



# NEVADA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures



2023 Annual Crop and Livestock Report

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Nevada County's Department of Agriculture is 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.

## STATISTICS

<b>POPULATION<sup>1</sup></b> 100,474	<b>HIGHEST ELEVATION</b> 9,152 ft	<b>URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND<sup>2</sup></b> 17,274 ac
<b>DENSITY</b> 101/sq mi	<b>LOWEST ELEVATION</b> 280 ft	<b>TOTAL HARVESTED CROPLAND<sup>3</sup></b> 3,649 ac
<b>TOTAL AREA<sup>1</sup></b> 974 sq mi (623,360 ac)	<b>FARMLANDS<sup>2</sup></b> 7,760 ac	<b>NUMBER OF FARMS<sup>3</sup></b> 349
<b>LAND AREA<sup>1</sup></b> 958 sq mi (613,120 ac)	<b>GRAZING LAND<sup>2</sup></b> 133,393 ac	

<sup>1</sup> Source: California Department of Finance, E-1: City/County Population Estimates as of January 1, 2024

<sup>2</sup> Source: California Department of Conservation 2016-2018 Land Use Conversion

<sup>3</sup> Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2022 Census of Agriculture, farms reporting sales greater than \$2500



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

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**Department of Agriculture,  
Weights & Measures**  
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**Karen Ross**, Secretary

California Department of Food and Agriculture,  
and

**The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Nevada**

Hardy Bullock, Chair, Supervisor District 5  
Heidi Hall, Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 1  
Ed Scofield, Supervisor District 2  
Lisa Swarthout, Supervisor District 3  
Susan Hoek, Supervisor District 4

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, I am pleased to submit the 2023 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Nevada County. This report is a summary of counts, acreage, yields, and gross values of all agricultural production in Nevada County. It should be emphasized that the values in this report do not attempt to measure farm profitability, nor does this report attempt to place value on commodities grown for personal use.

The total gross value of agricultural commodities produced in Nevada County for 2023 reached \$24,379,500, reflecting a 30% increase from 2022. This marks the second-highest value in the past decade. With wine grape values alone increasing by nearly \$2 million compared to 2022, many crops in Nevada County rebounded strongly from the freezing weather that was experienced in 2022. Livestock and livestock products continue to lead as the top commodity group, with an estimated value of \$13,280,400, representing a 38% increase. And timber production, after two consecutive years of decline, nearly doubled in value to \$627,400 in 2023, due in part to reduced salvage timber harvesting taking place in other parts of the state.

In addition, the Nevada County Department of Agriculture has prepared a supplemental report on cannabis. In 2023, the gross value of legal cannabis production was \$10,203,800, a 47% increase due to more favorable market conditions in the county. Please note that this figure is not included in the county's total gross value mentioned earlier.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the many producers, industry representatives, businesses, and public agencies who contributed data for this report. Without their cooperation, this report would not be possible. I would also like to thank my staff, with special recognition to Agricultural Biologist Luci Wilson for compiling the information and designing this report. Thank you!

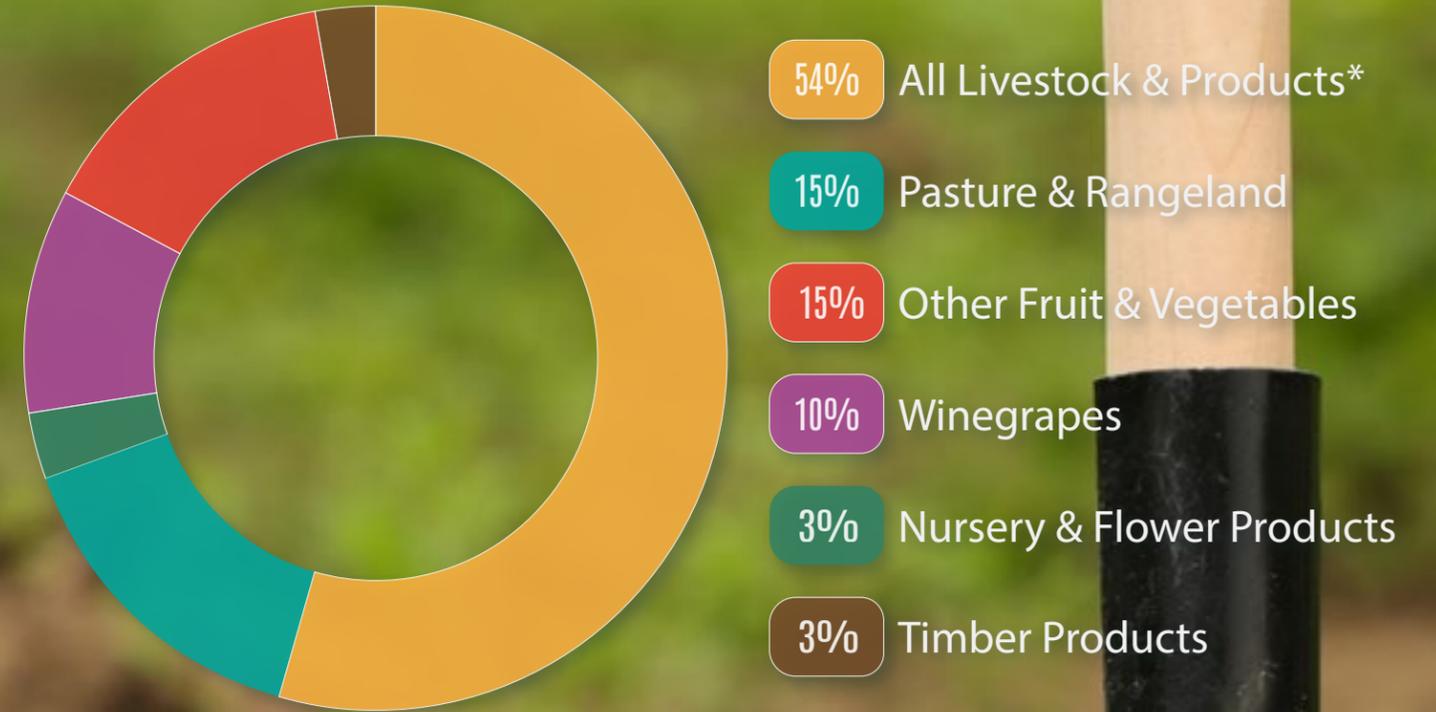
Respectfully Submitted,

Chris de Nijs  
Agricultural Commissioner

# 5 YEAR SUMMARY

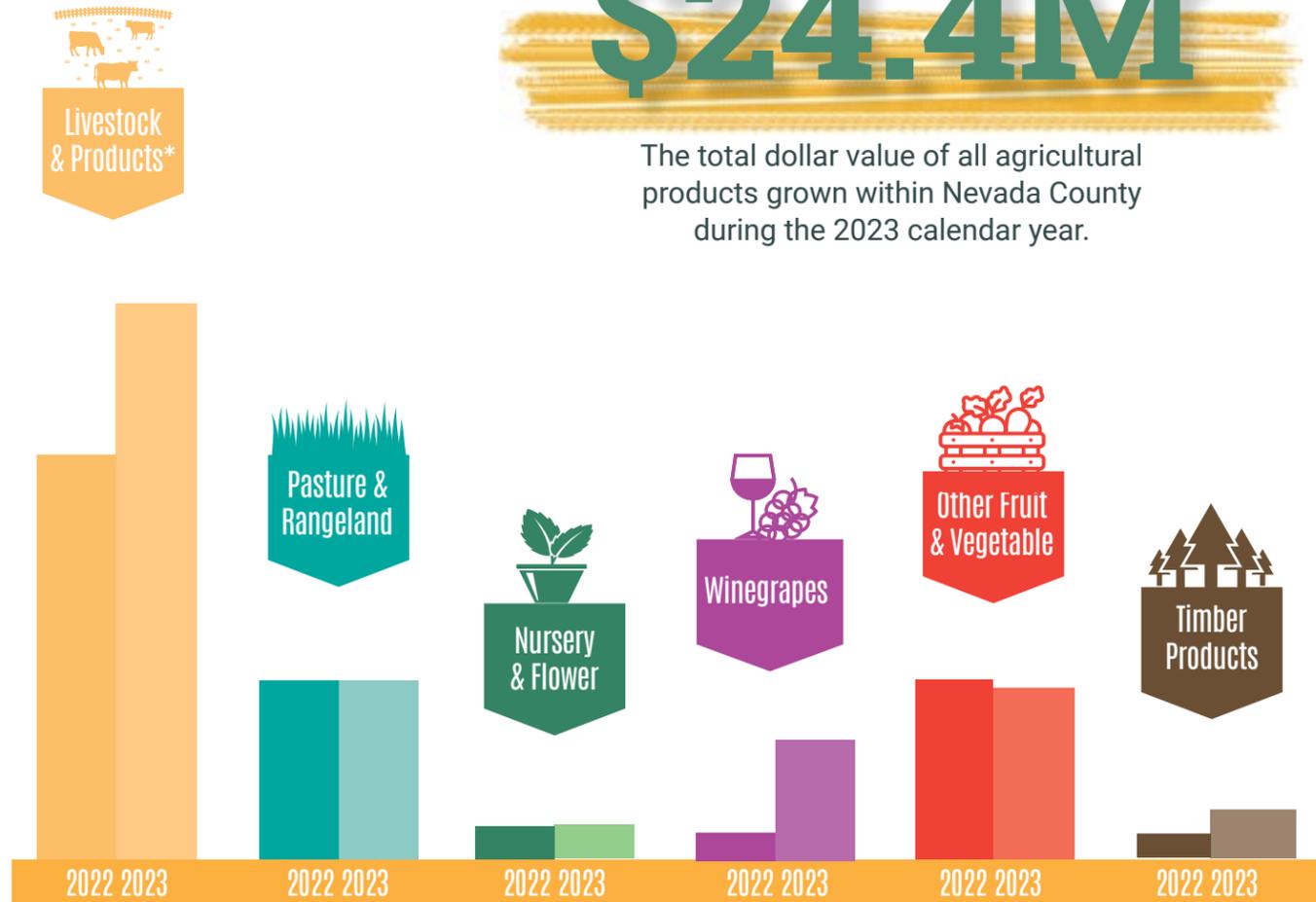
Year	All Livestock & Products <sup>1</sup>	Pasture & Rangeland	Nursery & Flower	Winegrapes	Other Fruit & Vegetables	Timber Products	Total Value
2019	\$11,367,300	\$3,700,000	\$631,700	\$2,550,400	\$2,579,900	\$2,565,000	\$23,394,300
2020	\$7,861,000	\$3,700,000	\$809,000	\$2,666,200	\$2,755,800	\$1,910,000	\$19,702,000
2021	\$9,446,800	\$3,700,000	\$810,200	\$2,449,100	\$4,002,400	\$813,800	\$21,222,300
2022	\$9,731,500	\$3,700,000	\$688,800	\$597,700	\$3,727,300	\$328,100	\$18,773,400
2023	\$13,280,400	\$3,700,000	\$716,200	\$2,516,500	\$3,539,000	\$627,400	\$24,379,500

<sup>1</sup> Includes all livestock, poultry, apiary, wool and egg products.



# \$24.4M

The total dollar value of all agricultural products grown within Nevada County during the 2023 calendar year.



## VEGETABLE, FRUIT & NUT

	Acres	Value
-1%  Vegetables <sup>A</sup>	105	\$3,119,200
	103	\$3,352,400
12%  Other Fruits & Nuts <sup>B</sup>	44	\$419,800
	41	\$374,900
<b>Total Vegetable, Fruit &amp; Nut Crops Value:</b>		\$3,539,000
		\$3,727,300

## WINEGRAPES

	Acres	Total Tons	Value
235%  Red Winegrapes <sup>C</sup>	290	1268	\$1,981,900
	314	361	\$592,000
9,279%  White Winegrapes <sup>D</sup>	75	339	\$534,600
	92	5	\$5,700
<b>Total Winegrapes:</b>			\$2,516,500
			\$597,700

A Vegetables include bean, beet, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chard, corn, cucumber, eggplant, garlic, ground cherries, herbs, kale, kohlrabi, leafy greens, leek, lettuce, melon, onion, pea, pepper, potato, parsnip, pumpkin, radish, squash, shallot, spinach, sweet potato, tomato, tomatillo and turnip.

B Fruits and nuts Include apple, apricot, blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry, cherry, chestnut, citrus, fig, grapes, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pluot, pomegranate, prune, raspberry, and strawberry. Wine grapes are calculated separately.

C Red wine grape varieties include barbera, basturdo, bracciano, cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon, cagnane, carmine, cinsaut, corvina, dolcetto, grenache, legrein, malbec, merlot, montepulciano, mourvedre, petite sirah, petite verdot, primitivo, refosco, sangiovese, syrah, tempranillo, teroldego, tinta cao, tinta negra mole, tournet, touriga nazionale and zinfandel

D White wine grape varieties include chardonnay, chenin blanc, falenghina, fiano, flora, forastera, marsanne, melon, muscat orange, peverella, pinot gris, rkatsiteli, rousanne, sauvignon blanc, semillon, tocai friulano, vespaiola, and viognier

E Milled Board Feet

Numbers may not compute exactly due to rounding.

## NURSERY PRODUCTS

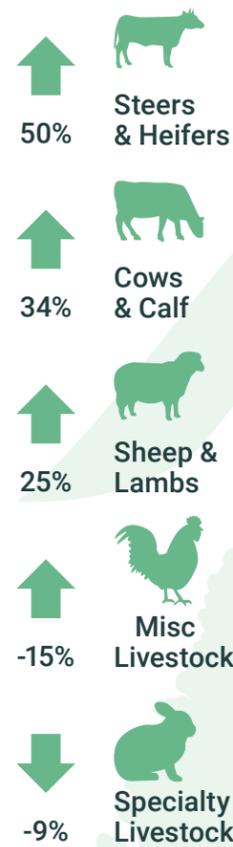
	Acres	# of Trees	Value
0%  Nursery	7		\$320,100
	8		\$321,200
11%  Cut Flowers	8		\$311,700
	8		\$281,300
-2%  Christmas Trees		1,200	\$84,400
		1,400	\$86,300
<b>Total Nursery:</b>			\$716,200
			\$688,800

## TIMBER

	Amount	\$/MBF <sup>E</sup>	Value
91%  Timber	6,180 MBF	\$101.52	\$627,400
	2,977 MBF	\$110.21	\$328,100

# LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

	Head <sup>1</sup>	\$/Head	Value
Steers & Heifers	4,800	\$1,632	\$7,833,600
Cows & Calf	4,100	\$1,273	\$5,219,300
Sheep & Lambs	2,200	\$1,526	\$3,357,200
Misc Livestock <sup>2</sup>	2,100	\$1,192	\$2,503,200
Specialty Livestock	1,200	\$165	\$198,000
	1,100	\$192	\$213,400
			\$243,200
			\$211,500
			\$830,700
			\$911,500
<b>Total Livestock:</b>			\$12,462,700
			\$9,061,900



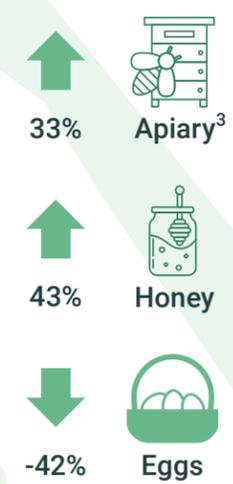
2023

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2022

# APIARY AND EGG

	Amount	\$/Unit	Value
Apiary <sup>3</sup>	3600 hives	---	\$416,000
	3300 hives	---	\$312,700
Honey	39,200 lbs	\$7.56	\$296,400
	33,800 lbs	\$6.68	\$207,700
Eggs	14,400 doz	\$7.33	\$105,300
	22,100 doz	\$6.77	\$149,200
<b>Total Apiary &amp; Eggs:</b>			\$817,700
			\$669,600



# PASTURE AND RANGELAND

	Amount	\$/Acre	Value
Pasture	10,000 ac	\$180	\$1,800,000
	10,000 ac	\$180	\$1,800,000
Rangeland	95,000 ac	\$20	\$1,900,000
	95,000 ac	\$20	\$1,900,000
<b>Total Pasture and Rangeland:</b>			\$3,700,000
			\$3,700,000



1 Number of head as of January 1, 2023  
 2 Includes poultry, goats, hogs and wool  
 Numbers may not compute exactly due to rounding

3 Includes wax, queens, nucs, and in-county pollination  
 Numbers may not compute exactly due to rounding

# 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 department 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 accuracy
- 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 of petroleum products



# RIDE ALONG WITH AGRICULTURE

Tony Romero, Agriculture Biologist III, was recently featured in the September 2024 Nevada County Staff Bulletin! Watch the video to learn about the important work our Agriculture department does to keep consumers safe.



# WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEVICES

In addition to gas pumps and liquid propane dispensers, Nevada County Weights and Measures inspectors began testing electric vehicle charging stations. Earlier this year Preston demonstrated how he tests an electric vehicle charging station for accuracy using sophisticated equipment. Weighing devices (scales) and measuring devices (gas pumps) are checked for accuracy to promote consumer protection and provide a level playing field for our businesses.



## WHAT IS THIS?

You can tell if a scale, pump, or charging station has been inspected as it will bear a seal of inspection. The Sealer of Weights and Measures enforces laws and regulations assuring marketplace equity and integrity.

## Measuring Devices

	# of Devices
CNG	2
Domestic Water Submeters	1,206
Electric Submeters	1,485
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations *New*	70
Fabric, Cordage & Wire Meters	14
LPG Dispensers	98
Retail Motor Fuel Meters	801
Taxi Meters	3
Vapor Submeters	1,778
Vehicle Meters	18
Wholesale Meters	2
<b>Total Measuring Devices</b>	<b>5,310</b>

## Weighing Devices

	# of Devices
Class II Scales	71
Computing Scales	283
Counter Scales	208
Dormant/Port Plat >=2,000 lbs	16
Hanging Scales	16
Hopper & Tank Scales	4
Livestock & Animal >=2,000 lbs	2
Misc. Weighing Devices	4
Vehicle Scales	12
<b>Total Weighing Devices</b>	<b>625</b>

# PEST EXCLUSION AND DETECTION REPORT

## Exclusion

All incoming plants and other host material originating from known areas of pest or disease infestations 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 Spongy Moth (SM) 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.

In 2023, approximately 6,117 packages and 253 nursery shipments were inspected for live exotic pests, and resulted 7 notices of rejections for quarantine non-compliance and 1 live pest finds.



Luci Wilson inspects ag packages at FedEx

## 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	No. of Traps
Spongy Moth (GM)	197
Japanese Beetle (JB)	12
European Grapevine Moth (EGVM)	66
European Grape Berry Moth	47
European Pine Shoot Moth (EPSM)	23
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS)	87
Exotic Fruit Flies*	34

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



Pheromone trap, courtesy of CDFA

# INSECT FOCUS: SPONGY MOTH

## SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lymantria dispar*

Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) is a destructive, invasive insect that poses a danger to North America's forests. The caterpillars feed on the leaves of more than 300 species of trees and shrubs, eventually killing them. Female moths lay eggs on many outdoor surfaces—stacked firewood, trailers, grills, lawn furniture, and toys. When people move these items to a new location, the spongy moth's eggs also move.

Native to Europe, the spongy moth first arrived in the United States well over a century ago. Today it can be found throughout the Northeastern United States where it has dramatically changed the landscape. Early detection is critical to limit the spongy moth's spread to new areas. If left unchecked, this pest can strip leaves and even kill trees, if severe defoliation persists for multiple seasons.

**"The spongy moth is a hitchhiker. People can unknowingly spread this pest when they move vehicles and other outdoor items that have spongy moth egg masses attached." - Ca. Dept. of Food and Agriculture**

Clockwise from upper left: adult moths and egg masses on a tree; defoliated hardwood trees, adult spongy moth; the very hungry spongy moth caterpillar; an egg mass with juveniles crawling out. Photos courtesy of USDA-APHIS



# INVASIVE PLANT REPORT

The Nevada County Agriculture Commissioners Office is tasked with protecting the agriculture and natural resources of the county. This includes management and eradication of noxious invasive plants. The species we target in Nevada County include, but are not limited to mostly A- and B-rated weeds.

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 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.

### Noxious Weed Control Benefits:

- Safeguard our natural infrastructure
- Strengthen climate resiliency
- Protect our water resources
- Decrease wildfire risk
- Preserve biodiversity
- Maintain our agricultural production
- Provide recreational opportunities



Sites of invasive weeds in eastern Nevada County.

Weed Species	No. Of Sites	Treatment Method
Canada Thistle	3	Mechanical/Chemical
Dalmation Toadflax	13	Chemical
Diffuse Knapweed	4	Mechanical/Chemical
Klamathweed	14	Mechanical/Chemical
Lens-podded Hoary Cress	1	Mechanical/Chemical
Musk Thistle	142	Mechanical/Chemical
Myrtle Spurge	1	Chemical
Oblong Spurge	120	Mechanical/Chemical
Perennial Pepperweed	127	Chemical
Purple Loosestrife	2	Chemical
Rush Skeletonweed	175	Chemical
Russian Knapweed	19	Mechanical/Chemical
Scotch Thistle	2	Mechanical/Chemical
Spotted Knapweed	188	Mechanical/Chemical
Whitetop	31	Chemical
Yellow Starthistle	10	Chemical

# PLANT FOCUS: SCOTCH THISTLE

## SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Onopordum acanthium*

Scotch Thistle is a flowering plant in the family Asteraceae. It is native to Europe and Western Asia and was probably introduced into California through contaminated feed. Scotch Thistle is a biennial plant, that grows as a rosette the first year after it has germinated, growing a thick fleshy taproot up to 12 inches into the soil to take up nutrients, the second year it bolts up to 10 feet high and 4 feet wide, and produces flowers which then go to seed. It can be controlled relatively easily the first year, but identification and surveillance can be a challenge as it sits close to the ground, and is similar to many other thistles. When it goes to seed however, each plant can produce over ten thousand seeds, which can remain viable for over 20 years. The true difficulty in controlling this plant is reducing the seed bank after initial infestation. When established, Scotch Thistle can create impenetrable stands of spike covered plants, reducing foraging areas for domesticated and wild animals, and outcompeting native vegetation. It can be found in meadows, woodlands, and disturbed areas, mainly in the higher elevations of Nevada County.



**SCAN ME**

Click or scan to learn more about invasive weeds.

Flower stem of Scotch thistle, photo courtesy of Preston Neufeld.

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Pesticide Use Enforcement Program

Under state and federal law, a pesticide is any substance intended to control, destroy, repel, or attract a pest. Pesticides are chemicals designed to be harmful to a target pest and purposely introduced into the environment to do their job of managing insects, bacteria, weeds, rodents, or other pests. Pesticide refers to not only insecticides but many other kinds of chemicals, including herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides.

The Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner's Office protects human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by supporting integrated pest management and best practices. We work closely with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to enforce state laws and regulations pertaining to pesticide use, sales, licensing, worker safety, and pesticide use reporting.

- Performing inspections, compliance monitoring, and compliance assistance that focus on protecting pesticide applicators and workers;
- Investigating all priority pesticide related incidents and illnesses;
- Issuing CEQA-compliant pesticide permits for the use of commercial quantity products, including herbicides;
- Enforcing the requirements of pesticide product labeling and ensuring safe use;
- Conduct annual grower meetings and continuing education classes.

## BERTY THE DETECTOR DOG

A few times each month the agricultural biologists welcome Berty, a 2-year-old Labrador Retriever and her handler Christine Tyler, as they inspect packages at local shipping terminals for compliance with state and federal plant material quarantine requirements.

As a certified Agricultural Detector Dog, Berty uses her exceptional sense of smell to search parcel delivery facilities and airfreight terminals, safeguarding Northern California's agricultural industries and natural resources from a variety of threats, including unwanted plant pests, diseases, and other harmful organisms.

The California Dog Teams alerted on 47,504 marked and unmarked parcels containing agricultural products throughout the state in the 21/22 fiscal year. Of the total alerted parcels, 6,393 were intercepted at USPS facilities and of these packages 3,210 were unmarked. Due to the efforts of the California Dog Teams during this reporting period, 2,556 rejections were issued for violation of state and federal plant quarantine laws and regulations.

While Berty and Christine call Yolo County Department of Agriculture their home, they travel throughout the region assisting state and county agricultural inspectors. Most recently they participated at Farm Day 2024. See you next time!



# DIRECT MARKETING AND ORGANICS

Nevada County inspectors certify a diverse range of producers, from backyard growers to large scale farms by visiting each growing site annually and documenting the variety and quantity of crops being grown, expected yield, and estimating the expected harvest season. Our inspectors conduct unannounced regulatory inspections at Certified Farmers' Markets to verify that products being offered for sale matches the commodities documented on each grower's certificate. These inspections ensure that consumers are receiving locally grown produce and that their purchases are directly benefiting and supporting local farmers. In 2023 the Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner's Office issued a total of **20** Certified Producer Certificates to local growers and registered **6** Certified Farmers' Markets.

Nevada County also conducts inspections under the State organic Program (SOP), where inspectors review organic certification and state registration documents, investigate organic complaints, and conduct random residue sampling of produce being advertised as organic. Our regulatory oversight gives Nevada County consumers confidence that the organic agricultural products are authentic and grown according to state and national organic standards. The Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner's Office continues to work with our SOP partners to register, inspect, and enforce regulations on our local organic operations. In 2023, **31** organic producers were registered with growing sites in Nevada County.

## CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE

### Tuesday

Grass Valley Pine Creek Shopping Center  
May 7th - Sep 10th, 9am - 1pm  
650 Freeman Lane/McKnight

Truckee River Regional Park  
May 14th - Oct 22nd, 8am - 1pm  
10500 Brockway Road

### Thursday

Grass Valley  
May - July 4th, 6pm - 9pm  
Mill Street Plaza

Penn Valley  
May 2nd - Oct 31st, 9am - 1pm  
18560 Penn Valley Drive, Western Gateway Park

### Saturday

Grass Valley Pine Creek Shopping Center  
April 20th - Nov 23rd, 8am - 1pm  
650 Freeman Lane/McKnight

Nevada City Union Street Plaza  
Apr 13th - Dec 21st, 8:30am - 1pm



Truckee Certified Farmers Market

SCAN ME



Keep up to date with the farmers market schedule!

# FARM DAY 2024



On September 18th, 2024, Nevada County Ag in the Classroom hosted its Annual Farm Day at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. This popular event was open to all Nevada County's 2nd and 3rd graders. This year we hosted 820 children including FFA guides and had over 30 exhibitor stations that featured many different aspects of agriculture presented by people working in the field. This hands on experience included a farrier shoeing a horse; cows, chickens, rabbits, alpacas; and many other stations where children learned about the value of agriculture.

Our Farm Day is designed to help students acquire the knowledge necessary to understand where their food and fibers come from. Agriculture is everywhere. It is the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the houses we live in, and the plants we enjoy. A well-rounded education should include hands-on experiences and true-to-life learning at the most fundamental level. By exposing students to agriculture through engaging lessons and activities, we hope students will be inspired to continue to learn about food and fiber and, ultimately, gain an appreciation for all that agriculture provides.

Stakeholders included Nevada County Resource Conservation District, Nevada County Farm Bureau, Nevada County Ag Commissioner, Placer/Nevada Cattle Women, Sierra Harvest, and the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

From the Nevada County Ag Department, Tony Romero (above) explains the importance of measuring fuel accurately while Lisa dePew (below) shares a variety in beneficial and invasive insects.



SCAN ME



Click or scan for a highlights reel from farm day!



# Our Department

ALISON LEHMAN  
County Executive Officer

TRISHA TILLOTSON  
Director of Community  
Development Agency

CHRIS DE NIJS  
Agricultural Commissioner  
and Sealer of Weights & Measures

## AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGISTS/WEIGHTS & MEASURES INSPECTORS

Preston Neufeld  
Homero "Tony" Romero  
Monica Weakley  
Luci Wilson

## AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS

Robert Hedrick  
Dean Tison

OFFICE SUPPORT  
Lisa DePew



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
**CALIFORNIA**