



*1996 El Dorado County Crop Report*





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Ann M. Veneman, Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Walt Shultz, Chairman, District IV  
Sam Bradley, District I                      Mark Nielsen, District III  
Ray Nutting, District II                      John Upton, District V

In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 1996 El Dorado County Crop Report.

The gross agricultural production value in 1996 was \$47,240,600, representing a decrease of \$13,431,700 from the gross production value in 1995. Timber production declined by \$20,028,600, a 44% reduction in value over the previous year. Timber production in El Dorado County has decreased from 242,100 million board feet in 1993 to 73,140 million board feet in 1996, a 70% decrease over the three year period. Reductions in timber sales on U.S. Forest Service lands accounts for the majority of the decline. Decreases over these three years translates into \$48,000,000 in lost revenues for El Dorado County's economy.

Fruit and nut production rebounded from the devastating 1995 freeze, posting a \$6,324,800 increase, boosting the value of agricultural produce to \$21,367,600 for 1996. Excellent quality, good markets and higher yields significantly increased the value of apples, pears, cherries and peaches. Placerville Fruit Growers Association shipped the first fruit to be processed on their new packing line. Their new equipment uses state-of-the-art technology to produce a premium quality, mountain grown pack.

The amount of land in wine grape production exceeded 1,000 acres for the first time since the turn of the century. The value has continued to grow and in 1996 topped three million dollars, a 25% increase over 1995. As more of our wine grape acreage comes into production and as the public becomes more aware of El Dorado's quality wines, this segment of our economy will continue to grow at a significant rate well into the next century.

The monetary value records presented in this report are F.O.B. (Freight on Board) and do not reflect net returns or profits realized by the grower. The value of agricultural products, byproducts and tourism equals approximately \$75,000,000. In addition, for every dollar in value of an agricultural product or timber, the industry-established multiplying factor of 3.5 may be applied making an estimated economic impact of \$392,000,000 on El Dorado County's economy in 1996.

This report was compiled by Carl Locher, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer and David Bolster, Senior Agricultural Biologist/Standards Inspector. I wish to express my appreciation to the many individuals and organizations who contributed information to make this report possible.

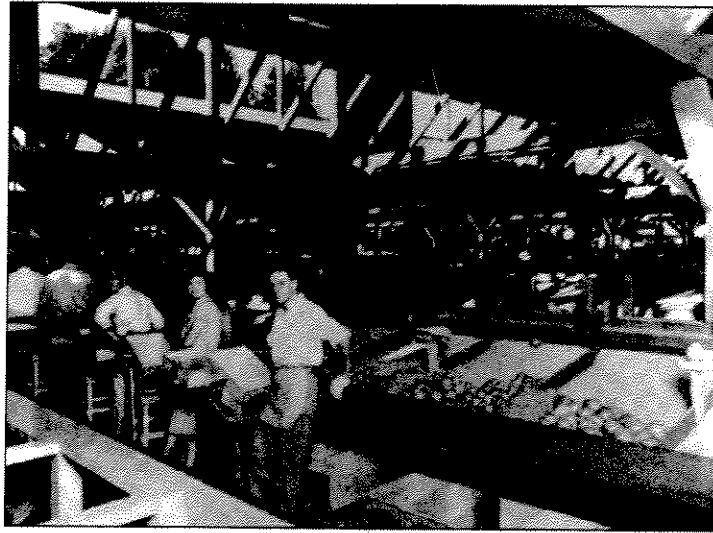
*Bill Snodgrass*

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# PLACERVILLE FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION



The PFGA Packing House, 1930 (Photo courtesy of PFGA)

In 1915, driven by a prosperous, growing industry, El Dorado County pear growers created the Placerville Fruit Growers Association (PFGA), a California Marketing Co-operative. Following the creation of PFGA, El Dorado County's pear industry experienced dynamic growth. By the mid-1940s, El Dorado County was one of the leading pear producing districts in the world. The zenith was reached in 1958, when over 4,000 acres produced 52,233 tons of pears. Nearly one million boxes were packed for fresh market distribution.

However, the industry was devastated in 1960 by Pear Decline. This disease decimated thousands of acres of pears, ultimately leaving fewer than 1,000 acres of pears in El Dorado County. Meanwhile, the county's apple industry continued to flourish, led by the introduction of new varieties such as the Fuji, Gala, and Granny Smith.

In the early 1990's, PFGA's leadership team recognized an opportunity to strategically reposition the Co-op as a diversified marketing operation. The key element was the installation in 1996 of a new, state-of-the-art packing facility at a cost of nearly one-half million dollars. The new operation is capable of color sorting, electronically weight sizing, and packaging 3,500 boxes of apples, pears, or stone fruit per day. This facility enables El Dorado County growers to maximize their competitive advantage as producers of premium quality mountain grown fruit. PFGA's investment insures that El Dorado County's agriculture industry is well positioned for growth into the next century.



PFGA's New Packing Facility; August, 1996 (Photo courtesy of PFGA)

# FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES			PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		NON-BEARING	BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNITS	PER UNIT	TOTAL
<b>PEARS</b>								
<b>BARTLETT</b>								
FRESH	1996				316	TONS	643	203,200
	1995				0	TONS	0	0
CANNERY	1996				1352	TONS	231.00	312,300
	1995				67	TONS	215.00	14,400
JUICE	1996				513	TONS	80.00	41,000
	1995				206	TONS	75.00	15,500
<b>TOTAL BARTLETTS</b>	1996	443	7	4.92	2181	TONS	255.15	556,500
	1995	480	10	.56	273	TONS	109.52	29,900
<b>BOSC/ ASIAN/ OTHERS</b>								
FRESH	1996	60	5	1.20	72	TONS	605.00	43,600
	1995	60	5	1.00	60	TONS	690.00	41,400
JUICE	1996				85	TONS	80.00	6,800
	1995				110	TONS	75.00	8,300
<b>TOTAL PEARS</b>	1996	503	12	4.64	2,338	TONS	259.58	606,900
	1995	540	15	.82	443	TONS	179.68	79,600
<b>APPLES</b>								
FRESH	1996				7,762	TONS	740.00	5,743,900
	1995				2,588	TONS	650.00	1,682,200
CANNERY / APPLE HILL PRODUCTS	1996				3,234	TONS	160.00	517,400
	1995				1,078	TONS	235.00	253,300
CIDER	1996				1,940	TONS	137.00	265,800
	1995				647	TONS	175.00	113,200
<b>TOTAL APPLES</b>	1996	840	45	15.40	12,936	TONS	504.56	6,527,100
	1995	810	55	5.32	4,313	TONS	475.00	2,048,700





## FRUIT AND NUT CROPS CONTINUED

CROP	YEAR	ACRES		PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		BEARING	NON-BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNITS	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CHERRIES	1996	122	15	.80	98	TONS	4,000.00	392,000
	1995	117	20	.26	31	TONS	2,500.00	77,500
PEACHES	1996	100	15	2.40	240	TONS	1,350.00	324,000
	1995	70	10	.40	28	TONS	1,350.00	37,800
PLUMS	1996	60	5	2.33	140	TONS	470.00	65,800
	1995	60	5	.48	29	TONS	464.00	13,500
WINE GRAPES	1996	937	210	3.77	3,532	TONS	889	3,139,900
	1995	817	120	3.90	3,186	TONS	812	2,587,300
WALNUTS/ ENGLISH	1996	220	5	.55	122	TONS	1,560.00	190,300
	1995	220	5	.27	60	TONS	1,280.00	76,800
<b>TOTAL FRUIT AND NUT CROPS</b>	1996	2,782	307		19,406	TONS		11,246,000
	1995	2,634	221		8,090	TONS		4,921,200

## APIARY PRODUCTS



	YEAR	COLONIES	TOTAL VALUE
<b>TOTAL</b>	1996	3,300	335,000
<b>APIARY</b>	1995	3,100	238,700
<b>PRODUCTS*</b>			

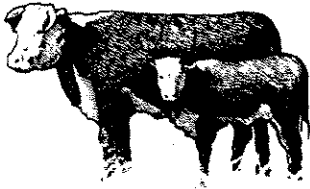
\*INCLUDES: HONEY, BEES WAX, POLLEN, AND POLLINATION

## MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTION

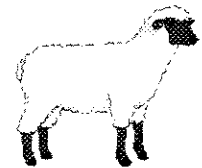


<b>TOTAL</b>	1996	217	ACRES	318,200
<b>MISC.**</b>	1995	200	ACRES	240,000
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				

\*\*MISCELLANEOUS INCLUDES: TRUCK GARDENS, BERRIES, NECTARINES, ORANGES, CHESTNUTS, AVOCADOS, PUMPKINS, TOMATOES, AND PERSIMMONS.



## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY



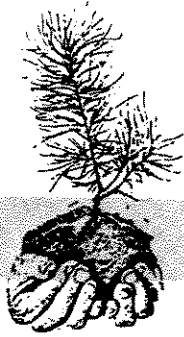
CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		NUMBER OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVE WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE	1996	1,071	11,245	cwt.	42.40	476,800
	1995	1,040	10,920	cwt.	47.00	513,200
CALVES	1996	3,032	15,161	cwt.	52.50	796,000
	1995	2,944	14,720	cwt.	69.40	1,021,600
SHEEP	1996	113	182	cwt.	26.70	4,900
	1995	121	194	cwt.	24.80	4,800
LAMBS	1996	494	593	cwt.	89.40	53,000
	1995	2,194	1,514	cwt.	79.20	119,900
HOGS/PIGS	1996	1,184	2,227	cwt.	52.00	115,800
	1995	1,260	2,331	cwt.	39.70	92,500
MISC.-POULTRY & LIVESTOCK*	1996					1,040,000
	1995					819,000

\* INCLUDES TURKEYS, DUCKS, GEESE, CHICKENS, HATCHING EGGS, LLAMAS, GOATS, AND WOOL

<b>TOTAL</b>	1996					2,486,500
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	1995					2,571,000
<b>AND POULTRY</b>						

## HAY AND PASTURE

HAY, TAME	1996	400	600	TON	95.00	57,000
	1995	475	712	TON	85.00	60,600
IRRIGATED PASTURE	1996	1,400		ACRE	125.00	175,000
	1995	2,100		ACRE	115.00	241,500
PASTURE & RANGE (DRYLAND)	1996	245,000		ACRE	10.00	2,450,000
	1995	245,000		ACRE	10.00	2,450,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	1996					2,682,000
<b>HAY AND PASTURE</b>	1995					2,752,100



## NURSERY PRODUCTS

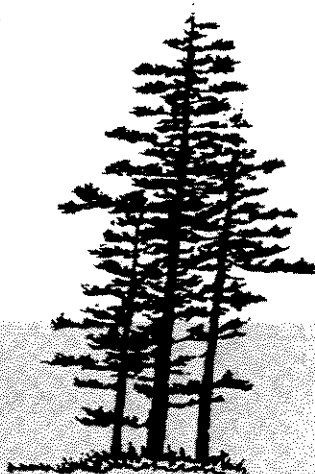
CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		AREA SALES	BY PRODUCER	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
NURSERY STOCK	1996	33	5,922	M	326.00	1,930,600
	1995	33	9,855	M	175.00	1,724,600
TREES, SHRUBS, GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION	1996	17				849,800
	1995	17				1,017,500
<b>TOTAL NURSERY</b>	1996	50	5,922			2,780,400
	1995	50	9,855			2,742,100

## CHRISTMAS TREES

WHOLESALE	1996		12,000	EA.	11.00	132,000
	1995		11,100	EA.	11.00	122,100
CHOOSE AND CUT	1996		54,620	EA.	25.44	1,389,500
	1995		53,550	EA.	24.00	1,285,200
<b>TOTAL CHRISTMAS TREES</b>	1996		66,620	EA.		1,521,500
	1995		64,650	EA.		1,407,300

## TIMBER HARVESTED AND BY-PRODUCTS

	YEAR	PRODUCTION BOARD FEET	UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FORESTS	1996	73,140	MILLION	25,676,000
	1995	124,584	MILLION	45,799,900
WOOD SALES AND PERMITS	1996			197,000
	1995			101,700
<b>TOTAL TIMBER HARVESTED</b>	1996			25,873,000
	1995			45,901,600

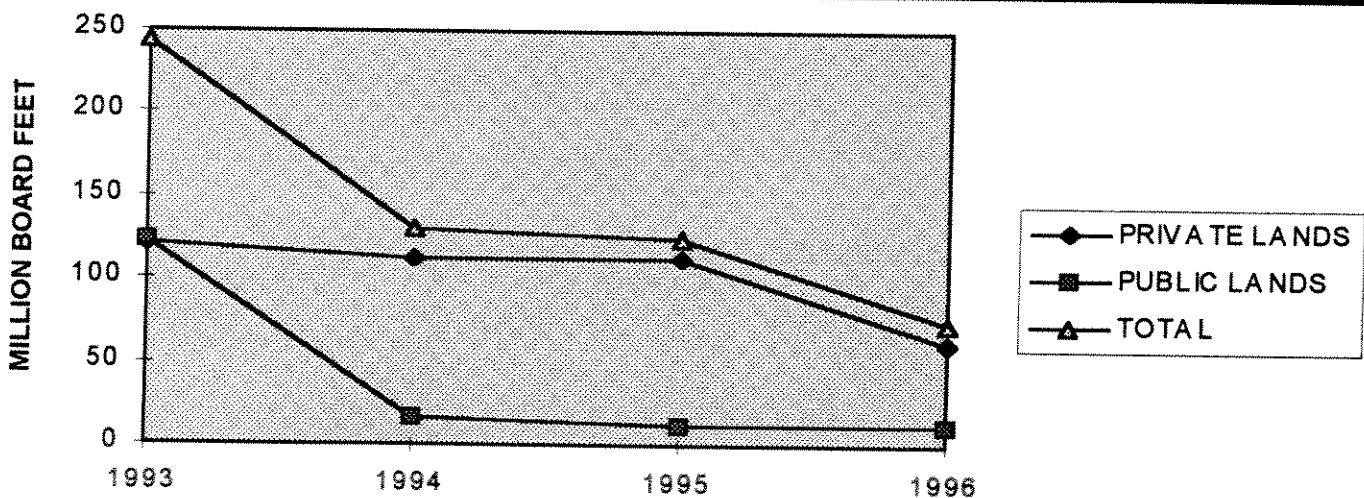




## TOTAL FOR ALL CATEGORIES


CROP	YEAR	TOTAL VALUE
FRUITS AND NUTS	1996	11,246,000
	1995	4,921,200
APIARY PRODUCTS	1996	335,000
	1995	238,700
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTION	1996	318,200
	1995	240,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	1996	2,486,500
	1995	2,571,000
TIMBER HARVESTED AND BY-PRODUCTS	1996	25,873,000
	1995	45,901,600
NURSERY PRODUCTS	1996	2,780,400
	1995	2,742,100
CHRISTMAS TREES	1996	1,521,500
	1995	1,407,300
HAY AND PASTURE	1996	2,682,000
	1995	2,752,100
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	1996	47,240,600
	1995	60,672,300

### EL DORADO COUNTY 4 YEAR TIMBER PRODUCTION



# EL DORADO COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

## PEST ACTIVITIES

<u>PESTS</u>	<u>AGENT/MECHANISM</u>	<u>SCOPE OF PROGRAM</u>
<b>PEST EXCLUSION</b>	967 Shipments Inspected	12 Rejections
Rated Pests	UPS-Trucks-Nurseries	
<b>PEST DETECTION</b>	1,100 Traps Placed Throughout	Interception of Pests
	Gypsy Moth Japanese Beetle	Melon Fruitfly Oriental Fruitfly Medfly Apple Maggot
<b>PEST ERADICATION</b>	Controlled by Chemicals	Various Sites
Dalmation Toadflax White Top	Perennial Peppergrass Spotted Knapweed	Scotch Thistle Canada Thistle

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

<u>PEST</u>	<u>AGENT/MECHANISM</u>	<u>SCOPE OF PROGRAM</u>
Ash Whitefly Siphoninus Phillyreae	Parasitic Wasp Encarsia Partenopea	County Wide
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea Solstitialis	Gall Fly Urophora Sirunaseva	9
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea Solstitialis	Peacock Fly Chaetorellia Australie	1
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea Solstitialis	Seed-Head Weevil Bangasternus Orientalas	County Wide
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea Solstitialis	Seed Weevil Eustenopus Villosus	21
Klamath Weed Hypericum Perforatum	Leaf Beetle Chrysolina Quadrigemina	County Wide
Puncture Vine Tribulus Terrestris	Stem Weevil Microlainus Lypriformis	County Wide
Puncture Vine Tribulus Terrestris	Seed Weevil Microlainus Larenyii	County Wide

## ORGANIC FARMING

<u>NUMBER REGISTERED</u>	<u>CROPS</u>	<u>ESTIMATED ACRES</u>
13	Various	75

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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**PERSONNEL**

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
BILL SNODGRASS**

**ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
CARL LOCHER, Jr.**

**SENIOR AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGIST/STANDARDS INSPECTORS  
STEVEN BURTON  
DAVID BOLSTER  
GRETA SHUTLER**

**AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGIST/STANDARDS INSPECTOR  
CHARLENE CARVETH**

**ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL SPECIALIST  
GARY ABREO**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
SHARON PARKER**

**SECRETARY  
KARIN LOSE**

**ACCOUNTANT II  
AREN MANDA**

**OFFICE ASSISTANT  
ANN WHITAKER**

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