

**EL DORADO
COUNTY
ROP
REPORT
2002**



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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Sealer of Weights and Measures

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In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 2002 El Dorado County Crop Report.

The El Dorado County gross crop value for 2002 was \$48.2 million, a 2% decrease from the 2001 values. The decline was due to an 8.5% decrease in timber sales to \$21.7 million. This is the lowest reported timber value since 1989.

Other agricultural production, excluding timber value, actually increased 4% in 2002 when compared to the 2001 figures. This was due to the strong sales of the fruits and nuts that increased approximately 11% over the 2001 values. This increase was due to increased sales of the following commodities: Pears, apples, peaches, wine grapes, walnuts and Christmas trees.

Reported wine grape acreage was over 2000 acres. This is the largest amount of land utilized for wine grape production in El Dorado County since the early 1900's.

The monetary values in this report are F.O.B. (Freight On Board) and do not reflect net returns or profits realized by the 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 the impact of agriculture on El Dorado County's economy totaled approximately \$391 million in 2002. This is an increase of 4% over the 2001 value. The wine industry had an estimated \$163 million impact on the El Dorado County economy and Apple Hill had a \$84 million impact.

Kirk Taylor, Senior Agricultural Biologist/Standards Inspector compiled this report. I wish to express my appreciation to the many individuals and organizations that contributed information to make this report possible.

Bill Snodgrass
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer.

El Dorado County

2002 Crop Report

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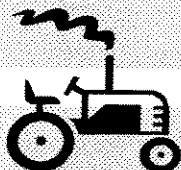
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Cover Photo – Joanne McCubrey

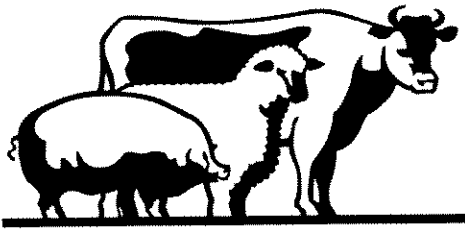




Fruit and Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Production	Unit	Value per Unit	Total Value	
Pears-Bartlett								
Fresh	2002			453	Tons	\$ 492	\$ 222,900	
	2001			292	Tons	\$ 600	\$ 175,200	
Cannery	2002			729	Tons	\$ 192	\$ 140,000	
	2001			438	Tons	\$ 178	\$ 78,000	
Juice	2002			788	Tons	\$ 14	\$ 11,000	
	2001			730	Tons	\$ 10	\$ 7,300	
Total	2002	303	6.50	1,970	Tons	\$ 190	\$ 373,900	
Bartlett	2001	355	4.10	1,460	Tons	\$ 178	\$ 260,500	
Bosc/Asian								
	2002	63	8.90	560	Tons	\$ 560	\$ 313,600	
	2001	66	6.25	413	Tons	\$ 570	\$ 235,400	
Total	2002	366	6.91	2,530	Tons	\$	\$ 687,500	
Pears	2001	421	4.45	1,873	Tons	\$	\$ 495,900	
Apples								
Fresh	2002			7,064	Tons	\$ 825	\$ 5,827,800	
	2001			7,114	Tons	\$ 755	\$ 5,371,100	
Cannery/Apple	2002			3,532	Tons	\$ 205	\$ 724,100	
Hill Products	2001			3,557	Tons	\$ 80	\$ 284,600	
Cider	2002			1,178	Tons	\$ 90	\$ 106,000	
	2001			1,186	Tons	\$ 50	\$ 59,300	
Total	2002	835	14.10	11,774	Tons	\$ 565	\$ 6,657,900	
Apples	2001	835	14.20	11,857	Tons	\$ 482	\$ 5,715,000	
Cherries	2002	108	0.28	30	Tons	\$ 3,000	\$ 90,000	
	2001	112	0.85	95	Tons	\$ 3,900	\$ 370,500	
Peaches	2002	97	2.75	267	Tons	\$ 2,200	\$ 587,400	
	2001	110	2.50	275	Tons	\$ 1,600	\$ 440,000	
Plums	2002	61	1.60	98	Tons	\$ 1,100	\$ 107,800	
	2001	58	2.90	168	Tons	\$ 960	\$ 161,472	
Wine	Bearing	2002	1464	2.77	4,060	Tons	\$ 1,199	\$ 4,680,000
Grapes	Vines	2001	1244	2.88	3,570	Tons	\$ 1,209	\$ 4,317,300
	Non-Bearing	2002	663					
	Bearing	2001	500					
Total Acreage = 2127 ac.								
Walnuts	2002	253	0.55	139	Tons	\$ 1,060	\$ 147,300	
	2001	216	0.60	134	Tons	\$ 1,020	\$ 136,700	
Total Fruit	2002	3184		18,898	Tons	\$	\$ 12,957,900	
Nut Crops	2001	2996		17,972	Tons	\$	\$ 11,636,872	
								
Minor and Misc. Crops*	2002					\$	\$ 343,200	
	2001					\$	\$ 334,600	

*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 and Calves	2002	4450	37,200	cwt.**	\$ 83.75	\$ 3,115,500
	2001	4530	39,900	cwt.	\$ 74.00	\$ 2,952,600
Sheep and Lambs	2002	495	480	cwt.	\$ 69.40	\$ 33,300
	2001	510	550	cwt.	\$ 64.42	\$ 35,432
Hogs/Pigs	2002	635	1,365	cwt.	\$ 34.20	\$ 46,700
	2001	730	1,679	cwt.	\$ 45.00	\$ 75,200
Misc.*	2002					\$ 1,070,000
	2001					\$ 1,190,000
Total Livestock	2002					\$ 4,265,500
	2001					\$ 4,253,200

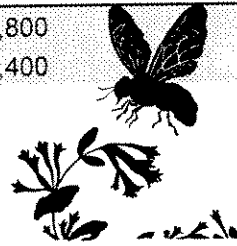
*Misc. Includes: Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Chickens, Hatching Eggs, Llamas, Goats, Emu, Ostrich and Wool

**cwt. = hundredweight = 100 pounds

Apiary Products

	Year	Units	Total Value
Apiary Products	2002	1,800 Colonies	\$ 180,000
	2001	2,400 Colonies	\$ 192,000

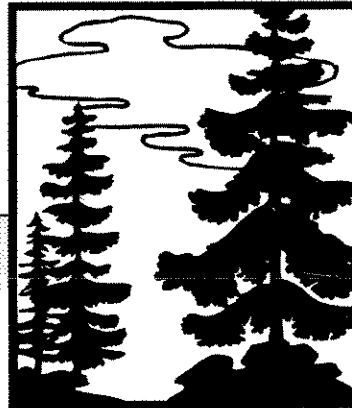
Includes: Honey, Bees Wax, Pollen and Pollination



Hay and Pasture

Crop	Year	Acres	Units	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Hay, Tame	2002	354	673 Tons	\$ 105.00	\$ 70,700
	2001	350	634 Tons	\$ 119.00	\$ 75,400
Irrigated Pasture	2002	995	Acres	\$ 125.00	\$ 124,400
	2001	995	Acres	\$ 125.00	\$ 124,400
Rangeland (Dryland)	2002	245,000	Acres	\$ 12.00	\$ 2,940,000
	2001	245,000	Acres	\$ 12.00	\$ 2,940,000
Total Hay And Pasture	2002				\$ 3,135,100
	2001				\$ 3,139,800

Nursery Products



Crop	Year	Acreage		Value
Nursery	2002	27	\$	1,876,500
Stock	2001	30	\$	2,226,900
Trees, Shrubs, Greenhouse	2002	23	\$	679,200
	2001	12	\$	742,100
Total	2002	50	\$	2,555,700
Nursery	2001	42	\$	2,969,000

Christmas Trees

	Year	Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Value
Wholesale	2002	11,200	Each	\$ 18.50	\$ 207,200
	2001	11,500	Each	\$ 17.00	\$ 195,500
Choose and Cut	2002	72,930	Each	\$ 39.75	\$ 2,899,000
	2001	74,300	Each	\$ 38.00	\$ 2,823,400
Total	2002	84,130	Each	\$	3,106,200
Christmas Trees	2001	85,800	Each	\$	3,018,900

Timber Harvested and By-Products

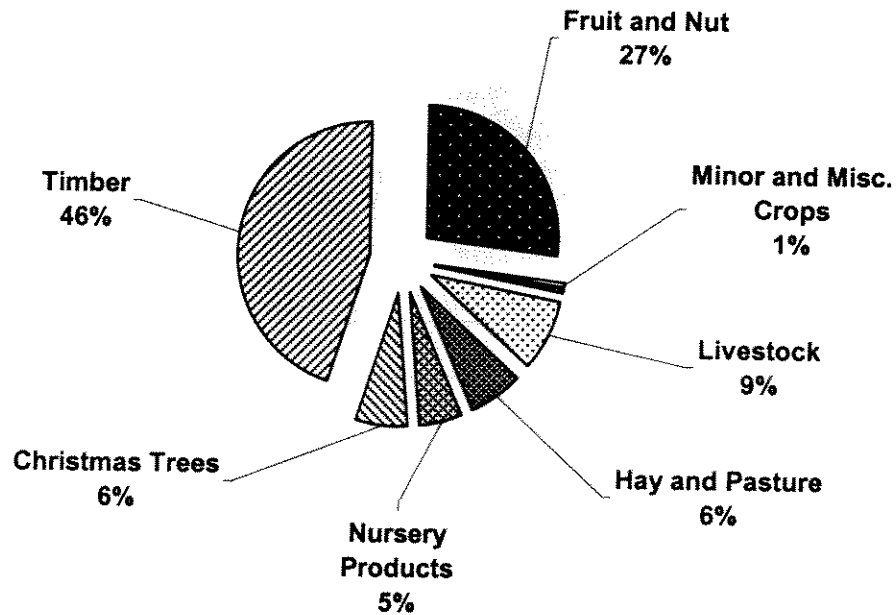
	Year	Production	Unit	Value
Private and Public Forest	2002	145,250	Million Board Feet	\$ 21,664,700
	2001	96,800	Million Board Feet	\$ 23,665,200
Wood Sales and Permits	2002	2,870	Million Board Feet	\$ 28,900
	2001	2,600	Million Board Feet	\$ 27,200
Total	2002			\$ 21,693,600
Timber	2001			\$ 23,692,400

Total Values - All Categories

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Value</u>
Fruit And Nut	2002	\$ 12,957,900
	2001	\$ 11,636,700
Minor and Misc. Crops	2002	\$ 343,200
	2001	\$ 334,600
Apiary Products	2002	\$ 180,000
	2001	\$ 192,000
Livestock	2002	\$ 4,265,500
	2001	\$ 4,253,200
Hay and Pasture	2002	\$ 3,135,100
	2001	\$ 3,139,800
Nursery Products	2002	\$ 2,555,700
	2001	\$ 2,969,000
Christmas Trees	2002	\$ 3,106,200
	2001	\$ 3,018,900
Timber	2002	\$ 21,693,600
	2001	\$ 23,692,400
Grand Total	2002	\$ 48,237,200
	2001	\$ 49,236,600



Agricultural Commodities of El Dorado County



El Dorado County

Agriculture Programs

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

Pest Prevention

The **Pest Exclusion Program** prevents the introduction of detrimental pests that are not of common occurrence in California. Over 3,350 inspections were made during 2002 by department staff at parcel shipping locations (United Parcel Service and U.S. Postal Service), retail nurseries, equipment originating from high-risk areas, and of nursery stock upon arrival for planting at local farms. During the month of November the Vine Mealybug (VMB) was discovered in the county. An action plan for dealing with the pest is being developed.

The **Pest Detection Program** consisted of over 800 insect traps in 2002, which were placed throughout the county and monitored to detect pests that may have entered El Dorado 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. In addition 20 McPhails traps were monitored for Mediterranean Fruit Flies due to the discovery of larva in Spanish clementines during the winter of 2001-2002. Further, Olive Fruit Fly was discovered in the county for the first time. This fly was found on a Glassy-winged Sharpshooter panel trap. Currently, there are no commercially producing olive orchards in the county so no action is planned at this time.

The **Pest Eradication Program** efforts include chemical and mechanical treatments of Dalmation toadflax, Diffuse knapweed, Russian knapweed, Spotted knapweed, Tall whitetop, Oblong spurge, Canada thistle, and Purple loosestrife in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Nevada Cooperative Extension. An eradication program for VMB is being scheduled for the 2003-growing season.

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, Scotch broom, Dalmation toadflax and knapweeds. The department is also a member of the recently formed Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group. The purpose of this group is to coordinate invasive weed control, education and eradication among the federal, state, county and private agencies within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

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.

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** assists growers and homeowners in the control of deprecating vertebrate pests such as gophers, ground squirrels, mice, rats and other rodents.

The **Wildlife Management Program** 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 wild animals.

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 agricultural workers. Department staff enforces state regulations, issues use permits, compiles use data and investigates 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 Certified Farmer's Markets. There were 52 growers registered as certified growers with production areas within the county. The **Organic Program** includes registration by growers in order to market farm products as organically grown. In 2002, 14 growers were registered as organic, representing 105 acres under production. Both the organic and certified producer programs include 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 labeling. **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. Recently, the soils information for the western half of the county has been digitized. The Department of Agriculture can provide information pertaining to the soils found on a particular parcel. This information can be used by the land owner/buyer to determine which crops, if any, can be grown on that parcel. Agricultural statistics and land use information is also compiled for the **Annual Crop Report**. The department is actively involved in promoting agri-tourism and the annual **Harvest Fair** held the third weekend of September each year.

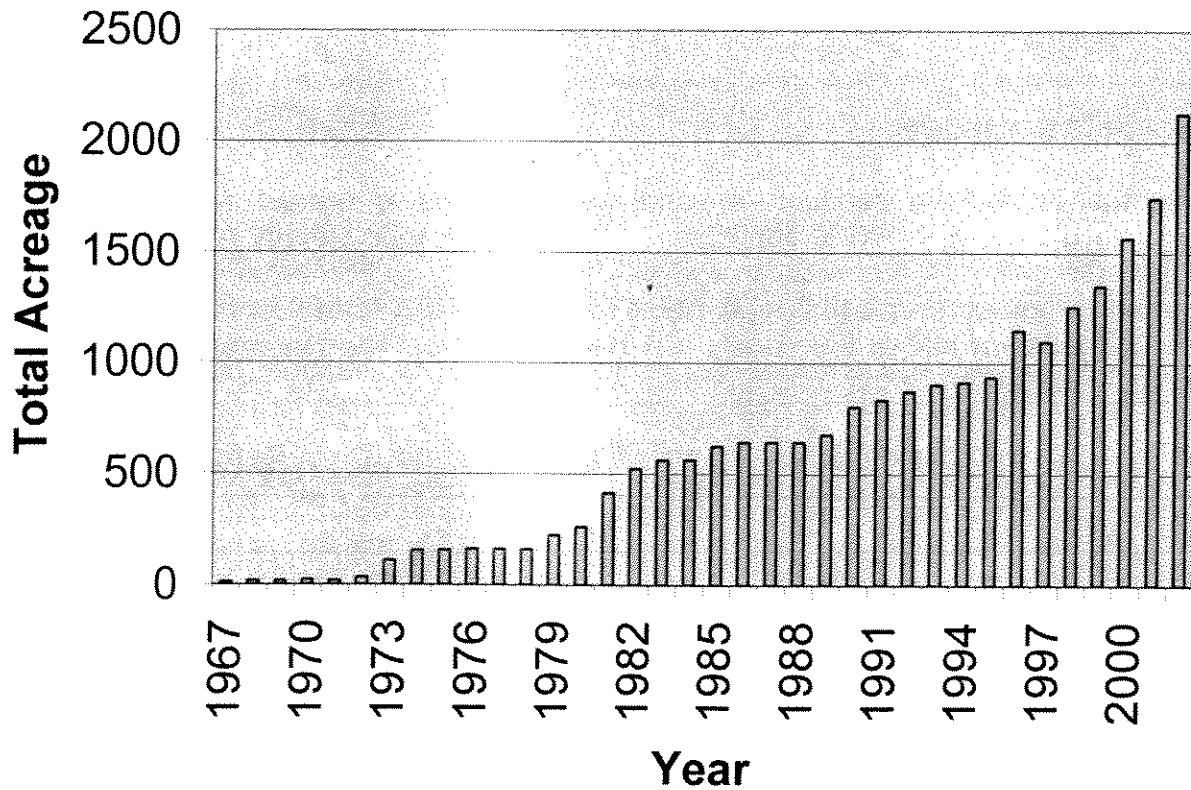
Weights and Measures

The Department of Agriculture is also responsible for protecting the buyer and seller of agricultural commodities. This includes verifying that a chord of firewood has 128 cubic feet of well-stacked wood, a bushel of apples has a volume of 8 dry gallons and a bottle of wine contains 750 mL. In addition this department yearly certifies all scales so that the consumer is truly receiving the appropriate amount at the time of purchase. Scales certified include the seasonal scales utilized at Certified Farmers markets and direct ranch marketing programs as well as the scales used at permanent locations such as retail grocery stores.

Top Ten Planted Wine Grape Varietals of El Dorado County

<u>Variety</u>	<u>2002 Value</u>	<u>Acres Planted</u>
1. Cabernet Sauvignon	\$1,072,300	420
2. Zinfandel	\$ 759,300	362
3. Syrah	\$ 510,600	294
4. Merlot	\$ 842,500	240
5. Chardonnay	\$ 465,900	143
6. Petite Sirah	\$ 139,500	89
7. Cabernet Franc	\$ 131,400	86
8. Barbera	\$ 168,800	70
9. Sangiovese	\$ 95,700	45
10. Sauvignon Blanc	\$ 81,300	42

Wine Grape Acreage in El Dorado County



Agriculture In El Dorado County

With the increase in El Dorado County population, agricultural lands have been lost. Since 1960, production acreage has decreased by 58%. To protect the remaining agricultural lands and support their economic viability, land use planning and ordinances have been developed to recognize and enhance the quality of life that agriculture brings to El Dorado County. These programs include the El Dorado County Agricultural Commission, the Right to Farm ordinance and direct marketing programs.

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 Commission's scope of interest includes a wide variety of agricultural, timber and land use issues such as agricultural land preservation, agricultural production, forestland preservation and forest production. The Agricultural 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 County. The Commission is made up of seven individuals representing the various commodity groups of El Dorado County. The Agricultural Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the El Dorado County Agriculture Department conference room.

In 1988, El Dorado County approved an ordinance to protect ranchers and farmers from nuisance complaints by adjoining property owners. The Right to Farm ordinance protects producers when conducting normal agricultural operations including cultivation, burning, spraying, fertilizing, irrigation, harvesting, processing plus activities associated with raising livestock (cow bells ringing, flies, manure and other conditions). Prior to the implementation of the ordinance, producers were sometimes forced to curtail or cease operations, or were discouraged from making investments in farm improvements because of nuisance complaints. This ordinance helps to protect the economic viability of individual farms and of the county's agricultural industry as a whole.

Additionally, El Dorado County has adopted specific sections to the County Ordinance that protects the winery and direct ranch marketing programs. The purpose of the regulations is to provide for the direct marketing and winery development to encourage the economic development of the agricultural and tourism industries while regulating such uses to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and the enjoyment of property by adjacent landowners. The regulations make sure that agricultural production is the main focus of the parcel owners with the marketing of the commodities as an accessory component. This is to prevent individuals from selling the commodities from agriculturally zoned parcels without the capitol investment for the agricultural production.

What is a noxious pest? What are the Noxious Pest Ratings?

A noxious pest is an animal, insect, or plant that has been defined as a pest by law or regulation. California maintains a list of pests that are considered threats to the well being of the state.

In California, biologists of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) recommend pest for listing, after consultation with outside experts and the Agricultural commissioners of California's counties (CACs). If the pest is found to probably be "troublesome, aggressive, intrusive, detrimental, or destructive to agriculture, silviculture, or important native species, and difficult to control or eradicate", the Department will designate the organism as a noxious pest.

At the time that CDFA lists a species, it also receives a rating of A, B, C, D, or Q. These ratings reflect CDFA's view of the statewide importance of the pest, the likelihood that eradication or control efforts would be successful, and the present distribution of the pest within the state. The ratings are not laws, but are policy guidelines that indicate the most appropriate action to take against a pest under general circumstances. Local conditions may dictate more stringent actions at the discretion of the CAC, and the rating may change as circumstances change.

The precise policy language is given below. This system has been in place since at least 1977, with revision of the language. The term "commissioners" refers to the CAC.

ACTION ORIENTED RATING SYSTEM

PURPOSE: To advise commissioners as to the Department's policy regarding any pest action.

DEFINITIONS:

"A"; An organism of known economic importance subject to state (or commissioner when acting as a state agent) enforced action involving: eradication, quarantine, containment, rejection, or other holding action.

"B"; An organism of known economic importance subject to: eradication, containment, control or other holding action at the discretion of the individual county agricultural commission. **OR** An organism of known economic importance subject to state endorsed holding action and eradication only when found in a nursery.

"C"; An organism subject to no state enforced action outside of nurseries except to retard spread. At the discretion of the commissioner. **OR** An organism subject to no state enforced action except to provide for pest cleanliness in nurseries.

"D"; No action. (Parasites, predators, and organisms of little or no economic importance.)

"Q"; An organism or disorder requiring temporary "A" action pending determination of a permanent rating. The organism is suspected to be of economic importance but its status is uncertain because of incomplete identification or inadequate information. In the case of an established infestation, at the discretion of the Assistant Director for Plant Industry, the Department will conduct surveys and will convene the Division Pest Study Team to determine a permanent rating.