

# **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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## **Mission**

The department's mission is to protect, enhance and promote the preservation of agriculture and the environment while sustaining the public health, safety and welfare of all citizens, and to provide consumer and marketplace protections through the fair and equitable enforcement of laws and regulations.

The Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures is responsible for enforcing laws and regulations from the California Food and Agricultural Code, the Business and Professions Code, the Health & Safety Code, the Government Code, the Civil Code, the California Code of Regulation and the El Dorado County Codes pertaining to agriculture, weights and measures.

## **Program Summaries**

### **Agriculture**

**Positions: 6.5 FTE**

**Total Appropriations \$688,034**

**Net County Cost \$116,458**

The department is responsible for numerous mandated programs that promote, protect and enhance all aspects of agricultural activities:

#### **Pest Exclusion – Plant Protection & Quarantine Inspection**

This program inspects incoming commodities that may be carrying pests we do not want in the County or in California. Our goal is to prevent non-indigenous, harmful pests from becoming established so that we are more efficient in using our limited resources. The program also promotes a healthy agricultural economy, as California's crops are kept free of exotic pests that may require us to impose restrictive quarantine measures. This program facilitates the exportation of our unprocessed agricultural products to other States and Countries. One staff member is trained and certified as USDA-APHIS Inspectors for issuing Federal Phytosanitary Certificates on commodities for export. This program is our first line of defense against importation and exportation of economically important pests.

#### **Pest Detection**

The Pest Detection Program serves as the second line of defense for the pest prevention and quarantine programs. The basic premise for this program is the early detection of exotic pest infestations, such as the Mediterranean fruit fly, Gypsy moth, etc., which would be detrimental to our agricultural community, natural resources and environment before they reach uncontrollable populations. This program also helps to prevent the need for increased pesticide usage while providing the agriculture industries the flexibility to ship products throughout the world. Traps are also placed in vineyards to detect infestations of Vine Mealybug and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter before they reach uncontrollable population levels.

#### **Pest Management – Vegetation Management**

There are nine different noxious weed species under eradication throughout the County. The majority of the weed species in El Dorado County are listed as 'A' rated weeds by the State, and are of limited distribution throughout California. By continuing with an early detection and rapid response strategy, the department is stopping the introduction and spread of these plants which helps to protect agriculture, including range and timberlands and the environment. Integrated Pest Management techniques are used whenever possible in this program.

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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### Vertebrate Pest Management

The goal of this program is to target specific rodent pests without impacting other beneficial or non-target populations of mammals and birds. The department sells three different types of baits to help control rodent pests such as rats, voles, rabbits, muskrats, two species of ground squirrels, two species of mice. These rodents can cause tremendous agricultural and structural damage while also acting as vectors for various life threatening diseases that are transmittable to humans. Some of the transmittable diseases include Bubonic Plague, rabies and Hanta Virus.

### Glassy-winged Sharpshooter

The Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) Pest Management Program was initiated in 1999 to prevent the introduction of this insect to El Dorado County. GWSS is known to spread Pierce's Disease, which can devastate vineyard plantings. The pest-monitoring program includes inspections of all nursery stock shipped into the County from known infested areas. In addition, over 400 insect traps were deployed and monitored in nurseries, vineyards and in urban and rural locations throughout the County.

### Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) helps growers, pest control advisors and home/garden owners use various mechanical, biological and chemical practices in handling pest infestations. IPM emphasizes preventive methods that provide economical, long-term solutions to pest problems while minimizing hazards to human health and the environment. IPM techniques also can reduce the use of pesticides.

### Nursery Inspection

Inspections are performed on nursery stock entering El Dorado/Alpine County and nursery stock produced within the County. These inspections help protect the environment and foster fair competition by assuring the customer that plants are free from certain plant pests. This allows growers to ship their products throughout the State, Nation and World.

### Seed Inspection

The inspection of various seeds is designed to protect growers from purchasing and planting below standard seed. Seed must be labeled with an accurate percentage of germination, test date, kind of seed, and the percentage of hard seed and weed seed.

### Apiary Inspection

Apiary inspections are made for the purpose of sustaining the continued health of the bee industry in California which directly translates into the successful production of numerous crops.

### Fresh Fruit, Nut, Vegetable and Honey Quality Control

This program is responsible for enforcing quality standards for many of the fresh fruit, nuts, vegetables and honey available for sale at the wholesale and retail level. These standards are set by the industry and serve four purposes:

1. To assist the production agricultural industry in maintaining high quality produce, and
2. To permit the buying of produce "sight unseen" by ensuring that a "grade" placed on the produce is standardized throughout the industry, and
3. To protect the consumer from inferior quality produce, and
4. To promote fair competition.

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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### Egg Quality Control

This program is designed similarly to the fruit and vegetable quality control program above. It assures a standardized grading, sizing and cleanliness system so that the egg producing industry remains competitive while affording protection to the consumer. Additionally, some of the egg quality standards protect the health of the public.

### Certified Farmers' Market (Direct Marketing)

These locally important markets give the producers of farm products the option of selling directly to the consumer without the requirements of meeting size, pack, container, and labeling requirements (Standardization). These markets give the public a "direct" link to the production of the crop by buying the produce from the grower. We have four markets operating in the County with numerous growers from both in and out of the County participating in them.

### Organic Producers

The department is the local enforcement agency concerning the registration, investigation of complaints and auditing of organic producers and handlers. We assist the producers and businesses with the registration process by explaining the requirements of the California organic law and Federal Organic Act.

### Crop Report

The annual crop report is required by the California Food and Agricultural Code for the purpose of publishing an accurate and meaningful report concerning the agricultural conditions in El Dorado/Alpine County. Lending/financial institutions and realty agencies, as well as prospective agricultural land purchasers, are extremely interested in the annual crop report.

### Pesticide Use Enforcement

**Positions: 2.25 FTE**

**Total Appropriations \$319,541**

**Net County Cost \$126,294**

The pesticide laws and regulations of California require safe, responsible handling of pesticides from the time of purchase through transportation, storage, usage and disposal. The safety of the environment and public are of paramount importance to this program. The enforcement of the regulations by this department applies to all agricultural, non-agricultural and structural usage. The more toxic pesticides are regulated under the restricted materials permit program. The General Plan recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors also requires the protection of the public and environment through this program by monitoring and permitting the agricultural land uses.

### Weights & Measures

**Positions: 1.5 FTE**

**Total Appropriations \$193,933**

**Net County Cost \$95,764**

Even though many people may be unaware of this program, it affects everyone's daily life through the inspections of all commercially used devices such as gas pumps, scales and scanners and also the testing of packages to ensure the product inside the package actually weighs or measures as much as is stated on the label. The department also enforces requirements for petroleum products including antifreeze, brake fluid, motor oil, and grades of diesel and octane levels of gasoline.

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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We promote fairness and equity in the marketplace for El Dorado/Alpine County residents and businesses. The mission of weights and measures is to allow a good value comparison to the consumer while maintaining fair competition between businesses.

### **Wildlife Services**

**Positions: 1.0 FTE/USDA 100% Match**

**Total Appropriations \$137,340**

**Net County Cost \$99,665**

The Wildlife Services program is a cooperative venture between El Dorado/Alpine County and the United States Department of Agriculture – The USDA provides 1.0 FTE to match the County's 1.0 FTE dedicated to this program. There are two types of protection offered under this program:

- *Urban animal damage.* These situations involve homeowners who have skunks, raccoons, or other wildlife that have taken up residence in the vicinity of their home, and are causing property damage or they are a threat to their pets or to human health and safety.
- *Farmers and ranchers with livestock, crop and/or property loss.* Typically, these situations involve both domestic and wild animal damage on agricultural land.

The main focus of the program is to remove only the animals that are causing the problem.

### **Agricultural Commission**

**Positions: .5 FTE**

**Total Appropriations \$100,680**

**Net County Cost \$81,832**

Created in 1967 by the Board of Supervisors, the Agricultural Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Board and the Planning Commission on all matters related to agriculture. The Agricultural Commission's scope of interest includes a wide variety of agricultural, timber and land use issues including agricultural land preservation, agricultural production, forestland preservation and forest production. The Commission also advises the Board of procedures and techniques requiring legislative or policy actions that would encourage and promote agricultural activities that are conducive to the continued well being of El Dorado/Alpine County.

The Commission consists of seven members representing various aspects of the agricultural and timber industries. The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer provides staff support for the Agricultural Commission. The UCCE County Director and County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer act as ex-officio members to the Commission. A registered professional forester may also act as an ex-officio member when necessary.

### **Agricultural Grading Permits**

**Positions: .25 FTE**

**Total Appropriations \$35,504**

**Net County Cost \$35,504**

Whenever agricultural grading activities convert one acre or more of undisturbed vegetation to agricultural cropland, the owner is required to obtain an agricultural permit through the Agricultural Commissioner's office. All erosion control measures included in the agricultural permit are required to be implemented. All agricultural practices, including fuel reduction and fire protection, that do not change the contour of the land and that use "best management practices" as recommended by the County Agricultural Commission and adopted by the Board of Supervisors are exempt from the permit requirement but not the application process.

# **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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## **Fiscal Year 2007-08 Major Accomplishments**

- The Department increased the effectiveness and efficiency of the electric meter inspection program through the use of computer technology enhanced testing equipment.
- The Department initiated a comprehensive water submeter testing program which complies with all applicable State mandates.
- Work to minimize the impacts to the affected agricultural industries and the community concerning the implementation of the ranch marketing/winery ordinances.
- The Department increased the longevity of the specialized weights and measures inspection equipment by refurbishing older equipment to meet legally mandated specification requirements.
- The Department was able to implement the Agricultural Grading Permit as required by the General plan and perform other site inspections required by the Agricultural Commission with current staffing levels.

## **Fiscal Year 2008-09 Goals and Objectives**

- To increase efficiency and effectiveness, cross train all staff members in each of our mandated programs.
- To implement a comprehensive succession plan and restructuring of the Department, appropriate staff will attend management and supervisory classes as they are made available.
- In cooperation with UCCE, complete a separate meeting facility adjacent to the agriculture building which will include an increased dedicated parking area.
- Increase Quantity Control inspections of prepackaged good, including packaged meats, in the Weights and Measures program to better protect El Dorado County consumers.
- Increase Price Verification inspections to ensure El Dorado County residents are not being overcharged for retail products.

## **Chief Administrative Office Comments**

The Proposed Budget represents an overall increase of \$22,723 in revenues and a decrease of \$125,555 in appropriations compared to the FY 2007-08 budget. As a result, the Net County Cost is decreased by \$148,278 or 21%.

Revenues are estimated at \$919,515. The increase in revenues is primarily comprised of unclaimed gas tax (\$36,123), noxious weed control funding (\$11,600), fees for service (\$3,000) offset by a decrease of \$28,000 in other financing sources from the Agricultural trust fund.

The Proposed Budget includes an overall appropriation decrease of \$125,555. The majority of savings are in salaries and benefits. The department is proposing to restructure the current personnel allocation by deleting the vacant Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights and Measures and converting two of the Senior Standards Inspector allocations to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer positions. This option will realize projected salary savings of approximately \$125,000 and afford the director the ability to evaluate two individuals for succession planning within the department. The two deputy positions would be responsible for supervising specific programs. The department is also requesting an add/delete to true up a

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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recent re-class of a Secretary to a Senior Office Assistant. The department does have a slight increase in services and supplies due to the inclusion of \$20,000 for the mandatory emissions control retrofitting of the Weights and Measures heavy capacity diesel weight truck.

### Personnel Allocations

Fiscal Year 2008-09 BOS Approved Personnel Allocation	2007-08 Adjusted Allocation	2008-09 Dept Request	2008-09 CAO Recm'd	Diff from Adjusted
Ag Commissioner/Sealer Weights & Measures	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
Administrative Secretary	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Administrative Technician	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
Ag Biologist/Standards Inspector I/II/Sr.	7.00	5.00	5.00	-2.00
Asst. Ag Comm./Sealer Weights & Measures	1.00	0.00	0.00	-1.00
Deputy Agriculture Commissioner	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Executive Secretary	1.00	0.00	0.00	-1.00
Secretary	1.00	0.00	0.00	-1.00
Senior Office Assistant	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Wildlife Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>-1.00</b>

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES

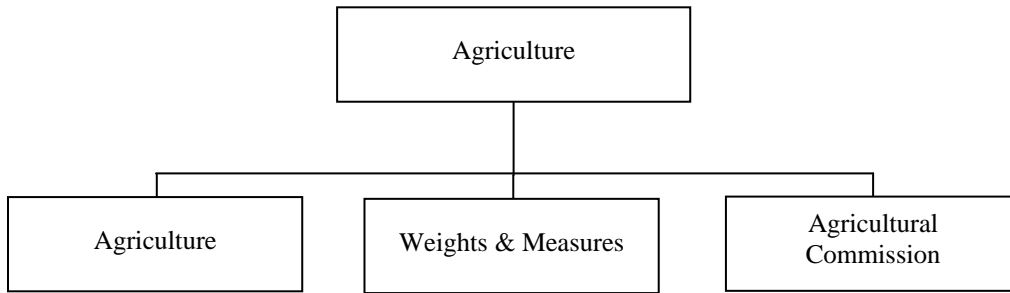
## Financial Information by Fund Type

FUND TYPE: 10 GENERAL FUND  
 DEPARTMENT: 26 AG - AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

		PRIOR YR ACTUAL	CURRENT YR APPROVED BUDGET	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	CAO RECOMMENDED BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
<b>TYPE: R REVENUE</b>						
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>CLASS TITLE</b>					
02	REV: LICENSE, PERMIT, & FRANCHISES	86,725	89,057	89,483	89,483	426
04	REV: USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY	4,440	4,750	4,750	4,750	0
05	REV: STATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL	701,986	713,300	758,327	758,327	45,027
10	REV: FEDERAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	21,956	40,631	43,238	43,238	2,607
12	REV: OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES	24,452	13,073	13,727	13,727	654
13	REV: CHARGE FOR SERVICES	12,937	6,481	8,740	8,740	2,259
19	REV: MISCELLANEOUS	1,145	1,500	1,250	1,250	-250
20	REV: OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	0	28,000	0	0	-28,000
<b>TYPE: R SUBTOTAL</b>		853,640	896,792	919,515	919,515	22,723
<b>TYPE: E EXPENDITURE</b>						
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>CLASS TITLE</b>					
30	SALARY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,110,835	1,245,650	1,118,366	1,080,262	-165,387
40	SERVICE & SUPPLIES	243,217	302,477	302,490	332,174	29,697
50	OTHER CHARGES	3,421	1,919	1,919	3,113	1,194
60	FIXED ASSETS	47,250	0	0	0	0
70	OTHER FINANCING USES	0	3,000	0	0	-3,000
72	INTRAFUND TRANSFERS	82,729	47,542	47,602	59,483	11,941
<b>TYPE: E SUBTOTAL</b>		1,487,452	1,600,588	1,470,377	1,475,032	-125,556
<b>FUND TYPE:</b>	<b>10 SUBTOTAL</b>	633,812	703,796	550,862	555,517	-148,279
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>26 SUBTOTAL</b>	633,812	703,796	550,862	555,517	-148,279

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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Positions: 12