



# **El Dorado County Crop Report**

**1999**



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In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 1999 El Dorado County Crop Report.

The 1999 gross agricultural value equaled \$51,462,600, representing an increase of 11% over the 1998 figures. For the very first time, wine grapes were the leading crop with a 23% increase in value as the wine grape acreage and price continued to grow. The increased recognition of quality wines in El Dorado County have commanded premium prices, resulting in substantial growth in the past years. This is in sharp contrast to other grape-growing regions in the state whose prices have declined or remained the same during 1999. Hail wiped out much of the apple crop in Apple Hill causing the value to decline by 45% since 1998. The decline is even more significant considering that the 1998 value of apple production was down from 1997 by 30%, due to disease problems resulting from wet conditions caused by El Nino. However, the majority of the other crops were up. Christmas Trees and Cattle and Calves increased by 35% and 22%, respectively. Pears were up 30%, minor crops rose 22.5%, and timber increased 15%.

It is estimated that the impact of agriculture on El Dorado County's economy totaled approximately \$300 million in 1999. Of that, the wine industry has an estimated \$77 million effect on the economy and Apple Hill has a \$57 million impact.

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.

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

*Bill Snodgrass*

Bill Snodgrass  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

**El Dorado County**

# **1999 Crop Report**

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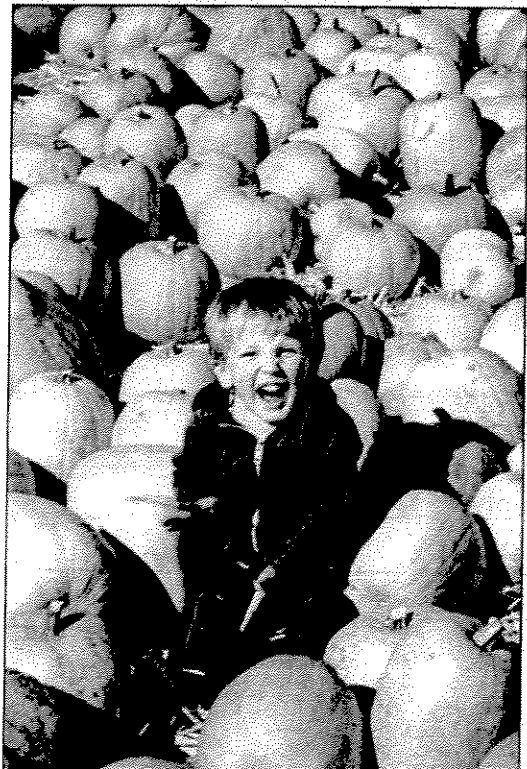
**Office Staff**

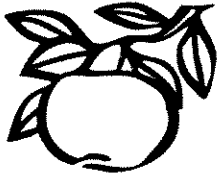
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Kim Wilson, GIS Specialist  
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Photos (inside pages) by Joanne McCubrey



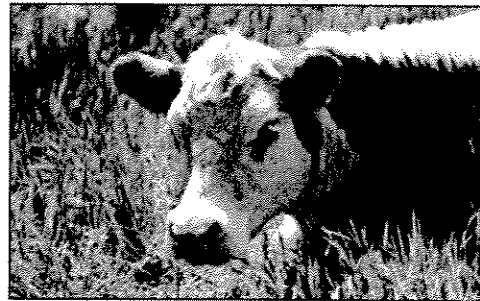


# Fruit and Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Acreage	Per Acre	Total Production	Unit	Value per Unit	Total Value	
<b>Pears-Bartlett</b>								
Fresh	1999			766	Tons	\$ 640	\$ 490,200	
	1998			529	Tons	645	341,200	
Cannery	1999			1,137	Tons	220	250,100	
	1998			1,022	Tons	237	242,200	
Juice	1999			568	Tons	15	8,500	
	1998			440	Tons	40	17,600	
<b>Total</b>	1999	405	6.10	2,471	Tons	\$ 303	\$ 748,800	
<b>Bartlett</b>	1998	425	4.70	1,991	Tons	\$ 302	\$ 601,000	
<b>Bosc/Asian</b>								
	1999	66	3.11	205	Tons	\$ 418	\$ 85,700	
	1998	63	0.93	114	Tons	\$ 346	\$ 39,400	
<b>Total</b>	1999	471	5.68	2,676	Tons	\$ 312	\$ 834,500	
<b>Pears</b>	1998	488	4.31	2,105	Tons	\$ 304	\$ 640,400	
<b>Apples</b>								
Fresh	1999			3,147	Tons	740	\$ 2,328,800	
	1998			5,706	Tons	740	4,222,400	
Cannery/Apple	1999			2,633	Tons	80	210,600	
Hill Products	1998			3,848	Tons	75	288,600	
Cider	1999			642	Tons	50	32,100	
	1998			1,715	Tons	20	34,300	
<b>Total</b>	1999	845	7.60	6,422	Tons	\$ 400	\$ 2,571,500	
<b>Apples</b>	1998	855	13.18	11,269	Tons	\$ 403	\$ 4,545,300	
<b>Cherries</b>								
	1999	126	1.50	189	Tons	\$ 3,800	\$ 718,200	
	1998	127	0.35	45	Tons	\$ 3,600	\$ 162,000	
<b>Peaches</b>								
	1999	110	0.50	55	Tons	\$ 1,600	\$ 88,000	
	1998	110	0.34	37	Tons	\$ 1,540	\$ 57,000	
<b>Plums</b>								
	1999	60	1.82	109	Tons	\$ 800	\$ 87,200	
	1998	59	1.68	99	Tons	\$ 720	\$ 71,300	
<b>Wine</b>	<b>Bearing</b>	1999	981	3.41	3,345	Tons	\$ 1,160	\$ 3,880,200
<b>Grapes</b>	<b>Vines</b>	1998	917	3.23	2,961	Tons	\$ 1,066	\$ 3,155,400
	<b>Non-Bearing</b>	1999	368	Total Acreage = 1349 ac.				
		1998	336	Total Acreage = 1253 ac.				
<b>Walnuts</b>								
	1999	216	0.61	132	Tons	\$ 1,000	\$ 132,000	
	1998	216	0.11	23	Tons	\$ 1,200	\$ 27,600	
<b>Total Fruit</b>	1999	2809		10,252	Tons		\$ 8,311,600	
<b>Nut Crops</b>	1998	2772		16,589	Tons		\$ 8,659,000	
<b>Minor and Misc.</b>								
	1999						\$ 339,700	
<b>Crops*</b>	1998						\$ 277,300	

\*Minor and Miscellaneous. includes: Truck Gardens, Berries, Nectarines, Oranges, Chestnuts, Avocados, Pumpkins, Tomatoes and Persimmons

# Livestock



Crop	Year	Number of Head	Total Live Weight	Unit	Value per Unit	Total Value
Cattle	1999	1185	15,227	cwt.**	\$ 49.00	\$ 746,100
	1998	1180	15,033	cwt.	47.80	718,600
Calves	1999	3050	15,250	cwt.	79.10	1,206,300
	1998	3015	10,854	cwt.	70.19	761,800
Sheep	1999	105	168	cwt.	28.70	4,800
	1998	101	137	cwt.	30.50	4,200
Lambs	1999	450	603	cwt.	74.80	45,100
	1998	510	683	cwt.	74.80	51,100
Hogs/Pigs	1999	945	2,079	cwt.	35.10	73,000
	1998	980	2,078	cwt.	34.00	70,700
Misc.*	1999					1,150,000
	1998					1,050,000
<b>Total</b>	1999					\$ 3,225,300
<b>Livestock</b>	1998					\$ 2,656,400

\*Misc. Includes: Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Chickens, Hatching Eggs, Llamas, Goats, Emu, Ostrich and Wool.

\*\*cwt. = hundredweight = 100 pounds

# Apiary Products

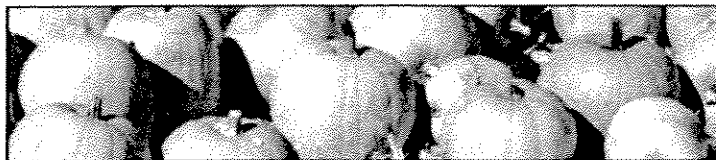
	Year			Total Value
Apiary	1999	2,950	Colonies	\$ 265,500
Products	1998	3,050	Colonies	\$ 274,500

Includes: Honey, Bees Wax, Pollen and Pollination

# Hay and Pasture

Crop	Year	Acres	Units	Value	Total Value
Hay, Tame	1999	380	560 Tons	\$ 110.00	\$ 61,600
	1998	385	565 Tons	\$ 105.00	59,300
Irrigated	1999	1,350	Acres	\$ 125.00	168,700
Pasture	1998	1,400	Acres	\$ 125.00	175,000
Rangeland	1999	245,000	Acres	\$ 10.00	2,450,000
(Dryland)	1998	245,000	Acres	\$ 10.00	2,450,000
<b>Total Hay</b>	1999				\$ 2,680,300
<b>And Pasture</b>	1998				\$ 2,684,300

## Nursery Products



Crop	Year	Acreage	Total Production	Unit	Value per Unit	Total Value
Nursery	1999	30	6,625	M*	\$ 270.50	\$ 1,792,000
Stock	1998	30	5,915	M	\$ 252.78	1,495,200
Trees, Shrubs, Greenhouse	1999	17				854,700
	1998	17				985,200
<b>Total</b>	1999	47			\$	2,646,700
<b>Nursery</b>	1998	47			\$	2,480,400

\*M = 1000

## Christmas Trees

Wholesale	1999		11,100	Each	\$ 13.00	\$ 144,300
	1998		12,200	Each	\$ 11.75	143,400
Choose and Cut	1999		68,800	Each	\$ 30.00	2,064,000
	1998		55,200	Each	\$ 27.00	1,490,400
<b>Total</b>	1999		79,900	Each	\$	2,208,300
<b>Christmas Trees</b>	1998		67,400	Each	\$	1,633,800

## Timber Harvested and By-Products

	Year	Production	Unit	Total Value
Private and Public Forest	1999	126,065	Million Board Feet	\$ 31,761,000
	1998	99,514	Million Board Feet	27,640,300
Wood Sales and Permits	1999			24,200
	1998			58,500
<b>Total</b>	1999			\$ 31,785,200
<b>Timber</b>	1998			\$ 27,698,800

## Total Values - All Categories

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Fruit And Nut</b>	1999	\$ 8,311,600
	1998	8,659,000
<b>Minor and Misc Crops</b>	1999	339,700
	1998	277,303
<b>Apiary Products</b>	1999	265,500
	1998	274,500
<b>Livestock</b>	1999	3,225,300
	1998	2,656,400
<b>Hay and Pasture</b>	1999	2,680,300
	1998	2,684,300
<b>Nursery Products</b>	1999	2,646,700
	1998	2,480,400
<b>Christmas Trees</b>	1999	2,208,300
	1998	1,633,800
<b>Timber</b>	1999	31,785,200
	1998	27,698,800
<b>Grand Total</b>	1999	\$51,482,600
	1998	\$46,364,600

El Dorado County's

## Leading Wine Grape Varieties



<b>Variety</b>	<b>Ranking 1999</b>	<b>Ranking 1998</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Tons Produced</b>	<b>Price/Ton</b>
Zinfandel	1	1	264	628	\$ 1,160
Cabernet Sauv.	2	2	231	546	\$ 1,150
Merlot	3	4	182	438	\$ 1,411
Syrah	4	5	154	174	\$ 1,218
Chardonnay	5	3	142	575	\$ 1,219
Sauvignon Blanc	6	6	66	215	\$ 889
Sangiovese	7	7	45	82	\$ 1,320

Ranking based on total acreage (bearing and non-bearing)



## *El Dorado County*

# **1999 Annual Agriculture Report**

The El Dorado County Department of Agriculture conducts programs to safeguard public health and the environment and to promote and protect the county's agriculture industry. The following is a summary of the departmental activities during 1999.



### **PEST PREVENTION**

The **Pest Exclusion Program** prevents the introduction of detrimental pests that are not of common occurrence in California. Over 2600 inspections were made in 1999 by department staff at parcel shipping locations (United Parcel Service and U.S. Postal Service), retail nurseries and of nursery stock upon arrival for planting at local farms.

The **Pest Detection Program** consisted of over 800 insect traps in 1999, which were placed throughout the county and monitored weekly to detect pests that may have entered the county despite pest exclusion efforts. Each year traps are placed in both rural and urban areas to detect Gypsy Moths, Japanese Beetles, Mediterranean Fruit Flies, Melon Flies, Apple Maggots and Oriental Fruit Flies.

The **Pest Eradication Program** efforts include chemical and hand-pulling treatments of Dalmation Toadflax, Diffuse Knapweed, Tall Whitetop and Diffuse and Spotted Knapweeds in cooperation with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Nevada Cooperative Extension.

### **PEST MANAGEMENT**

The El Dorado County **Noxious Weed Management Group**, formed in 1998, has continued educational efforts in the control of Yellow Starthistle, Tall Whitetop and Knapweeds. Grant funds were secured to develop a Yellow Starthistle control demonstration site to aid in the educational efforts. Public workshops were conducted to encourage landowners to utilize Integrated Pest Management techniques in their efforts to control noxious weeds.

The **Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) Pest Management Program** has been initiated to prevent the introduction of this insect to El Dorado County. The 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, insect traps are deployed in nurseries, vineyards and along urban and rural insect trapping routes.



The **Biological Control Program** consists of releases of insects that act as natural predators against noxious pests present in the county. Biocontrol projects include use of the following insects: leaf beetle, *Chrysolina quadrigemina*, to control Klamath Weed; seed weevil (*Eustenopus villosus*) and the Peacock Fly (*Chaetorellia australis*) to reduce the spread of Yellow Starthistle. In addition, a parasitic wasp, *Encarsia partneopea*, is being utilized in the control of Ash Whiteflies. The El Dorado County Department of Agriculture monitors and relocates the insects in cooperation with CDFA.

The **Vertebrate Pest Management Program** staff assists growers and homeowners in the control of deprecating vertebrate pests such as gophers, ground squirrels, mice, rats and other rodents.

The **Wildlife Management** provides management of wildlife within the county that are deprecating livestock and property and presenting a hazard to public health and safety. Efforts are made to reduce, terminate and prevent damage to livestock, crops and other property caused by birds and mammals.

### **PESTICIDE MONITORING**

The Agriculture Department conducts the **Pesticide Monitoring Program** in cooperation with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Pesticide use is monitored to protect public health, the environment and to insure worker safety. Department staff enforces state regulations, issue use permits, compile use data and investigate complaints. Education concerning the safe use of pesticides is also an integral part of the program.

### **COMMODITY EVALUATION AND MARKETING PROGRAMS**

The **Certified Farmer's Market Program** allows farmers to market directly to consumers at area Farmer's Markets. The **Organic Program** includes registration by growers in order to market farm products as organically grown. In 1999, thirteen growers were registered as organic, representing 70 acres under production. Both the organic and certified producers programs include annual grower inspections by department staff to validate the registrations.

The **Standardization Program** protects consumers and the fresh fruit, nut and vegetable industry from distribution of substandard products. Standardization laws establish minimum specifications for maturity, quality, and size of commodities (i.e. apples, pears) plus standard container pack and markings. **Quality Control** inspections are also conducted on nursery stock, eggs and seeds.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

The Department of Agriculture conducts a variety of programs to protect and promote agriculture including **land use planning** which is administered by the El Dorado County Agricultural Commission. The department also provides **technical resources** to a variety of committees and boards, including verification for the El Dorado Irrigation District Small Farms Irrigation Rate program. Agricultural statistics and land use information is also compiled for the **Annual Crop Report**.