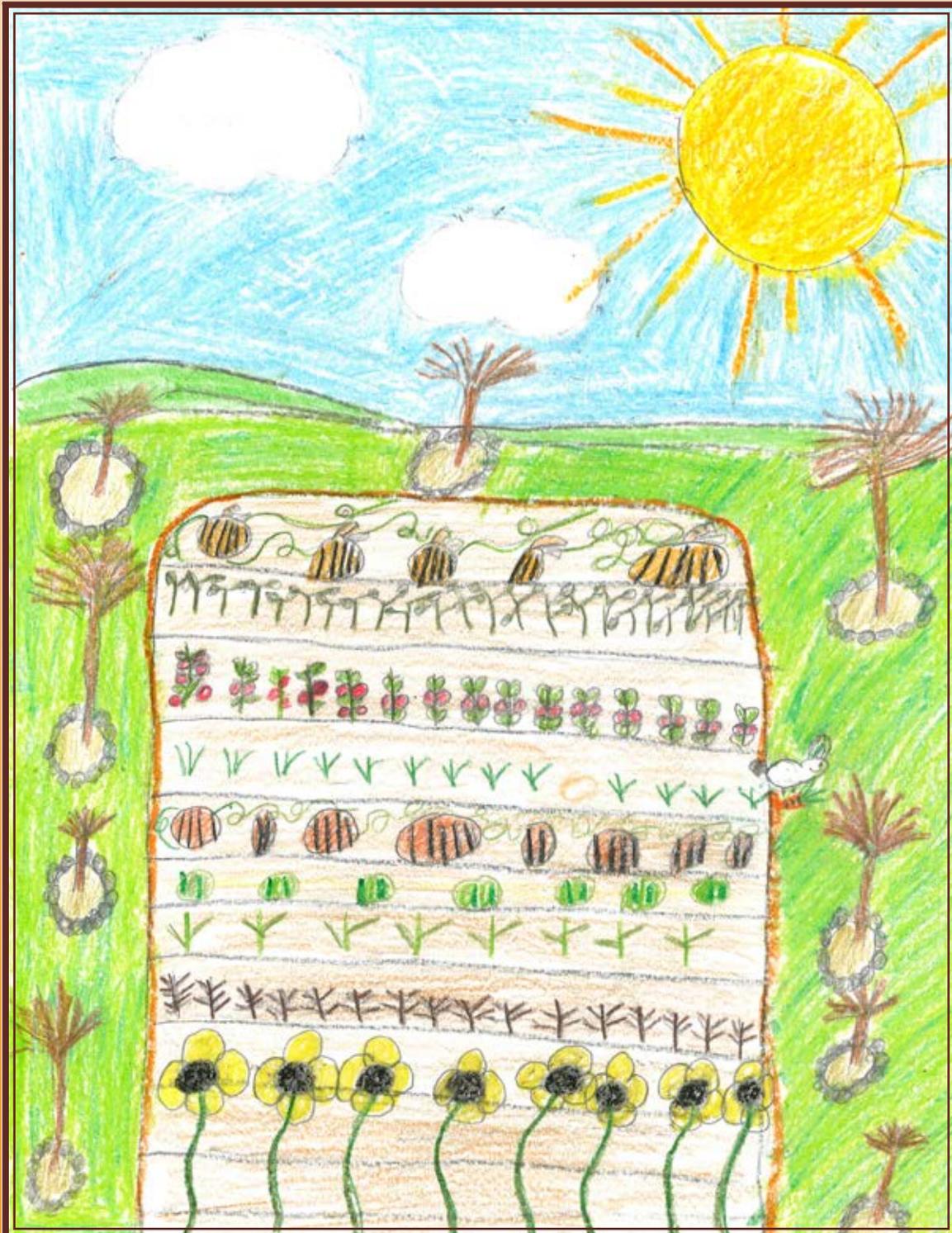




2015 Nevada County Crop and Livestock Report

Protecting and Promoting Agriculture in Nevada County



MISSION STATEMENT

Nevada County's Agricultural Commissioner and Department of Agriculture are 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.

Nevada County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures

950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
T: 530.470.2690
F: 530.470.2939
agdept@co.nevada.ca.us
www.mynevadacounty.com

County Executive Officer

Rick Haffey

Director of Community Development Agency

Sean Powers

Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures

Chrisandra J. Flores

Agricultural Biologists/ Weights & Measures Inspectors

Preston Neufeld
Homero "Tony" Romero
Luci Wilson

Agricultural Technicians

Carolyn Hanson
David McPhaill
Dean Tison

Office Support

Jennifer Acree

General Information



Population¹ 98,292

Density 101/sq mi

Total Area¹ 974 sq mi (623,360 ac)

Land Area¹ 958 sq mi (613,120 ac)

Water Area¹ 16 sq mi (10,240 ac)

Highest Elevation 9,152 ft

Lowest Elevation 280 ft

Farmlands² 26,185 ac

Grazing Land² 116,784 ac

Urban and Built-up Land² 17,556 ac

Total Cropland³ 3,349 ac

Number of farms³ 686

Nevada County was established in April 1851. The county was named after the mining town of Nevada City, a name derived from the term "Sierra Nevada". The word nevada is Spanish for "snowy" or "snowy-covered".⁴

¹Source: California Department of Finance, E-1: City/County Population Estimates as of January 1, 2015

²Source: California Department of Conservation 2012 Land Use Conversion

³Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2012 Census of Agriculture

⁴Source: "Nevada County History", US Gen Web Project in California, retrieved August 27, 2015

Photo credits except as specified: Chris Flores, Luci Wilson, Preston Neufeld, and Tony Romero.

Design and Layout: Luci Wilson

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**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170, Nevada City Ca, 95959

(530) 470-2690 FAX (530) 470-2939 <http://new.mynevadacounty.com/agcomm>

Sean Powers
Community Development Agency Director

Chrisandra J. Flores
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

Karen Ross, Secretary

California Department of Food and Agriculture
and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada

Dan Miller	District 3, Chair
Hank Weston	District 4, Vice Chair
Nate Beason	District 1
Ed Scofield	District 2
Richard Anderson	District 5

I am pleased to present the 2015 County of Nevada Annual Crop and Livestock Report. This report is prepared pursuant to Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This report represents estimated acreage, yield, and gross value of agricultural products in Nevada County.

The gross value of Nevada County's agricultural production for 2015 was \$22,013,600, down 1% from the 2014 value. The livestock industry experienced a 15% decrease in gross value in 2015, mainly due to a 15% decrease in total cattle values affected by a decreased price per unit. Timber products saw an increase in value in 2015, but did not come close to its 2013 value. Fire salvage timber harvesting in surrounding counties continues to monopolize the industry and flood the mills with supply.

This report also includes summaries of the department's pest exclusion, pest detection and invasive weed program activities for 2015 and highlights Nevada County's First Annual Farm Day, hosted by Nevada County's Ag in the Classroom.

I would like to thank the many producers, agricultural business representatives, and public agencies who have cooperated in supplying the data necessary to produce this report. Without their assistance, this crop report would not be possible. I would also like to thank the members of my staff, for their contributions, with special recognition going to Agricultural Biologist Luci Wilson, for compiling the information. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Chrisandra J. Flores
Agricultural Commissioner

~Promoting and Protecting Nevada County Agriculture~

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Gross Production Value Summary

Commodity	Year	Value
Vegetable Crops	2015	\$1,581,000
	2014	\$843,100
Nursery and Flower Products	2015	\$392,500
	2014	\$378,500
Timber Products	2015	\$2,344,600
	2014	\$1,843,100
Fruit and Nut Crops	2015	\$1,033,600
	2014	\$1,839,600
Livestock and Poultry	2015	\$12,032,000
	2014	\$14,138,800
Apiary, Eggs and Wool Products	2015	\$929,900
	2014	\$510,500
Pasture & Rangeland	2015	\$3,700,000
	2014	\$3,700,000
Grand Total	2015	\$22,013,600
	2014	\$23,253,100

The amounts in this report represent estimated gross values, regardless of utilization. No attempt is made to reflect net income to the producer or cost of production. Values represent rounded estimates based on data collected from producers, experts and literature.



Row crops at Riverhill Farm, Nevada City



Vegetable Crops

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

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Value
Vegetables	2015	86	\$1,581,000
	2014	88	\$843,100

Nursery and Flower Products

Crop	Year	Production Acres	Number of Trees	Value
Nursery	2015	4		\$226,600
	2014	6		\$237,500
Cut Flowers	2015	4		\$93,800
	2014	4		\$61,700
Christmas Trees	2015	24	1336	\$72,100
	2014	24	1696	\$79,300
Total Nursery	2015	7		\$392,500
	2014	6		\$378,500



Timber Products

Crop	Year	Amount	Unit	Price Per Unit	Value
Timber	2015	10,358	MBF	\$226.36	\$2,344,600
	2014	8211	MBF	\$224.47	\$1,843,100

Certified Farmers Markets

Local farmers' markets allow producers to sell their certified commodities directly to the public. There were 32 certified producers that were issued certificates in Nevada County in 2015. The following 10 Farmers Markets have been certified by the Agricultural Commissioner to market local and regional produce in Nevada County. These producers offer a wide variety of commodities.

TUESDAY

- Truckee (June 3-October 28)
10500 Brockway Rd7am-2pm
- Nevada City (May 3-September 29)
The Rood Center, Hwy 499am-1pm
- Lake of the Pines (June 7-September 27)
Lower marina parking lot3pm-7pm
- Auburn (June 28-September 27)
Combie Plaza, 10556 Combie Road3pm-7pm

THURSDAY

- Penn Valley (May 5-October 27)
Western Gateway Park9am-1pm
- Auburn (June 28-September 27)
Combie Plaza, 10556 Combie Road3pm-7pm
- Grass Valley (June 23-July 28)
Mill Street. 6pm-9pm

SATURDAY

- Nevada City (June 4-November 19)
Union Street.8:30am-1pm
- Grass Valley (April 16-November 19)
North Star House, Old Auburn Road8am-12:30pm

SUNDAY

- Truckee (June 5-September 25)
12047 Donner Pass Road10am-2pm

Organic

Organic farming practices focus on maintaining ecological health and balance through promoting biodiversity and soil health while minimizing pollutants. Organic farming practices exclude the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers as well as genetically modified organisms.

The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office performs inspections on behalf of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for first-time registrants and producers that make less than \$5000 in annual sales, and conducts spot checks at farmers markets.

In 2015, 41 organic producers were registered with growing sites in Nevada County.





Fruit and Nut Crops

Includes apple, apricot, blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry, cherry, chestnut, fig, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pluot, pomegranate, prune, raspberry, and strawberry.

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Tons Per Acre	Total Tonnage	Value
Red Winegrapes	2015	254	1.93	476	\$668,600
	2014	247	3.73	910	\$1,224,900
White Winegrapes	2015	98	1.88	183	\$220,300
	2014	95	4.29	409	\$546,500
Other Fruit and Nuts*	2015	40			\$144,700
	2014	38			\$68,200
Total Fruits and Nuts	2015				\$1,033,600
	2014				\$1,839,600



Underwood Vineyard, Penn Valley

Red Winegrape Varieties

Reds	Bearing Acres	Avg Ton/Acre	Tons	Avg Price/Ton
Barbera	7	5.06	35	\$1,050
Cabernet Franc	40	1.39	54	\$1,377
Cabernet Sauvignon	118	1.75	206	\$1,367
Merlot	9	1.80	16	\$1,393
Petite Sirah	7	1.00	6	\$1,733
Primitivo	3	2.56	7	\$1,256
Sangiovese	7	2.49	17	\$1,300
Syrah	40	2.24	90	\$1,398
Zinfandel	20	1.72	34	\$1,398
Other Reds*	6	1.86	12	\$1,437
Red Total	254	1.93	476	\$1,405

*Other red varieties reported include: Basturdo, Carienane, Carmine, Cinsaut, Dolcetto, Graciano, Grenache, Legrein, Malbec, Montepulciano, Mouvedre, Petite Verdot, Refosco/Mondeuse, Tempranillo, Teroldego, Tinta Cao, Tinta Negra Mole, and Touriga Nazionale.

White Winegrape Varieties

Whites	Bearing Acres	Avg Ton/Acre	Tons	Avg Price/Ton
Chardonnay	51	1.64	84	\$1,373
Pinot Gris	7	1.65	12	\$1,333
Sauvignon Blanc	35	2.24	78	\$1,244
Other Whites**	5	2.16	10	\$1,117
White Total	98	2.05	183	\$1,201

**Other white varieties reported include: Chenin Blanc, Fiano, Flora, Forastera, Marsanne, Melon, Muscat Blanc/Canelli, Muscat Orange, Petite Sirah, Peverella, Pinot Blanc, Rkatsiteli, Rousanne, Semillon, Tocai, and Viognier.

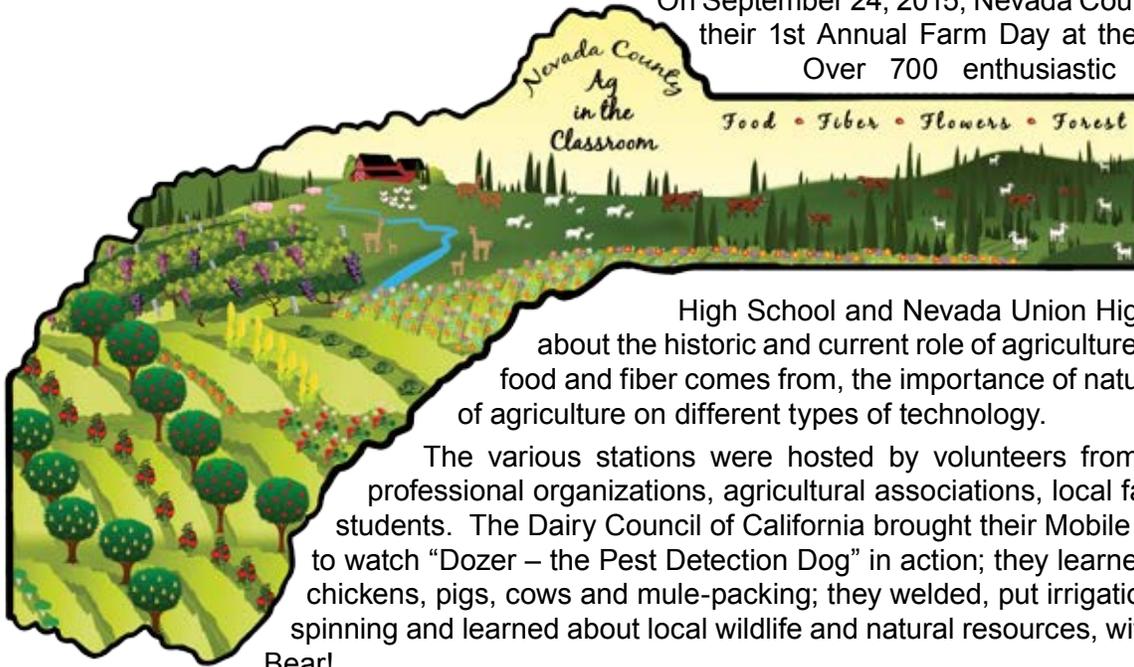
Ag in the Classroom Farm Day - 1st Annual!

On September 24, 2015, Nevada County Ag in the Classroom hosted their 1st Annual Farm Day at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. Over 700 enthusiastic elementary school students

participated at interactive stations throughout the day. With the help of over 100 volunteers, including Future Farmers of America (FFA) students from Bear River

High School and Nevada Union High School, the children learned about the historic and current role of agriculture in Nevada County, where their food and fiber comes from, the importance of natural resources, and the reliance of agriculture on different types of technology.

The various stations were hosted by volunteers from Nevada County businesses, professional organizations, agricultural associations, local farmers and ranchers, and FFA students. The Dairy Council of California brought their Mobile Dairy Classroom; students got to watch “Dozer – the Pest Detection Dog” in action; they learned about sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens, pigs, cows and mule-packing; they welded, put irrigation pipe together, watched wool spinning and learned about local wildlife and natural resources, with a surprise visit from Smokey Bear!



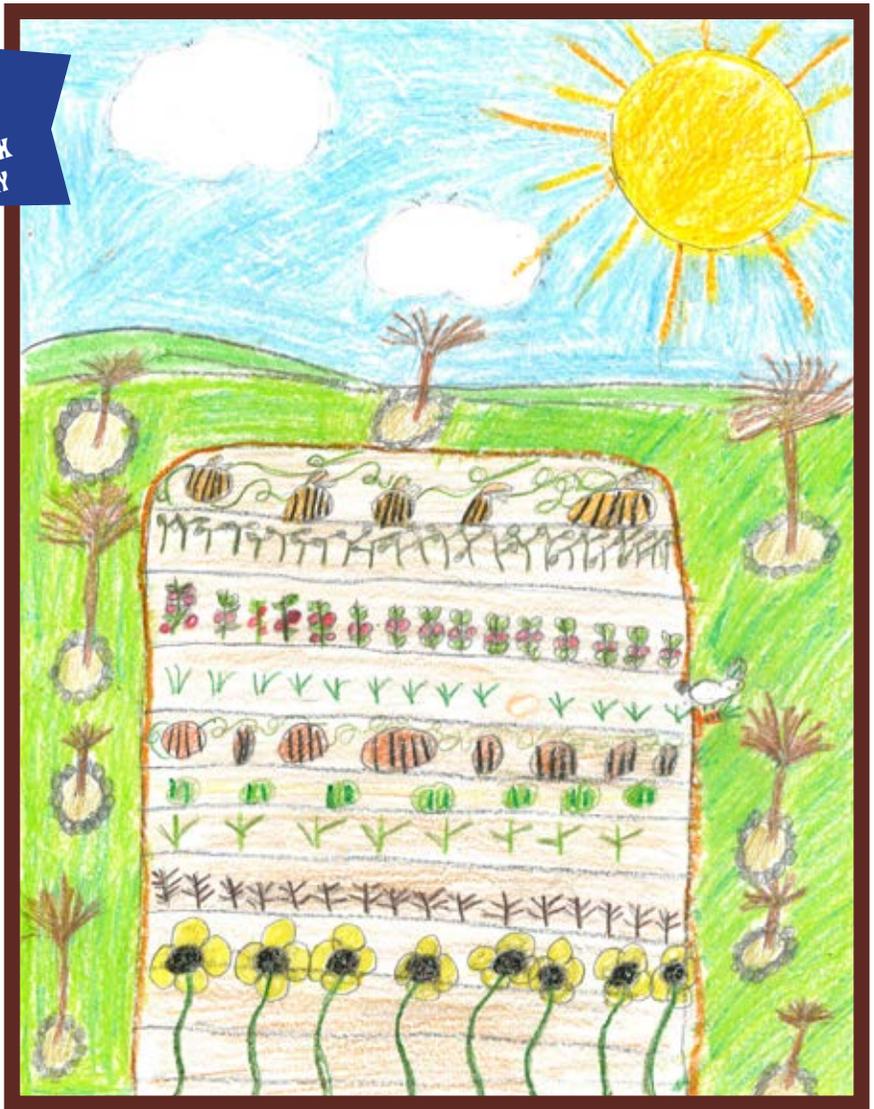
Nevada County Ag in the Classroom is a local, grassroots collaboration of ranchers, farmers, agriculture teachers and students, businesses, food networks, and community volunteers who provide quality agriculture-related educational resources, programs, and training opportunities.

To celebrate the 1st Annual Ag in the Classroom Farm Day, the Nevada County Agricultural Department and Nevada County Resource Conservation District held an art contest, asking participants of Farm Day to portray what agriculture means to them.

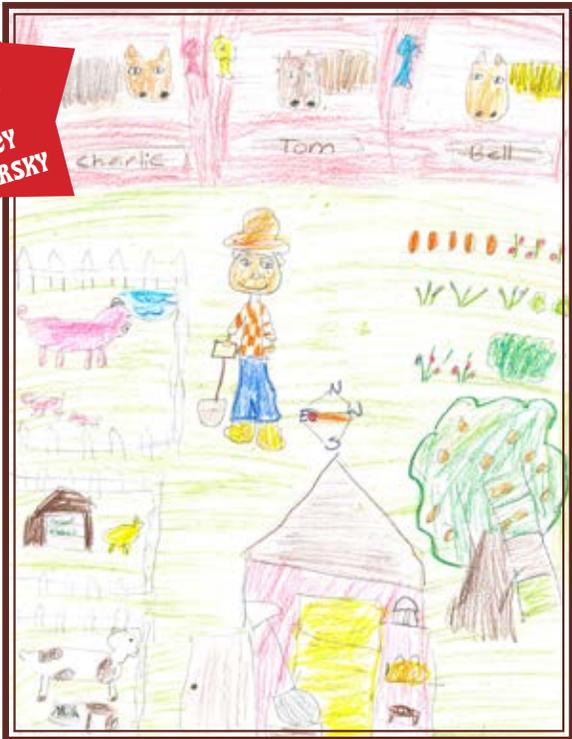
Our 2015 winners are: 1st Place – Faith Day, 2nd Place – Riley Lubarsky, and 3rd Place – Willow West, all from 4th Grade at Clear Creek School.

Congratulations!!

1st
Place
Faith
Day



2nd
Place
Riley
Lubarsky



3rd
Place
Willow
West



Livestock and Poultry

Commodity	Year	Head*	Live Weight	Unit**	Per Unit Price	Value
Steers & Heifers	2015	4,200	47,250	cwt	\$180.00	\$7,087,500
	2014	4,200	47,250	cwt	\$180.00	\$8,505,000
Cow & Calf	2015	2,800	29,430	cwt	\$150.00	\$4,578,000
	2014	2,700	29,430	cwt	\$180.00	\$5,297,400
Sheep & Lambs	2015	1,150			\$150.00	\$172,500
	2014	1,130			\$150.00	\$203,400
Miscellaneous (Hogs, goats, chickens)	2015					\$194,000
	2014					\$132,500
Total Livestock	2015					\$12,032,000
	2014					\$14,138,300

*Number of head as of January 1, 2016

**cwt = hundred weight, 100 lbs



Barhydt barnyard on McCourtney Road



Intimate moment with a worker bee

Apiary, Eggs and Wool Products

Commodity	Year	Amount	Unit	Price Per Unit	Value
Apiary*	2015	2246	hives		\$796,400
	2014	2230	hives		\$409,900
Wool Products	2015	550	pounds	\$15	\$8,300
	2014	600	pounds	\$18	\$10,800
Eggs**	2015	23,765	dozen	\$5.75	\$125,200
	2014	17,778	dozen	\$5.05	\$89,800
Total Apiary, Eggs and Wool Products	2015				\$929,900
	2014				\$510,500

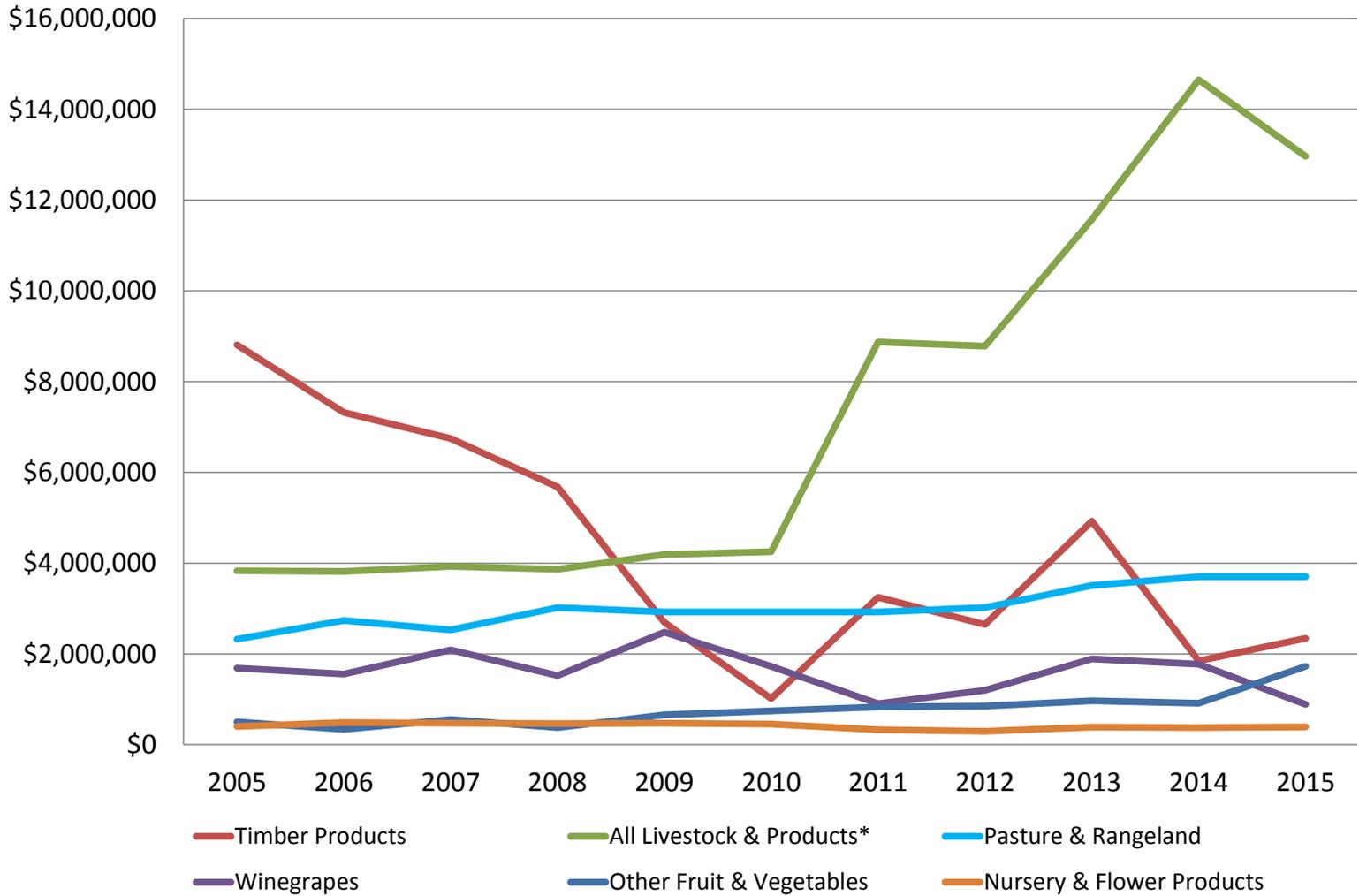
*Includes honey, wax, queens, nucs and hives rented for pollination

**Includes all duck, quail, and chicken eggs for consumption

Pasture and Rangeland

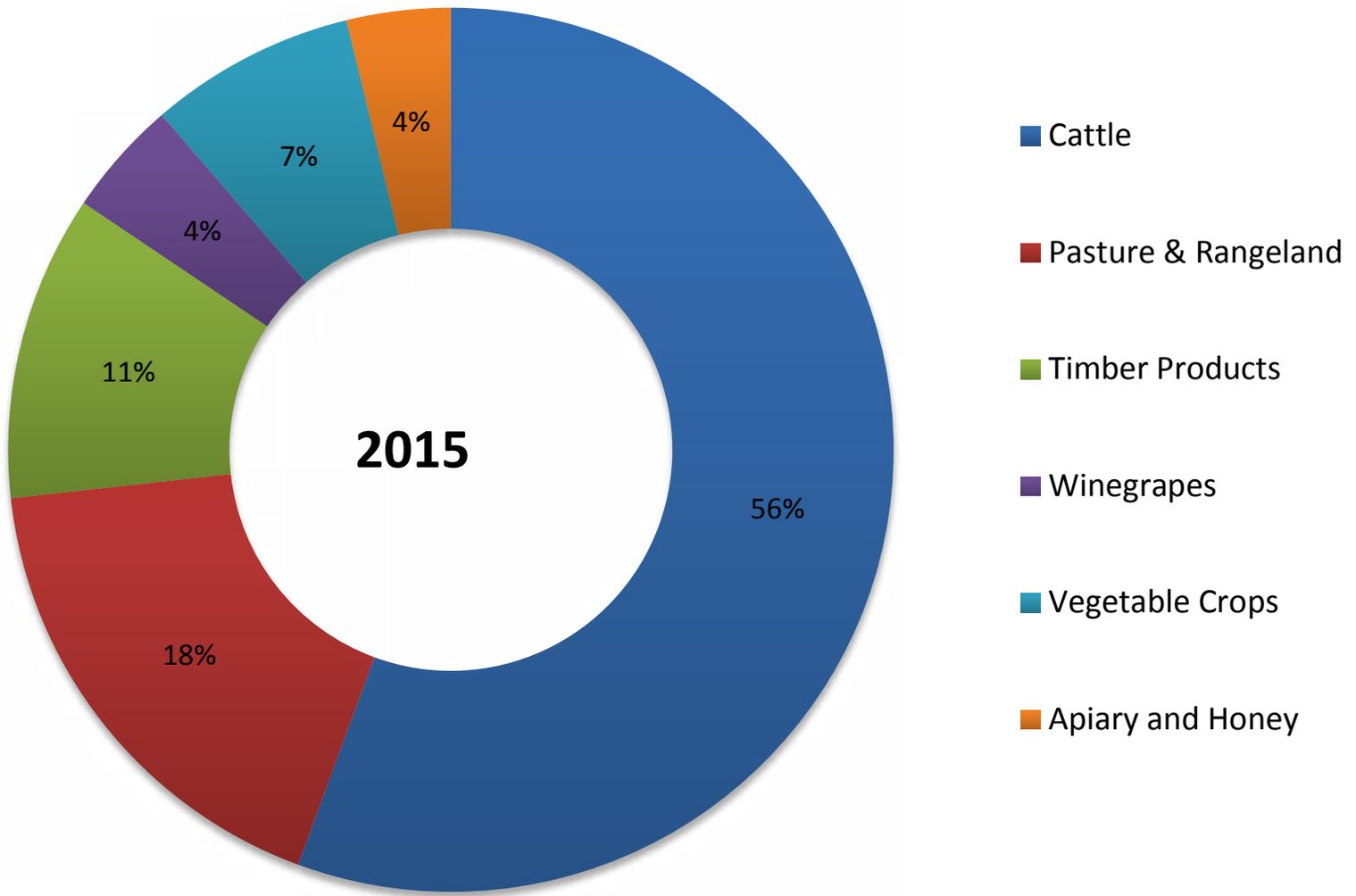
Commodity	Year	Amount	Unit	Price Per Unit	Value
Pasture	2015	10,000	Acre	\$180	\$1,800,000
	2014	10,000	Acre	\$180	\$1,800,000
Rangeland	2015	95,000	Acre	\$20	\$1,900,000
	2014	95,000	Acre	\$20	\$1,900,000
Total Pasture and Rangeland	2015				\$3,700,000
	2014				\$3,700,000

Agricultural Income 10 Year Comparison



Year	All Livestock & Products*	Pasture & Rangeland	Nursery & Flower	Winegrapes	Other Fruit & Vegetables	Timber Products	Total Value
2005	\$3,833,600	\$2,325,400	\$401,400	\$1,684,200	\$499,900	\$8,807,800	\$17,552,300
2006	\$3,817,500	\$2,735,000	\$490,000	\$1,555,300	\$340,000	\$7,321,600	\$16,259,400
2007	\$3,927,600	\$2,527,900	\$471,000	\$2,086,600	\$553,000	\$6,743,700	\$16,309,800
2008	\$3,867,400	\$3,020,000	\$465,500	\$1,522,900	\$377,400	\$5,679,100	\$14,932,300
2009	\$4,189,300	\$2,925,000	\$471,000	\$2,477,500	\$656,000	\$2,689,000	\$13,407,800
2010	\$4,252,600	\$2,925,000	\$452,000	\$1,727,000	\$743,200	\$1,014,200	\$11,114,000
2011	\$8,870,000	\$2,925,000	\$327,000	\$905,200	\$829,900	\$3,249,000	\$17,106,100
2012	\$8,778,300	\$3,020,000	\$294,800	\$1,196,200	\$851,000	\$2,647,700	\$16,788,000
2013	\$11,134,400	\$3,510,000	\$383,900	\$1,886,900	\$966,400	\$4,924,900	\$23,245,300
2014	\$14,648,800	\$3,700,000	\$378,500	\$1,771,400	\$911,300	\$1,843,100	\$23,253,100
2015	\$12,961,900	\$3,700,000	\$392,500	\$888,900	\$1,725,700	\$2,344,600	\$22,013,600

*Includes all livestock, poultry, apiary, wool and egg products



Then and Now

Beef Production in Nevada County - Excerpt from 1965 Crop and Livestock Report:

"For the past several years beef production has been Nevada County's number one agricultural industry. By production we mean produced and sold from Nevada County and does not include livestock inventories or summer pastured stock from other counties. During 1965 there were 118 farms in Nevada County raising beef cattle. This figure does not include family type operations, 4-H or FFA members. The average size of beef herds (cows, calves and bulls) in Nevada County is 68 animals. The number of registered cows and calves reported as of January 1, 1966 are 679 head. The number of registered bulls reported are 199."

Top 6 1965	Value
Cattle	\$560,600
Pasture & Rangeland	\$547,600
Broilers & Fryers	\$394,000
Milk	\$96,100
Apples	\$71,900
Eggs	\$78,600
Total Top 6 Value	\$1,748,800

Top 6 2015	Value
Cattle	\$11,665,500
Pasture & Rangeland	\$3,700,000
Timber	\$2,344,600
Vegetable Crops	\$1,581,000
Winegrapes	\$888,900
Apiary and Honey	\$796,400
Total Top 6 Value	\$20,976,400

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 Gypsy Moth (GM) 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 2015, approximately 4,346 shipments were inspected for live exotic pests, and resulted in 16 live pest finds.

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	# of Traps
Gypsy Moth (GM)	195
Japanese Beetle (JB)	22
European Grapevine Moth (EGVM)	65
Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)	16
European Pine Shoot Moth (EPSM)	20
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS)	88
Exotic Fruit Flies*	34

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



Yellow sticky trap adjacent to vineyard

UP CLOSE WITH THE INVASIVE GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

COMMON NAME: Glassy Winged Sharpshooter

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Homalodisca vitripennis*

The glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) is an insect that was inadvertently introduced into southern California in the early 1990s. This insect is native to the southeastern United States and was most likely brought into California accidentally as egg masses in ornamental or agricultural plant foliage.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter is a large leafhopper that obtains its nutrients by feeding on plant fluids in the water-conducting tissues of a plant. Feeding on plants rarely causes significant plant damage, although the insects do excrete copious amounts of liquid that can make leaves and fruit appear whitewashed when dry.

The real problem associated with glassy-winged sharpshooter, is that it can spread the disease-causing bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* from one plant to another. This bacterium is the causal agent of devastating plant diseases such as Pierce's disease of grape, oleander leaf scorch, almond leaf scorch and mulberry leaf scorch.

Even though this insect is large enough to be seen with the naked eye, it is very inconspicuous in nature. Large, yellow sticky traps are commonly used in orchards to monitor for adults.



GWSS close up of head
Photo by: Jack Kelly Clark,
UC Statewide IPM Project

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.



Musk Thistle by railroad tracks

Weed Species	Treatment Method	# of Sites
Bull Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	7
Canada Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	10
Dalmatian Toadflax	Mechanical/Chemical	8
Diffuse Knapweed	Mechanical/Chemical	2
Himalayan Blackberry	Mechanical/Chemical	5
Klamathweed	Mechanical/Chemical	2
Lens-podded Hoary Cress	Mechanical/Chemical	13
Musk Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	59
Oblong Spurge	Mechanical/Chemical	46
Perennial Pepperweed	Mechanical/Chemical	45
Purple Loosestrife	Mechanical	15
Red Sesbania	Mechanical	2
Rush Skeletonweed	Mechanical/Chemical	60
Russian Knapweed	Mechanical/Chemical	14
Russian Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	1
Scotch Broom	Mechanical/Chemical	3
Scotch Thistle	Mechanical/Chemical	2
Spotted Knapweed	Mechanical/Chemical	11
Stinkwort	Mechanical/Chemical	4
Tall White Top	Chemical	4
Tree of Heaven	Mechanical/Chemical	1
Yellow Starthistle	Mechanical/Chemical	6

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 program 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



5,000-lb scale being certified at Nevada City Winery.

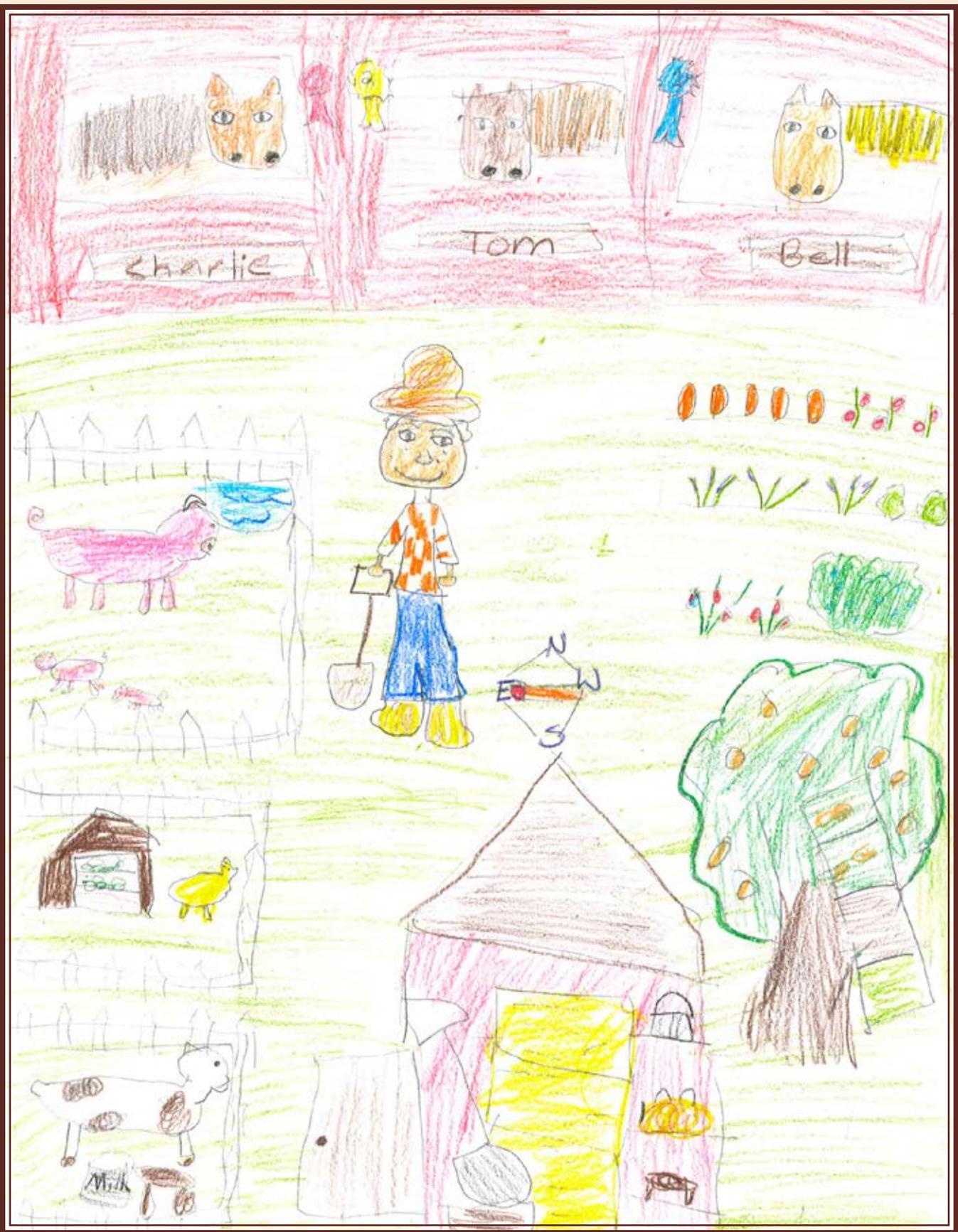
Measuring Devices	# of Devices
Domestic Water Submeters	76
Electric Submeters	306
Fabric, Cordage & Wire Meters	12
LPG Dispensers	68
Retail Motor Fuel Meters	1,072
Taxi Meters	11
Vapor Submeters	262
Vehicle Meters	7
Wholesale Meters	2
Total Measuring Devices	1819

Weighing Devices	# of Devices
Computing Scales	196
Counter Scales	50
Dormant/Port Plat $\geq 2K < 10K$	16
Hanging Scales	11
Hopper & Tank Scales	4
Livestock & Animal $\geq 2K < 10K$	2
Misc. Weighing Devices	9
Prescription & Jewelers Scales	3
Vehicle Scales	11
Total Weighing Devices	309

Total devices inspected in 2015: 2,128



Testing propane delivery trucks



Charlie



Tom



Bell

