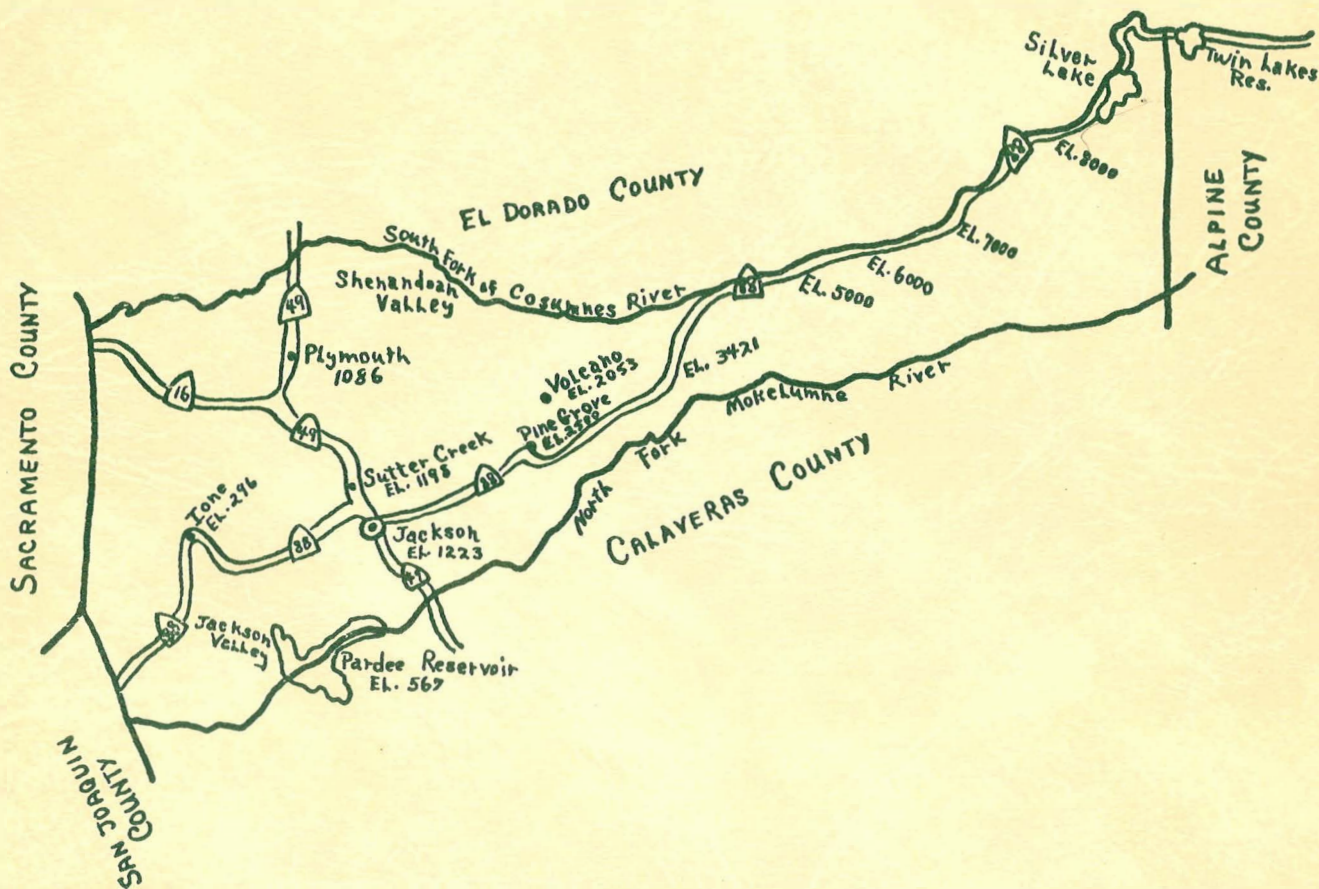


# 1956 AMADOR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT



**Department of Agriculture**

**P. O. Box 74**

**Jackson, California**

To: MR. W. C. JACOBSEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE  
HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AMADOR COUNTY

GENTLEMEN:

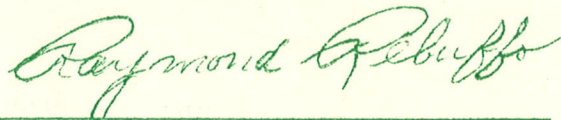
THE ENCLOSED REPORT IS A COMPILATION OF THE ACREAGE AND THE ESTIMATED PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF AMADOR COUNTY FOR 1956 AS REQUIRED BY THE AGRICULTURAL CODE.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS EXPRESSED AS FARM VALUE. FARM VALUE IS THE RETURN TO THE PRODUCER OF FARM PRODUCTS AFTER DEDUCTING THE COSTS OF MARKETING AS: FREIGHT, COMMISSIONS, PACKING, CONTAINERS, ETC. THIS VALUE DOES INCLUDE THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DOES NOT REPRESENT NET PROFIT TO THE FARMER.

THE 1956 INCOME FROM THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WAS \$2,077,141. THIS FIGURE IS 11% BELOW THE \$2,343,185 INCOME FOR 1955 AND FOR THE EXCEPTION OF 1953 REPRESENTS THE LOWEST INCOME TO FARMERS FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS. THE DROP IN AGRICULTURAL INCOME DURING 1956 WAS ATTRIBUTED TO LOWER PRICES RECEIVED FOR BEEF CATTLE, WOOL, HOGS, MEAT BIRDS, EGGS, WALNUTS, A SMALLER CROP OF WINE GRAPES AND WALNUTS, AND LESS TRANSIENT CATTLE IN THE COUNTY. FARMERS ARE EXPERIENCING A TOUGH ECONOMICAL SQUEEZE WITH RISING COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND LOWER OR CONSTANT RETURNS FOR FARM PRODUCTS MARKETED. GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY PAYMENTS ARE NOT INCLUDED AS FARM INCOME.

I WISH TO THANK THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO COOPERATED IN MAKING THIS REPORT POSSIBLE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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RAYMOND REBUFFO  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER



## GENERAL INFORMATION

AMADOR COUNTY IS LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY IN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS; IT RANGES FROM AN ELEVATION OF 200 FEET AT IONE TO 8,500 FEET AT CARSON PASS. ITS ROLLING HILLS ARE PRIMARILY ADAPTED TO THE PRODUCTION OF LUMBER AND CATTLE. THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY PRODUCES NEARLY ALL OF THE SHEEP, HOGS, EGGS, TURKEYS, GRAPES, DECIDUOUS TREE CROPS, WINE AND SOME GRAIN. THE BALANCE OF THE GRAIN AND NEARLY ALL OF THE MILK ARE PRODUCED IN THE IONE AREA. INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WILL COME ABOUT ONLY WHEN IRRIGATION BECOMES A REALITY.

THE FAMED CLAY, SILICA SAND AND LIGNITE DEPOSITS ARE LOCATED IN THE IONE AREA. PROGRESSING UP THE FOOTHILLS, ONE ENCOUNTERS THE HISTORIC " MOTHER LODE BELT " ON WHICH ARE LOCATED THE TOWNS OF JACKSON, SUTTER CREEK, AMADOR CITY, DRYTOWN AND PLYMOUTH. THIS AREA IS KNOWN FOR ITS HISTORY AS ONE OF THE RICHEST GOLD PRODUCING SPOTS IN THE WORLD. IN THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS, ONE FINDS PICTURESQUE BEAUTY AND THE HISTORIC GHOST TOWN OF VOLCANO. THE " HIGH COUNTRY " LENDS ITSELF TO EXCELLENT SUMMER AND WINTER SPORTS.

THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE COUNTY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EMPLOYMENT IS DERIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFICATIONS OF WORK IN ORDER OF THEIR IMPORTANCE: PUBLIC WORK (FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY EMPLOYMENT), LUMBERING, AGRICULTURE, HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER MANUFACTURING AND MINING.

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION - 1956

LAND AREA (ACRES)	- 380,160	PASTURELAND	- 265,901 ACRES
ACRES IN FARMS	- 294,402	CULTIVATED CROPS	- 2,020 ACRES
FARMS	- 372	COMMERCIAL FOREST	- 127,000 ACRES

### ESTIMATED INCOME FROM INDUSTRIES

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER	\$15,000,000.00	AGRICULTURE	- \$2,077,141.00
LUMBERING (WHOLESALE)	9,120,000.00	MINING	- 1,500,000.00

HIGHLIGHTS OF FUNCTIONS PERFORMED DURING 1956

STANDARDIZATION: 4,250 PACKAGES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE INSPECTED AND ALL WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH QUALITY STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY LAW. 28 CALLS WERE MADE AND 709 DOZEN EGGS WERE INSPECTED IN RETAIL STORES FOR QUALITY AND SIZE REQUIREMENTS. 34 DOZEN WERE REJECTED FOR CONTAINING INEDIBLES. THE BALANCE OF THE EGGS WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

CERTIFICATION: IN ORDER TO PASS BORDER STATION INSPECTION, THREE LOADS OF JUICE GRAPES FOR OUT OF STATE SHIPMENT WERE CERTIFIED AS TO COMPLYING WITH QUALITY STANDARDS.

RODENT CONTROL: 346 LBS. OF POISONED GRAIN FOR GROUND SQUIRREL CONTROL AND 232 LBS. OF WARFARIN RAT BAIT WERE MIXED, PACKAGED AND DISTRIBUTED. GROUND SQUIRRELS AND RATS DO ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURAL CROPS AS WELL AS HARBOR DISEASES THAT CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO ANIMALS AND HUMANS. 200 GROUND SQUIRRELS WILL CONSUME AS MUCH FORAGE AS WILL ONE STEER IN ONE YEAR. ONE RAT WILL EAT OR DESTROY \$2.00 WORTH OF FOODSTUFFS A YEAR.

GRASSHOPPER CONTROL: DURING THE YEAR, THIS OFFICE HAD 172 CALLS FOR POISONED GRASSHOPPER BAIT. 4,380 POUNDS OF BAIT WERE MIXED, PACKAGED AND DISTRIBUTED. THE OVERALL PROBLEM WASN'T AS SEVERE AS OTHER YEARS. THE MOST TROUBLE WAS ENCOUNTERED BY THE YARD OWNER. VERY LITTLE DAMAGE RESULTED FROM THIS PEST IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS. THE GENERAL PUBLIC WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THIS SERVICE.

CROP REPORT: AS REQUIRED BY LAW, A REPORT WAS COMPILED SHOWING ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES OF THE CROPS OF THE COUNTY.

PEST SURVEY & PEST CONTROL: 142 CALLS WERE MADE RELATIVE TO SURVEYING FOR AND GIVING CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS ON: PLANT DISEASES, INSECT PESTS, WEEDS, BRUSH, POISON OAK, HOUSE PESTS, ETC. A SPECIAL SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED FOR WALNUT HUSK FLY AND MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY. FINDINGS WERE NEGATIVE. WALNUT HUSK FLY IS A SERIOUS PEST OF WALNUTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND TWO YEARS AGO WAS FOUND IN SONOMA COUNTY. LAST YEAR THIS PEST WAS FOUND IN NAPA AND KERN COUNTIES. WITH THE BEST OF COSTLY PEST CONTROL PROCEDURES, THIS PEST STILL CAUSES A LOSS OF OVER 10% OF THE WALNUT CROP IN INFESTED AREAS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

BRUSH CONTROL: 277 MILES OF COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS WERE SPRAYED FOR BRUSH CONTROL WITH LEAF SPRAYS. 5 ACRES OF BRUSH STUMPS AT ROAD INTERSECTIONS WERE SPRAYED WHERE THE BRUSH HAD BEEN CUT TO PREVENT RE-SPROUTING. BRUSH INHIBITS ROAD VISIBILITY ON CURVES AND AT INTERSECTIONS AND WOULD IMPEDE TRAFFIC IF ALLOWED TO GROW OVER THE ROADWAY. IT IS CHEAPER TO CONTROL BRUSH WITH CHEMICALS THAN BY MECHANICAL MEANS. EXCELLENT COOPERATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ROAD COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPARATIVE COST OF ROAD-SIDE BRUSH SPRAYING FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS:

<u>COST PER MILE ( ONE SIDE OF ROAD )</u>	<u>MILES SPRAYED</u>
1953- - - - - \$ 9.00	294
1954- - - - - 6.74	356
1955- - - - - 6.38	464
1956- - - - - 4.07	227



FUNCTIONS PERFORMED: (CON'T.)

WEED CONTROL: 522 MILES OF COUNTY AND STATE ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS WERE CHEMICALLY SPRAYED FOR THE CONTROL OF DETRIMENTAL WEEDS. WEEDS SPRAYED DURING THE YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS: COCKLE BUR, BEARDED GOAT GRASS, MEDUSSA HEAD, JOHNSON GRASS, POISON OAK, MILK THISTLE, MEXICAN WHORLED MILK WEED, RUSSIAN THISTLE (TUMBLE WEED), YELLOW STAR THISTLE, KLAMATH WEED, PUNCTURE VINE, CATTAIL, TULE, BLACKBERRIES AND ARTICHOKE THISTLE.

AS REQUIRED BY LAW, 63 PERMITS WERE ISSUED BY THIS OFFICE FOR THE USE OF INJURIOUS WEED KILLERS. THESE WEED KILLERS WERE USED BY INDIVIDUALS IN THIS COUNTY FOR BRUSH AND WEED CONTROL PURPOSES.

KLAMATH WEED BEETLES HAVE JUST ABOUT ELIMINATED THE KLAMATH WEED PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTY. THERE ARE STILL SMALL PATCHES OF WEED IN SOME AREAS AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE BEETLES WILL KEEP THE WEED IN ECONOMIC BALANCE.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE THROUGH JOINT AGENCY COOPERATION IN WORKING OUT ECONOMICAL CONTROLS FOR BEARDED GOAT GRASS AND MEDUSSA HEAD. THESE TWO WEEDS ARE A DEFINITE THREAT TO THE RANGELAND IN THIS COUNTY. WORK IS BEING CONTINUED IN ORDER TO FIND THE BEST CONTROLS OF THESE TWO GRASSES AT THE LEAST EXPENSE TO THE LANDOWNER.

SCOTCH BROOM CONTROL: A TOTAL OF 53.5 ACRES OF SCOTCH BROOM AND ITS RELATED SPECIES WERE CONTROLLED ON 259 PROPERTIES. THE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF THE CONTROL OF SEEDLINGS, THE REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUAL OLD PLANTS AND THE SURVEY FOR NEW INFESTATIONS. A COUNTY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE GROWING OF BROOM WAS PUT INTO EFFECT DURING THE YEAR.

STATE FAIR: THE COUNTY EXHIBIT AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR WAS EXECUTED BY THIS OFFICE AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

PLANT QUARANTINE: 8,655 PLANTS COMPRISING 193 SHIPMENTS FROM OUT OF STATE AND 10,536 PLANTS COMPRISING 41 SHIPMENTS FROM WITHIN THE STATE WERE INSPECTED AS TO PEST CONDITIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE PLANT QUARANTINE LAWS OF THIS STATE. ONE WALNUT TREE FROM MICHIGAN WAS INTERCEPTED AND DESTROYED AS IT WAS A HOST OF TWO WALNUT DISEASES NOT KNOWN TO OCCUR WEST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. ONE NECTARINE TREE FROM OHIO WAS FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION FOR BEING A HOST OF PEACH VIRUS DISEASES FROM AN INFESTED AREA. THESE PEACH VIRUSES DO NOT OCCUR IN CALIFORNIA. FOUR SHIPMENTS OF PRIVET PLANTS FROM TENNESSEE WERE REJECTED AND DESTROYED AS HOSTS OF CITRUS WHITEFLY FROM AN INFESTED AREA.

EXCELLENT COOPERATION WAS RECEIVED BY THIS OFFICE FROM THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES IN MUTUAL PROBLEMS: FARM ADVISOR, SOIL CONSERVATION, STATE DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE.

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS  
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - 1956

CROP	BEARING ACREAGE	PRODUCTION TOTAL UNITS	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL FARM VALUE
<u>FRUIT &amp; NUT CROPS</u>				
APPLES	23	46 TONS	\$ 140.00	\$ 6,440.00
ALMONDS	5	3 TONS	750.00	2,250.00
GRAPES (WINE)	637	1572 TONS	58.00	91,176.00
PEACHES	18	32 TONS	68.00	2,176.00
PRUNES (DRY)	128	64 TONS	200.00	12,800.00
WALNUTS	191	57 TONS	500.00	28,500.00
MISC.	<u>23</u>	-----		<u>2,500.00</u>
	1,025			\$ 145,842.00
<u>VEGETABLE CROPS</u>				
MISC.	50			12,000.00
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>				
WHEAT	236	3,540 CWT.	3.25	\$ 11,505.00
BARLEY	82	984 CWT.	2.25	2,214.00
OATS	117	2,223 CWT.	2.50	5,557.00
SUDAN	100	1,500 CWT.	6.00	9,000.00
WHEAT	16	240 CWT.		* FED ON RANCHES
OATS	19	874 CWT.		" " "
BARLEY	97	1,164 CWT.		" " "
HAY (OATS, ETC.)	3,700	3,700 TONS		" " "
* IRRIGATED PASTURE	400			" " "
* RANGE PASTURE	265000			" " "
	<u>269,767</u>			<u>\$ 28,276.00</u>

\* SHOWN AS LIVESTOCK INCOME



PRODUCT	PRODUCTION TOTAL UNITS	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL FARM VALUE
	<u>APIARY</u>		
HONEY	35,000 LBS.	\$ .12	\$ 4,200.00
	<u>DAIRY PRODUCTS</u>		
MILK FAT	75,000 LBS. GRADE A 75,000 LBS. GRADE B	1.02 .82	76,500.00 61,500.00 <hr/> 138,000.00
	<u>POULTRY PRODUCTS</u>		
EGGS	393,000 DOZENS	.40	157,200.00
FRYERS	180,000 BIRDS	.60	108,000.00
HENS (CULL OUTS)	7,860 HENS	.52	4,087.00
TURKEYS	800 BIRDS	6.00	4,800.00
MISC. (RABBITS, ETC.)			<hr/> 2,000.00 276,087.00
	<u>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS</u>		
HOGS & FEEDER PIGS	1,563 HEAD	14.50	22,663.00
BEEF CALVES	8,500 HEAD	85.00	722,500.00
STEERS	1,500 HEAD	170.00	255,000.00
COWS	1,875 HEAD	90.00	168,750.00
BULLS	150 HEAD	210.00	31,500.00
FEEDER CATTLE	3,000 HEAD	38.00	114,000.00
PUREBRED STOCK	50 HEAD	225.00	11,250.00
DAIRY CATTLE	150 HEAD	90.00	13,500.00
CALVES & VEALERS	250 HEAD	28.00	7,000.00
SHEEP & LAMBS	6,500 HEAD	15.00	97,500.00
WOOL & MOHAIR	57,400 HEAD	.4542	26,073.00
KID GOATS	500 HEAD	6.00	<hr/> 3,000.00 1,472,736.00
TOTAL PLANT INDUSTRY	- - - - -	- - - - -	186,118.00
TOTAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY	- - - - -	- - - - -	<hr/> 1,891,023.00
GRAND TOTAL	- - - - -	- - - - -	\$ 2,077,141.00

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

THIS PHASE OF WORK IS AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THIS OFFICE AS EVERY PERSON IN HIS OR HER DAILY LIVING PURCHASES COMMODITIES WHOSE SALES ARE GOVERNED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAW. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WORK IS PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING ALL WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT FOR ACCURACY, AND TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW PERTAINING TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. THE BUYER OR THE SELLER COULD GAIN OR LOSE IN TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING INCORRECT WEIGHING OR MEASURING EQUIPMENT.

THE FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR:

	<u>TOTAL TESTED</u>	<u>CORRECT</u>	<u>CORRECT AFTER AJD.</u>	<u>OUT OF ORDER</u>
COUNTER SCALES	26	26		
SPRING SCALES	17	16		1
COMPUTING SCALES	107	102	2	3
PLATFORM SCALES	76	75		1
VEHICLE SCALES	2	2		
PERSON WEIGHERS	6	2	4	
CATTLE SCALES	28	20	3	5
MEAT BEAMS	6	5		1
WEIGHTS	257	257		
GAS TRUCK METERS	10	2	7	1
RETAIL GAS PUMPS	118	89	26	3
MILK TANKS	3	1	2	



## CROP SUMMARY

### (PLANT INDUSTRY)

APPLES: CROP GOOD. QUALITY, IN GENERAL, WAS GOOD, BUT FRUIT SIZE WAS BELOW AVERAGE DUE TO LACK OF MOISTURE DURING CRITICAL GROWING PERIOD. PRICE GOOD. ALL FRUIT GROWN IS SOLD LOCALLY.

ALMONDS: CROP AND PRICE GOOD.

WINE GRAPES: GRAPES CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST ACREAGE OF DECIDUOUS CROPS GROWN. PRODUCTION WAS NORMAL. COOL SUMMER DELAYED HARVEST AND WAS FAVORABLE TO MILDEW PROBLEMS. MOST OF CROP WAS SOLD TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES FOR HOME WINE MAKING WITH THE EXTRA TONNAGE GOING TO WINERIES. GRAPES ARE PRODUCED UNDER DRYLAND CONDITIONS AND HAVE EXCELLENT QUALITIES FOR THE MAKING OF DRY WINES AND ARE SOLD AT A PREMIUM PRICE.

PEACHES: SOME VARIETIES WERE FROSTED OUT; EXCEPTING FOR DRIED PEACHES, ALL OF PRODUCTION WAS CONSUMED LOCALLY.

PRUNES: GOOD CROP. SMALL FRUIT IN SOME AREAS. PRICE SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN IN 1955.

WALNUTS: CROP ABOUT 85% OF NORMAL. SIZE AND QUALITY GOOD. PRICE DOWN FROM RECORD PRICE RECEIVED IN 1955. THERE IS A TREND TOWARDS PLANTING MORE WALNUTS AND THE MAIN VARIETIES PLANTED WERE LATE FRANQUETTE AND HARTLEY. NO SERIOUS INSECT OR DISEASE PROBLEMS WERE ENCOUNTERED. WALNUT HUSK FLY SURVEY REVEALED NEGATIVE FINDINGS.

VEGETABLES: COUNTY NOT ADAPTED TO VEGETABLE PRODUCTION UNLESS IRRIGATION IS ESTABLISHED. PRESENT PRODUCTION IS LIMITED TO SMALL ACREAGES OF DIVERSIFIED CROPS FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

FIELD CROPS: THE STORY IS ABOUT THE SAME AS FOR 1955. IT IS UNECONOMICAL TO GROW SMALL ACREAGES OF GRAIN. FARMERS ARE FINDING THAT THEY CAN GET MORE VALUE OUT OF GROWING PASTURE CROPS AND RAISING ONLY GRAIN AS NEEDED TO FEED THEIR LIVESTOCK. FOR THE EXCEPTION OF WHEAT AND SUDAN FOR SEED, THERE WAS A REDUCED ACREAGE PLANTED TO OATS AND BARLEY. WHEAT AND BARLEY PRICES WERE ABOUT THE SAME IN 1956 AS IN 1955 AND THE PRICE OF OATS WAS DOWN.

THE SPOTTED ALFALFA APHID WAS FOUND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AMADOR COUNTY BY ROBERT PLAISTER, FARM ADVISOR. A JOINT SURVEY REVEALED THAT ALL FIELDS WERE INFESTED. GROWERS WERE KEPT ADVISED AS TO POPULATION BUILDUP OF THIS PEST AND TIMELY CUTTINGS PREVENTED ANY CROP LOSSES. TO DATE NO CHEMICAL CONTROL HAS BEEN NECESSARY. PARASITIC FUNGI, PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, WERE RELEASED LAST FALL. GROWERS ARE BEING ADVISED TO PLANT LAHONTAN, A SPOTTED ALFALFA APHID RESISTANT VARIETY.

## CROP SUMMARY

### (ANIMAL INDUSTRY)

AMADOR COUNTY IS PRIMARILY ADAPTED TO RAISING LIVESTOCK; CONSEQUENTLY BETTER THAN 90% OF THE AGRICULTURAL INCOME IS DERIVED FROM THIS TYPE OF FARMING.

APIARY: THIS COUNTY IS NOT ADAPTED TO RAISING BEES COMMERCIALY. MOST OF THE INCOME FROM HONEY IS FROM TRANSIENT BEEKEEPERS WHO MOVE BEES INTO THE COUNTY FOR A FIVE OR SIX MONTH PERIOD DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER HONEY-FLOW.

DAIRYING: THE CONDITION OF THIS SEGMENT OF AGRICULTURE WAS THE SAME IN 1956 AS IT WAS DURING 1955. COSTS OF PRODUCTION ARE VERY NEAR THE PRICE RECEIVED FOR MILK. ABOUT 25% OF THE GRADE A MILK PRODUCED HAD TO BE SOLD AS GRADE B MILK BECAUSE IT WAS SURPLUS MILK AND COULD NOT BE UTILIZED WITH THE MARKET AREA. GRADE A AND GRADE B MILK PRICES WERE ABOUT THE SAME AS THEY WERE IN 1955.

POULTRY: PRODUCERS OF EGGS WERE A LITTLE BETTER OFF THAN MEAT BIRD GROWERS DURING 1956. MEAT BIRD PRODUCERS ABOUT BROKE EVEN AS THE WHOLESALE PRICE RECEIVED FOR MEAT BIRDS WAS THE SAME AS THE COST OF PRODUCTION. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR MEAT BIRDS AND EGGS WERE BELOW 1955 PRICES. THERE WERE NO INCREASES IN THE PRODUCTION OF THESE TWO COMMODITIES DURING 1956.

SHEEP: PRODUCTION CONSTANT. PRICES RECEIVED FOR LAMBS WERE SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN 1955 PRICES. BASE PRICE RECEIVED FOR WOOL WAS LOWER IN 1956 THAN IN 1955. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ECONOMICS, IN THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY OF THIS COUNTY, THE RAISING OF SHEEP IS THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT AT PRESENT.

HOGS: PRODUCTION SAME IN 1956 AS IN 1955. PRICE DOWN. OF THE TOTAL PIGS RAISED IN THE COUNTY FOR SALE, ABOUT 30% WERE FAT HOGS AND THE BALANCE WERE FEEDER AND WEANER PIGS.

BEEF CATTLE: THIS IS THE LARGEST FARMING ENTERPRISE IN THE COUNTY AND RETURNED TO THE FARMERS ABOUT 60-65% OF THE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL INCOME FOR 1956. PRICES RECEIVED FOR BEEF ANIMALS WERE DOWN SLIGHTLY BELOW 1955 RETURNS. HIGHER COSTS OF PRODUCTION, WITH NO COMPARABLE INCREASE IN RETURNS FOR ANIMALS SOLD, HAS PLACED THE CATTLEMAN IN A TOUGH ECONOMICAL SITUATION. THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN CATTLE PRODUCTION DURING 1956. TWO FARMER FEED LOTS HAVE BEEN SET UP IN THE COUNTY THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE FARM ADVISOR. PRELIMINARY RESULTS ON THIS TYPE OF OPERATION "LOOK BRIGHT" AS FARMERS CAN FEED GRAIN OF THEIR OWN PRODUCTION AND SELL A FINISHED ANIMAL AT A HIGHER MARKET PRICE, THEREBY MAKING A BETTER MARGIN OF PROFIT PER ANIMAL.



RECAPITULATION

1948	-----	\$ 2,274,698.00
1949	-----	2,358,153.00
1950	-----	2,713,765.00
1951	-----	3,960,864.00
1952	-----	2,948,328.00
1953	-----	1,987,049.00
1954	-----	2,355,499.00
1955	-----	2,342,185.00
1956	-----	2,077,141.00

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*make file* →

1956 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL REPORT

TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

THE OFFICES OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER AND SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ENFORCE STATE LAW ON THE COUNTY LEVEL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THESE OFFICES ALSO TAKE CARE OF PROBLEMS ON THE COUNTY LEVEL AS MAY BE AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

EXCELLENT COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED DURING THE PAST YEAR FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL FIELD PROBLEMS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ALSO PAYS \$3,000 PER YEAR TOWARDS THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S SALARY.

THE FOLLOWING IS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER AND SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DURING 1956.

STANDARDIZATION: 4,250 PACKAGES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE INSPECTED AND ALL WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH QUALITY STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY LAW. 28 CALLS WERE MADE AND 709 DOZEN EGGS WERE INSPECTED IN RETAIL STORES FOR QUALITY AND SIZE REQUIREMENTS. 34 DOZEN WERE REJECTED FOR CONTAINING INEDIBLES. THE BALANCE OF THE EGGS WERE FOUND TO COMPLY WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

THE 1955 LEGISLATURE PASSED A NEW LAW REQUIRING ALL CHICKEN, TURKEY AND RABBIT MEATS TO BE LABELED AS TO CLASS WITH THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER DESIGNATED AS THE ENFORCING AGENCY. THE LAW WENT INTO EFFECT IN 1956. THIS OFFICE ADVISED ALL HANDLERS OF POULTRY MEATS ON THE RETAIL LEVEL WITH THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS SO THAT ALL AFFECTED WOULD HAVE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS OFFICE ALSO ASSISTED IN ADVISING PEOPLE ON THE SANITATION REQUIREMENTS IN SETTING UP POULTRY SLAUGHTERING PLANTS.

CERTIFICATION: IN ORDER TO PASS BORDER STATION INSPECTION, THREE LOADS OF JUICE GRAPES FOR OUT OF STATE SHIPMENT WERE CERTIFIED AS TO COMPLYING WITH QUALITY STANDARDS.

RODENT CONTROL: 346 LBS. OF POISONED GRAIN FOR GROUND SQUIRREL CONTROL AND 232 LBS. OF WARFARIN RAT BAIT WERE MIXED, PACKAGED AND DISTRIBUTED. GROUND SQUIRRELS AND RATS DO ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURAL CROPS AS WELL AS HARBOR DISEASES THAT CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO ANIMALS AND HUMANS. 200 GROUND SQUIRRELS WILL CONSUME AS MUCH FORAGE AS WILL ONE STEER IN ONE YEAR. ONE RAT WILL EAT OR DESTROY \$2.00 WORTH OF FOODSTUFFS A YEAR. THE TOTAL COST OF THE MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED WAS \$120.72.

GRASSHOPPER CONTROL: DURING THE YEAR, THIS OFFICE HAD 172 CALLS FOR POISONED GRASSHOPPER BAIT. 4,380 POUNDS OF BAIT WERE MIXED, PACKAGED AND DISTRIBUTED. THE OVERALL PROBLEM WASN'T AS SEVERE AS OTHER YEARS. THE MOST TROUBLE WAS ENCOUNTERED BY THE YARD OWNER. VERY LITTLE DAMAGE RESULTED FROM THIS PEST IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS. THE TOTAL COST OF THIS PROJECT WAS \$262.80. THE GENERAL PUBLIC WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THIS SERVICE.

CROP REPORT: AS REQUIRED BY LAW, A REPORT WAS COMPILED SHOWING ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES OF THE CROPS OF THE COUNTY.

PEST SURVEY & PEST CONTROL: 142 CALLS WERE MADE RELATIVE TO SURVEYING FOR AND GIVING CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS ON: PLANT DISEASES, INSECT PESTS, WEEDS, BRUSH, POISON OAK, HOUSE PESTS, ETC. A SPECIAL SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED FOR WALNUT HUSK FLY AND MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY. FINDINGS WERE NEGATIVE. WALNUT HUSK FLY IS A SERIOUS PEST OF WALNUTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND TWO YEARS AGO WAS FOUND IN SONOMA COUNTY. LAST YEAR THIS PEST WAS FOUND IN NAPA AND KERN COUNTIES. WITH THE BEST OF COSTLY PEST CONTROL PROCEDURES, THIS PEST STILL CAUSES A LOSS OF OVER 10% OF THE WALNUT CROP IN INFESTED AREAS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.



MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY WILL LIVE ON APPROXIMATELY 150 DIFFERENT FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. THIS INSECT WAS FOUND IN FLORIDA LAST YEAR AND WITH THE RAPID TRANSIT OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM THAT STATE, ALL COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, USED SPECIAL TRAPS THAT WOULD LURE THE INSECTS INTO THE TRAPS IF PRESENT. TO DATE NONE HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THIS STATE. ABOUT \$4,000,000 WILL BE EXPENDED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE ERADICATION OF THIS PEST NEXT YEAR.

SPOTTED ALFALFA APHID, A SERIOUS PEST OF ALFALFA WHICH CAUSED CALIFORNIA GROWERS A LOSS OF \$14,000,000 DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS WAS FOUND IN AMADOR COUNTY FOR THE FIRST TIME BY ROBERT PLAISTER, FARM ADVISOR. A JOINT SURVEY REVEALED THAT ALL FIELDS IN THE COUNTY WERE INFESTED. GROWERS WERE KEPT ADVISED AS TO THE POPULATION BUILDUP OF THIS PEST AND TIMELY CUTTING OF THE ALFALFA PREVENTED ANY CROP LOSSES. A PROGRAM WAS INAUGURATED FOR THE CONTROL OF THIS PEST BY THE USE OF PARASITIC FUNGI WHICH WERE RELEASED IN THE FALL. PARASITIC INSECT WASPS WILL BE RELEASED IN THE SPRING WITH HOPES OF BIOLOGICALLY CONTROLLING THE APHID WITHOUT THE USE OF CHEMICALS. GROWERS ARE BEING ADVISED TO PLANT LAHONTAN, A VARIETY OF ALFALFA THAT IS RESISTANT TO THE SPOTTED ALFALFA APHID.

SCOTCH BROOM CONTROL: A TOTAL OF 25.2 ACRES OF SCOTCH BROOM AND ITS RELATED SPECIES WERE CONTROLLED ON 158 PROPERTIES. THE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF CONTROLLING SEEDLING PLANTS, THE REMOVAL OF A FEW OLD PLANTS AND SURVEYING FOR NEW INFESTATIONS. IF BROOM WERE ALLOWED TO GROW UNCONTROLLED, THIS COUNTY WOULD IN TIME LOOK LIKE THE AREA OF GEORGETOWN IN EL DORADO COUNTY WHERE THERE IS AN ESTIMATED 17,000 ACRES OF THIS PEST TAKING OVER RANGELAND, FOREST LAND AND ORCHARDS. EXCELLENT COOPERATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE PEOPLE OF AMADOR COUNTY IN THE CONTROL OF THIS PEST. THE FOLLOWING ARE COSTS OF THIS PROGRAM FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS:

1953 - - - - -	\$ 1,984.15	1955 - - - - -	\$ 1,361.53
1954 - - - - -	1,182.08	1956 - - - - -	744.63

BRUSH CONTROL: 277 MILES OF COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS WERE SPRAYED FOR BRUSH CONTROL WITH LEAF SPRAYS. 5 ACRES OF BRUSH STUMPS AT ROAD INTERSECTIONS WERE SPRAYED WHERE THE BRUSH HAD BEEN CUT TO PREVENT RE-SPROUTING. BRUSH INHIBITS ROAD VISIBILITY ON CURVES AND AT INTERSECTIONS AND WOULD IMPEDE TRAFFIC IF ALLOWED TO GROW OVER THE ROADWAY. IT IS CHEAPER TO CONTROL BRUSH WITH CHEMICALS THAN BY MECHANICAL MEANS. EXCELLENT COOPERATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ROAD COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPARATIVE COST OF ROAD-SIDE BRUSH SPRAYING FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS:

<u>COST PER MILE (ONE SIDE OF ROAD)</u>	<u>MILES SPRAYED</u>	
1953 - - - - -	\$9.00	294
1954 - - - - -	6.74	356
1955 - - - - -	6.38	464
1956 - - - - -	4.07	227

WEED CONTROL: 522 MILES OF COUNTY AND STATE ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS WERE CHEMICALLY SPRAYED FOR THE CONTROL OF DETRIMENTAL WEEDS. WEEDS SPRAYED DURING THE YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS: COCKLE BUR, BEARDED GOAT GRASS, MEDUSSA HEAD, JOHNSON GRASS, POISON OAK, MILK THISTLE, MEXICAN WHORLED MILK WEED, RUSSIAN THISTLE (TUMBLE WEED), YELLOW STAR THISTLE, KLAMATH WEED, PUNCTURE VINE, CATTAIL, TULE, BLACKBERRIES AND ARTICHOKE THISTLE.

AS REQUIRED BY LAW, 63 PERMITS WERE ISSUED BY THIS OFFICE FOR THE USE OF INJURIOUS WEED KILLERS. THESE WEED KILLERS WERE USED BY INDIVIDUALS IN THIS COUNTY FOR BRUSH AND WEED CONTROL PURPOSES.

KLAMATH WEED BEETLES HAVE JUST ABOUT ELIMINATED THE KLAMATH WEED PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTY. THERE ARE STILL SMALL PATCHES OF WEED IN SOME AREAS AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE BEETLES WILL KEEP THE WEED IN ECONOMIC BALANCE.



PROGRESS IS BEING MADE THROUGH JOINT AGENCY COOPERATION IN WORKING OUT ECONOMICAL CONTROLS FOR BEARDED GOAT GRASS AND MEDUSSA HEAD. THESE TWO WEEDS ARE A DEFINITE THREAT TO THE RANGELAND IN THIS COUNTY. WORK IS BEING CONTINUED IN ORDER TO FIND THE BEST CONTROLS OF THESE TWO GRASSES AT THE LEAST EXPENSE TO THE LANDOWNER.

ADMINISTRATION: MORE TIME IS BEING EXPENDED ON THIS FUNCTION DUE TO INCREASING DEMANDS OF OFFICE WORK, NEW REGULATIONS AND NOT ENOUGH CLERICAL HELP TO PROPERLY HANDLE ROUTINE OFFICE WORK. 34% OF THE TOTAL WORKING HOURS WERE EXPENDED ON ADMINISTRATION.

STATE FAIR: THE COUNTY EXHIBIT AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR WAS EXECUTED BY THIS OFFICE AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

PLANT QUARANTINE: 8,655 PLANTS COMPRISING 193 SHIPMENTS FROM OUT OF STATE AND 10,536 PLANTS COMPRISING 41 SHIPMENTS FROM WITHIN THE STATE WERE INSPECTED AS TO PEST CONDITIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE PLANT QUARANTINE LAWS OF THIS STATE. ONE WALNUT TREE FROM MICHIGAN WAS INTERCEPTED AND DESTROYED AS IT WAS A HOST OF TWO WALNUT DISEASES NOT KNOWN TO OCCUR WEST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. ONE NECTARINE TREE FROM OHIO WAS FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION FOR BEING A HOST OF PEACH VIRUS DISEASES FROM AN INFESTED AREA. THESE PEACH VIRUSES DO NOT OCCUR IN CALIFORNIA. FOUR SHIPMENTS OF PRIVET PLANTS FROM TENNESSEE WERE REJECTED AND DESTROYED AS HOSTS OF CITRUS WHITEFLY FROM AN INFESTED AREA. THIS INSECT IS A SERIOUS PEST OF ORNAMENTALS AND CITRUS AND DOESN'T OCCUR IN THIS STATE.

EXCELLENT COOPERATION WAS RECEIVED BY THIS OFFICE FROM THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES IN MUTUAL PROBLEMS: FARM ADVISOR, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, STATE DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: THIS PHASE OF WORK IS AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THIS OFFICE AS EVERY PERSON IN HIS OR HER DAILY LIVING PURCHASES COMMODITIES WHOSE SALES ARE GOVERNED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAW. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WORK IS PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING ALL WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT FOR ACCURACY, AND TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW PERTAINING TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. THE BUYER OR THE SELLER COULD GAIN OR LOOSE IN TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING INCORRECT WEIGHING OR MEASURING EQUIPMENT.

THE FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR:

	<u>TOTAL TESTED</u>	<u>CORRECT</u>	<u>CORRECT AFTER ADJ.</u>	<u>OUT OF ORDER</u>
COUNTER SCALES	26	26		
SPRING SCALES	17	16		1
COMPUTING SCALES	107	102	2	3
PLATFORM SCALES	76	75		1
VEHICLE SCALES	2	2		
PERSON WEIGHERS	6	2	4	
CATTLE SCALES	28	20	3	5
MEAT BEAMS	6	5		1
WEIGHTS	257	257		
GAS TRUCK METERS	10	2	7	1
RETAIL GAS PUMPS	118	89	26	3
MILK TANKS	3	1	2	

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

RAYMOND REBOFFO  
 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
 SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES