

CALAVERAS COUNTY



2009 REPORT OF AGRICULTURE



Calaveras County

Environmental Management Agency

Brian S. Moss ♦ Agency Administrator / Director of Environmental Health
Mary Mutz ♦ Agricultural Commissioner / Director of Weights and Measures

A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
And
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Calaveras

I am pleased to present the 2009 Report of Agriculture for Calaveras County. This publication includes statistical information on acreage, yield, and gross value of Calaveras County's agricultural products in accordance with section 2279 and 2272 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. It must be emphasized that the values contained in this report represent gross receipts and in no way reflect net farm income.

The value of agricultural production for 2009 was \$20,332,000. This figure represents an approximate 0.5 % decrease from the 2008 gross production value of \$20,449,500. The decrease is attributable to the fall in the timber industry. Timber production decreased approximately \$2,250,000.

Cattle and calves continue to be the county's leading farm commodity even though the value is down. The 2009 value of cattle and calves is \$5,766,000, a decrease of over \$350,000 from 2008. The drop in value could be due to the economics of the industry which includes the impact of imported meat, the effects of the drought over the past few years and ranchers retaining replacement heifers for herd expansion.

Wine grapes are the second leading farm commodity in the County with a value of \$3,360,000. The wine grape industry experienced a very bountiful year with a \$2,000,000 increase in production from 2008. It must be noted that in 2008, a severe frost in April severely damaged or destroyed much of the crop.

Poultry followed with a value of \$3,192,000.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the many individuals, organizations and agencies that furnished the data essential to the compilation of this report. I also wish to thank Dick Fischer, whose cattle appear on the cover. Special recognition is given to my staff, especially Shawn Zmak Kuntz who compiled the report and Eric Mayberry who provided many of the photographs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mutz
Agricultural Commissioner

Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249-9709

2009 ANNUAL CROP REPORT

Board of Supervisors

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Presented by
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Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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Account Technician III

Seasonal Technicians

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LEADING FARM COMMODITIES

Cattle and Calves	\$5,766,000	Pistachios	\$147,800
Grapes (Wine)	\$3,360,000	Christmas Trees	\$110,000
Poultry	\$3,192,000	Apiary	\$91,400
Walnuts	\$876,000	Sheep & Lambs	\$88,700
Nursery Products	\$300,000	Olives	\$79,800

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	631* Farms
All Farm Land	201,026* Acres
Irrigated Pasture	2,000* Acres
Land in Agricultural Preserves	141,467 Acres
Land in Timber Preserves	77,300 Acres

*According to USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY



PRODUCTION					VALUE	
ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle	2009	11,300	72,990	CWT	\$79.00	\$5,766,000
& Calves	2008	11,500	73,750	CWT	\$83.00	\$6,122,000
Poultry*	2009					\$3,192,000
	2008					\$3,102,000
Sheep	2009	1,000	1,000	CWT	\$88.70	\$88,700
& Lambs	2008	1,000	1,000	CWT	\$91.30	\$91,300
Misc.**	2009					\$40,600
	2008					<u>\$84,500</u>
					TOTAL: 2009	\$9,087,300
					2008	<u>\$9,399,800</u>

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

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

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

PRODUCTION		VALUE
ITEM	YEAR	TOTAL
Livestock &	2009	\$21,000
Poultry Products*	2008	<u>\$21,000</u>

*Includes wool, mohair, eggs, etc.



FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Grain Hay	2009	300	2.50	750.00 TON	\$90.00	\$67,500
	2008	200	1.00	200.00 TON	\$140.00	\$28,000
Irrigated	2009	2,000		ACRE	\$130.00	\$260,000
Pasture	2008	2,000		ACRE	\$130.00	\$260,000
Rangeland	2009	188,300		ACRE	\$17.00	\$3,201,000
	2008	188,300		ACRE	\$17.00	\$3,201,000
Misc.*	2009					\$30,000
Field Crops	2008					<u>\$32,900</u>
TOTAL:					2009	\$3,558,500
					2008	<u>\$3,521,900</u>

*Includes legume hay, native hay, etc.



VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE
				TOTAL
Vegetable	2009			\$200,000
Crops*	2008			<u>\$200,000</u>



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

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

CROP	NUMBER OF FARMS	HARVESTED ACRES
Vegetable & Fruit	5	52 Acres



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
		PRODUCING PER ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Grapes (Wine)	2009	800	3.50	2,800.00 TON	\$1,200.00	\$3,360,000
	2008	650	1.80	1,170.00 TON	\$1,100.00	\$1,287,000
Olives*	2009	140	1.50	210.00 TON	\$380.00	\$79,800
	2008	140	1.00	140.00 TON	\$350.00	\$49,000
Walnuts (In shell)	2009	800	.75	600.00 TON	\$1,460.00	\$876,000
	2008	800	.55	440.00 TON	\$1,430.00	\$630,000
Misc.**	2009					\$175,000
	2008					<u>\$126,000</u>



TOTAL: 2009	\$4,490,800
2008	<u>\$2,092,000</u>

*Includes fresh & oil

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

APIARY PRODUCTS

PRODUCTION		VALUE
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Apiary*	2009	\$91,400
	2008	<u>\$82,300</u>



*Includes honey, wax, pollination, etc.

NURSERY CROPS

PRODUCTION			VALUE		
<u>CROP</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PER UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Christmas Trees	2009	2,000	EACH	\$55.00	\$110,000
	2008	2,500	EACH	\$45.00	\$112,500
Nursery Products	2009				\$300,000
	2008				<u>\$300,000</u>
			TOTAL:	2009	\$410,000
				2008	<u>\$412,500</u>

TIMBER

PRODUCTION			VALUE		
<u>CROP</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PER UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Timber Production	2009	16,165	MBF	\$153.00	\$2,473,000
	2008	33,000	MBF	\$143.00	<u>\$4,720,000</u>

PEST EXCLUSION

<u>PEST</u>	<u>AGENT/MECHANISM</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Exotic Pests (Commercial and household goods movements)	Terminal Shipments	8064 inspections 0 Rejection

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROGRAM

<u>PEST</u>	<u>BIO-AGENT</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Ash Whitefly <i>Siphoninus phillyreae</i>	Parasitic Wasps, <i>Encarsia partenopea</i>	County-wide
Italian Thistle <i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Seedhead Weevil, <i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>	County-wide
Klamath Weed <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Leaf Eating Beetle, <i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i>	County-wide
Milk Thistle <i>Silybum marianum</i>	Seedhead Weevil, <i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>	County-wide
Puncturevine <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Seedhead Weevil, <i>Microlarinus lareynil</i> Stem Infesting Weevil, <i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i>	County-wide County-wide
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid <i>Glycaspis brimblecomei</i>	Parasitic Wasps, <i>Psyllaephagus sp.</i>	County-wide
Russian Thistle <i>Salsola australis</i>	Stem Mining Moth, <i>Coleophora sp.</i>	County-wide
Western Grapeleaf Skeletonizer <i>Harrisina brillians</i>	Parasitic Wasp, <i>Ametadoria misella</i> Parasitic Wasp, <i>Apanteles harrisinae</i>	County-wide County-wide
Yellow Starthistle <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Seedhead Weevil, <i>Bangasternus orientalis</i> Seedhead Gall Fly, <i>Urophora sirunaseva</i> Flower Hairy Weevil, <i>Eustenopus villous</i> Seedhead Fly, <i>Chaetorellia succinea</i> Flower Weevil, <i>Larinus curtus</i>	County-wide County-wide County-wide County-wide County-wide

PEST ERADICATION ACTIVITIES

<u>PEST</u>	<u>AGENT/MECHANISM</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Dalmation Toadflax, <i>Linaria genistifolia</i>		On-going
Diffuse Knapweed, <i>Centaurea diffusa</i>		On-going
Diffuse-Spotted Knapweed, <i>Centaurea diffusa x maculosa</i>		On-going
Plumeless Thistle, <i>Carduus acanthoides</i>		On-going
Scotch Thistle, <i>Onopordum acanthium</i>		On-going
Skeleton Weed, <i>Chondrilla juncea</i>		On-going
Spotted Knapweed, <i>Centaurea maculosa</i>		On-going



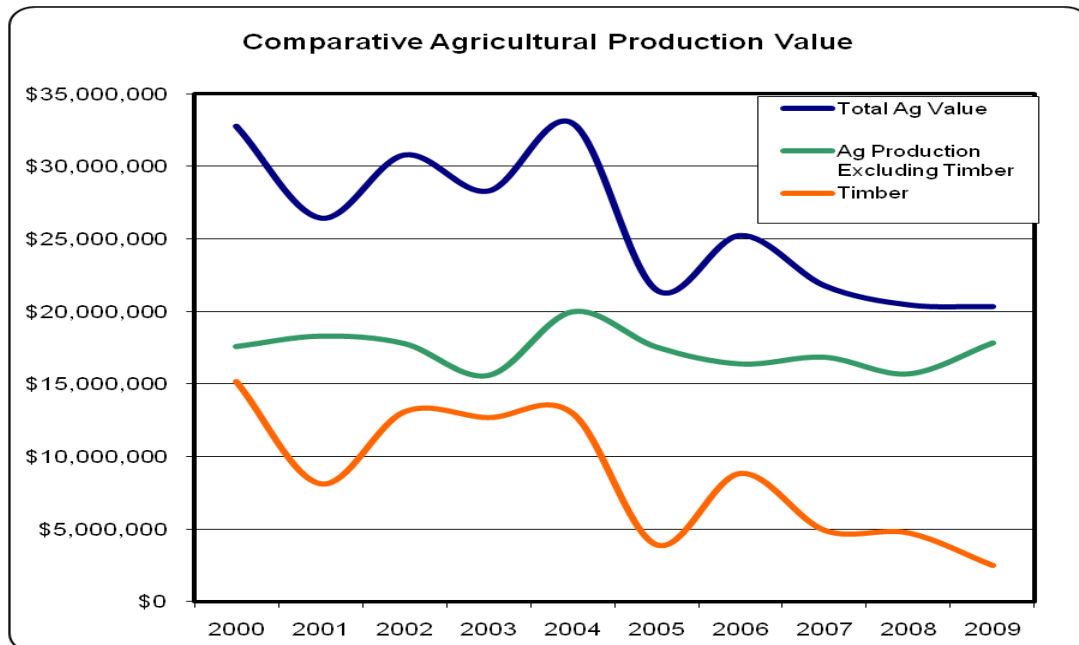
SUMMARY

ITEM	2009	2008	2007
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	9,087,300	9,399,800	9,875,100
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PROD.	21,000	21,000	21,000
FIELD CROPS	3,558,500	3,521,900	3,266,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	200,000	200,000	200,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	4,490,800	2,092,000	3,048,200
APIARY PRODUCTS	91,400	82,300	45,000
NURSERY CROPS	410,000	412,500	420,000
TIMBER	<u>2,473,000</u>	<u>4,720,000</u>	<u>4,900,000</u>
TOTAL	\$20,332,000	\$20,449,500	\$21,775,300

COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION VALUES

2009 \$20,332,000
 2008 \$20,449,500
 2007 \$21,775,300
 2006 \$25,251,300
 2005 \$21,476,200

2004 \$33,010,700
 2003 \$28,323,200
 2002 \$30,816,100
 2001 \$26,453,900
 2000 \$32,802,500



The Happy Vale Dairy

Special thanks to Jerry Howard, retired County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures



The Happy Vale Dairy was an operable dairy in Calaveras County during the 1930's. It was operated by Jerry Howard's grandparents, George and Mabel Hatch. Following is an excerpt from Jeff Howard's award winning ninth grade essay (Jerry's son).

The Happy Vale Dairy did not sell pasteurized milk, rather it was a raw milk dairy. In this case the veterinarian tested the cows every year for tuberculosis and other diseases. Also, the Milk Producers of America (M.P.A.) was always inspecting the dairy and setting tighter standards for sanitation in the milk barn. The sanitation procedures were hosing down the floor after each milking, washing every cow before each milking and making sure the milk barn was spotless so that the milk would be pure.

Due to competition with two other dairies in Calaveras County, rising feed costs, and M.P.A. pressure, George Hatch had to raise his prices two cents a quart. Many customers thought twelve cents for a quart of milk was outrageous, but not much business was lost after the increase in price.

At its peak, the Happy Vale Dairy was milking 30 cows and went well for a few more years, but in the winter of 1937, Mountain Ranch was struck by a terrible wind storm. George's hay barn was blown away. Surprisingly, all the cows managed to get out before it went down and none were injured, but George had to buy his hay and store it in his garage. The dairy business slowly went downhill and in 1938, George was forced to close down his dairy for good since the M.P.A. had grown so strong in the area and all the dairies were pasteurizing.

Today if one were to visit the Hatch homestead, all that remains to be seen of the Happy Vale Dairy is the recently fallen house, and the milk barn. The wood is rotten and the square nails are loose, but the milk barn is still surprisingly sturdy. Only a few milk bottles remain, three of which are atop our fireplace mantle and serve as a reminder of the important history my family played in the role of providing milk to many customers in the 1930s.