

County of El Dorado

Agriculture, Weights & Measures

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Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures Overview

Department Summary: Providing environmental and consumer protection through education and enforcement of federal, state and county laws, regulations, and ordinances pertaining to pesticide use, agricultural production and products, invasive species, and testing commercial weighing and measuring devices. Compilation of an annual agricultural production statistical crop report, maintain and monitor exotic insect pest detection traps, and regulate direct marketing of agricultural products.

Agriculture's Impact Locally: Commercial agricultural production in the County totaled over \$100 million dollars in 2025. The top agricultural gross value crops are (in order): livestock, apples, timber, hay and pasture, nursery, winegrapes, stone fruits, berries, pears, apiary (honeybees), Christmas trees.

Key Programs

Pest Exclusion

Includes: Quarantine Enforcement • Nursery Inspection • Phytosanitary Certification • Seed Inspection

Agricultural product shipments, like fruits or plants, provide local gateways to introduce hitchhiking pests from around the world. We have the critical task to prevent such introductions through our pest exclusion program. Our staff inspect hundreds of shipments per year at distribution and sales centers (box stores) to intercept any stowaway pests, like invasive insects and plant diseases. Pest exclusion goes both ways. Phytosanitary certification (free-from specific pest and disease documentation) is issued following inspections of outgoing shipments to assure that agricultural shipments from our County don't carry pests against which other states and countries have quarantines.

Pest Detection

Our countywide pest detection program monitors insect-specific traps in 2025 and serviced them over 10,000 times to detect for the presence of invasive pests such as: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Melon Fruit Fly, Spongy Moth, Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, and Japanese Beetle. Exotic pests pose a threat to California's 50-billion-dollar agricultural industry, home gardens, ornamental landscaping, native forests, and wildlands. Our Department has access to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's entomology & plant pathology laboratories to provide insect, plant, and plant disease identification services to the public, agricultural producers, and horticultural industries when suspicious samples are brought into our office.

Direct Marketing/Produce and Nursery Plant Quality

Includes: Fruit, Nut, and Vegetable Standardization • Organic Registration/Regulation • Direct Marketing Enforcement (Certified Producers and Farmers Markets) • Egg Quality Inspection • Nursery Regulation

We regulate organic growers, certified producers, farmers markets, and egg handlers to ensure compliance and quality. We conduct regulatory inspections of producers and markets to ensure all produce, eggs, and plant material sold at farmers markets are grown by the sellers, themselves, within California. We ensure that all nursery plant material produced and/or sold meets strict quality standards.

Pest Management and Eradication

We work to control the spread of destructive and invasive animals, weeds, insects, and diseases that are detrimental to agriculture, landscaping, or the environment. Our staff performs surveillance across the County, searching for specific, non-native invasive plant species. We are a part of the El Dorado County Noxious Weed Group (NWMG), a collection of concerned agencies, businesses, and residents who collaborate their time and skills to combat invasive weed pests and educate the public on the importance of preventing these plants from overrunning our native and agricultural lands, landscapes, and resources.

Pesticide Use Enforcement Program

Includes: Structural and Agricultural Pesticide Use Enforcement • Inspections • Complaints • Investigations

The Department protects the public and employees (like fieldworkers) from health and safety risks associated with improper or unsafe use of pesticides. We do this in several ways: Through mandatory pesticide permitting for key pesticides, performing surveillance for commercial pesticide applications, compliance inspections, pesticide handler training, continuing education workshops, and investigating all pesticide related complaints received, including Doctor's First Reports of any possible pesticide exposure.

Apiary Program

We register beehives, enforce bee checks, respond to complaints, monitor compliance by commercial beekeepers and inspect beehives transported in from outside our County to ensure health and cleanliness.

Wildlife Services

Designed to protect people, residences, property, livestock, crops and other natural resources from damage caused by predators and/or other nuisance wildlife in compliance with state wildlife laws.

Weights and Measures

Includes: Commercial Weighing/Measuring Device Inspection • Packaged Commodity Inspection • Price Verification • Weighmaster Enforcement • Package Labeling Enforcement • Petroleum Products Enforcement • Complaints • Investigations

Consumer protection is important. Our Department ensures fairness in the marketplace between the buyer and the seller. We regulate the commercial use of approximately 2,400 weighing and measuring devices, including gas pumps, taximeters, cordage meters, utility submeters (water, gas, electric at mobile home parks, marinas, etc.), electric vehicle chargers, and scales (from deli scales to livestock scales, vehicles scales to jewelry scales and beyond). We implemented a price verification ordinance to inspect stores with price scanners and ensure accuracy between an item's advertised price and the price charged at the register. Our packaged commodity inspections verify contents, quantity, accuracy and labeling compliance. Complaints based test purchases (retail) and test sales (at recycling centers) monitor accurate weighing practices and detect any price and payment computing fraud. The weighmaster program audits weighmasters, who issue certified weight tickets, for regulatory compliance. The petroleum product enforcement program regulates gas station operators to ensure regulatory compliance of price and grade advertising, dispenser labeling, and fuel quality.

The Department is Responsible for Enforcement of:

California Food and Agricultural Code • California Business and Professions Code (Division 5) • California Code of Regulations (Titles 3, 4, 9, 10)

The Department Administers State Programs Locally with Oversight and Guidance From:

Secretary of Food and Agriculture, State of California • Director of the CDFA Division of Measurement Standards, State of California • Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation, State of California