



NEVADA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Protecting and Promoting Agriculture in Nevada County



2014 AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

Nevada County's Agricultural Commissioner and Department of Agriculture are dedicated to sustaining a healthy agricultural industry, while protecting the environment, the agricultural workforce and the community. The mission of the Nevada County Department of Weights & Measures is to provide fair compensation and equity in the marketplace and to ensure that the interest of the buyer and seller are protected through education, inspection and enforcement.

Nevada County Department of Agriculture/ Weights & Measures

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General Information



Population¹ 98,292

Density 101/sq mi

Total Area¹ 974 sq mi (623,360 ac)

Land Area¹ 958 sq mi (613,120 ac)

Water Area¹ 16 sq mi (10,240 ac)

Highest Elevation 9,152 ft

Lowest Elevation 280 ft

Farmlands² 26,185 ac

Grazing Land² 116,784 ac

Urban and Built-up Land² 17,556 ac

Total Cropland³ 3,349 ac

Number of farms³ 686

Nevada County was established in April 1851. The county was named after the mining town of Nevada City, a name derived from the term "Sierra Nevada". The word *nevada* is Spanish for "snowy" or "snowy-covered".⁴

¹Source: California Department of Finance, E-1: City/County Population Estimates as of January 1, 2014

²Source: California Department of Conservation 2012 Land Use Conversion

³Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2012 Census of Agriculture

⁴Source: "Nevada County History", US Gen Web Project in California, retrieved August 27, 2015

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Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner

Karen Ross, Secretary

California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada

Ed Scofield	District 2, Chair
Dan Miller	District 3, Vice Chair
Nate Beason	District 1
Hank Weston	District 4
Richard Anderson	District 5

I am pleased to present the 2014 County of Nevada Annual Crop and Livestock Report. This report is prepared pursuant to Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report represents estimated acreage, yield, and gross value of agricultural products in Nevada County.

The gross value of Nevada County's agricultural production for 2014 was \$23,253,100, up 1% from the 2013 value. The livestock industry saw a 21% increase in gross value in 2014, mainly due to a 24% increase in cattle values affected by an increased price per unit. Timber products, Nevada County's second highest valued crop in 2013, decreased in value in 2014 by 63%. Fire salvage timber harvesting in surrounding counties was the main cause for the decline.

This report also includes summaries of the department's pest exclusion, pest detection and invasive weed program activities for 2014.

I would like to thank the many producers, agricultural business representatives, and public agencies who have cooperated in supplying the data necessary to produce this report. Without their assistance, this crop report would not be possible. I would also like to thank the members of my staff, for their contributions, with special recognition going to Agricultural Biologist Luci Wilson, for compiling the information and developing the new layout. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Chrisandra J. Flores

Agricultural Commissioner

"Promoting and Protecting Nevada County Agriculture~"

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Gross Production Value Summary

Commodity	Year	Value
Vegetable Crops	2014	\$843,100
	2013	\$888,600
Nursery and Flower Products	2014	\$378,500
	2013	\$383,900
Timber Products	2014	\$1,843,100
	2013	\$4,924,900
Fruit and Nut Crops	2014	\$1,839,600
	2013	\$1,964,700
Livestock and Poultry	2014	\$14,138,800
	2013	\$11,134,400
Apiary, Eggs and Wool Products	2014	\$510,500
	2013	\$438,800
Pasture & Rangeland	2014	\$3,700,000
	2013	\$3,510,000
Grand Total	2014	\$23,253,100
	2013	\$23,245,300

The amounts in this report represent estimated gross values, regardless of utilization. No attempt is made to reflect net income to the producer or cost of production. All values are rounded after final calculation.





Vegetable Crops

Vegetables include beet, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, corn, cucumber, eggplant, garlic, herbs, leafy greens, melon, onion, peas, pepper, potato, parsnip, pumpkin, radish, squash, tomato and turnip.

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Value
Vegetables	2014	88	\$843,100
	2013	71	\$888,600

Nursery and Flower Products

Crop	Year	Production Acres	Number of Trees	Value
Nursery	2014	6		\$237,500
	2013	6		\$270,300
Cut Flowers	2014	4		\$61,700
	2013	4		\$48,100
Christmas Trees	2014	24	1696	\$79,300
	2013	24	1679	\$65,500
Total Nursery	2014	7		\$378,500
	2013	6		\$383,900



Timber Products

Crop	Year	Amount	Unit	Price Per Unit	Value
Timber	2014	8211	MBF	\$224.47	\$1,843,100
	2013	25,290	MBF	\$194.74	\$4,924,900

Certified Farmers Markets

Local farmers' markets allow producers to sell their certified commodities directly to the public. There were 40 certified producers that were issued certificates in Nevada County in 2014. The following 11 Farmers Markets have been certified by the Agricultural Commissioner to market local and regional produce in Nevada County. These producers offer a wide variety of commodities.

TUESDAY

Truckee (June 2-October 27)

10500 Brockway Rd8am-1pm

Nevada City (June 2-October 27)

The Rood Center, Hwy 49 2pm-5:30pm

Lake of the Pines (June 16-September 22)

Lower marina parking lot4pm-7pm

THURSDAY

Penn Valley (June 4-October 29)

Seventh Day Adventist Church 2pm-5:30pm

Grass Valley (June 18-August 6)

Mill Street.....6pm-9pm

Truckee (June 11-October 29)

Donner Pass Road near Train Station .. 4pm-8:30pm

SATURDAY

Nevada City (June 13-November 21)

Union Street.....8:30am-1pm

Grass Valley (April 11-November 21)

North Star House, Old Auburn Road ..8am-12:30pm

SUNDAY

Truckee (June 7-October 29)

12047 Donner Pass Road10am-2pm



Organic

Organic farming practices focus on maintaining ecological health and balance through promoting biodiversity and soil health while minimizing pollutants. Organic farming practices exclude the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers as well as genetically modified organisms.

The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office performs inspections on behalf of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for first-time registrants and producers that make less than \$5000 in annual sales, and conducts spot checks at farmers markets.

In 2014, 30 organic producers were registered with growing sites in Nevada County.





Fruit and Nut Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Tons Per Acre	Total Tonnage	Value
Red Winegrapes	2014	247	3.73	910	\$1,224,900
	2013	260	2.93	762	\$1,149,500
White Winegrapes	2014	95	4.29	409	\$546,500
	2013	164	2.90	476	\$737,400
Other Fruit and Nuts*	2014	38			\$68,200
	2013	32			\$77,800
Total Fruits and Nuts	2014				\$1,839,600
	2013				\$1,964,700

*Includes almond, apple, apricot, blueberry, cherry, chestnut, fig, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pluot, pomegranate, prune, quince, raspberry, strawberry and walnut.



Red Winegrape Varieties

Reds	Bearing Acres	Avg Ton/Acre	Tons	Avg Price/Ton
Barbera	7	5.85	39	\$1,446
Cabernet Franc	44	4.28	187	\$1,267
Cabernet Sauvignon	94	3.85	362	\$1,456
Grenache	2	2.60	4	\$1,564
Merlot	38	3.75	141	\$1,270
Petite Verdot	7	3.28	22	\$1,394
Primitivo	3	3.48	9	\$1,461
Sangiovese	3	3.27	9	\$1,205
Syrah	16	2.88	46	\$1,229
Zinfandel	25	3.03	76	\$1,171
Other Reds*	8	2.01	15	\$1,250
Red Total	247	3.73	910	\$1,346

*Other red varieties reported include: Basturdo, Carienane, Carmine, Cinsaut, Dolcetto, Graciano, Legrein, Malbec, Montepulciano, Mouvedre, Petite Sirah, Refosco/Mondeuse, Tempranillo, Teroldego, Tinta Cao, Tinta Negra Mole, and Touriga Nationale.

White Winegrape Varieties

Whites	Bearing Acres	Avg Ton/Acre	Tons	Avg Price/Ton
Chardonnay	59	4.44	262	\$1,378
Muscat Blanc/Canelli	3	5.33	17	\$1,391
Pinot Gris	17	4.57	79	\$1,286
Sauvignon Blanc	9	3.01	27	\$1,032
Other Whites**	7	3.45	24	\$1,352
White Total	95	4.29	409	\$1,337

**Other white varieties reported include: Chenin Blanc, Fiano, Flora, Forastera, Marsanne, Melon, Muscat Orange, Petite Sirah, Peverella, Pinot Blanc, Rkatsiteli, Rousanne, Semillon, Tocai, and Viognier.

Livestock and Poultry

Commodity	Year	Head	Live Weight	Unit*	Per Unit Price	Value
Steers & Heifers	2014	4,200	47,250	cwt	\$180.00	\$8,505,000
	2013	4,800	52,800	cwt	\$125.00	\$6,600,000
Cow & Calf	2014	2,700	29,430	cwt	\$180.00	\$5,297,400
	2013	2,600	31,200	cwt	\$125.00	\$3,900,000
Sheep & Lambs	2014	1,130	1,356	cwt	\$150.00	\$203,400
	2013	2,400	3,000	cwt	\$140.00	\$420,000
Miscellaneous (Hogs, goats, chickens)	2014					\$132,539
	2013					\$214,400
Total Livestock	2014					\$14,138,300
	2013					\$11,134,400

*cwt = hundred weight, 100 lbs





Apiary, Eggs and Wool Products

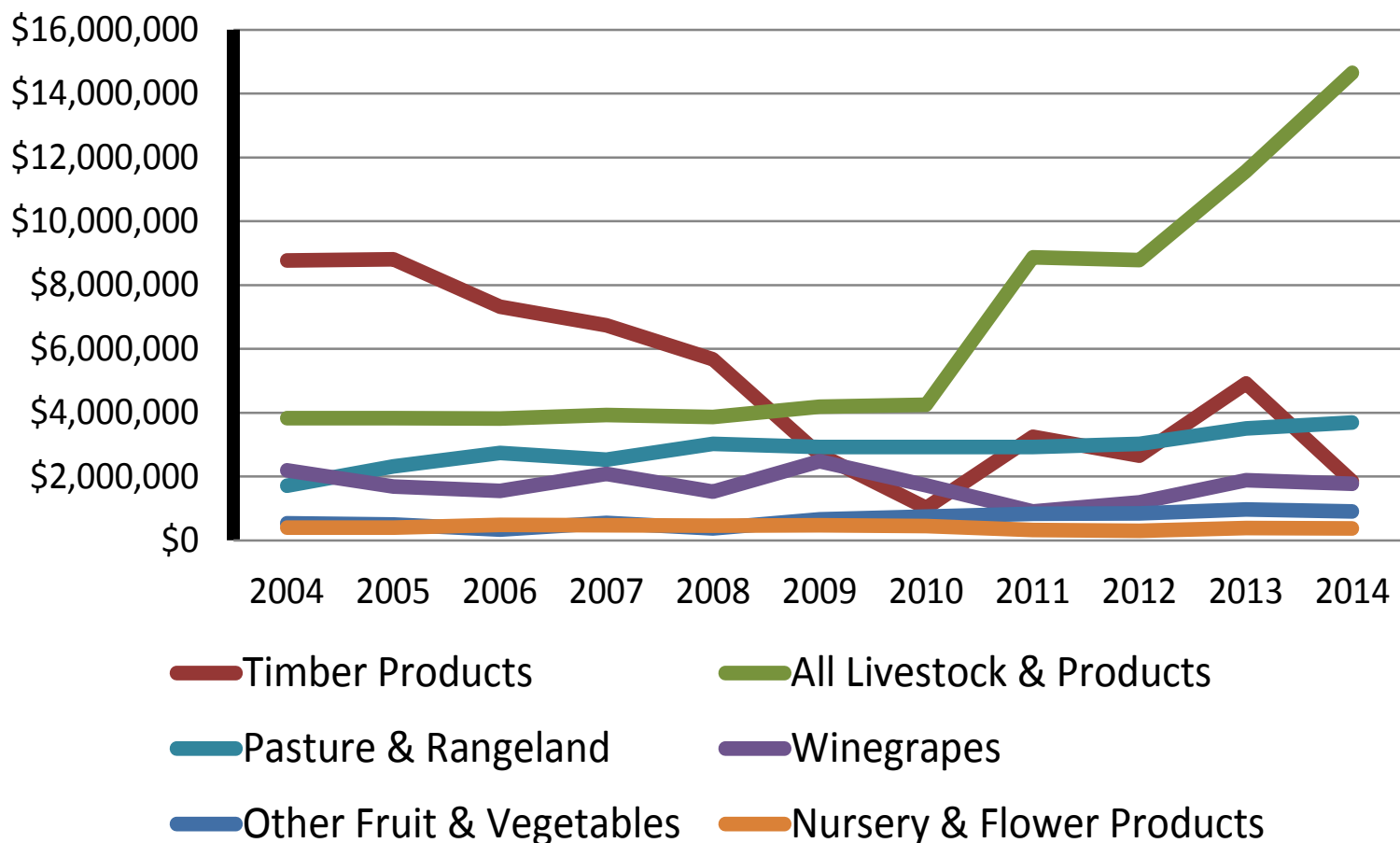
Commodity	Year	Amount	Unit	Price Per Unit	Value
Apiary	2014	2230	hives		\$409,900
	2013	1760	hives		\$329,000*
Wool Products	2014	600	pounds	\$18	\$10,800
	2013	500	pounds	\$18	\$9,000
Eggs	2014	17,778	dozen	\$5.05	\$89,800
	2013	20,697	dozen	\$4.87	\$100,800*
Total Apiary, Eggs and Wool Products	2014				\$510,500
	2013				\$438,800

*Apiary and eggs had math errors for 2013. This reflects the corrected value.

Pasture and Rangeland

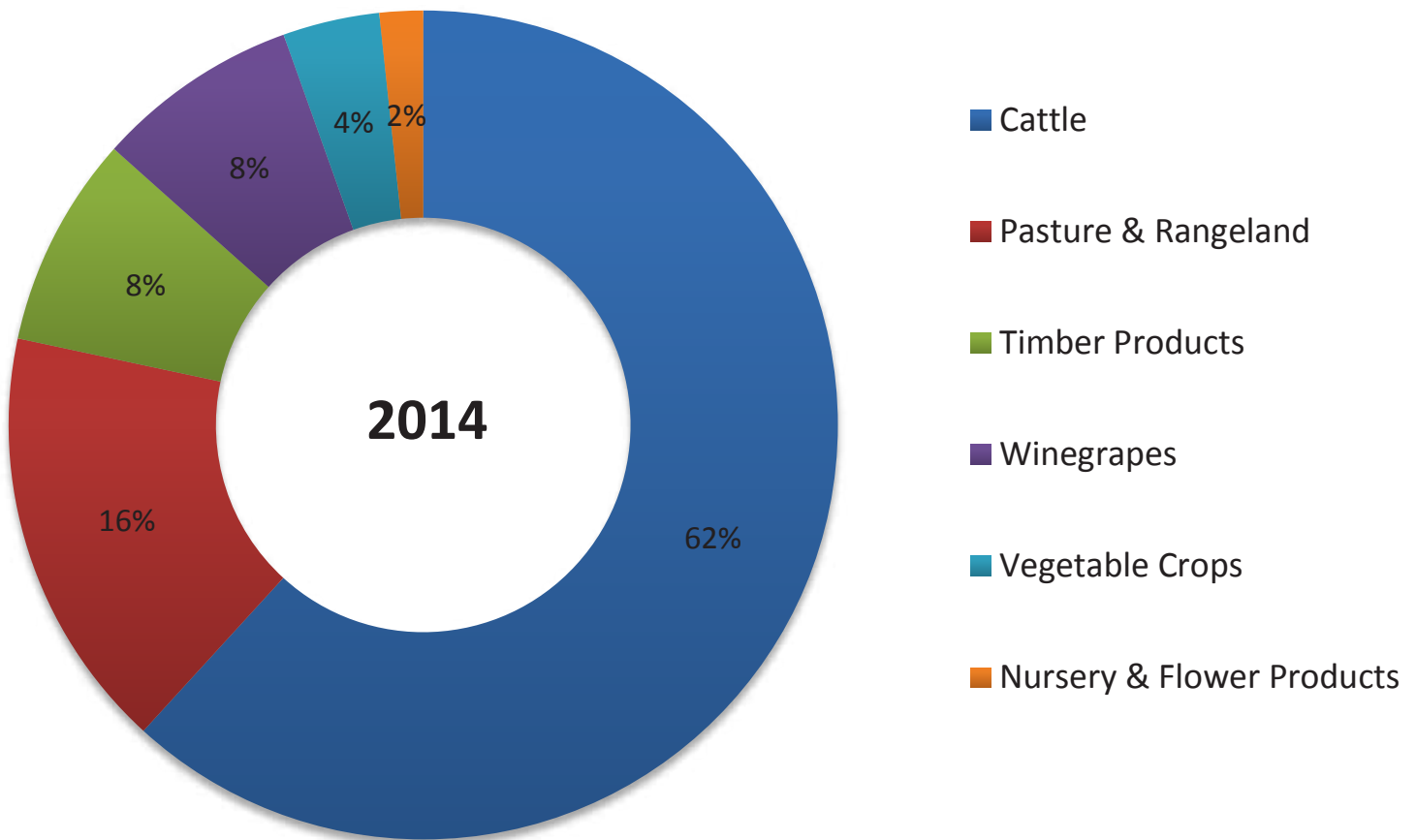
Commodity	Year	Amount	Unit	Price Per Unit	Value
Pasture	2014	10,000	Acre	\$180	\$1,800,000
	2013	10,000	Acre	\$180	\$1,800,000
Rangeland	2014	95,000	Acre	\$20	\$1,900,000
	2013	95,000	Acre	\$18	\$1,710,000
Total Pasture and Rangeland	2014				\$3,700,000
	2013				\$3,510,000

Agricultural Income 10 Year Comparison



Year	All Livestock & Products	Pasture & Rangeland	Nursery & Flower	Winegrapes	Other Fruits & Vegetables	Timber Products	Total Value
2004	\$3,824,900	\$1,713,000	\$396,000	\$2,190,700	\$538,200	\$8,775,100	\$17,437,900
2005	\$3,833,600	\$2,325,400	\$401,400	\$1,684,200	\$499,900	\$8,807,800	\$17,552,300
2006	\$3,817,500	\$2,735,000	\$490,000	\$1,555,300	\$340,000	\$7,321,600	\$16,259,400
2007	\$3,927,600	\$2,527,900	\$471,000	\$2,086,600	\$553,000	\$6,743,700	\$16,309,800
2008	\$3,867,400	\$3,020,000	\$465,500	\$1,522,900	\$377,400	\$5,679,100	\$14,932,300
2009	\$4,189,300	\$2,925,000	\$471,000	\$2,477,500	\$656,000	\$2,689,000	\$13,407,800
2010	\$4,252,600	\$2,925,000	\$452,000	\$1,727,000	\$743,200	\$1,014,200	\$11,114,000
2011	\$8,870,000	\$2,925,000	\$327,000	\$905,200	\$829,900	\$3,249,000	\$17,106,100
2012	\$8,778,300	\$3,020,000	\$294,800	\$1,196,200	\$851,000	\$2,647,700	\$16,788,000
2013	\$11,134,400	\$3,510,000	\$383,900	\$1,886,900	\$966,400	\$4,924,900	\$23,245,300
2014	\$14,138,300	\$3,700,000	\$378,500	\$1,771,400	\$911,300	\$1,843,100	\$23,253,100

Top Six Value Crops



Then and Now

Agriculture is a dynamic industry. It is constantly changing as world markets, costs, commodity prices and consumer tastes evolve and change. Fifty years ago, Nevada County had a thriving dairy market, with many dairies located in the Garden Bar area of South County. Today all of the commercial dairies are gone. In 1964, there was still an active apple and pear industry, with over 250 acres in commercial production. Today there are less than 10 acres; winegrapes have become the fruit of choice with over 300 production acres.

Top 6 1964	Value
Cattle	\$687,000
Pasture & Rangeland	\$536,000
Broilers & Fryers	\$217,000
Milk	\$96,300
Dairy Cows	\$60,400
Eggs	\$49,300
Total Top 6 Value	\$1,646,000

Top 6 2014	Value
Cattle	\$13,802,400
Pasture & Rangeland	\$3,700,000
Timber	\$1,843,100
Winegrapes	\$1,771,400
Vegetable Crops	\$843,100
Nursery and Flower	\$378,500
Total Top 6 Value	\$21,848,450

Pest Exclusion and Detection Report

Exclusion

All incoming plants and other host material originating from known areas of pest or disease infections are inspected to help protect Nevada County. The introduction of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) or European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) are potential threats to the production of winegrapes in our area.

Out-of-state shipments may contain pests or diseases of economic importance, such as the Gypsy Moth (GM) and Sudden Oak Death (SOD). The state agriculture border stations notify us of incoming shipments. When a shipment arrives, it is inspected for pests, general cleanliness, and compliance with all applicable federal, state and county regulations. County biologists also inspect agricultural packages at the UPS and FedEx sorting facilities in Grass Valley each morning.

Approximately 3,159 shipments were inspected for live exotic pests, and resulted in 18 live pest finds.

Detection

Nevada County’s insect trapping program monitors for populations of pests that cause potentially devastating crop, forest and ornamental plant damage. Traps are placed throughout the county in host plants and high-risk areas, and are inspected by county staff every two weeks during the trapping season. Suspect insects are sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Lab for evaluation.

Pest	# of Traps
Gypsy Moth (GM)	195
Japanese Beetle (JB)	22
European Grapevine Moth (EGVM)	65
Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)	16
European Pine Shoot Moth (EPSM)	20
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS)	122
Exotic Fruit Flies*	34

*Exotic fruit flies include Mediterranean fruit fly, melon fruit fly and oriental fruit fly.



Japanese Beetle Trap
Photo by: RandallGeePhotography/CDFA

UP CLOSE WITH THE INVASIVE JAPANESE BEETLE

COMMON NAME: Japanese Beetle

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Popillia japonica* Newman

A wide range of plants are attacked in the United States by the adult beetles. Important California crops which would be attacked include alfalfa, pome fruits, turf, strawberries, and numerous ornamental plants. This beetle could cause a loss of export markets and cause damage to crops, nursery stock, ornamental plantings, and the environment. The larvae eat the roots of a number of plants, but grasses are particularly favored. During the flight season of the beetle, the California Department of Food and Agriculture uses traps throughout the state to detect the presence of Japanese beetle.



Invasive Plant Report

The Nevada County Agriculture Commissioners Office is tasked with protecting the agriculture and natural resources of the county. This is done in part by the eradication of noxious invasive plants. The species we target in Nevada County include, but are not limited to, musk thistle, Scotch thistle, perennial pepperweed, spotted knapweed, and dalmation toadflax. Of these species there are over 100 recorded sites that are currently being managed.

When sites are located on private property, we work with the landowner to gain access and permission to treat. Methods used to eradicate these unwanted plants include hand pulling, shoveling, and herbicides. If herbicide treatment is required, we prefer to use a selective product that only acts on the target plants. When utilizing herbicides we spot spray, leaving non-target plants unaffected, thereby mitigating herbicide drift and damage to sensitive sites. Proper weed eradication and management takes many years, and repeat visits to each site are necessary each year.



Musk Thistle on Truckee River

Weed Species	Treatment Method	# of Sites
Arundo	Mechanical	8
Bull Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	90
Canada Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	72
Dalmatian Toadflax	Mechanical/Chemical	10
Diffuse Knapweed	Mechanical/Chemical	4
Hoary Cress	Chemical	27
Italian Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	14
Musk Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	66
Oblong Spurge	Mechanical/Chemical	35
Pokeweed	Mechanical/Chemical	10
Puncturevine	Mechanical/Chemical	19
Purple Loosestrife	Mechanical	30
Red Sesbania	Mechanical	4
Rush Skeletonweed	Mechanical/Chemical	15
Russian Knapweed	Mechanical/Chemical	14
Scotch Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	10
Spotted Knapweed	Mechanical/Chemical	19
Stinkwort	Mechanical/Chemical	4
Tall White Top	Chemical	95



Livestock scale tested using 1000-lb certified weights.

Weights and Measures

The Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner is also the Sealer of Weights and Measures, which plays a vital role in the economic activity of the county. The program serves the community by safeguarding and measuring accuracy and assuring confidence and integrity in the marketplace. The benefit our office provides ensures fair competition for industry and accurate value comparison for consumers.

As a neutral third party between buyers and sellers we:

- Test weighing and measuring devices for correctness
- Examine and evaluate the work of service repairmen
- Verify the quantity of bulk and packaged commodities
- Check consumer packages for proper labeling
- Inspect price scanner systems for accuracy
- Review weighmaster certificates and licensing requirements
- Regulate the advertising, labeling and quality standards for petroleum products

Measuring Devices	# of Devices
Domestic Water Submeters	1016
Electric Submeters	1392
Fabric, Cordage & Wire Meters	13
LPG Dispensers	73
Retail Motor Fuel Meters	820
Retail Water Meters	11
Taxi Meters	10
Vapor Submeters	1923
Vehicle Meters	19
Wholesale Meters	2
Total Measuring Devices	5279

Weighing Devices	# of Devices
Computing Scales	226
Counter Scales	45
Dormant/Port Plat $\geq 2K < 10K$	22
Hanging Scales	17
Hopper & Tank Scales	4
Livestock & Animal $\geq 2K < 10K$	1
Misc. Weighing Devices	12
Prescription & Jewelers Scales	7
Vehicle Scales	10
Total Weighing Devices	344

Total Devices 5623

Welcome

Chris Flores

**Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights
and Measures of Nevada County**

We are very pleased to introduce Chrisandra J. Flores as Nevada County's new Agricultural Commissioner, replacing retired Commissioner Jeff Pylman. Nevada County takes pride in its agricultural community and ensuring the protection of environmental resources. Agricultural commissioners have a unique role in the promotion of agriculture and the assurance of a fair marketplace.



Ms. Flores graduated from the University of California receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies with the emphasis on Natural Resource Development. She has over nine years of experience working in the field of Agricultural Weights and Measures in the northern California foothills. During that period of time she was instrumental in revamping the Crop Reports in El Dorado and Alpine Counties, developing agricultural grading programs and was a leader in community programs such as youth "Farm Days". Ms. Flores' extensive experience, forward thinking and positive attitude will help further provide quality agricultural services for the community as well as continue to help move the County in a positive direction.

Born in South Lake Tahoe, Ms. Flores has lived throughout California. In 2002 she returned to El Dorado County to raise her family in a quieter and less congested setting. She is looking forward to continuing her professional career in a foothill community where she can thrive as a community leader.



In Honor

Jeff Pylman

**Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights
and Measures of Nevada County**

Retired December 2014

Jeff was raised on a farm, in the Sacramento Delta, near Clarksburg, California, and graduated from the California State University at Chico with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business.

Jeff began his career in Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in 1983, first in detection trapping program and then as a Weights and Measures Inspector in 1988. He moved to Sacramento County in 1990, where he was promoted to Deputy Commissioner/Sealer in 1998 and, in 2001, accepted a position as Deputy Commissioner/Sealer for Placer County. Jeff was ultimately appointed to the position of Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights & Measures of Nevada County in November 2006.

In his capacity of Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer, Jeff worked effectively to promote Nevada County's and California's agricultural industry, build consumer and business confidence in the marketplace, and ensure the protection of public and environment by regulating pesticides. With Jeff's assistance, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors passed ordinances to promote truth in advertising for locally grown products, facilitate establishment of small farm stands, and to control the spread of quagga mussels.

Jeff and his wife Gale continue to reside in Grass Valley and he will now be able to spend more time with family, including their daughter Katie, and pursuing his hobbies of hiking and skiing. Jeff's skills, knowledge and sense of humor are greatly missed by this office. We wish him well in his much-deserved retirement.



In Remembrance

John Taylor

**Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights
and Measures of Nevada County**

December 1, 1925 - June 13, 2015

John grew up in Southern California, and spent time working on his grandparents farm in Corona, California. He joined the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in 1954, where he quickly rose to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner and then to Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. John became Nevada County's Agriculture Commissioner in 1978 and retired after 13 years in 1991.

During his tenure, agriculture in the county moved from being mostly timber, cattle, sheep and apples to include the growth of small farms, vineyards and wineries. Perhaps his greatest joy was the Nevada County Grower's Market. John provided the organizers with the information and assistance to get started and continued to support the Grower's Market right up to his death.

After his retirement, he was Nevada County Farm Bureau's manager; appointed to the Nevada County Fair Board; a board member for the Nevada County Land Trust (now Bear Yuba Land Trust) and the North Star Historic Conservancy. John was involved with several groups, including High Sierra Resource Conservation District, Nevada County Chamber of Commerce and Nevada County Business Association.



John passed away on June 13, 2015, after a brief illness. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty and son John, and is survived by three children, Nancy, Donald and Susan; and five grandchildren.

John will be missed by the many people he inspired and encouraged.



