

El Dorado ~ Alpine Counties



2016



Agricultural Crop & Livestock Report

~ A Small History of Cattle in El Dorado County ~

Very little is known about El Dorado County prior to 1847 when Captain Sutter first began his attempts at a lumber operation in what is now Coloma^[1]. The earliest cattle ranchers we have record of in El Dorado County were Hiram O. Bryant and William Stonebreaker. The men settled on two, contiguous lots totaling 320 acres east of what is now Sly Park's main dam on June 24, 1853. Calling their spread Sly Park Ranch, the men built their homes and began to farm and graze livestock. A large meadow on their parcels later became an easy place for ranchers driving their herds between grazing sites to stop over at. Later, the men even built a small hotel, dance hall included, to accommodate the traveling cattlemen and women^[2].

By 1855 it was reported that there were 9,889 stock animals in El Dorado County^[3]. Even back then it was common to move cattle from lower to higher elevations at certain times of the year to follow available forage. Up until the 1960's open land below the 1,000 foot elevation was regularly used for fall and winter grazing, 1,000 to 2,000 feet was used for early spring grazing, 2,000 to 3,000 feet was used for late spring grazing, and anything over the 6,000 foot elevation mark was used for summer grazing. Cattlemen and women would round up their herds and push them from El Dorado Hills all the way up to the Crystal Range, and even on to South Lake Tahoe, before heading back to lower elevations again at the end of the season. Passed down through the generations, folklore is that cattle herds were driven directly on Highway 50 before it was paved as well as right through many El Dorado County towns' main streets.

Forest Service records dating back to 1911 show that the permitted number of cattle and horses allowed to graze in El Dorado National Forest was 7,601 animals. Following World War I in 1919, the permitted grazing numbers in the El Dorado National Forest peaked at 11,250 animals^[4]. This spike corresponds to total cattle numbers countywide, which climbed to an all-time high of 15,977 head in 1920^[1]. El Dorado was proving to be a good place to range and raise cattle. By 1930, there were 97 livestock ranches and 28 dairy farms in El Dorado County. Together, they made up nearly 30% of the total value of farm land and buildings; though they only accounted for about 15% of the total farms^[1]. Even into the mid-twentieth century, well after the peak of cattle numbers, ranchers readily sought out good grazing land in El Dorado County. Larry Cameron, namesake for what is now Cameron Park, purchased 5,000 acres of rolling oak woodland in the 1950's to expressly run cattle on^[2].

That's not to say times were always flush for ranchers trying to earn a living. The popularity and affordability of the automobile and the tractor changed the American landscape on all fronts. By 1939, forage and grain acreage dropped significantly due to machinery replacing cattle and horse teams^[1]. Paved roads led both cars and the families filling them to discover the many once remote recreational vistas within our county, and subsequently many grazing allotment, borders. The El Dorado National Forest grazing permit numbers had dropped to 6,904 animals by 1930 and 4,859 animals by 1959 to allow for mix-use sites^[4].

Other losses of grazing sites came when multiple dams were built throughout the Crystal Basin and Crystal Range. For instance, when the Union Valley Reservoir project was completed in 1963 an unintended consequence was that the Reservoir wound up submerging large forage areas and even a ranch headquarters. An increase in recreationalists using the same areas, as well as an overall decrease in grazing site acreage and forage accessibility, meant instead of being able to drive cattle onto larger allotments the cattle now needed to be hauled in to multiple smaller ones. Profitability dropped. Over this same amount of time, changes to the beef industry were taking place across the state. Steers were being butchered younger and on feedlots as opposed to rangeland. In El Dorado County a post-World War II real estate boom was underway. It became more lucrative to subdivide and develop parcels than to range cattle on them^[4]. This microcosm of a statewide issue led to the formation of the Williamson Act in 1965, which provides property tax relief to open-space and farmland in exchange for keeping the parcels undeveloped.

The Williamson act saved many ranching families, some of who had roots in El Dorado County that reached back into the gold rush days.

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2016 CROP REPORT

El Dorado and
Alpine Counties

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El Dorado and Alpine Counties

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It is my pleasure to submit the 2016 Crop and Livestock Report for El Dorado & Alpine Counties. The report is produced in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code and summarizes the acreage, production and gross values of the Counties' agricultural commodities.

The gross crop value for the County of El Dorado was \$61,859,905 million, representing a decrease of 3.2% from the 2015 values. Apples and apple products remained the leading crop with a total value of \$19.2 million. Livestock rose to the second leading crop with a value of \$10.7 million. Winegrape values increased by 7.9% over the 2015 values to \$8.7 million. Timber values were \$5,322,915, which was the largest decline with a decrease of 60%.

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 to the County of El Dorado's economy totaled approximately \$560 million in 2016, of which, Apple Hill and value-added products contributed an estimated \$255 million while the wine industry added another \$287 million.

Alpine County's gross crop value for 2016 was estimated to be \$5.5 million. This was a decline of 2.5% from the 2015 values. Price per hundredweight for cattle was the main decrease from the previous year.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the producers, agricultural business representatives and public agencies that provided information to produce this report. I would like to thank Heather Meleski and LeeAnne Mila for their work in compiling the report and Jessica Fowler for her work on the design.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Charlene Carveth in black ink.

CHARLENE CARVETH

Agricultural Commissioner

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Fruit and Nut Crops



Apples

Crop	Year	Acreage	Total Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Fresh	2016		5964	Tons	2500	\$14,910,000
	2015		5450	Tons	\$2,219	\$12,093,550
Juice/Cider	2016		220,317	Gallons		1,982,852
	2015		200,986	Gallons		\$1,507,395
Cannery/Apple Hill Products*	2016					\$2,385,321
	2015					\$2,112,148
Total Apples	2016	852				\$19,278,173
	2015	852				\$15,713,093

*Includes all "enhanced agricultural products" such as fruit/nut pies and jams


Pears



Crop	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Bartlett/Bosc	2016	65	2.1	137	Tons	3155	\$432,235
	2015	65	3.34	217	Tons	\$2,972	\$644,924
Asian	2016	40	6.2	248	Tons	4,852	\$1,203,296
	2015	40	0.1	4	Tons	\$4,100	\$16,400
Total Pears	2016	105					\$1,635,531
	2015	105					\$661,324

Fruit and Nut Crops

Wine Grapes



Crop	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Production	Unit	Value** Per Unit	Total*** Value
Bearing	2016	2,337	2.4	6,026	Tons	\$1,561	\$8,740,953
	2015	2,221	2.1	5,366	Tons	\$1,502	\$8,098,780
Non-bearing	2016	184	Total Grape Acreage 2016* = 2,522 acres				
	2015	199	Total Grape Acreage 2015* = 2,420 acres				

*2015 acreage numbers reflect actual responses by the agricultural community for the 2015 Wine Grape Survey

** Reflects the average price of all wine grape varieties

*** Crop Values reported in the El Dorado County Wine Grape Surveys


Other Fruit & Nut Crops



Crop	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Peaches	2016	110	3.36	370	Tons	\$5,000	\$1,850,000
	2015	110	3.58	394	Tons	\$5,000	\$1,970,000
Plums	2016	52	3.33	173	Tons	\$4,200	\$726,600
	2015	52	2.54	132	Tons	\$4,200	\$554,736
Olives	2016	62			Gallons		\$179,201
	2015	62			Gallons		\$181,294
Walnuts	2016	126	1.52	192	Tons	\$3,500	\$672,000
	2015	126	0.41	52	Tons	\$2,940	\$152,880
Cherries	2016	50	0.92	46	Tons	\$7,600	\$349,600
	2015	50	0.15	7.5	Tons	\$7,000	\$52,500
Totals	2016						\$3,777,401
	2015						\$2,911,410

Fruit and Nut Crops

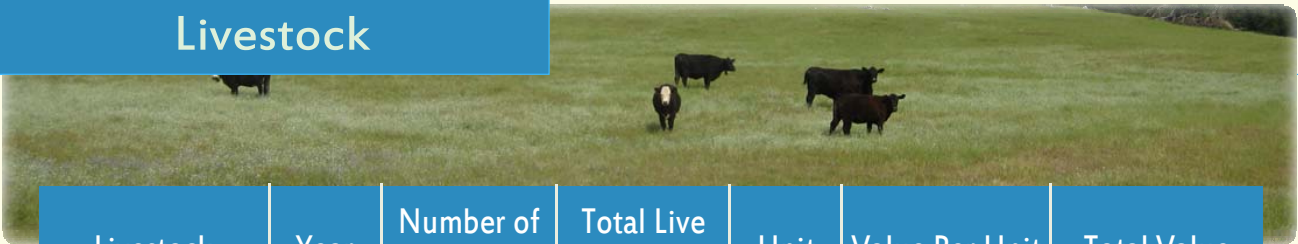
Totals



Totals	Year	Total Acreage	Total Value
Fruit & Nut Crops	2016	3,878	\$33,432,058
	2015	3,777	\$27,384,607
Minor & Misc. Crops*	2016		\$1,723,217
	2015		\$1,451,169
Total	2016		\$35,155,275
	2015		\$28,835,776

* Minor & Miscellaneous Crops include truck gardens. Berries, nectarines, citrus, chestnuts, avocados, pumpkins, tomatoes, persimmons, etc.

Livestock



Livestock	Year	Number of Head	Total Live Weight	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Cattle	2016	5,879	52,911	cwt**	\$162.00	\$8,571,582
	2015	6,204	55,836	cwt**	\$168.00	\$9,380,448
Miscellaneous*	2016					\$2,120,500
	2015					\$1,927,531
Total Livestock	2016					\$10,692,082
	2015					\$11,307,979

* Miscellaneous includes: Turkeys, Ducks, Chickens, Goats, Alpacas, Sheep, Pigs, Emu and Wool By-products

Hay and Pasture



Crop	Year	Acres	Units	Units	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Hay	2016	225	270	Tons	\$197.00	\$53,190
	2015	225	309	Tons	\$215.00	\$66,435
Pasture, Irrigated	2016	1581			\$140.00	\$221,340
	2015	925			\$135.00	\$124,875
Rangeland	2016	233,000			\$20.00	\$4,660,000
	2015	233,000			\$20.00	\$4,660,000
Total	2016					\$4,934,530
	2015					\$4,851,310

Apiary Products



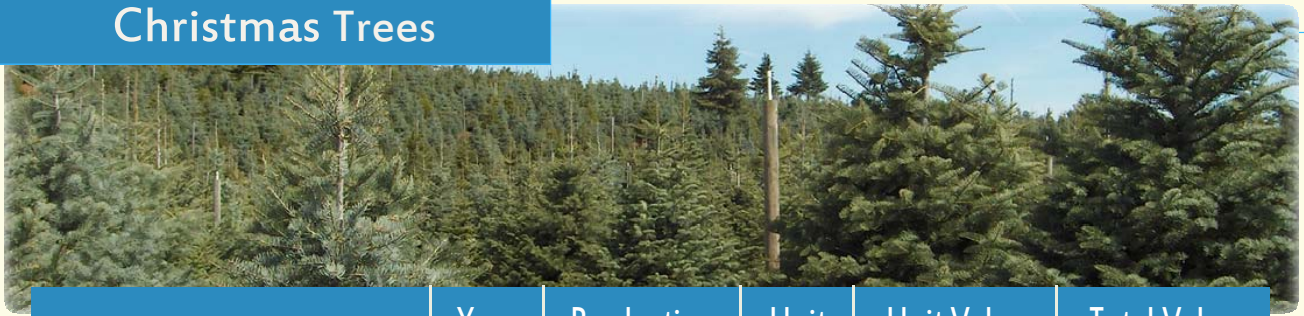
	Year	Units	Total Value
Apiary Products	2016	3,800 Colonies	\$780,000
	2015	4,400 Colonies	\$902,000

Nursery Products



	Year	Acreage	Total Value
Total Nursery	2016	36	\$2,567,417
	2015	36	\$2,467,883

Christmas Trees



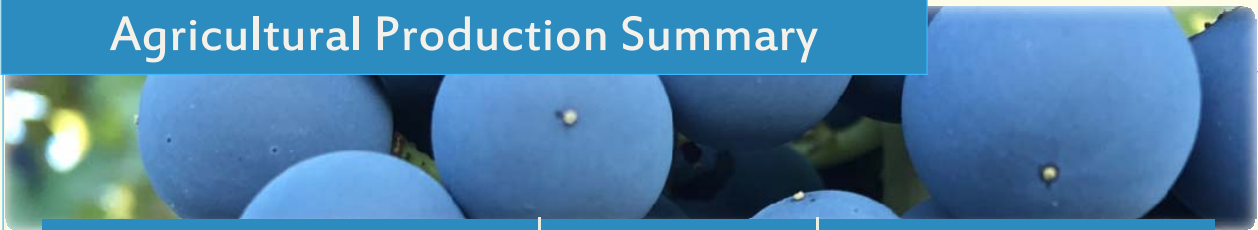
	Year	Production	Unit	Unit Value	Total Value
Choose and Cut	2016	36,102	Each	\$65.00	\$2,346,630
	2015	36,486	Each	\$62.00	\$2,262,132
Wholesale	2016	1,152	Each	\$53.00	\$61,056
	2015	1,298	Each	\$53.00	\$68,794
Total Christmas Trees	2016				\$2,407,686
	2015				\$2,330,926

Timber Harvested and By-products

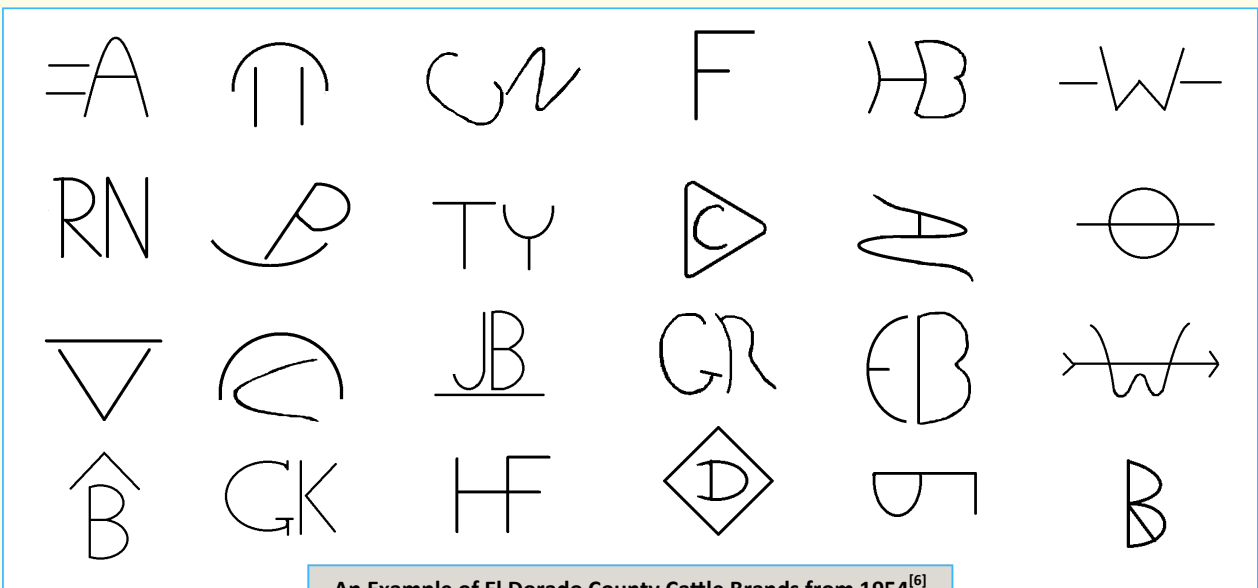


	Year	Production	Unit	Total Value
Private and Public Forest	2016	60,353	Million Board Feet	\$5,267,550
	2015	180,032	Million Board Feet	\$13,180,934
Wood Sales and Permits	2016	1,242	Million Board Feet	\$55,365
	2015	1,428	Million Board Feet	\$40,342
Total Timber	2016			\$5,322,915
	2015			\$13,221,276

Agricultural Production Summary

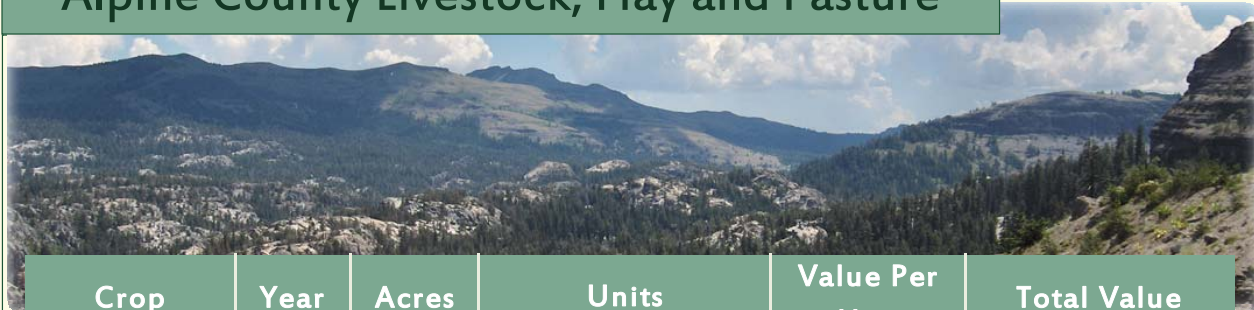


Crop	2016	2015
Apples	\$19,278,173	\$15,713,093
Livestock	\$10,692,082	\$11,307,979
Wine Grapes	\$8,740,953	\$8,098,780
Timber	\$5,322,915	\$13,221,276
Hay and Pasture	\$4,934,530	\$4,851,310
Other Fruit and Nut Crops	\$3,777,401	\$2,911,410
Nursery	\$2,567,417	\$2,467,883
Christmas Trees	\$2,407,686	\$2,330,926
Minor and Miscellaneous Crops	\$1,723,217	\$1,451,169
Pears	\$1,635,531	\$661,324
Apiary	\$780,000	\$902,000
Agricultural Gross Value	\$61,859,905	\$63,917,150



An Example of El Dorado County Cattle Brands from 1954^[6]

Alpine County Livestock, Hay and Pasture



Crop	Year	Acres	Units		Value Per Unit	Total Value
Hay	2016	250	1800	Tons	\$200.00	\$360,000
	2015	250	2000	Tons	\$200.00	\$400,000
Pasture, Irrigated	2016	2,700			\$140.00	\$378,000
	2015	2,500			\$135.00	\$337,500
Rangeland	2016	133,000			\$20.00	\$2,660,000
	2015	133,000			\$20.00	\$2,660,000
Total	2016					\$3,398,000
	2015					\$3,397,500
Cattle		# Sold	Total Weight	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
	2016	1,089	13,068	cwt**	\$162.00	\$2,117,016
	2015	1,120	13,440	cwt**	\$168.00	\$2,257,920

** cwt. = hundredweight = 100 pounds.



2016 Agricultural Department Summary



In 2016, the El Dorado and Alpine County Agriculture and Weights & Measures Department:

- Placed over 632 insect traps throughout the counties in both urban and rural areas and serviced them 4,579 times to detect and prevent the establishment of exotic and harmful pests (Pest Detection Program).
- Placed 419 Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) traps throughout the county in rural, urban, and nursery settings, inspecting and servicing them 4,555 times (Pest Management Program).
- Inspected 158 nursery stock shipments entering the county from known GWSS infected areas (Pest Management Program).
- Conducted 170 inspections at over 145 locations to prevent the introduction of detrimental pests that are not of common occurrence in California (Pest Exclusion Program).
- Provided management of wildlife that were depredating livestock, property and/or presenting a hazard to public health and safety (Wildlife Management Program).
- Coordinated invasive weed control, education and eradication among federal, state, county and private agencies in El Dorado and Alpine Counties. Participated as an integral partner in the El Dorado, Lake Tahoe Basin, and Alpine/Upper Carson Weed Management Area Groups (Pest Eradication Program).
- Conducted the Pesticide Monitoring Program to protect public health, property, the environment and agricultural workers in partnership with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (Pesticide Use Monitoring Program).
- Inspected 611 certified producers' scales, individual farm scales, winery platform scales, and livestock scales. Inspected 2,167 measuring devices, retail meters, electric meters, water meters and submeters. Scales and meters are inspected to ensure consumer protection and equity in the marketplace (Weights and Measures Program).
- Issued 66 Certified Producer's Certificates for growers selling at Certified Farmer's Markets.
- Issued 9 Farmers Market Certificates
- Reviewed 24 Organic Farm Registrations

2016 Agricultural Department Summary Continued



El Dorado County Certified Farmer's Markets of 2016

<p>Diamond Springs Farmers' Market 484 Main Street, Diamond Springs Year Round</p>	<p>El Dorado County Farmers' Market American Legion Hall Parking Lot, South Lake Tahoe June 7th to October 11th</p>
<p>El Dorado County Farmers' Market Burke's Junction Parking Lot, Cameron Park May 18th to September 28th</p>	<p>El Dorado County Farmers' Market Community Service District Parking Lot, El Dorado Hills June 2th to August 28th</p>
<p>El Dorado County Farmers' Market Ivy House Parking Lot, Placerville May 7th to November 12th</p>	<p>El Dorado County Farmers' Market Town Center Parking Lot, El Dorado Hills May 15th to October 30th</p>
<p>Main Street Certified Farmers' Market Main Street, Placerville June 4th to September 9th</p>	<p>People's Mountain Market Garden Valley Park, Garden Valley June to October</p>
<p>SOL Community Farmers' Market 247 Main St, Placerville June 8th to November 12th</p>	

1. *1939 El Dorado County Agricultural Program Building Committee*. Compiled by Members of the 1939 Agricultural Economic Planning Conference.
2. http://www.edcgov.us/Living/Stories/Story_Index.aspx
3. <http://www.historichwy49.com/placer/elдохист.html>
4. *The Long Term Outlook for the El Dorado County Livestock Industry*. Preliminary Draft. March 21, 1961. By David Weeks.
5. El Dorado County's 2005 Crop Report
6. *1954 Cattle Brands with 1955 Supplemental California Cattle Brands, Reinstatements and Transfers*. State of California Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Husbandry, Bureau of Livestock Identification.
Portrait of Edio done by Carole Mathis.
Front cover image and inside cattle photos courtesy of the Kate Neilsen.
All other photos courtesy of El Dorado County's Agricultural Biologists both past and present.

...Continued from inside front page

Magnus and Karoline Neilsen, for example, established a homestead and ranch south of El Dorado, California sometime in the late 1870's^[5]. Other ranching family descendants still raising cattle locally include: the Bachis, the Fornis, the Klares, the Vicinis, the Varozzas, the Walkers, and the Wunschels to name a few.

Whether a family's raised cattle locally for over a century, or only over a week, there's a new breed of rancher proudly carrying on the traditions and heritage of the previous cattlemen and women who've called El Dorado County home. Cattle are still moved between private pasturelands and Forest Service rangelands, albeit on a smaller scale. Demand in our county has shifted away from large-scale feedlots and back to smaller farm-to-fork, grass fed cattle operations, creating a boutique industry within our county. Many of our local ranchers' high quality beef can be found at both upper scale restaurants as well as at local farmer's markets. Tourist and locals alike can also purchase directly from the ranchers by using the El Dorado Resource Conservation District's directory website at:

<http://www.eldoradorcd.org/nodes/projects/localprod.htm>.

In Dedication To Edio Delfino 1930—2017



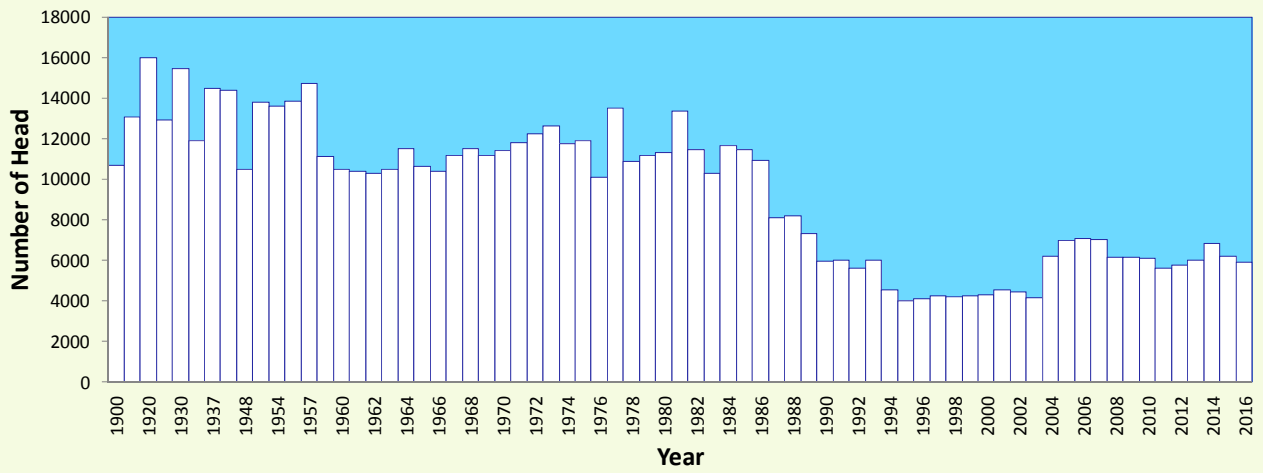
El Dorado and Alpine County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer from 1960—1993

Edio stepped into his position as El Dorado County's Agricultural Commissioner during a devastating time for local growers. Growers were losing their crops, and their livelihoods, to pear decline. Always a proponent for agriculture, Edio, along with Gene Bolster, Dick Bethell, and Bob Tuck, worked hard to help come up with a plan to protect both local farmers and the countywide agricultural industry. As a result, the Apple Hill Growers Association was born. It was a stroke of ranch marketing genius.

Today's Apple Hill brings close to a million visitors a year to over fifty locally owned farms. Edio even included his own family ranch, Kids Inc., on the Apple Hill Farm Trail; happily offering fresh produce and pies for sale. In the mid-1960's Edio and Dick also encouraged local growers to revitalize El Dorado County's once booming grape growing industry. That foresight has blossomed into multiple AVAs (American Viticultural Areas) with over to 2,500 acres of vineyards and more than 60 wineries.

Edio often visited the Agricultural Commissioner's office after his retirement. His mustache perched above an ever present smile and a twinkle in his eye, Edio delighted in meeting and encouraging both new and veteran staff alike. Edio was nothing less than a pillar of modern El Dorado County agriculture and is greatly missed.

Cattle in El Dorado County: Number of Head Reported Since 1900



Cattle in Alpine County: Number of Head Reported Since 2004

