



2014 - 2015 the Agricultural Institute of Marin breaks ground on the "Pavilion," a permanent home for the Marin Civic Center Farmers Market.