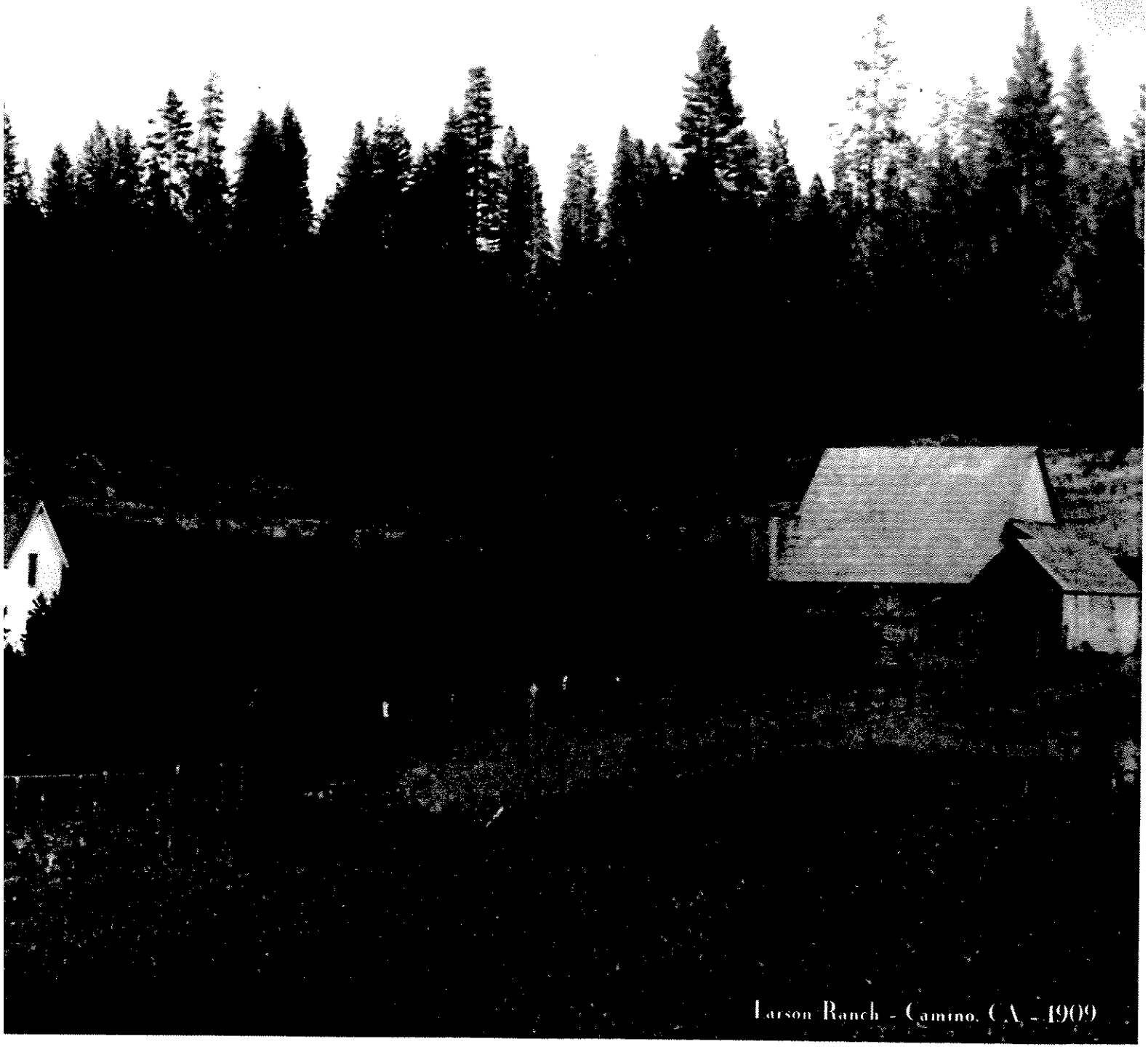
El Dorado County Crop Report 2003



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In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 2003 El Dorado County Crop Report.

The El Dorado County gross crop value for 2003 was $42.7 million, a 12.5% decrease from the 2002 values. The decline in value was caused by many factors including an 8% decrease in timber sales and a 22% decrease in fruit and nut sales. Adverse weather conditions during bloom set greatly contributed to the lower fruit and nut value.

Reported wine grape acreage increased by nearly 9% over 2002. The adverse weather in the spring also affected the wine grape crop. This resulted in a 2.5% decrease in production from the previous year. In addition, the average price paid per ton dropped by 4.5%. Even though there was a decrease in the price per ton, El Dorado County wine grapes still received better than twice the State average for all wine grape varieties.

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. It is estimated that the impact of agriculture on El Dorado County's economy totaled approximately $396 million in 2003. This is an increase of 1.2% over the 2002 value. The wine industry had an estimated $170 million impact on the El Dorado County economy and Apple Hill had an $84 million impact.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLIAM J. STEPHANS
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

El Dorado County

2003 Crop Report

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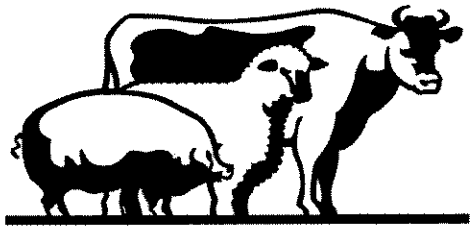
Cover Photo – Courtesy of the
Historical Museum of El Dorado County

Fruit and Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Production	Unit	Value per Unit	Total Value
Pears-Bartlett							
Fresh	2003			244	Tons	$ 510	$ 124,440
	2002			453	Tons	$ 492	$ 222,900
Cannery	2003			501	Tons	$ 225	$ 112,700
	2002			729	Tons	$ 192	$ 140,000
Juice	2003			609	Tons	$ 20	$ 12,180
	2002			788	Tons	$ 14	$ 11,000
Total	2003	285	4.75	1,354	Tons	$ 184	$ 249,320
Bartlett	2002	303	6.50	1,970	Tons	$ 190	$ 373,900
Bosc/Asian	2003	63	8.00	504	Tons	$ 573	$ 288,800
	2002	63	8.90	560	Tons	$ 560	$ 313,600
Total	2003	348	5.37	1,858	Tons		$ 538,120
Pears	2002	366	4.45	2,530	Tons		$ 687,500
Apples	2003			4,173	Tons	$ 842	$ 3,513,670
Fresh	2002			7,064	Tons	$ 825	$ 5,827,800
Cannery/Apple	2003			2,084	Tons	$ 235	$ 489,740
Hill Products	2002			3,532	Tons	$ 205	$ 724,100
Cider	2003			1,230	Tons	$ 100	$ 123,000
	2002			1,178	Tons	$ 90	$ 106,000
Total	2003	835	8.97	7,487	Tons	$ 551	$ 4,126,410
Apples	2002	835	14.10	11,774	Tons	$ 565	$ 6,657,900
Cherries	2003	104	0.31	32	Tons	$ 3,200	$ 102,400
	2002	108	0.28	30	Tons	$ 3,000	$ 90,000
Peaches	2003	102	1.60	163	Tons	$ 2,300	$ 374,900
	2002	97	2.75	267	Tons	$ 2,200	$ 587,400
Plums	2003	57	1.54	88	Tons	$ 1,235	$ 108,680
	2002	61	1.60	98	Tons	$ 1,100	$ 107,800
Wine Grapes Bearing Vines	2003	1676	2.36	3,953	Tons	$ 1,147	$ 4,430,000
	2002	1464	2.77	4,060	Tons	$ 1,199	$ 4,680,000
Non-Bearing	2003	639					
	2002	663	Total Acreage = 2315 ac.				
Walnuts	2003	249	0.62	154	Tons	$ 920	$ 142,030
	2002	253	0.55	139	Tons	$ 1,060	$ 147,300
Total Fruit	2003	3371		13,736	Tons		$ 9,822,540
Nut Crops	2002	3184		18,898	Tons		$ 12,957,900
Minor and Misc.	2003						$ 339,500
Crops*	2002						$ 343,200

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



Livestock

Crop	Year	Number of Head	Total Live Weight	Unit	Value per Unit	Total Value
Cattle and	2003	4120	36,960	cwt.**	$ 77.05	$ 2,847,800
Calves	2002	4450	37,200	cwt.	$ 83.75	$ 3,115,500
Sheep and	2003	505	498	cwt.	$ 93.50	$ 46,700
Lambs	2002	495	480	cwt.	$ 69.40	$ 33,300
Hogs/Pigs	2003	627	1,485	cwt.	$ 34.90	$ 51,800
	2002	635	1,365	cwt.	$ 34.20	$ 46,700
Misc.*	2003					$ 998,600
	2002					$ 1,070,000
Total	2003					$ 3,944,900
Livestock	2002					$ 4,265,200

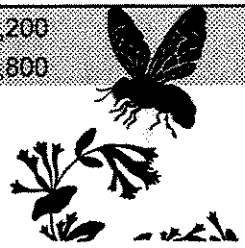
*Misc. Includes: Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Chickens, Hatching Eggs, Llamas, Goats, Emu, Ostrich and Wool

**cwt. = hundredweight = 100 pounds

Apiary Products

	Year		Units	Total Value
Apiary	2003	6,200	Colonies	$ 418,000
Products	2002	1,800	Colonies	$ 180,000

Includes: Honey, Bees Wax, Pollen and Pollination



Hay and Pasture

Crop	Year	Acres	Units		Value Per Unit	Total Value
Hay, Tame	2003	348	644	Tons	$ 91.00	$ 58,600
	2002	354	673	Tons	$ 105.00	$ 70,700
Irrigated	2003	995		Acres	$ 125.00	$ 124,400
Pasture	2002	995		Acres	$ 125.00	$ 124,400
Rangeland	2003	245,000		Acres	$ 12.00	$ 2,940,000
(Dryland)	2002	245,000		Acres	$ 12.00	$ 2,940,000
Total Hay	2003					$ 3,123,000
And Pasture	2002					$ 3,135,100

Nursery Products

Crop	Year	Acreage		Value
Nursery Stock	2003	25	$	1,464,800
	2002	27	$	1,876,500
Trees, Shrubs, Greenhouse	2003	20	$	590,000
	2002	23	$	679,200
Total Nursery	2003	45	$	2,054,800
	2002	50	$	2,555,700

Christmas Trees

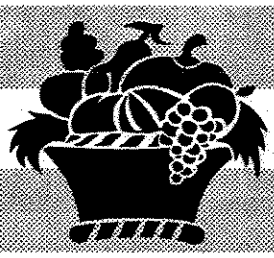
	Year	Production	Unit	Value Per Unit		Value
Wholesale	2003	10,750	Each	$ 18.75	$	201,560
	2002	11,200	Each	$ 18.50	$	207,200
Choose and Cut	2003	70,010	Each	$ 39.90	$	2,793,400
	2002	72,930	Each	$ 39.75	$	2,898,968
Total Christmas Trees	2003	80,760	Each		$	2,994,960
	2002	84,130	Each		$	3,018,900

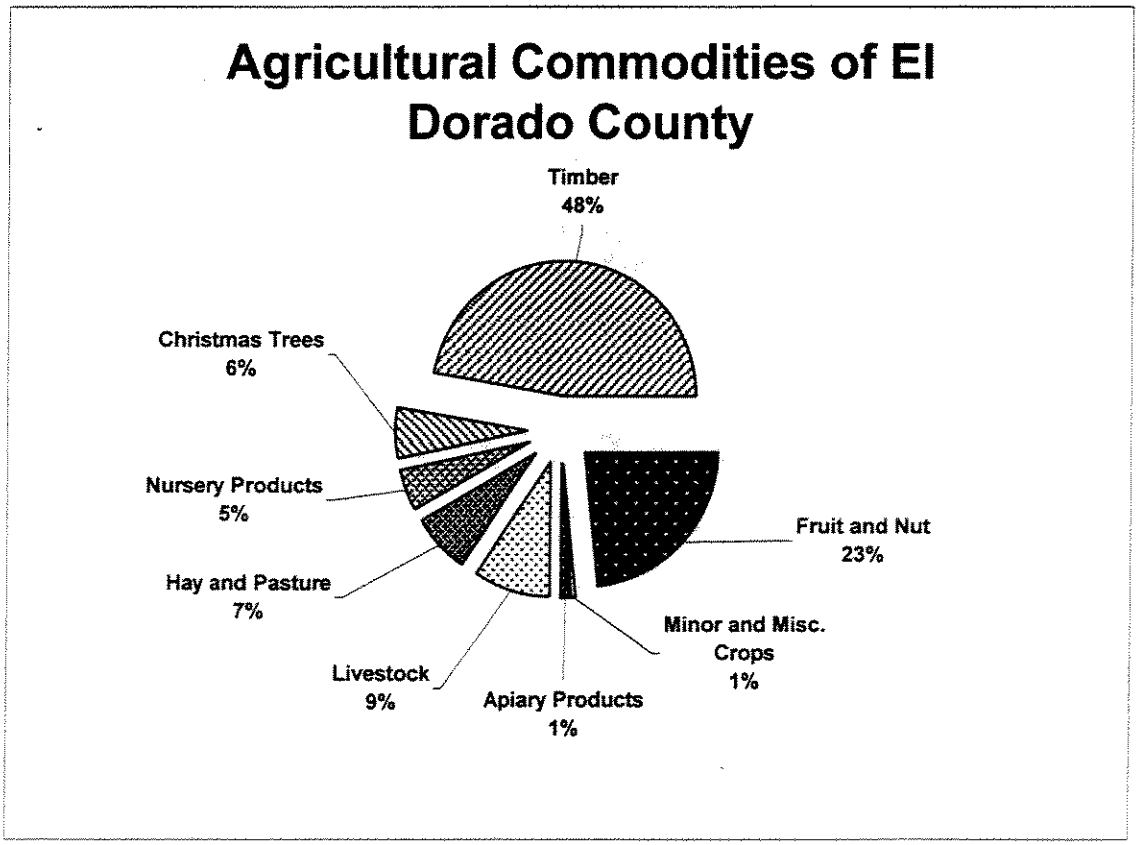
Timber Harvested and By-Products

	Year	Production	Unit		Value
Private and Public Forest	2003	113,400	MBF	$	19,936,450
	2002	145,250	MBF	$	21,664,700
Wood Sales and Permits	2003	2,340	MBF	$	24,100
	2002	2,870	MBF	$	28,900
Total Timber	2003			$	19,960,550
	2002			$	21,693,600

Total Values - All Categories

Crop	Year		Value
Fruit And Nut	2003	$	9,822,540
	2002	$	12,957,900
Minor and Misc.	2003	$	339,500
Crops	2002	$	343,200
Apiary	2003	$	418,000
Products	2002	$	180,000
Livestock	2003	$	3,944,900
	2002	$	4,265,500
Hay and	2003	$	3,123,600
Pasture	2002	$	3,135,100
Nursery	2003	$	2,054,800
Products	2002	$	2,555,700
Christmas	2003	$	2,994,960
Trees	2002	$	3,106,200
Timber	2003	$	19,960,550
	2002	$	21,693,600
Grand	2003	$	42,658,250
Total	2002	$	48,237,200





El Dorado County
Agriculture Programs

The El Dorado County Department of Agriculture is responsible for programs that 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 2,700 inspections at 625 locations were made during 2003 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.

The **Pest Detection Program** consisted of over 800 insect traps in 2003, 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. An action plan for dealing with the Vine Mealybug was developed and implemented in the county. Components of the plan include detection, monitoring infested vineyards, and treatments.

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. VMB infected vineyards were treated by the growers in cooperation with this Department during 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 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, property and/or 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. Further, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is encouraged to reduce pesticide use.

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 59 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 2003, 14 growers were registered as organic, representing 125 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

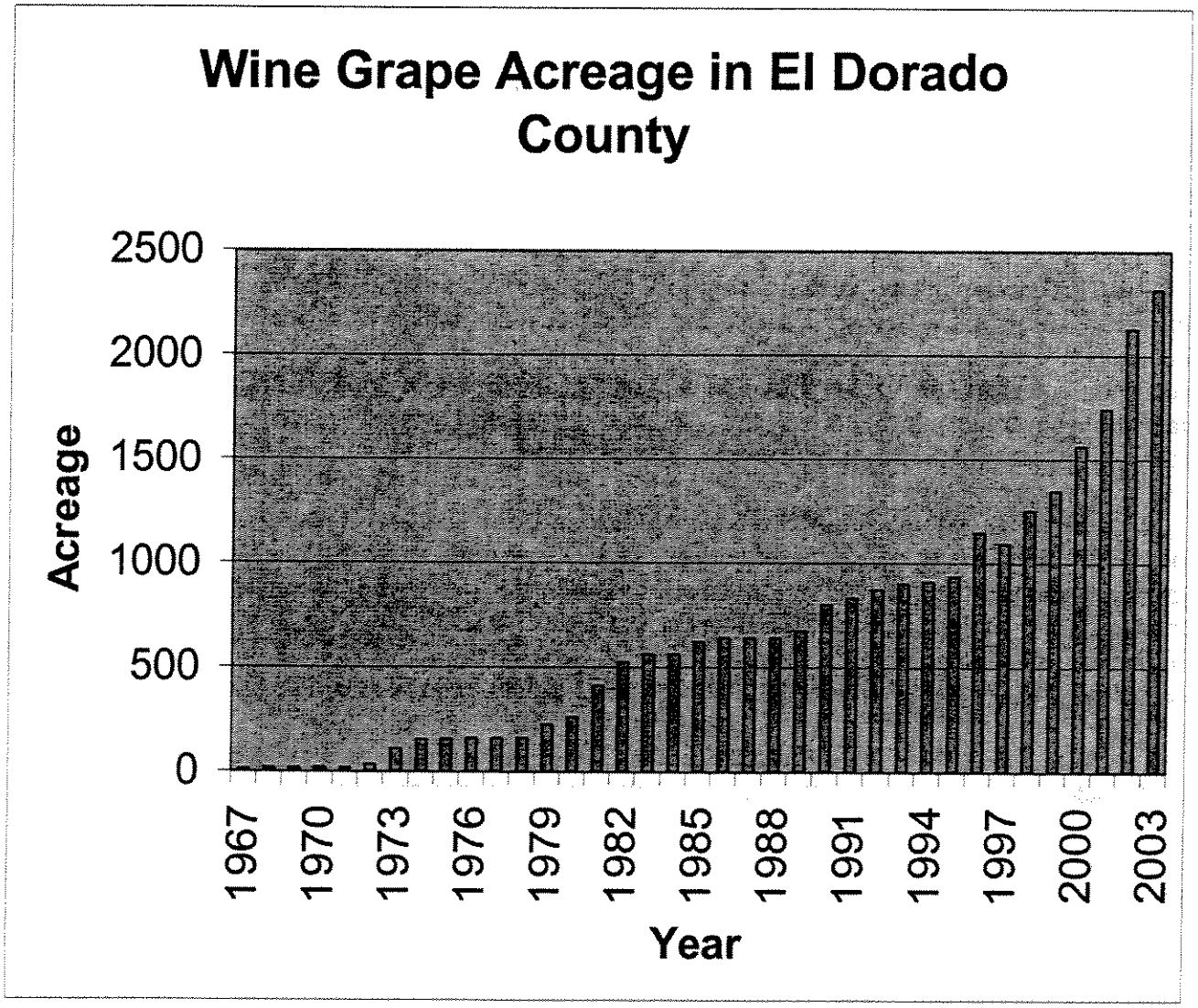
The Department of Agriculture conducts a variety of programs to protect and promote agriculture including **land use planning**, which is administered by the El Dorado County Agricultural Commission. The department also provides **technical resources** to a variety of committees and boards, including 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 Agricultural 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.

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 the amount of gas delivered at the pump is accurate. 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 Wine Grape Varietals of El Dorado County

Variety	2003 Value	2002 Ranking
1. Zinfandel	$ 906,900	2
2. Cabernet Sauvignon	$ 818,300	1
3. Merlot	$ 605,300	4
4. Syrah	$ 540,500	3
5. Chardonnay	$ 267,400	5
6. Barbera	$ 148,700	8
7. Petite Sirah	$ 138,900	6
8. Cabernet Franc	$ 118,400	7
9. Viogner	$ 88,000	---
10. Sangiovese	$ 80,700	9



Vine Mealybug: What is it and how does it affect El Dorado County?

Vine mealybug (VMB, *Planococcus ficus)* is a serious new insect pest for California vineyards. This pest was first identified in the state in 1994. VMB has since spread to scattered vineyards throughout California's wine-, table- and raisin-grape-growing regions. This insect can only be controlled with expensive, reduced-risk insecticides once a vineyard becomes infested. Although they are newer reduced risk products, none of the insecticides are permitted in organic certified vineyards.

The adult female, at 1/8", is the largest life stage of this insect. All life stages (eggs, crawlers, nymphs and adults) can be present year-round on the infested vine. During the winter the insect is found under the bark, within developing buds, and on the roots. The majority of the VMB are located on the trunk near the soil line or on the roots. Being on the roots protects this pest from most cold weather effects. As the temperature warms, the pest population increases and the insects move up the trunk. Ants often tend VMB on the roots and may transport them to parts above the soil line. This pest is found on all portions of the vine during the growing season. Late in the year VMB moves back down the trunk to the soil line and roots. There can be as many as 6 generations per growing year.

VMB feeds on the vine sap. Heavy infestations will severely stress the vine causing a reduction or elimination of fruit production. Damage by this insect produces honeydew that drops on the grape bunches and serves as a substrate for black sooty mold. Black sooty mold makes the grapes unusable for wine production. Often the honeydew is in such huge quantities that it resembles candle wax. VMB can be found infesting grape bunches making them unfit for consumption. In addition to this, VMB can transmit certain grape viruses.

This mealybug can survive for up to 1 month without feeding. The female does not fly, but it can crawl fairly well. Normal routes for introducing this insect to a new vineyard is by way of contaminated equipment, nursery stock and field workers. Since this insect is found in the soil, any soil found on equipment or workers may be contaminated. Therefore any equipment coming into an un-infested vineyard should be free of dirt. Workers coming from an infested vineyard should have clean clothes, equipment, and shoes before entering another vineyard.

Treatment for this pest includes two options. The first option is to treat the vineyard with pesticides. Pursuant to recognized protocols, the vineyard must be treated two to three times during the growing season at a cost of approximately $400/acre/year. Further, the infested vineyard must be treated for 2-5 years to significantly reduce or eradicate this pest. The other option is much more severe in that all of the infested vines must be removed, the area left fallow for an appropriate time and then replanted at a later date. For most vineyard owners neither option is economically feasible.

The effects of Vine mealybug could be devastating to the wine-grape industry of El Dorado County. Currently there are a small number of infested vineyards within the county. This department regularly monitors the infested vineyards to record the population density and measure the effectiveness of the treatments. In addition, we also monitor all vineyards surrounding the infested areas to ensure the insect does not expand its presence in the county.