

Calaveras County



2013 Crop Report



Calaveras County
Department of Agriculture

Kevin Wright, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

The Honorable Board of Supervisors,
County of Calaveras

It is my privilege to present the 2013 Calaveras County Crop Report as prepared pursuant to Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. The figures represent gross production value; not the net income from farming operations.

Although we are seeing the effect of the second year of drought in many of our farm sectors, 2013 was still a good year for Calaveras County agriculture. The reported value for all agricultural products in 2013 was \$29,021,500, down 2.1% from last year. Cattle and timber continue to be our leading commodities with wine grapes climbing into third place.

There was a notable increase in prices for cattle; however, calves were sold early and weighed less, as the effects of the drought on our rangeland took hold. Despite a late freeze, demand and production of wine grapes was strong, and a new record gross production value was achieved. Demand and production of walnuts was also strong. Some irrigated olive orchards reported good harvests; however, interest in harvesting other orchards waned.

I would like to thank the members of the Agricultural Department staff, especially Shawn Zmak Kuntz, who compiled these statistics for the crop report.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the producers who provide data and help us compile a meaningful report and my congratulations to the grape growers who weighed in a record harvest at a record price. The 10,000 wine lovers who attended the grape stomp* and had a good time in Calaveras County last fall is a testament to the growing reputation of our products and a blessing to the other county businesses that benefit from the popularity of our wine.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Wright
Agricultural Commissioner

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2013 Annual Crop Report

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Account Technician III

***Cover photo: The grape stomp weekend drew over ten thousand people to the city of Murphy's. In 2013, tourism accounted for over 160 million dollars in revenue to the county. Calaveras County's rural environment and farm products contribute much more than gross market value to the county's economy.**

Statistics - Calaveras County

Total Land Area	662,791 Acres
Rangeland	188,300* Acres
Government Land	105,311 Acres
Water	16,300 Acres
Farms in County	663* Farms
All Farm Land	201,026* Acres
Irrigated Pasture	2,000* Acres
Land in Agricultural Preserves	143,000 Acres
Land in Timber Preserves	77,500 Acres

*According to USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service



There are 31 wine tasting rooms in Calaveras County. Here, Randy Metger celebrates his new room and label with viticultualist Jed Richardson of Cave City Vineyards, citizens Sue Hinajoza and Dave Bristol, and Food Corps volunteer Noah Crosson.

Leading Farm Commodities

Cattle and Calves	\$9,340,000	Nursery Products	\$221,000
Timber	\$6,895,000	Vegetable Crops	\$200,000
Wine Grapes	\$3,415,000	Sheep and Lambs	\$170,000
Walnuts	\$2,278,000	Apiary	\$150,000
Poultry	\$2,230,000	Grain Hay	\$93,000



Cattle and calves are the leading farm commodity and the bedrock of Calaveras County agriculture.

Livestock and Poultry

PRODUCTION VALUE

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	PER UNIT	UNIT TOTAL
CATTLE & CALVES	2013	11,075	68,175	CWT \$137	\$9,340,000
	2012	11,600	89,000	CWT \$116	\$10,300,000
POULTRY*	2013				\$2,230,000
	2012				\$2,965,000
SHEEP & LAMBS	2013	1,100	1,100	CWT \$155	\$170,500
	2012	1,350	1,350	CWT \$150	\$203,000
MISC.**	2013				\$61,000
	2012				\$40,000
TOTALS	2013				\$11,801,500
	2012				\$13,508,000

*Includes chickens, turkeys, game birds, squab, rabbits, etc.

**Includes goats, emus, llamas, ostriches, etc.

Livestock and Poultry Products

PRODUCTION VALUE

ITEM	YEAR	TOTAL
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS*	2013	\$23,000
	2012	\$30,000

*includes wool, mohair, eggs, etc.



Field Crops

PRODUCTION VALUE

PRODUCING TOTAL PER CROP

CROP	YEAR	ACRE- RAGE	YEILD	TOTAL UNIT	PRICE/ UNIT	TOTAL
GRAIN HAY	2013	300	2.00	600 TON	\$155	\$93,000
	2012	300	2.75	825 TON	\$136	\$112,000
PASTURE	2013	2,000		ACRE	\$130	\$260,000
	2012	2,000		ACRE	\$130	\$260,000
RANGE- LAND	2013	188,300		ACRE	\$17	\$3,201,000
	2012	188,300		ACRE	\$17	\$3,201,000
MISC.*	2013					\$43,000
	2012					\$35,000

*includes native and legume hay, etc.

TOTAL: 2013 \$3,597,000

2012 \$3,608,000

Vegetable Crops

PRODUCTION VALUE

CROP	YEAR	TOTAL
VEGETABLE CROPS*	2013	\$200,000
	2012	\$273,000

*Includes tomatoes, corn, peppers, melons, etc.



Duane Oneto cultivates his garlic. There are three thriving certified farmers markets in Calaveras County.

Organic Farming Statistics

CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	HARVESTED ACRES
VEGETABLE AND FRUIT	5	85

Fruit and Nut Crops

CROP	YEAR	ACRE-RAGE	TON/ACRE	TOTAL TON	PRICE/TON	TOTAL
WINE GRAPES	2013	910	2.70	2,457	\$1,390	\$3,415,000
	2012	910	2.50	2,275	\$1,237	\$2,814,000
OLIVES*	2013	130	1.00	130	\$637	\$82,800
	2012	140	2.00	280	\$550	\$154,000
WALNUTS (IN SHELL)	2013	775	0.93	721	\$3,160	\$2,278,000
	2012	775	0.93	720	\$2,600	\$1,872,000
MISC.**	2013					\$358,000
	2012					\$204,000

TOTAL: 2013 \$6,134,000

2012 \$5,044,000

***Includes fresh and oil**

****Includes apples, berries, cherries, peaches, pears, pistachios, various nuts, etc.**

Calaveras County's elevations range from 350 ft. in the west to over 7,500 ft. to the east. Orchards and vineyards are typically surrounded by rangeland. The higher elevations are devoted to timber production.



Olives from this orchard on Hunt Road are pressed into oil and sold at The Marisolo Tasting Bar in Murphy's. Mary Lou Schuster is the owner of the orchard and the store. Many of the growers in Calaveras County market their own crops and organizations like Calaveras Grown and The Wine Grape Alliance help promote their products.

Apiary Products

PRODUCTION VALUE

ITEM	YEAR	TOTAL
APIARY*	2013	\$150,000
	2012	\$91,000

*Includes honey, wax, poillation, etc.



Over 20,000 beehives from Montana and Minnesota are staged in Calaveras County for pollination of almond orchards in the Central Valley. Calaveras rangeland provides a virtually pesticide free environment, resplendent with wildflowers for the bees. Local beekeepers provide pollination service, make honey and raise queen bees. Here Jim Peet examines his bees. You can tell they like him.

Nursery Crops

PRODUCTION VALUE

CROP	YEAR	TOTAL	UNIT	PRICE/ UNIT	TOTAL
CHRISTMAS TREES	2013	492	EACH	\$42	\$21,000
	2012	615	EACH	\$42	\$26,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	2013				\$200,000
	2012				\$320,000

Timber

PRODUCTION VALUE

CROP	YEAR	TOTAL	TOTAL
TIMBER PRODUCTION	2013	36,257 THOUSAND BOARD FEET	\$6,895,000
	2012	39,458 THOUSAND BOARD FEET	\$6,755,000

Department of Agriculture Programs

Pest Exclusion

PEST	AGENT/MECHANISM	PROGRAM
EXOTIC PESTS	TERMINAL SHIPMENT	2215 INSPECTIONS
		2 REJECTIONS

(COMMERCIAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVEMENT)

Pest Detection

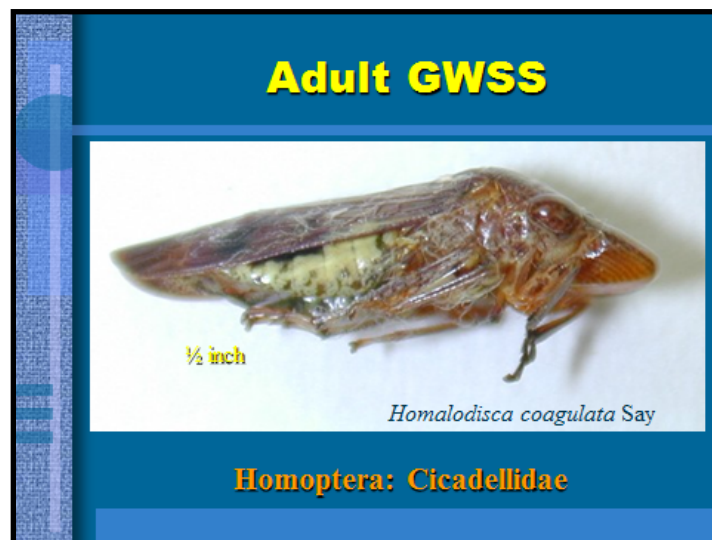
PEST	TRAPS	PROGRAM
GYPSY MOTH	225	ON-GOING
MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY	84	ON-GOING
JAPANESE BEETLE	34	ON-GOING
ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY	41	ON-GOING
MELON FRUIT FLY	21	ON-GOING
LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH	84	ON-GOING
GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER	101	ON-GOING

Pest Detection Program

From May through October the Department conducts its annual Agricultural Pest Detection Program (also known as the insect trapping program). We deploy traps that target several different pests including Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Glassy Winged Sharpshooter, Mellon fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Japanese Beetle, Light Brown Apple Moth, European Grapevine Moth and Gypsy Moth.

Pest Detection traps are routed throughout the county to ensure full coverage. When traps are placed on private property, the trapper asks permission of the owner. If the owner is not available, a notice is left at the door. The cooperation of the public is necessary and appreciated in this effort to ensure a successful detection program.

Non-native pests can damage our grapes and a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants; so timely detection is vital. If no target pests are found, the county can be certified as pest free, which enables exportation of produce and plants outside of the county. We thank the property owners of Calaveras County for their cooperation with our program.



Glassy Winged Sharpshooter is one of the insects we trap. It transmits disease to grapes. You may see the yellow panel sticky traps we use in trees around the county. It isn't as big as the picture, but does grow to 1/2 inch.

Pest Eradication- Management

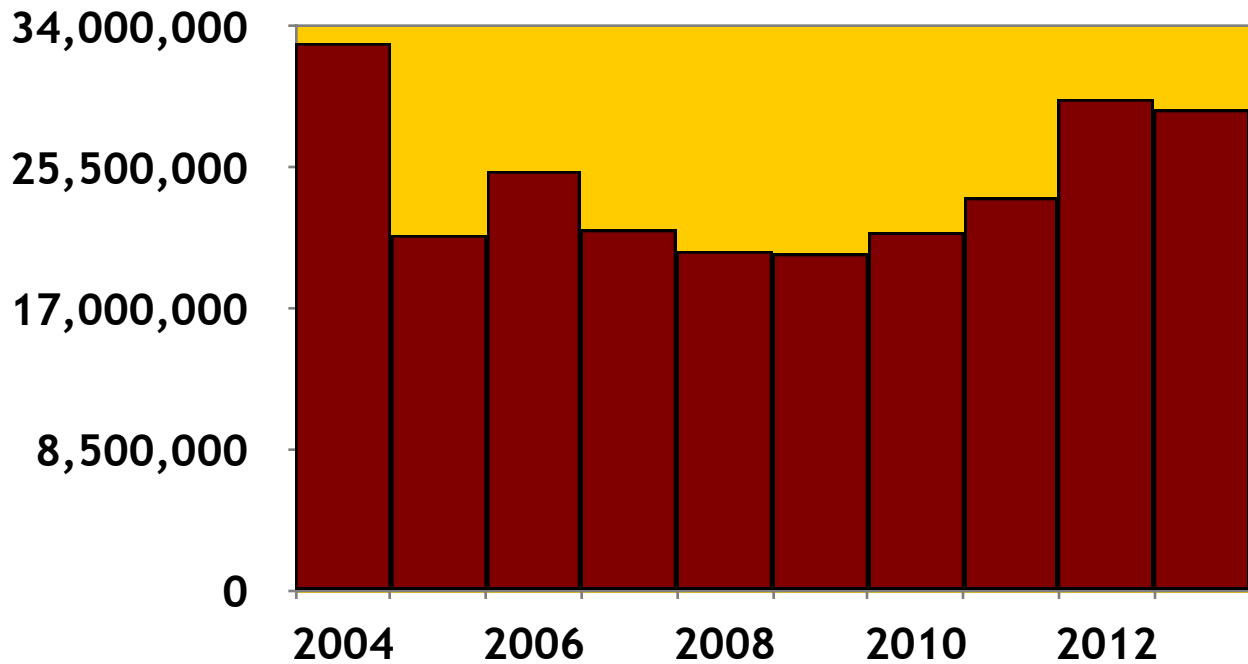
PEST	AGENT/MECHANISM	PROGRAM
DIFFUSE KNAPWEED, <i>CENTAUREA DIFFUSA</i>	spray/pull	ON-GOING
DIFFUSE-SPOTTED KNAPWEED, <i>CENTAUREA DIFFUSA X MACULOSA</i>	spray/pull	ON-GOING
PLUMELESS THISTLE, <i>CARDUUS ACANTHOIDES</i>	spray/pull	ON-GOING
SCHOTCH THISTLE, <i>ONOPORDUM ACANTHIUM</i>	spray/pull	ON-GOING
SPOTTED KNAPWEED, <i>CENTAUREA MACULOSA</i>	spray/pull	ON-GOING
GORSE, ULEX EUROPAEUS	spray/pull	ON-GOING
STINKWORT, <i>DITTRICHIA GRAVEOLENS</i>	spray/pull/public education	ON-GOING
YELLOW STAR THISTLE, <i>CENTAUREA SOLSTIALIS</i>	public education	ON-GOING

Crop Summary

ITEM	2013	2012	2011
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	11,801,500	13,508,000	10,689,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	23,000	30,000	25,000
FIELD CROPS	3,597,000	3,608,000	3,597,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	200,000	273,000	225,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	6,134,000	5,044,000	4,596,000
APIARY PRODUCTS	150,000	91,000	81,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	221,000	346,000	324,000
TIMBER	6,895,000	6,755,000	4,145,000
TOTAL	\$29,021,500	\$29,655,00	\$23,782,000

Comparative Production Values

YEAR	AMOUNT
2013	\$29,021,500
2012	\$29,655,000
2011	\$23,782,000
2010	\$21,696,000
2009	\$20,332,000
2008	\$20,449,500
2007	\$21,775,300
2006	\$25,251,200
2005	\$21,476,200
2004	\$33,010,700



Meet the Calaveras County Department of Agriculture



Eric Mayberry, Shawn Zmak Kuntz , Steve Farris, Kevin Wright, Catherine Talbot

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

photo credits

Grape stomp cover photo, Steven Crane, Calaveras Enterprise
Metzger tasting room, pg. 4-Connie Strawbridge, Strawbridge Designs
Olive Orchard, pg. 9- Mary Lou Schuster, Marisolio Tasting Bar
Garlic farmer, pg. 10-Sean Krietich, Calaveras Grown
Bee keeper, pg. 12- Sean Krietich, Calaveras Grown
Wine bottles, pg. 20-California Winegrape Alliance
All other photos, ag commissioner staff and archives

layout and design

Calaveras Department of Agriculture, Shawn Zmak Kuntz
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grape stomp and tourism economic data

Sara Reed, Executive Director, Calaveras Winegrape Alliance
Lisa Boulton, Executive Director, Calaveras Visitors Bureau

agricultural production data

Thanks to the many people who took time to discuss 2013 agricultural production with the agricultural commissioner and staff.



Many of the grapes grown in Calaveras County are made into wine at adjacent wineries, and visitors have the unique opportunity to truly experience the process "from the grape, to the glass". We tip our hat to the people in the industry whose hard work attracts visitors to the county and who achieved a record gross production value for their crop in 2013.

