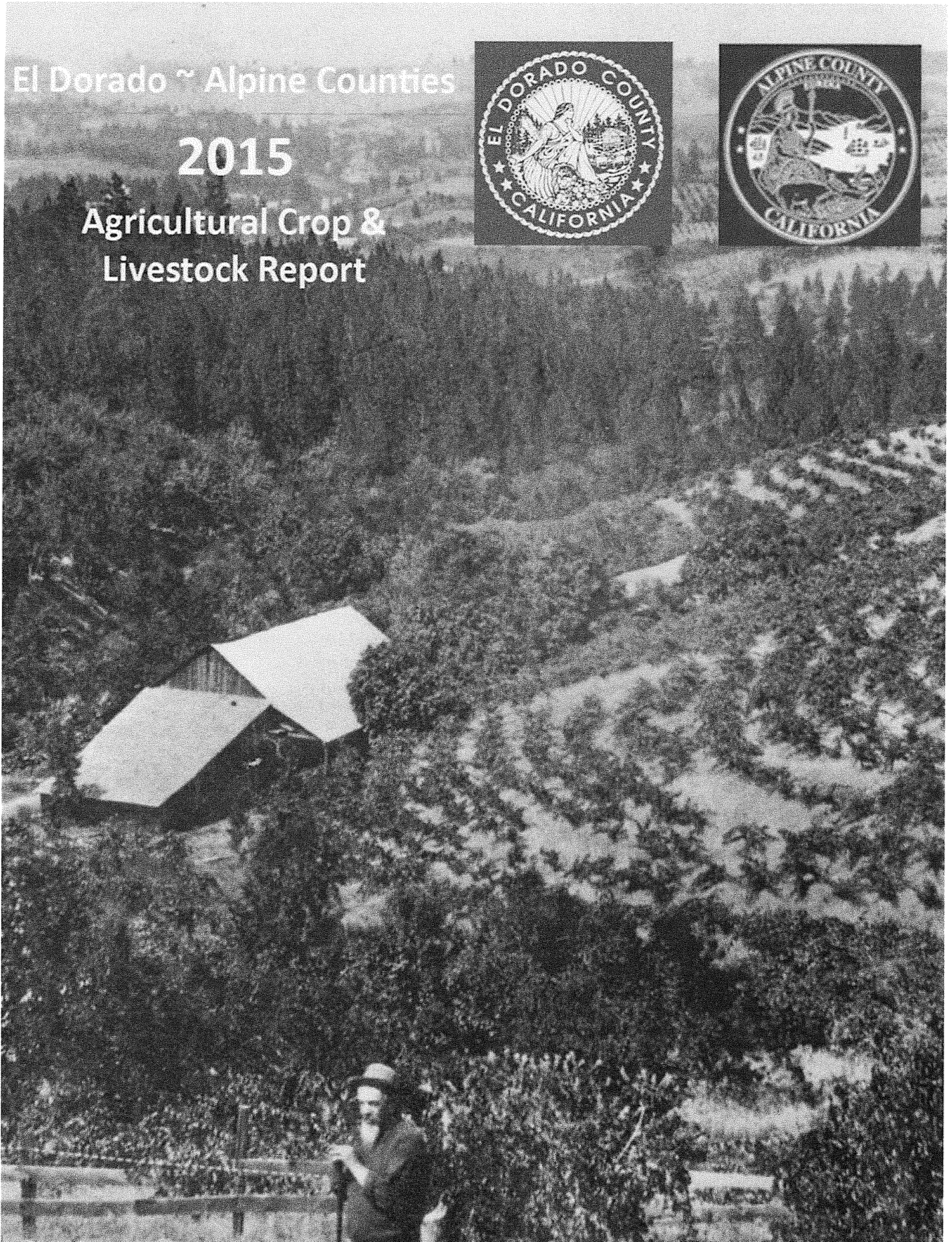


El Dorado ~ Alpine Counties

2015

Agricultural Crop &  
Livestock Report



---

On January 24, 1848, in what later became the town of Coloma, gold was discovered by James Marshall at Sutter's Mill. A migration of men hungry for gold soon followed. Mining communities sprang up across El Dorado County, and with them several industries, including winemaking. Even John Sutter (of Sutter's Mill) and James Marshall eventually produced wine from grapes grown in their vineyards. They weren't the first. The earliest vineyard was planted in 1849 west of the town known today as Rescue. Back then the Mission grape was the only available varietal, and from it came the first commercial vintage of 10,000 gallons in 1859. El Dorado County had entered the commercial market and was on the map as an official wine producing region. Viticulture, the cultivation of grapes particularly for winemaking, soared from there.

In 1866 the *Alta California* approximated El Dorado County contained more than 1.4 million bearing vines, greater than any other foothill county. The county's wine industry continued its stratospheric climb and a mere 4 years later, in 1870, El Dorado County became the third largest wine producer in the state behind only Los Angeles and Sonoma Counties. For most locals, selling wine was the better bet for discovering riches than mining any gold field.

Surprisingly, several original wineries still stand, including El Dorado County's first: Constructed in 1857 on Deer Creek Road in Rescue by Jacob Zentgraf, today the intact former winery and farm house serves as a private residence. Another historical site, the winery cellar from early 1860's winemaking pioneer, James Skinner, can be found at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Cameron Park Drive in Rescue. It's slated to be fully restored to its original glory. Perhaps the most beautifully preserved site is the 1870's Fossati/Lombardo winery. The original buildings are still in use today and open to the public under the current owner, Boeger Winery.

Gold wasn't the only legacy left by James Marshall: A forefather in El Dorado County's winemaking history, he experimented with East Coast and European winegrape varietals intent on discovering the best varietals suited to the county's climates and soils. At one time, James Marshall propagated more than 120 varietals and even entered his wine at the county fair. For his contributions he was later made an honorary member of the California State Agricultural Society. However, mirroring the transient gold rush, the wine boom was not to last.

By the turn of the 19th century El Dorado County's gold fields, and the populations they brought, had waned. With it so went the demand for wine. The depression of the 1890's, Prohibition, the Wall Street crash of 1929, and subsequent Great Depression all took their tolls on local viticulture. Gold rush era vineyards, and the wineries they supported, were replaced by pear orchards. By 1966 only 11 acres of winegrapes remained. Some of the most historically important winegrowing districts were disregarded and lost. When Folsom Dam was built in 1955 the sprawling, historical vineyard lands that once surrounded Mormon Island disappeared beneath the rising waters of Folsom Lake.

Continued on inside back page...

Our department would like to thank the El Dorado County Winery Association for generously allowing us to use information and graphics from their website <http://eldoradowines.org>, as well as from their book, *Gold and Wine, A History of Winemaking in El Dorado County*, from which most of the facts in this article were obtained.



# 2015 CROP REPORT

El Dorado and  
Alpine Counties

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/ WEIGHTS & MEASURES STAFF

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Charlene Carveth

DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

LeeAnne Mila

AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGISTS/  
STANDARDS INSPECTORS

Jessica Fowler ~ Heather Meleski ~ KC Sare  
~ CJ Seado ~ Rashell Veerkamp

### WILDLIFE SERVICES

John Chandler ~ Jody Nicholas

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Deanna Tompkins ~ Myrna Tow

### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY TECHNICIANS

Charlie Charm ~ Tom Williams  
John Borgnis ~ Johanna Crawley  
Zachary Marchant

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

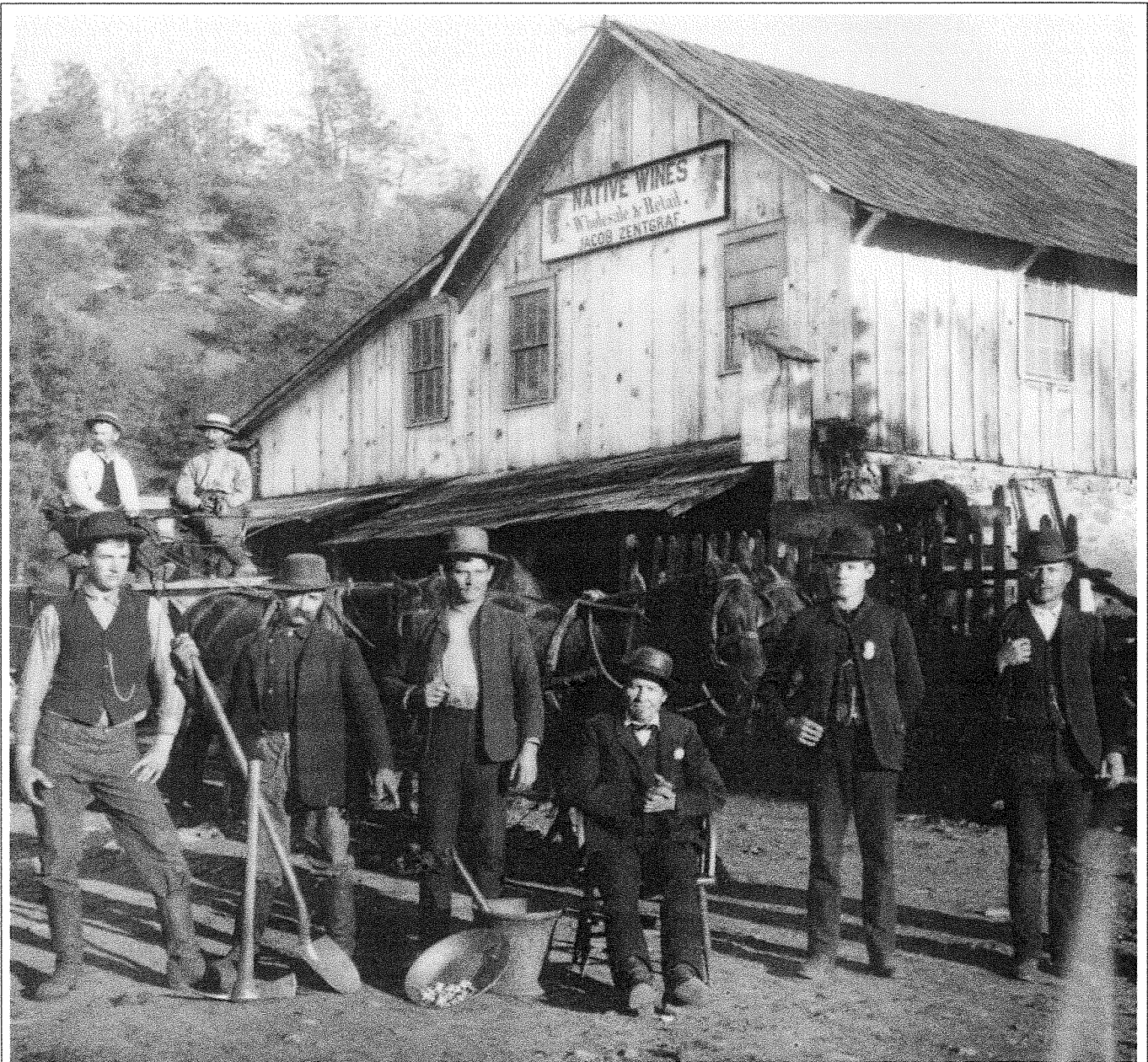
### EL DORADO COUNTY

Agricultural Commissioner's Letter	i
Fruit & Nut Crops	1
Apples	1
Pears	1
Wine Grapes	2
Other Fruit & Nut Crops	2
Totals	3
Livestock	3
Hay & Pasture	4
Apiary Products	4
Nursery Products	4
Christmas Trees	5
Timber Harvested and By-products	5
Agricultural Production Summary	6
Agricultural Department Summary	8
Certified Farmers Market Summary	9

### ALPINE COUNTY

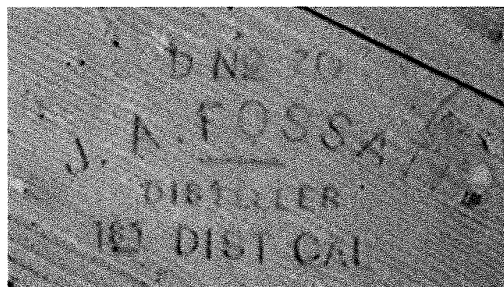
Livestock	7
Hay & Pasture	7
Agricultural Department Summary	8

Photos courtesy of El Dorado County Department of Agriculture's staff  
Cover Photo: Front cover is Giovanni Lombardo, circa the late 1800's, on his vineyard, which would become present day Boeger Winery.



Above: Jacob Zentgraf (seated) and his family circa 1890. His winery stands in the background while a pan full of gold sits near his feet.

Below: A branded door at what is today Boeger Winery. Sarah A. Fossati inherited the original winery and vineyards from her parents (the Lombardos) in the 1908. Her son, John A. Fossati, was already working onsite for the wine business his grandparents started.





**El Dorado and Alpine Counties**  
**Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures**

---



311 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-5520 Main  
(530) 626-4756 Fax  
eldcag@edcgov.us



Karen Ross, Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

**Board of Supervisors**

**El Dorado County**

Ron Mikulaco	District 1
Shiva Frentzen	District 2
Brian Veerkamp	District 3
Michael Ranalli	District 4
Sue Novasel	District 5

**Alpine County**

Donald M. Jardine	District 1
Ron Hames	District 2
Katherine Rakow	District 3
Terry Woodrow	District 4
Mary Rawson	District 5

In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I hereby submit the 2015 El Dorado & Alpine Counties Crop Report.

The gross crop value for the County of El Dorado was \$63,917,150 million, representing an increase of 8.9% from 2014 values. Apples and apple products were the leading crop in El Dorado County with a total value of \$15.7 million. Timber moved to our second leading crop with a value that increased by 34.5%, due to timber salvage efforts after the King Fire. While a mild winter paired with continued drought affected yields of some of the fruit and nut crops, wine grapes increased in total value by 6.8% to \$8.1 million.

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 \$528 million in 2015, of which, Apple Hill and value-added products contributed an estimated \$244 million while the wine industry added another \$238 million.

Alpine County's gross crop value for 2015 was estimated to be \$5.66 million. Despite continued drought conditions, livestock prices continue to reflect strong demand.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the many individuals and organizations which have contributed information to make this report possible. I would like to thank Heather Meleski, Jessica Fowler and LeeAnne Mila for their work in compiling information for this report.

Respectfully submitted,

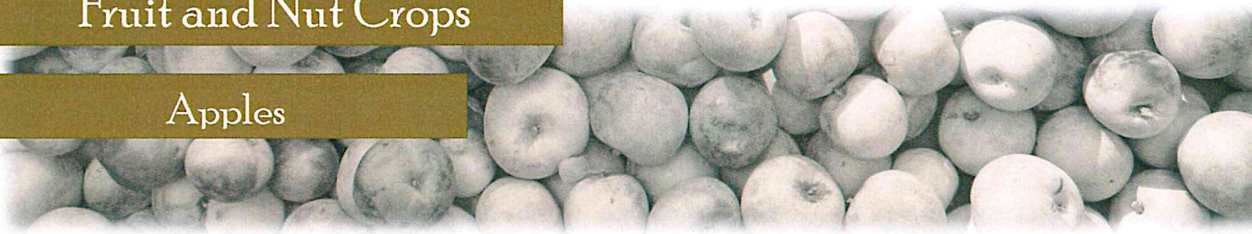
Handwritten signature of Charlene Carveth in cursive.

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	2015		5,450	Tons	\$2,219	\$12,093,550
	2014		5,650	Tons	\$2,320	\$13,108,000
Juice/Cider	2015		200,986	Gallons		\$1,507,395
	2014		200,947	Gallons		\$1,507,103
Cannery/Apple Hill Products*	2015					\$2,112,148
	2014					\$2,168,342
Total Apples	2015	852				\$15,713,093
	2014	852				\$16,783,445

\*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	2015	65	3.34	217	Tons	\$2,972	\$644,924
	2014	65	3.11	202	Tons	\$2,501	\$505,202
Asian	2015	40	0.10	4	Tons	\$4,100	\$16,400
	2014	40	2.95	118	Tons	\$3,326	\$392,468
Total Pears	2015	107					\$661,324
	2014	107					\$897,670



## Fruit and Nut Crops

### Wine Grapes

Crop	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total Production	Unit	Value** Per Unit	Total*** Value
Bearing	2015	2,221	2.1	5,366	Tons	\$1,502	\$8,098,780
	2014	2,109	2.3	5,339	Tons	\$1,458	\$7,582,914
Non-bearing	2015	199	Total Grape Acreage 2015* = 2,420 acres				
	2014	278	Total Grape Acreage 2014* = 2,387 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	2015	110	3.58	394	Tons	\$5,000	\$1,970,000
	2014	108	3.00	324	Tons	\$5,000	\$1,620,000
Plums	2015	52	2.54	132	Tons	\$4,200	\$554,736
	2014	52	3.58	186	Tons	\$3,142	\$584,412
Olives	2015	62			Gallons		\$181,294*
	2014	62			Gallons		\$178,560*
Walnuts	2015	126	0.41	52	Tons	\$2,940	\$152,880
	2014	111	0.44	49	Tons	\$3,520	\$172,480
Cherries	2015	50	0.15	7.5	Tons	\$7,000	\$52,500
	2014**	50	0.05	2.5	Tons	\$7,440.4	\$18,601
Totals	2015						\$2,911,410
	2014						\$2,574,053

\*Value and Total Value based on gallons of olive oil sold. \*\*Correction from 2014 Crop Report.



## Fruit and Nut Crops

### Totals

Totals	Year	Total Acreage	Total Value
Fruit & Nut Crops	2015	3,884	\$27,383,607
	2014	3,740	\$27,838,082
Minor & Misc. Crops*	2015		\$1,451,169
	2014		\$1,312,259
Total	2015		\$28,834,776
	2014		\$29,150,341

\*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	2015	6,204	55,836	cwt**	\$168.00	\$9,380,448
	2014	6,810	63,970	cwt**	\$141.00	\$9,019,770
Miscellaneous*	2015					\$1,927,531
	2014					\$1,865,794
Total Livestock	2015					\$11,307,979
	2014					\$10,885,564

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



## Hay and Pasture

Crop	Year	Acres	Units	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Hay	2015	225	309 Tons	\$215.00	\$66,435
	2014	225	337 Tons	\$235.00	\$79,195
Pasture, Irrigated	2015	925		\$135.00	\$124,875
	2014	925		\$140.00	\$129,500
Rangeland	2015	233,000		\$20.00	\$4,660,000
	2014	233,000		\$18.00	\$4,194,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2015</b>				<b>\$4,851,310</b>
	2014				\$4,402,695

## Apiary Products

	Year	Units	Total Value
Apiary Products	2015	4,400 Colonies	\$902,000
	2014	4,300 Colonies	\$881,500

## Nursery Products

	Year	Acreage	Total Value
<b>Total Nursery</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$2,467,883</b>
	2014	36	\$2,464,028



## Christmas Trees



	Year	Production	Unit	Unit Value	Total Value
Choose and Cut	2015	36,486	Each	\$62.00	\$2,262,132
	2014	36,100	Each	\$60.00	\$2,166,000
Wholesale	2015	1,298	Each	\$53.00	\$68,794
	2014	1,319	Each	\$56.00	\$73,864
Total Christmas Trees	2015				\$2,330,926
	2014				\$2,239,864

## Timber Harvested and By-products



	Year	Production	Unit	Total Value
Private and Public Forest	2015	180,032	Million Board Feet	\$13,180,934
	2014	55,371	Million Board Feet	\$8,628,351
Wood Sales and Permits	2015	1,428	Million Board Feet	\$40,342
	2014	1,573	Million Board Feet	\$35,770
Total Timber	2015			\$13,221,276
	2014			\$8,664,121



## Agricultural Production Summary

Crop	2015	2014
Apples	\$15,713,093 (1)	\$16,783,445 (1)
Timber	\$13,221,276(2)	\$8,664,121 (3)
Livestock	\$11,307,979 (3)	\$10,885,564 (2)
Wine Grapes	\$8,098,780 (4)	\$7,582,914 (4)
Hay and Pasture	\$4,851,310 (5)	\$4,402,695 (5)
Other Fruit and Nut Crops	\$2,911,410 (6)	\$2,574,053 (6)
Nursery	\$2,467,883 (7)	\$2,464,028 (7)
Christmas Trees	\$2,330,926 (8)	\$2,239,864 (8)
Minor and Miscellaneous Crops	\$1,451,169 (9)	\$1,312,259 (9)
Pears	\$661,324 (10)	\$897,670 (10)
Apiary	\$902,000 (11)	\$881,500 (11)
<b>Agricultural Gross Value</b>	<b>\$63,917,150</b>	<b>\$58,688,113</b>



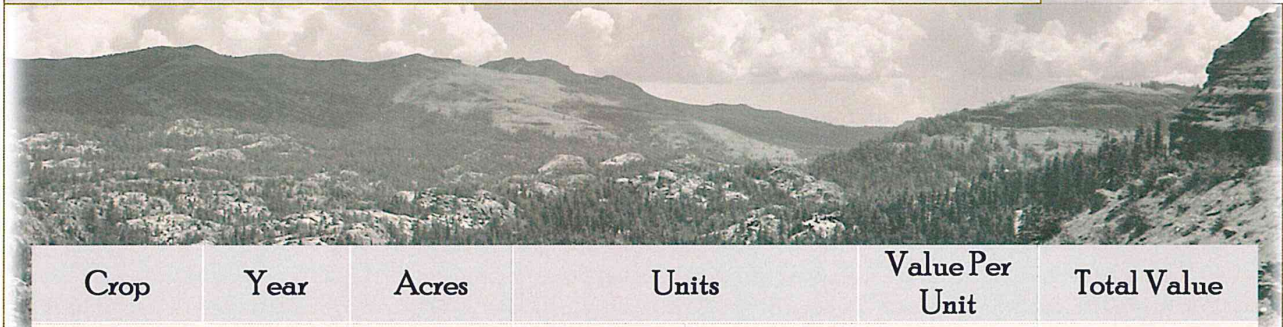
Jacob Zentgraf's winery is seen on the left in this picture from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This property is where the first local grapevines were planted by a Mr. Stevens in 1849.



James Skinner (far left) & his son George (standing) in front of their winery circa the early 1860s.



## Alpine County Livestock, Hay and Pasture



Crop	Year	Acres	Units		Value Per Unit	Total Value
Hay	2015	250	2000	Tons	\$200.00	\$400,000
	2014	250	2000	Tons	\$300.00	\$600,000
Pasture, Irrigated	2015	2,500			\$135.00	\$337,500
	2014	2,500			\$140.00	\$350,000
Rangeland	2015	133,000			\$20.00	\$2,660,000
	2014	133,000			\$15.00	\$1,995,000
Total	2015					\$3,397,500
	2014					\$2,945,000
Cattle		# Sold	Total Weight	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
	2015	1,120	13,440	cwt**	\$168.00	\$2,257,920
	2014	1,300	19,500	cwt**	\$145.00	\$2,827,500

\*\* cwt. = hundredweight = 100 pounds.





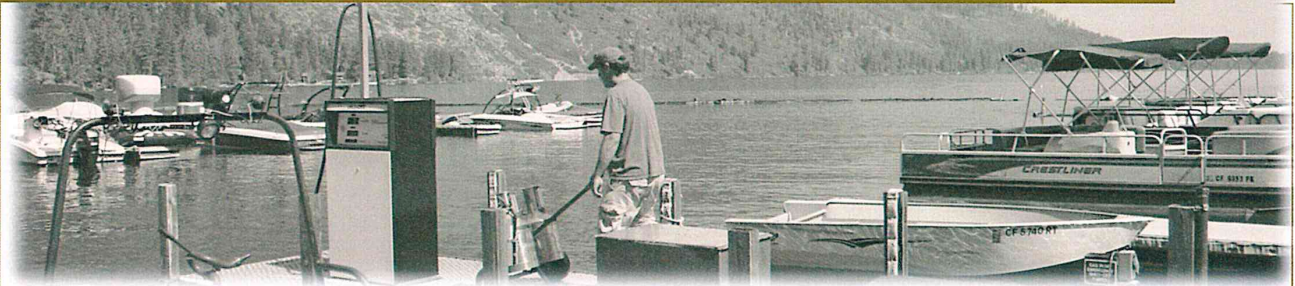
## 2015 Agricultural Department Summary

In 2015, the El Dorado and Alpine County Agriculture and Weights & Measures Department:

- Placed over 573 insect traps throughout the counties in both urban and rural areas and serviced them 3,341 times to detect and prevent the establishment of exotic and harmful pests (Pest Detection Program).
- Placed 424 Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) traps throughout the county in rural, urban, and nursery settings, inspecting and servicing them 5,025 times (Pest Management Program).
- Inspected all nursery stock entering the county from known GWSS infected areas (Pest Management Program).
- Conducted 123 inspections at over 96 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).
- Registered 22 organic producers.
- 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).
- In conjunction with the local Resource Conservation District, Ag Department staff certified local farms for the Fish Friendly Farming Program through the California Land Stewardship Institute.
- Inspected 512 certified producers' scales, individual farm scales, winery platform scales, and livestock scales. Inspected 1,565 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 64 Certified Producer's Certificates for growers selling at Certified Farmer's Markets.



## 2015 Agricultural Department Summary Continued



### El Dorado County Certified Farmer's Markets of 2015

Diamond Springs Farmers' Market  
484 Main Street, Diamond Springs  
Year Round

El Dorado County Farmers' Market  
American Legion Hall Parking Lot,  
South Lake Tahoe  
June 2, 2015 to October 13, 2015

El Dorado County Farmers' Market  
Burke's Junction Parking Lot, Cameron Park  
May 14, 2015 to October 7, 2015

Green Acres Farmers' Market  
3400 Carson Street, Camino  
October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

El Dorado County Farmers' Market  
Community Service District Parking Lot,  
El Dorado Hills  
June 4, 2015 to August 27, 2015

Main Street Certified Farmers' Market  
Main Street, Placerville  
June 2015 to October 2015

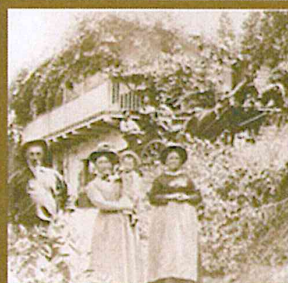
El Dorado County Farmers' Market  
Town Center Parking Lot, El Dorado Hills  
May 17, 2015 to October 25, 2015

People's Mountain Market  
Garden Valley Park, Garden Valley  
June 2015 to October 2015

El Dorado County Farmers' Market  
Ivy House Parking Lot, Placerville  
May 2, 2015 to November 14, 2015

Victory Garden Farmer's Market  
520 Truck St., Diamond Springs  
Year Round

El Dorado County Farmers' Market  
Library Parking Lot, Placerville  
June 5, 2015 to August 28, 2015



Lombardos with daughter Sarah Fossati circa 1885



Giovanni and Candida Lombardo circa 1905



Greg Boeger, current owner, circa 2007



...Continued from inside front page

It wasn't until the mid-sixties, when pear decline had all but decimated pear crops countywide, that commercial viticulture was reconsidered. As pear orchards were being plowed under, El Dorado County Farm Advisor, Dick Bethell, and Agricultural Commissioner, Edio Delfino, recalled the county's reputation as a 19th century winegrape growing region. Between 1965 and 1967 both men encouraged growers to plant winegrape test plots using 24 varieties near Coloma, Camino, the town of El Dorado, Fair Play, and Placerville. Growers John Hempt, Lloyd Walker, and George and Marion Ritchie to name a few, decided to try their luck at planting vines. Things were going well when Dick Bethell and Edio Delfino struck on the new idea to experiment with higher elevation vineyards.

By 1972 the men had convinced Richard and Leslie Bush to plant vines at a 3000' elevation for what would later evolve into Madroña Vineyards. That same year, Greg Boeger started planting for what would be Boeger Winery. The next year found Ken Kirk's Stonebarn Vineyards, and in 1974 John and Barbara Mac Cready began vineyards for what would become Sierra Vista Winery. The timeline coincided nicely as, on a national scale, more consumers were beginning to drink wine. A new era dawned in El Dorado County.

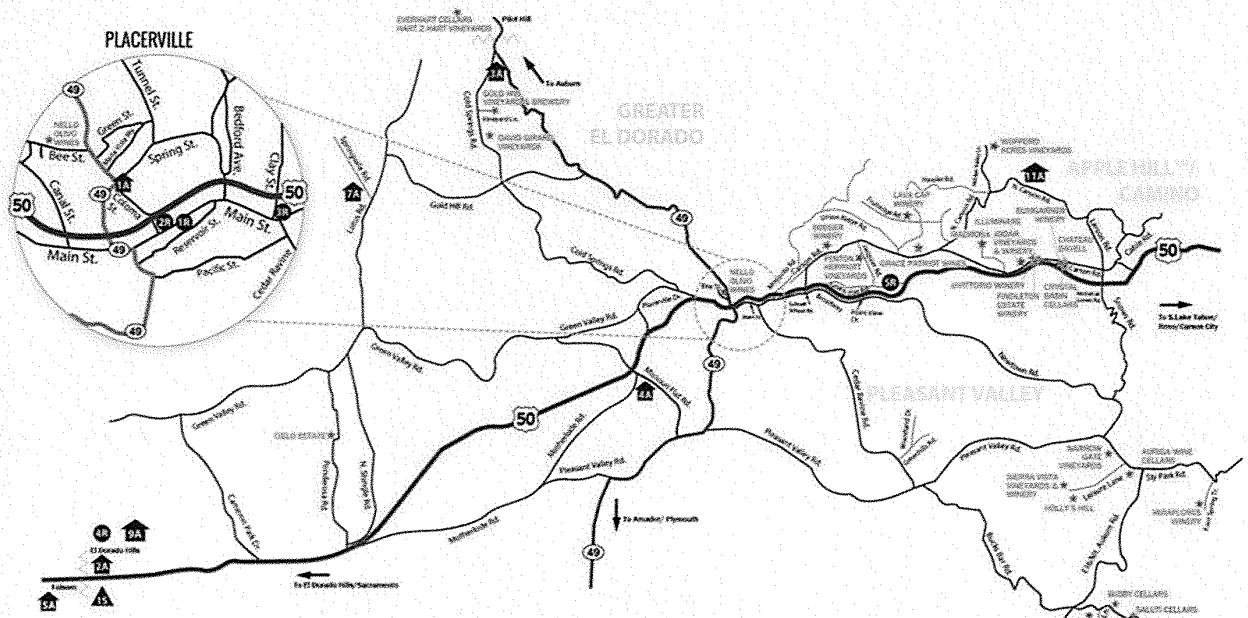
From the grape growing pioneers rose the wine renaissance of the 1970's, and with it, a new guard of wineries. Led in 1973 by Boeger Winery, which was the first largescale winery to open post Prohibition, by 1977 two more wineries had opened their cellar doors: Sierra Vista Winery and El Dorado Vineyards. Madroña Vineyards bottled their first vintage the very next year. Shortly thereafter our county was making headlines for a new kind of gold rush: Queen Elizabeth was presented a specially bottled 1980 Boeger Zinfandel during her trip to California and Boeger's 1982 Merlot was served twice at the White House's state dinners.

The higher elevation concept first imagined by Dick Bethell and Edio Delfino became one of the key aspects to improving the quality of wine produced in El Dorado County. Sitting high above the Sacramento Valley floor, the unique position of our growing districts, also known as the El Dorado Appellation, allows vines to be cooled twofold: first by the 1,200 to 3,500 feet elevation, rather than the fog so common to the coastal regions, and second by easterly winds coursing down from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Coupled with this, our county has a complex topography, including three soil types: the deep and fertile fine-grained volcanic soils, well-draining granitic soils, and fine-grained shale.

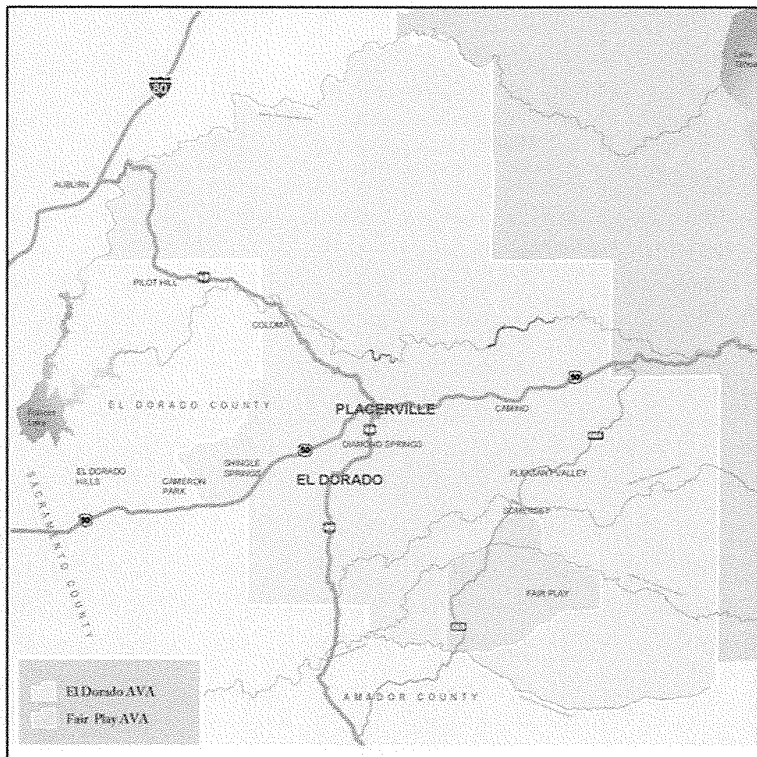
El Dorado County's varying topography and weather results in hundreds of individualized microclimate growing conditions, referred to as "terroir." Each grape varietal prefers a specific terroir to ripen perfectly, and our county has the ideal climates for cultivating nearly 50 grape varieties ranging from Gewürztraminer, which prefers the higher and cooler climes, all the way down to the warmth preferring Zinfandel and Barbera. No other grape growing region in North America possesses an identical terroir. So much so, in fact, that El Dorado County has been recognized as an American Viticultural Area (AVA) since 1983 and the Fair Play region of the county was distinguished with its own AVA designation in 2001.

Today our county has experienced a viticulture revitalization to rival the heyday of the late 1800's: More than 60 wineries and nearly 2,400 planted acres are nestled within El Dorado County's low-lying chaparral forests, mid-elevation rolling oak woodlands, and high-reaching evergreen pine borders. The terroir of each region adds a distinct character and complexity to the ripening fruit that cannot be found outside of our El Dorado Appellation. Every individual wine profile is as unique to our foothills as the pioneering individuals who brought viticulture to El Dorado County and allowed its wines to achieve global recognition.





Above and right: El Dorado County's wineries at a glance.



El Dorado County's AVAs, or American Viticultural Areas

