

County of El Dorado

Agriculture, Weights & Measures

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Crop Measurement Policy

The Department of Agriculture, when making determinations on acreage for programs including but not limited to the Ranch Marketing and Winery Ordinance and Ag Pass Program, shall use the following guidelines to measure crop acreage.

Acreage Verification Process

Crop acreage verification will be done via a site visit from a biologist or supervising staff member from the Department of Agriculture. Crops will be assessed based on total crop size, maintenance of crop, and type of crop (annual versus perennial).

Crop Measurement Standards

Crops will be measured from the dripline (edge of tree/shrub canopy) using GPS technology. For newly planted crops a small allowance may be added to estimate the mature size of the trees. Crop measurements will not include non-crop areas such as fencing, roadways, driveways, or decorative landscaping.

For purposes of the Ranch Marketing & Winery Ordinance, crops on contiguous properties under common ownership may be counted as one Ranch Marketing area if the zoning designation of all properties qualifies for Ranch Marketing.

Crop Maintenance Standards

If portions of the crop are not well-maintained to produce a marketable product, they will not be measured. Examples of this include but are not limited to: trees that are dead or dying, orchards that are not maintained (overgrown, inaccessible due to weeds, irrigation inoperable), or Christmas trees grown too large to be marketable.

Measurement Costs

For inspections performed for Administrative Permits to Hold Special Events, growers will be charged an hourly rate (minimum one hour) for the crop measurement and acreage verification process. If an applicant fails their inspection, they will need to reapply and submit the accompanying fee with the application in order to be re-inspected.

Crop Planting Guidance Resources

The Department of Agriculture will not make recommendations to growers on what, where, or how to grow particular crops. The University of California Cooperative Extension employs Farm Advisors who can fill this role. Their office is across the hall from the Department of Agriculture, and they can be reached at (530) 621-5502.