

El Dorado County Crop Report 1998

COVER

El Dorado County Agriculture Played a Significant Role in The 1848 Gold Rush

1998 is the sesquicentennial of gold discovery in California. Gold was first discovered in El Dorado County at Sutter's Mill in Coloma on January 24, 1848. The discovery of gold soon made El Dorado County the most populated county (estimated to be over 200,000) in California and would be responsible for quick Congressional approval to make California the 31st state of the Union. As depicted by the painting on the cover, *Sunday Morning in the Mines* by Charles Christian Nahl, immigrants came from all over the world in search of riches and changed California forever. The immigrants brought with them many skills and abilities, the most common being knowledge of how to farm.

To the dismay of many of the miners, they would find little or no gold. Many of these people returned to farming to make a living and actually prospered better than the average miner. El Dorado County had abundant lands with rich soils, a plentiful supply of water, a moderate climate and most of all a market of rich miners who would pay almost anything for fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, milk, cheese, wine grapes, wine and other agriculture products. Miners paid extravagant prices (\$1 or more for a single egg) for fresh food. Many of these immigrants settled here and many of their descendents are still farming today.

PAINTING ON THE COVER

The painting on the cover entitled *Sunday Morning in the Mines*, by Charles Christian Nahl, 1818-1878, was painted in oil in 1872. The original painting is part of the E. B. Crocker Collection and is on display at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

Artist: Nahl, a European émigré, became one of California's most respected resident artists. A prolific painter and lithographer of Gold Rush life, he enjoyed the patronage of prominent citizens in San Francisco and Sacramento for his portraits and genre scenes.

Subject: *Sunday Morning in the Mines* is the most famous painting created on a California Gold Rush theme. This allegory about diligent and indolent miners is divided into two equal halves. The right side shows the Sunday Morning activities of virtuous miners. The left pictures the irresponsible pursuits of morally corrupt miners.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thanks to Dave Bolster for his contributions to the El Dorado County Department of Agriculture and the agriculture industry during the past 15 years. Dave did an outstanding job of producing the last three Annual Crop Reports. We wish him the best in his future endeavors working in the apple industry which he grew up around.

Also we wish to thank the Crocker Art Museum for allowing us to use a copy of the painting *Sunday Morning in the Mines* on the cover of the 1998 Annual Crop Report.

COUNTY OF
EL DORADO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



Bill Snodgrass
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

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El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

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Sam Bradley, District I
Ray Nutting, District II
Penny Humphreys, District IV
Dave Solero, District V
Michael B. Hanford, Chief Administrative Officer

In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 1998 El Dorado County Crop Report.

The 1998 gross agricultural value equaled \$46,364,500 representing an decrease of \$3,877,800, or 7.7% over 1997 figures. In contrast to the 1997 crop, which had ideal growing conditions and a record high crop, the value of the 1998 agricultural products, excluding timber, was off 29.9%. This dramatic decrease was the result of El Niño which cause record rains into June. The wet spring caused diseases (mainly Apple Scab) which reduced apple yields as well as quality. Cherry production was hit by rains in June when the they were ripe causing splitting and decay. Cool spring weather caused wine grapes to mature later than normal resulting in growers thinning their crop to allow the grapes to achieve sugar levels necessary for quality wine production.

The wine industry provided one of the few bright spots in 1998 with the acreage increasing 14% to 1,253 acres, the highest since the turn of the century. Timber showed a slight increase valued at \$27,698,800.

The monetary value records in this report are F.O.B. (Freight on Board) and do not reflect net returns or profits realized by growers. Neither do they reflect the total economic impact of agricultural byproducts produced (such as wines, apple pies, cider, etc.), tourism, nor the standard economic multiplying factor. It is estimated that total impact of agriculture on El Dorado County's economy equals approximately \$280 million.

This report was compiled by Dave Bolster, Senior Agricultural Biologist/Standards Inspector. I wish to express my appreciation to the many individuals and organizations that contributed information to make this report possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Snodgrass".

Bill Snodgrass
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

**EL DORADO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

PERSONNEL

Bill Snodgrass	Agricultural Commissioner Sealer of Weights and Measures
Steven Burton	Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Assistant Sealer of Weights & Measures
David Bolster	Senior Agricultural Biologist Senior Standards Inspector
Greta Shutler	Senior Agricultural Biologist Senior Standards Inspector
Charlene Carveth	Agricultural Biologist Standards Inspector
Mark Cople	Agricultural Biologist Standards Inspector
Gary Abreo	Animal Damage Control Specialist
Sharon Parker	Executive Secretary
Karin Lose	Secretary
Aren Manda	Administrative Analyst
Kim Wilson	Fiscal Technician
Ann Whitaker	Office Assistant

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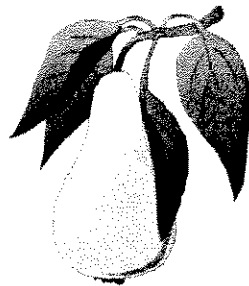
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES			PRODUCTION		VALUE
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		NON- BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNITS	PER UNIT	TOTAL
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PEARS

BARTLETT



FRESH	1998				529	TONS	645.00	341,200
	1997				653	TONS	645.00	421,200
CANNERY	1998				1,022	TONS	237.00	242,200
	1997				857	TONS	239.00	204,800
JUICE	1998				440	TONS	40.00	17,600
	1997				445	TONS	80.00	35,600
TOTAL BARTLETTS	1998	425	1	4.70	1,991	TONS	301.85	601,000
	1997	431	3	4.53	1,955	TONS	338.48	661,600

BOSC/ ASIAN/ OTHERS

FRESH	1998	63	3	.93	59	TONS	630.00	37,200
	1997	61	5	.90	55	TONS	630.00	34,700
JUICE	1998				55	TONS	40.00	2,200
	1997				75	TONS	80.00	6,000
TOTAL PEARS	1998	488	2	4.31	2,105	TONS	304.22	640,400
	1997	492	6	4.24	2,085	TONS	336.81	702,300

APPLES



FRESH	1998				5,706	TONS	740.00	4,222,400
	1997				8,182	TONS	740.00	6,054,700
CANNERY APPLE HILL PRODUCTS	1998				3,848	TONS	75.00	288,600
	1997				3,644	TONS	100.00	364,400
CIDER	1998				1,715	TONS	20.00	34,300
	1997				2,117	TONS	70.00	148,200
TOTAL APPLES	1998	855	15	13.18	11,269	TONS	403.34	4,545,300
	1997	850	25	16.35	13,913	TONS	470.42	6,567,300



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS CONTINUED

CROP	YEAR	ACRES		PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		BEARING	NON-BEARING	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNITS	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CHERRIES	1998	127	3	.35	45	TONS	3,600.00	162,000
	1997	129	8	1.4	180	TONS	3,500.00	630,000
PEACHES	1998	110	4	.34	37	TONS	1,540.00	57,000
	1997	102	12	2.45	249	TONS	1,534.00	382,000
PLUMS	1998	59	1	1.68	99	TONS	720.00	71,300
	1997	61	3	2.30	146	TONS	700.00	102,200
WINE GRAPES	1998	917	336	3.23	2,961	TONS	1,066	3,155,400
	1997	876	220	4.13	3,638	TONS	1,044	3,798,100
WALNUTS/ ENGLISH	1998	216	16	.11	23	TONS	1,200.00	27,600
	1997	215	15	.51	110	TONS	1,500.00	165,000
TOTAL FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	1998	2,772	377		16,589	TONS		8,659,000
	1997	2,725	289		20,299	TONS		12,346,900

APIARY PRODUCTS

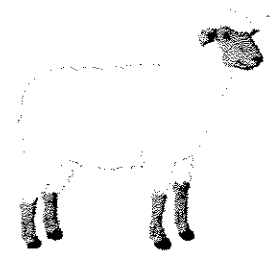
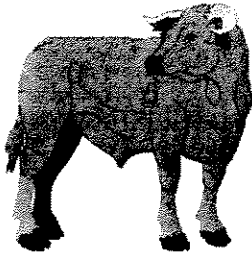
	YEAR	COLONIES	TOTAL VALUE
TOTAL	1998	3,050	274,500
APIARY	1997	3,200	330,000
PRODUCTS*			

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

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTION

TOTAL	1998	220	ACRES	277,303
MISC.**	1997	218	ACRES	334,100
PRODUCTION				

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



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

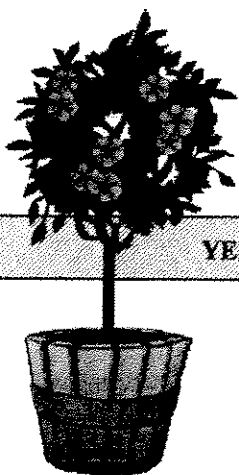
CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION				VALUE
		NUMBER OF HEAD	TOTAL LIVE WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	
CATTLE	1998	1,180	15,033	cwt.	47.80	718,600
	1997	1,178	12,357	cwt.	63.10	779,700
CALVES	1998	3,015	10,854	cwt.	70.19	761,800
	1997	3,065	15,325	cwt.	68.10	1,043,600
SHEEP	1998	101	137	cwt.	30.50	4,200
	1997	105	169	cwt.	33.80	5,700
LAMBS	1998	510	683	cwt.	74.80	51,100
	1997	505	606	cwt.	91.60	55,500
HOGS/PIGS	1998	980	2,078	cwt.	34.00	70,700
	1997	1,054	1,949	cwt.	54.70	106,700
MISC.-POULTRY & LIVESTOCK*	1998					1,050,000
	1997					1,090,000

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

TOTAL LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	1998	2,656,400
	1997	3,081,200

HAY AND PASTURE

CROP	YEAR	ACRES	UNITS	VALUE
HAY, TAME	1998	385	565 TON	59,300
	1997	390	585 TON	64,350
IRRIGATED PASTURE	1998	1,400	ACRE	175,000
	1997	1,400	ACRE	175,000
PASTURE & RANGE (DRYLAND)	1998	245,000	ACRE	2,450,000
	1997	245,000	ACRE	2,450,000
TOTAL HAY AND PASTURE	1998			2,684,300
	1997			2,689,400



NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		AREA SALES	BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
NURSERY STOCK	1998	30	5,915	M	252.78	1,495,200
	1997	29	6,662	M	259.60	1,729,500
TREES, SHRUBS, GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION	1998	17				985,200
	1997	17				1,037,000
TOTAL NURSERY	1998	47	5,915			2,480,400
	1997	46	6,662			2,766,500

CHRISTMAS TREES

WHOLESALE	1998	12,200	EA.	11.75	143,400
	1997	12,000	EA.	11.00	132,000
CHOOSE AND CUT	1998	55,200	EA.	27.00	1,490,400
	1997	55,100	EA.	26.75	1,473,900
TOTAL CHRISTMAS TREES	1998	67,400	EA.		1,633,800
	1997	67,200	EA.		1,607,000

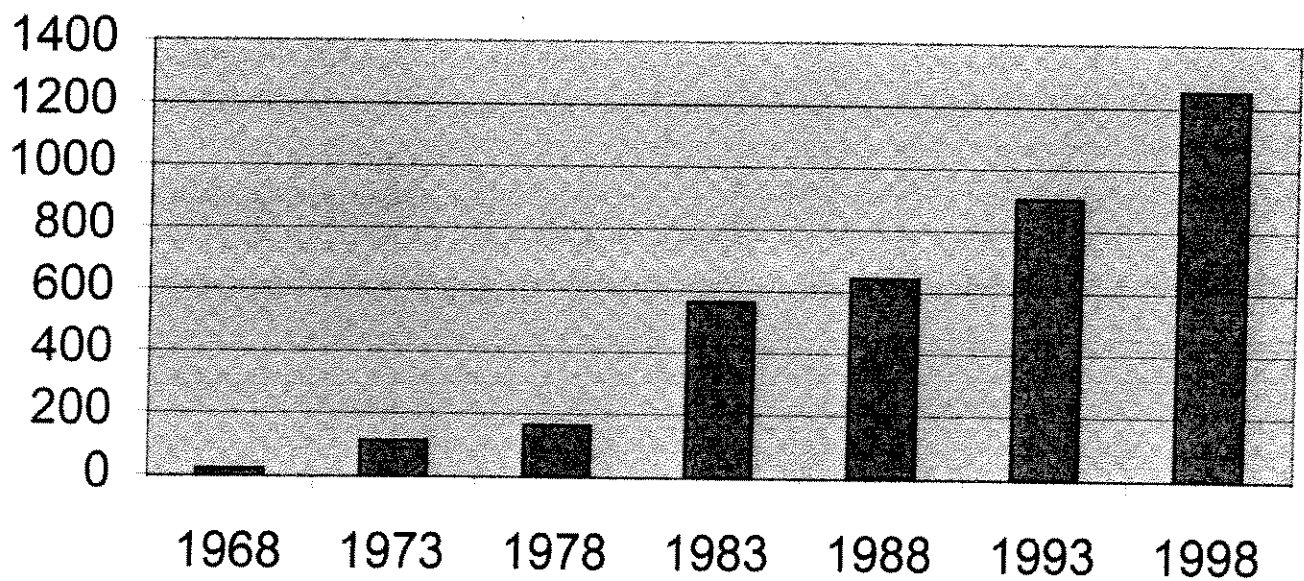
TIMBER HARVESTED AND BY-PRODUCTS

	YEAR	PRODUCTION BOARD FEET	UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FORESTS	1998	99,514	MILLION	27,640,300
	1997	91,892	MILLION	27,049,500
WOOD SALES AND PERMITS	1998			58,500
	1997			38,300
TOTAL TIMBER HARVESTED	1998			27,698,800
	1997			27,087,800

El Dorado County's Leading Wine Grape Varieties

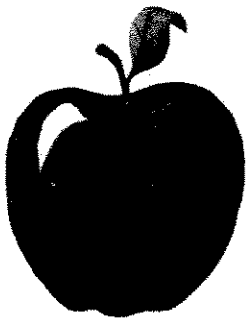
<i>VARIETY</i>	<i>TOTAL ACRES</i>	<i>TONS PRODUCED</i>	<i>MARKET PRICE/TON</i>
ZINFANDEL	258	635	\$1,133
CABERNET SAUVIGNON	198	552	\$1,100
CHARDONNAY	142	424	\$1,200
MERLOT	164	296	\$1,533
SYRAH	106	163	\$1,035
SAUVIGNON BLANC	64	270	\$837
SANGIOVESE	45	82	\$1,407

El Dorado County Wine Grape Acreage




TOTAL FOR ALL CATEGORIES

CROP	YEAR	TOTAL VALUE
FRUITS AND NUTS	1998	8,659,000
	1997	12,346,900
APIARY PRODUCTS	1998	274,500
	1997	330,000
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTION	1998	277,300
	1997	334,100
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	1998	2,656,400
	1997	3,081,200
TIMBER HARVESTED AND BY-PRODUCTS	1998	27,698,800
	1997	27,087,800
NURSERY PRODUCTS	1998	2,480,400
	1997	2,766,500
CHRISTMAS TREES	1998	1,633,800
	1997	1,607,000
HAY AND PASTURE	1998	2,684,300
	1997	2,689,400
GRAND TOTAL	1998	46,364,500
	1997	50,242,900



EL DORADO COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

PEST ACTIVITIES

<u>PESTS</u>	<u>AGENT/MECHANISM</u>	<u>SCOPE OF PROGRAM</u>
PEST EXCLUSION	2,344 Shipments Inspected	2 Rejections
Rated Pests	U.S.Post Office-UPS-Trucks-Nurseries	
PEST DETECTION	512 Traps Placed Throughout	Interception of Pests
	Gypsy Moth Japanese Beetle	Melon Fruitfly Oriental Fruitfly Medfly Apple Maggot
PEST ERADICATION	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	County Wide
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea Solstitialis	Seed-Head Weevil Bangasternus Orientalas	County Wide
Yellow Starthistle Centaurea Solstitialis	Seed Weevil Eustenopus Villosus	County Wide
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>
8	Various	36