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California Department of Food and Agriculture

Agricultural Commissioners' Crop Reports

Lassen County

2015-2017



Lassen County

2015 CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT





OUR MISSION

The Agriculture Commissioner promotes Lassen County agriculture production by protecting it from injurious pests & diseases, to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and other products for the consumer, and to build consumer and business confidence in the market place through the maintenance of equity.

PERSONNEL

Joe Moreo, Agriculture Commissioner

Craig A. Hemphill, Deputy Sealer

Tina Hilburn, Biologist II

Cheryl Lauritsen, Biologist

Mike Stewart, Seasonal

Robin Skelton-Snipes, Seasonal

Andrew Finch, Seasonal

Abby Tucker, Seasonal

Kevin Ostmeyer, Seasonal

Special thanks to all of the farmers and ranchers who provided the valuable information and photos used to compile this report.

COUNTY OF LASSEN



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

CRAIG A. HEMPHILL

175 Russell Avenue

Susanville, CA 96130-4215

☎ Telephone (530) 251-8110 Fax (530) 251-2726

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Karen Ross, Secretary

California Department of Food & Agriculture and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Lassen County

Bob Pyle, *Chairman, District 1*

Jim Chapman, *District 2*

Jeff Hemphill, *District 3*

Aaron Albaugh, *District 4*

Tom Hammond, *District 5*

Pursuant to Section 2272 & Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, I am pleased to submit the 2015 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Lassen County.

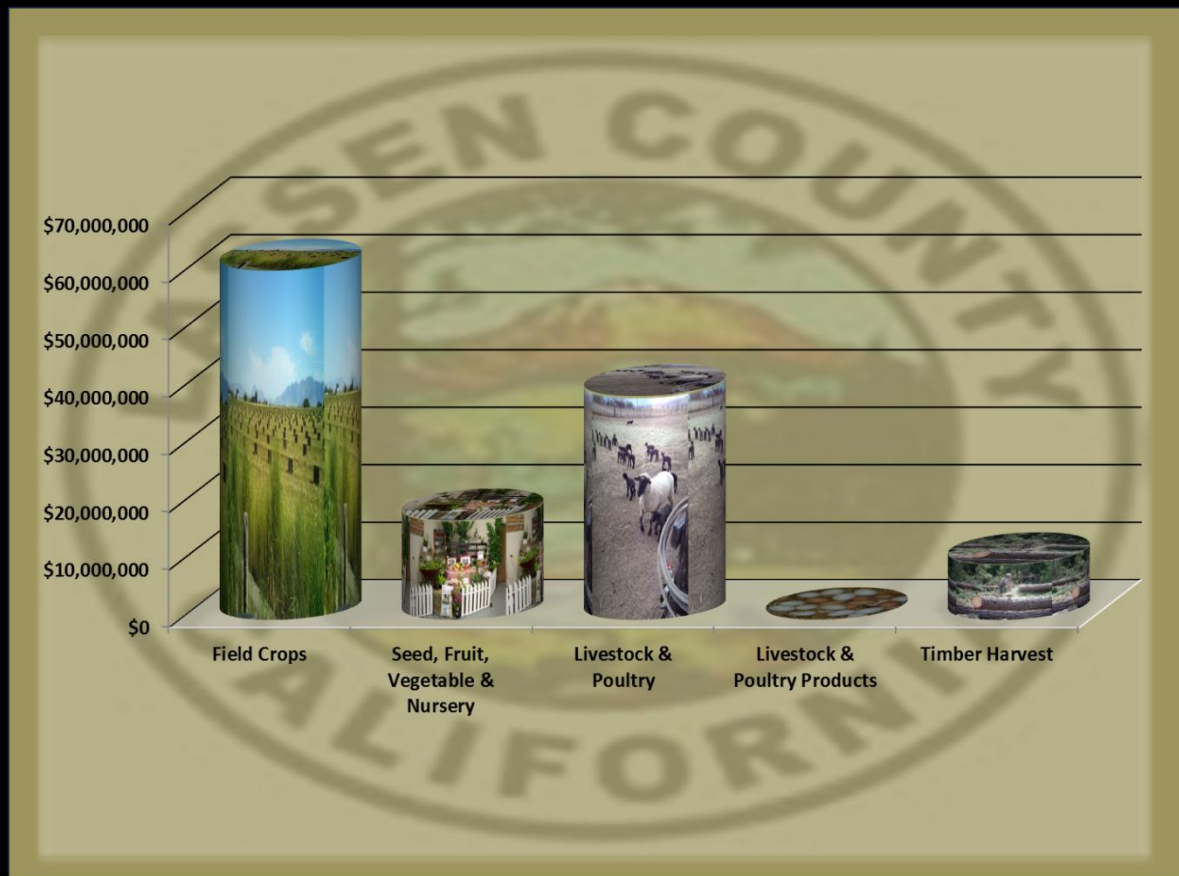
This report lists gross production and value of products and does not reflect net income to the producer. The value of agricultural products produced in Lassen County for 2015 was \$126,725,643. As occurred last year, this is a 1% increase in the overall value of Lassen County agriculture. This increase reflects higher cattle prices and a larger timber harvest. These increases offset the low price of hay and wild rice, and lower strawberry acreage.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Hemphill".

Craig A. Hemphill
Interim Agriculture Commissioner

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES



COMMODITY GROUP

2015

Field Crops	\$60,707,113
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery	17,293,893
Livestock & Poultry	38,900,335
Livestock & Poultry Products	129,000
Timber Harvest	9,695,302

Total	\$126,725,643
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TOP LASSEN COUNTY CROPS

2015 RANK	COMMODITY	VALUE	2014 RANK
1	All Hay	\$53,168,280	1
2	Livestock	\$38,900,335	2
3	Misc. Nursery Crops	\$15,660,460	3
4	Timber	\$9,695,302	4
5	Pastureland	\$6,162,221	5
6	Wild Rice	\$1,633,433	6
7	Livestock Products	\$129,000	7

10 YEAR COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION VALUES

2015	\$126,725,643
2014	\$115,835,558
**2013	\$124,550,196
2012	\$101,653,576
2011	\$101,712,856
2010	\$74,500,023
2009	\$69,091,500
2008	\$91,424,832
2007	\$65,633,696
2006	\$73,084,152

**2013 figures corrected for accuracy

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES

YEAR	FIELD CROPS	SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE & NURSERY	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	TIMBER HARVEST	TOTAL
2015	60,707,113	17,293,893	38,900,335	129,000	9,695,302	\$126,725,643
2014	62,754,412	18,475,580	44,343,120	129,000	6,309,432	\$115,835,558
2013**	66,773,524	18,421,542	27,347,842	129,000	11,349,943	\$124,550,196
2012	52,082,620	11,378,673	25,024,594	129,000	12,997,465	\$101,612,352
2011	55,465,769	10,000,000	23,943,336	129,000	9,593,180	\$101,710,856

**2013 figures corrected for accuracy

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION UNIT	PRODUCTION TOTAL	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
Hay, Alfalfa	2015	28,000	4.50	Ton	126,000	154.73	\$19,495,980
	2014	28,000	4.17	Ton	116,760	217.13	\$25,352,098
Hay, Grain	2015	10,000	2.92	Ton	25,000	85.00	2,125,000
	2014	10,000	3.16	Ton	31,600	170.27	5,380,532
*Hay, Other	2015	29,000	5.73	Ton	166,170	190.00	31,572,300
	2014	29,000	4.01	Ton	116,290	210.78	24,511,606
Wheat	2015	2,600	1.96	Ton	5,096	177.42	904,132
	2014	2,600	1.45	Ton	3,770	351.02	1,323,345
Pasture (irrigated)	2015	23,000	6.00	AUM	138,000	40.00	5,520,000
	2014	23,000	6.00	AUM	138,000	40.00	5,520,000
Pasture (non-irrigated)	2015	22,000	1.00	AUM	22,000	17.00	374,000
	2014	22,000	1.00	AUM	22,000	17.00	374,000
Pasture (range)	2015	1,291,253	0.10	AUM	129,125	1.69	218,221
	2014	1,291,253	0.10	AUM	129,125	1.69	218,221
Aftermath (stubble-all)	2015	20,000	1.00	AUM	20,000	25.00	500,000
	2014	20,000	1.00	AUM	20,000	25.00	500,000
Straw	2015	225	1.25	Ton	281	80.00	22,480
	2014	225	1.25	Ton	281	87.50	24,609
Total		2015					\$60,732,113
		2014					\$63,204,412

*Grass Alfalfa Mix, Timothy Hay, Orchard Grass Hay & Meadow Grass Hay

Alfalfa, small grains cut for hay, threshed barley and wheat were the main field crops between 1899 and 1937. Threshed wheat accounted for most of the acreage in production. Within 10 years alfalfa became the lead field crop and still holds the top spot in Lassen County.

In 1919 there were 48 acres of vegetables. Of these 48, 10 were sweet corn, 8 watermelon, 3 each of tomatoes & cabbages, and 2 each of melons and dry onions. In 1929, 40 acres of vegetables were recorded with the majority being sweet corn and melons.

SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND NURSERY CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	PRODUCTION UNIT	PRODUCTION TOTAL	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
Wild Rice	2015	1,460	1,203	Lbs.	1,756,380	\$.93/green lb.	\$1,633,433
	2014	1,579	1,757	Lbs.	2,774,303	\$.82/green lb.	\$2,274,928
*Misc. Crops (alfalfa seed, apples, endive, garlic seed, peaches mint, pumpkins, seed peas, watermelon, strawberries, misc. vegetables & greenhouse flowers)	2013						15,660,460
	2014						16,201,118
Total		2015					\$17,293,893
		2014					\$18,476,046

* Crops with less than 3 producers

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

COMMODITY	YEAR	# OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	*UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cows	2015	6,280	62,800	Cwt.	\$99.00	\$6,217,200
	2014	5,780	57,800	Cwt.	\$120.00	\$6,936,000
Calves	2015	5,995	29,975	Cwt.	210.00	6,294,750
	2014	5,500	30,250	Cwt.	200.00	6,050,000
Heifers	2015	6,535	49,013	Cwt.	195.00	9,557,535
	2014	6,254	46,905	Cwt.	180.00	8,442,900
Steers	2015	8,886	66,645	Cwt.	195.00	12,995,775
	2014	8,500	63,750	Cwt.	180.00	11,475,000
Bulls	2015	1,110	19,425	Cwt.	99.00	1,923,075
	2014	1,000	17,500	Cwt.	120.00	2,100,000
Sheep/Lambs	2015	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	154.00	1,848,000
	2014	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	153.76	1,845,120
Misc. Livestock	2015					64,000
(bison, pheasant, goats, chickens, alpaca, hogs)	2014					64,000
Total	2015					\$38,900,335
	2014					\$36,407,120

Lassen County's first Crop Report was compiled in 1938 by J.M. Thompson, Extension Specialist in Agriculture Economics. It covered the years 1899 to 1936. The total number of farms in 1900 was 555. Over the years this number decreased to 509 farms in 1935. Cattle numbers dropped from 44,906 in 1900 to 40,162 in 1935. Sheep ranked second throughout those years followed by chickens, horses and then swine. In 1930 there was a significant increase in sheep, chickens and turkeys likely due to the onset of the Great Depression.



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

COMMODITY	YEAR	TOTAL
Includes: wool, eggs	2015	\$129,000
apiary & rabbits	2014	\$129,000
Total	2015	\$129,000
	2014	\$129,000

TIMBER HARVEST

COMMODITY	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	TOTAL
*Saw Timber	2015	57,822	NET MBF	167.675	\$9,695,302
	2014	29,306	NET MBF	215.294	\$6,309,432
Total	2015	57,822	NET MBF	167.675	\$9,695,302
	2014	29,306	NET MBF	215.294	\$6,309,432

*Figures provided by the Timber Tax Division, California State Board of Equalization

Lassen County was home to three lumber mills. The Red River Lumber Company moved into the area in 1913. It not only built a lumber mill, but it founded the town of Westwood. The other two mills were Fruit Growers Supply Company and Sierra Pacific Industries.



Photo Courtesy of Tim Purdy

The Fruit Growers Supply Company was established in 1907 to purchase and manage timberland and mills for the purpose of supplying wooden shipping crates for the citrus industry.

In 2007, Sierra Pacific Industries closed their saw mill in Susanville due to the lack of available timber.

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

Alfalfa Hay	1,242.00	Acres Certified
Hay, other	320.00	Acres Certified
Rye	16.00	Acres Certified
Endive	34.30	Acres Certified
Quinoa	300.00	Acres Certified
Peas, dried	153.30	Acres Certified
Wheat	109.20	Acres Certified
Pasture & Rangeland	84,890.00	Acres Certified
Fallow Ground	24.00	Acres Certified
Barley	100.00	Acres Certified
Cattle	1,142.00	Certified Organic (# of head)

Total Organic Acres:	88,330.80	Total # of Cattle: 1,142
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Total Value: \$2,773,072

PEST ERADICATED	CONTROL METHOD	2015 NET ACRES	2014 NET ACRES
Scotch thistle	Chemical/Mechanical	123.36	147.91
Dalmatian toadflax	Chemical/Mechanical/Biological	14.22	0.07
Spotted knapweed	Chemical/Mechanical	3.51	3.125
Diffuse knapweed	Chemical	0	0.15
Squarrose knapweed	Chemical	3.43	9.09
Leafy spurge	Chemical	0	0.2
Rush skeletonweed	Chemical	0	0.43
Musk thistle	Chemical	0.98	0
Russian knapweed	Chemical/Biological	2.33	19.56
Yellow starthistle	Chemical/Mechanical	26.91	46.14
Tall whitetop	Chemcial	6.54	11.24
Mediterranean sage	Chemcial	16.39	28.23
Hoary cress	Chemical	0.68	0.24
Puncturevine	Chemical	5	29.17
Canada thistle	Chemcial	0.53	3.09
Wavyleaf thistle	Chemcial	0.55	0
Dyer's woad	Chemical	7.71	8.79
Klamath weed	Chemical	0	0.12
PEST EXCLUSION			
Exotic Pests and/or Target Pests	Incoming plant material via UPS, Air, Truck or Mail		100 Shipments Inspected
PEST DETECTION			
Gypsy Moth	110 Traps in Lassen County		None Detected
Japanese Beetle	2 Traps in Lassen County		None Detected
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	4 Traps in Lassen County		None Detected



Member of the Lassen County Agriculture Commissioner's Office spray team Kevin Ostmeyer spraying Dalmatian toadflax (insets) in the Susanville area.

The eradication of noxious weeds was not always a high priority for County Agriculture Commissioners. The Lassen County Department of Agriculture, along with the UCCE Farm Advisor and County Supervisor Loubet conducted a series of meetings with other agencies and individuals in order to address the local weed problems. These early meetings led to the formation of the state's first Weed Management Area and our Lassen Special Weed Action Team, otherwise known as Lassen SWAT.



Spotted
knapweed



Leafy spurge



Scotch
thistle
infestation in
northern
Lassen





Lassen County
2016 CROP & LIVESTOCK
REPORT

COUNTY OF LASSEN



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

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Susanville, CA 96130-4215

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Karen Ross, Secretary

California Department of Food & Agriculture

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Lassen County

Jim Chapman, Chairman, *District 2*

Bob Pyle, *District 1*

Jeff Hemphill, *District 3*

Aaron Albaugh, *District 4*

Tom Hammond, *District 5*

Pursuant to Section 2272 & Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, I am pleased to submit the 2016 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Lassen County.

This report lists gross production and value of products and does not reflect net income to the producer. The value of agricultural products produced in Lassen County for 2016 was \$120,721,847. This is a 5% decrease in the overall value of Lassen County's agriculture. The increase in wild rice acres and saw timber production was not sufficient to offset low cattle prices and the static price of hay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig A. Hemphill

Agriculture Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures



OUR MISSION

The Agriculture Commissioner promotes Lassen County agriculture production by protecting it from injurious pests & diseases, to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and other products for the consumer, and to build consumer and business confidence in the market place through the maintenance of equity.

PERSONNEL & ASSOCIATES

Craig A. Hemphill, *Agriculture Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures*

Tina Hilburn, *Biologist II*

Cheryl Lauritsen, *Biologist II*

Mike Stewart, *Seasonal*

Robin Skelton-Snipes, *Seasonal*

Kevin Ostmeyer, *Seasonal*

George Affonso, *USDA Wildlife Specialist*

Special thanks to all of the farmers and ranchers who provided the valuable information and photos used to compile this report.

LASSEN COUNTY'S MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

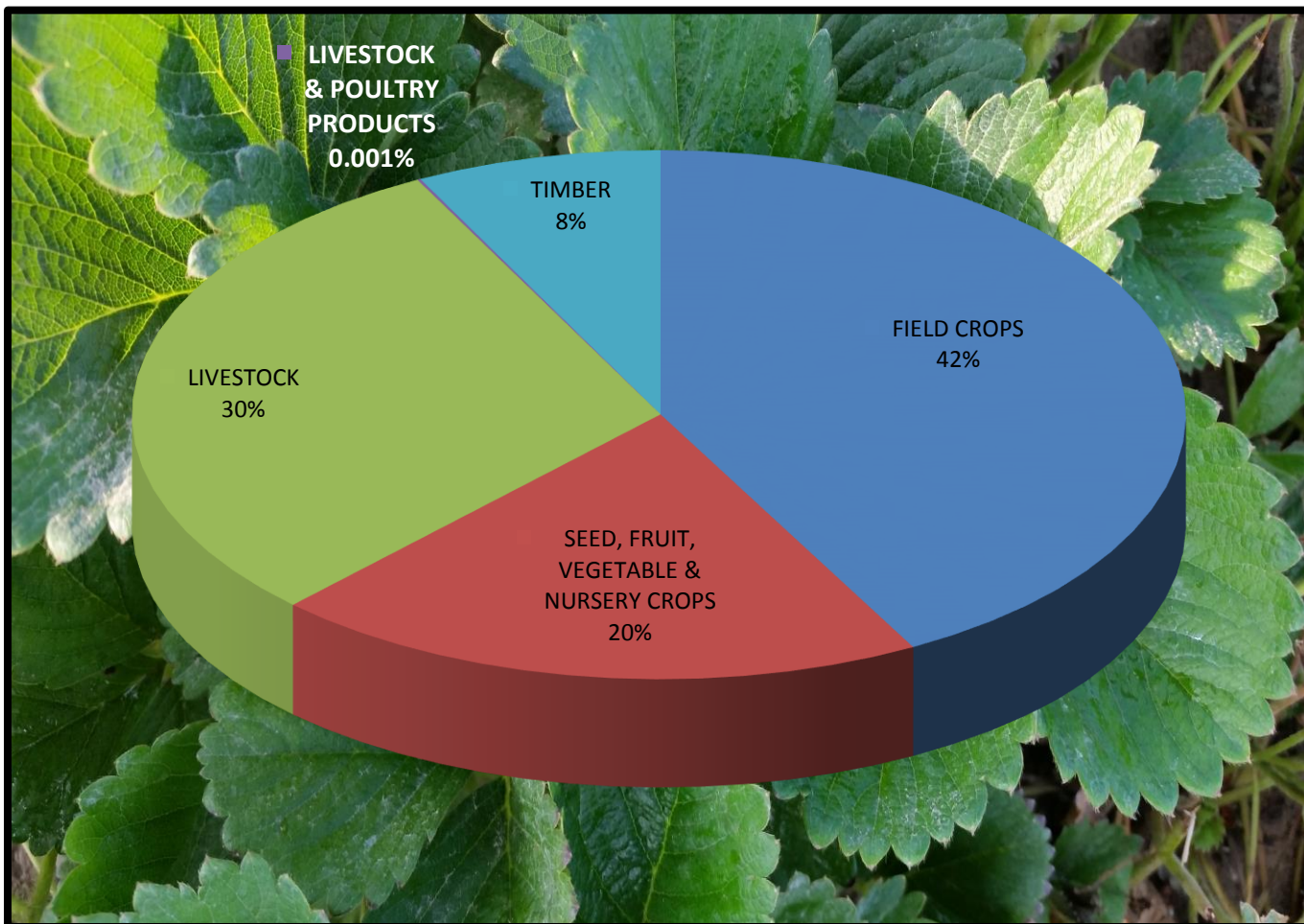
Crop	Value	2016 Ranking	2015 Ranking
All Beef Cattle	\$27,242,678	1	1
Other Hay	\$24,026,440	2	2
Misc. Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery Crops	\$23,191,490	3	4
Alfalfa Hay	\$18,964,058	4	3
Timber	\$11,063,779	5	5
Irrigated Pasture	\$5,520,000	6	6
Grain Hay	\$3,170,876	7	7
Wild Rice	\$2,790,744	8	9
Sheep and Lambs	\$1,946,760	9	8
Wheat	\$1,111,500	10	~

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES

YEAR	FIELD CROPS	SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE & NURSERY	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	TIMBER HARVEST	TOTAL
2016	54,273,848	25,982,234	29,253,438	129,000	11,083,367	\$120,721,887
2015*	60,707,113	17,293,893	38,900,335	129,000	9,735,464	\$126,765,805
2014	63,204,412	18,475,580	37,407,120	129,000	6,309,432	\$125,525,544
2013**	66,773,524	18,421,542	27,347,842	129,000	11,349,943	\$124,021,851
2012	52,082,620	11,378,673	25,024,594	129,000	12,997,465	\$101,612,352

*2015 Timber Harvest and Total adjusted to include Christmas tree values

**2013 figures corrected for accuracy



SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES

COMMODITY GROUP	2016
Field Crops	\$54,273,848
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery	25,982,234
Livestock & Poultry	29,253,438
Livestock & Poultry Products	129,000
Timber Harvest	11,083,367
Total	\$120,721,887

TOP LASSEN COUNTY CROPS

2016	COMMODITY	VALUE	2015
1	All Hay	\$46,161,334	1
2	Livestock	\$29,253,438	2
3	Misc. Nursery Crops	\$23,191,490	4
4	Timber	\$11,083,367	3
5	Pastureland	\$6,750,974	5
6	Wild Rice	\$2,790,744	6
7	Livestock Products	\$129,000	7

10 YEAR COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION VALUES

2016	\$120,721,887
*2015	\$126,765,805
2014	\$115,835,558
**2013	\$124,550,196
2012	\$101,653,576
2011	\$101,712,856
2010	\$74,500,023
2009	\$69,091,500
2008	\$91,424,832
2007	\$65,633,696

* 2015 figures corrected to include Christmas tree values

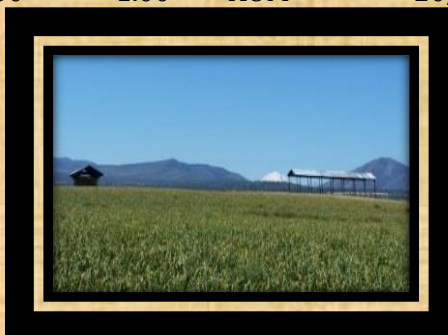
**2013 figures corrected for accuracy

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED	PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	VALUE	TOTAL
		ACRES	PER ACRE	UNIT	PER UNIT	VALUE
Hay, Alfalfa	2016	26,378	4.32	Ton	166.42	\$18,964,058
	2015	28,000	4.50	Ton	154.73	\$19,495,980
Hay, Grain	2016	9,775	3.23	Ton	100.43	3,170,876
	2015	10,000	2.92	Ton	85.00	2,125,000
*Hay, Other	2016	29,797	4.53	Ton	178.00	24,026,440
	2015	29,000	5.73	Ton	190.00	31,572,300
Wheat	2016	2,600	1.50	Ton	285.00	1,111,500
	2015	2,600	1.96	Ton	177.42	904,132
Pasture (irrigated)	2016	23,000	6.00	AUM	40.00	5,520,000
	2015	23,000	6.00	AUM	40.00	5,520,000
Pasture (non-irrigated)	2016	22,000	1.00	AUM	22.66	498,520
	2015	22,000	1.00	AUM	17.00	374,000
Pasture (range)	2016	1,291,253	0.10	AUM	2.11	272,454
	2015	1,291,253	0.10	AUM	1.69	218,221
Aftermath (stubble-all)	2016	20,000	1.00	AUM	23.00	460,000
	2015	20,000	1.00	AUM	25.00	500,000
**Miscellaneous	2016					250,000
	2015					
Total	2016					\$54,273,848
	2015					\$60,732,113

*Grass Alfalfa Mix, Timothy Hay, Orchard Grass Hay & Meadow Grass Hay

** Includes Straw, barley, oats, and corn for fodder; no figures available for 2015



SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND NURSERY CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED	PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	VALUE PER	TOTAL VALUE
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	UNIT	TOTAL	UNIT	
Wild Rice	2016	1760	1705	Lbs.	3,000,800	\$.93/green lb.	\$2,790,744
	2015	1,460	1,203	Lbs.	1,756,380	\$.93/green lb.	\$1,633,433
*Misc. Crops (alfalfa seed, apples, Belgian endive, garlic seed, blueberries, coriander, mint, pumpkins, seed peas, watermelon, strawberries, peaches, carrots, misc. vegetables & ornamental flowers)	2016						23,191,490
	2015						15,660,460
Total	2016						\$25,982,234
	2015						\$17,293,893

* Crops with less than 3 producers



LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

COMMODITY	YEAR	# OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	*UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cows	2016	6,659	66,590	Cwt.	\$74.59	\$4,966,948
	2015	6,280	62,800	Cwt.	\$99.00	\$6,217,200
Calves	2016	6,055	30,275	Cwt.	131.76	3,989,034
	2015	5,995	29,975	Cwt.	210.00	6,294,750
Heifers	2016	6,927	51,953	Cwt.	136.63	7,098,338
	2015	6,535	49,013	Cwt.	195.00	9,557,535
Steers	2016	9,419	70,643	Cwt.	136.63	9,651,953
	2015	8,886	66,645	Cwt.	195.00	12,995,775
Bulls	2016	1,177	20,598	Cwt.	74.59	1,536,405
	2015	1,110	19,425	Cwt.	99.00	1,923,075
Sheep/Lambs	2016	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	162.23	1,946,760
	2015	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	154.00	1,848,000
Misc. Livestock (bison, pheasant, goats, chickens, alpaca, hogs)	2016					64,000
	2015					64,000
Total	2016					\$29,253,438
	2015					\$38,900,335

*Unit is per 100 lbs. (Cwt)



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

COMMODITY	YEAR	TOTAL
Includes: wool, eggs	2016	\$129,000
apiary & rabbits	2015	\$129,000
Total	2016	\$129,000
	2015	\$129,000



TIMBER HARVEST

COMMODITY	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	TOTAL
*Saw Timber	2016	67,519	NET MBF	163.862	\$11,063,779
	2015	57,822	NET MBF	167.675	\$9,695,302
*Christmas Trees	2016	13,992	LINEAR FEET	1.400	\$19,588
	2015	30,230	LINEAR FEET	1.330	\$40,162
**Total	2016				\$11,083,367
	2015				\$9,735,464

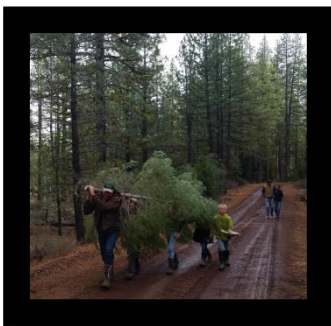
* Figures provided by the Timber Tax Division, California State Board of Equalization

** Figures adjusted for inclusion of Christmas Tree information



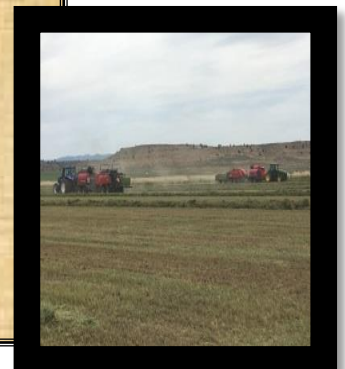
Left: Harvesting Christmas trees in Lassen County.

Right: Antique Fruit Growers Supply logging truck.



2016 ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

Alfalfa Hay	2,169.00	Acres Certified
Grain Hay	160.00	Acres Certified
Meadow Grass Hay	300.00	Acres Certified
Hay, other	266.00	Acres Certified
Rye	151.80	Acres Certified
Endive	41.40	Acres Certified
Quinoa	300.00	Acres Certified
Corriander	100.00	Acres Certified
Peas, dried	164.20	Acres Certified
Wheat	124.00	Acres Certified
Pasture & Rangeland	40,219.91	Acres Certified
Fallow Ground	343.46	Acres Certified
Wild Rice	80.00	Acres Certified
Covercrop	51.40	Acres Certified
Cattle	700.00	Certified Organic (# of head)
Total Organic Acres:	45,171.17	Total # of Cattle: 700
Total Value: \$2,433,249		



Top Right: Wild rice at Alturas Ranches, Madeline CA. Bottom right: Wild rice harvest

PEST MANAGEMENT

Pest Exclusion

Exotic Pests and/or Target Pests	Incoming plant material via UPS, Air, Truck or Mail	100 Shipments Inspected
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Pest Detection

Gypsy Moth	110 Traps in Lassen County	None Detected
Japanese Beetle	2 Traps in Lassen County	None Detected
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	4 Traps in Lassen County	None Detected

Pest Eradicated

Control Method

2016 Net Acres

2015 Net Acres

Scotch thistle	Chemical/Mechanical	176.9	123.36
Dalmatian toadflax	Chemical/Mechanical/Biological	12.91	14.22
Spotted knapweed	Chemical/Mechanical	8.94	3.51
Diffuse knapweed	Chemical	0	0
Squarrose knapweed	Chemical	3.58	3.43
Leafy spurge	Chemical	0.13	0
Rush skeletonweed	Chemical	0.13	0
Musk thistle	Chemical	0.23	0.98
Russian knapweed	Chemical/Biological	13.63	2.33
Yellow starthistle	Chemical/Mechanical	37.7	26.91
Tall whitetop	Chemical	5.29	6.54
Mediterranean sage	Chemical	12.78	16.39
Hoary cress	Chemical	0	0.68
Puncturevine	Chemical	18.23	5
Canada thistle	Chemical	6.97	0.53
Wavyleaf thistle	Chemical	0	0.55
Dyer's woad	Chemical	12.05	7.71
Sulfur cinquefoil	Chemical	0.08	0
Yellow spine wavyleaf thistle hybrid	Chemical	0.15	0
Bull thistle	Chemical	2.84	0
Klamath weed	Chemical	0.6	0

Pest management in Lassen County consists of the use of pesticides, mechanical methods and biocontrol agents – a long term strategy used to control invasive weeds. These organisms are brought in from the plant's native range where they feed on the invasive plant.

In 2010, *Mecinus janthinus* Germar, a stem-boring weevil, was found at a known Dalmatian toadflax site. It was an exciting find, as this weevil eliminates the seed producing shoots of the plant. The most amazing thing about this find is that the weevils had migrated to this site from an unknown area. Six years later, the weevil is still working hard to help in our fight against this A-rated pest.

Russian knapweed is a B-listed noxious weed within California, and Lassen is one of the counties with an established population. Unlike other invasive knapweeds found on the noxious weed list, Russian knapweed is a creeping perennial plant with an extensive root system. It can be problematic in various agronomic settings, from irrigated alfalfa and pasture, to rangeland. The organisms which are introduced are referred to as biological control species or “biocontrol” species. Certain biocontrol species have been established on Russian knapweed in other states, such as Montana and Colorado, where Russian knapweed populations are extensive.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has released two Russian knapweed biocontrol species within the state: a gall midge (*Jaapiella ivannikovi*) and, recently, a gall wasp (*Aulacidea acroptilonica*). Both insects form galls (growths) on the stems of Russian knapweed plants reducing plant vigor and, in high populations, the ability of Russian knapweed to produce as many seeds. Talking with a biologist for CDFA, populations of the gall midge failed to establish after multiple releases in the state. However, recent releases of the gall wasp have shown initial promise for establishment.

Adult gall wasps were released in the spring of 2017 at multiple Russian knapweed infestations in Lassen and Siskiyou counties. In the fall of 2017, release sites were visited to assess if the wasps had laid eggs on the stems of the knapweed plants, and if any galls were formed. Not at all sites, but at multiple sites in both counties, galls were found on the stems of some Russian knapweed plants! Next year's sites will be monitored to determine if the gall wasp population has become established. Hopefully, the insects survive the winter and continue feeding on the Russian knapweed patches well into the future. Stay tuned.

Biocontrol information provided by Thomas J. Getts, Weed ecology and Cropping Systems advisor, UC Cooperative Extension



Gall in Russian knapweed

Picture provided by Thomas J Getts



Stem boring weevil in Lassen County 2011

Lassen County Agriculture Commissioner picture



Lassen County



2017 Crop & Livestock Report



COUNTY OF LASSEN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES



Craig A. Hemphill
Agriculture Commissioner/Sealer
175 Russell Avenue
Susanville, CA 96130-4215

Phone: (530) 251-8110 • **Fax:** (530) 251-2726
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August 31, 2018

Karen Ross, Secretary – California Department of Food and Agriculture

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen

Supervisor, Aaron Albaugh, Chairman, District 4

Supervisor, Chris Gallagher, District 1

Supervisor, David Teeter, District 2

Supervisor, Jeff Hemphill, District 3

Supervisor, Tom Hammond, District 5

I am pleased to present the 2017 Lassen County Crop and Livestock report in accordance with the requirements of Sections 2272 & 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code. The report summarizes the estimated acreage, yield, gross value and sustainable agriculture of Lassen County's agricultural production for the 2017 calendar year.

The values presented in this report represent the gross value for products and do not reflect the cost of production, marketing, storage or transportation. It does not attempt to show county inventory, cost of production or net return to growers.

The total gross value of Lassen County Agriculture production in 2017 was \$129,690,481. The highest total on record. This increase can be attributed to higher hay and cattle prices although 2017 also saw a 20% increase in wild rice acreage. While 4 of the 5 commodity groupings increased in value "Seed, Fruit, Vegetable and Nursery Crops" decreased by 10% undoubtedly due to a drop in garlic seed acreage and lower wild rice prices.

I would like to thank the producers and public agencies that cooperated by supplying all of the data and photos that were used in preparing this report, and to my staff for all the effort that was put forth in compiling the final document.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig A. Hemphill
Agriculture Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measure
agcommissioner@co.lassen.ca.us



OUR MISSION

The Agriculture Commissioner promotes Lassen County agriculture production by protecting it from injurious pests & diseases, to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and other products for the consumer, and to build consumer and business confidence in the market place through the maintenance of equity.

PERSONNEL & ASSOCIATES

Craig A. Hemphill, *Agriculture Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures*

Tina Hilburn, *Supervising Inspector* ★ Cheryl Lauritsen, *Supervising Inspector*

Adriana Scala, *Biologist I*

Mike Stewart, *Seasonal* ★ Robin Skelton-Snipes, *Seasonal*

Kevin Ostmeyer, *Seasonal* ★ David Gordon, *Seasonal*

Rhett Rhodes, *Seasonal* ★ George Affonso, *USDA Wildlife Specialist*

Special thanks to all of the farmers and ranchers who provided the valuable information and photos used to compile this report.

agcommissioner@co.lassen.ca.us

Lassen County's Million Dollar Crops

CROP	2017 Crop Value	2017 Crop Ranking	2016 Crop Ranking
Beef Cattle	\$30,144,836	1	1
Other Hay*	\$29,359,957	2	2
Alfalfa Hay	\$20,634,328	3	4
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery Crops	\$20,463,904	4	3
Timber	\$12,701,228	5	5
Irrigated Pasture	\$4,830,000	6	6
Grain Hay	\$4,175,224	7	7
Wild Rice	\$2,812,514	8	9
Sheep & Lambs	\$1,944,000	9	8
Wheat	\$1,118,021	10	—



Five Year Summary Of Production Values

YEAR	Field Crops	Seed, Fruit Vegetable & Nursery	Livestock & Poultry	Livestock Products	Timber Harvest	TOTAL
2017	\$61,430,999	\$23,276,418	\$32,152,836	\$129,000	\$12,701,228	\$129,690,481
2016	54,273,808	25,982,234	29,253,438	129,000	11,083,367	120,721,847
2015*	60,707,113	17,293,893	38,900,335	129,000	9,735,464	126,790,805
2014	62,754,412	18,475,580	44,343,120	129,000	6,309,432	132,011,544
2013**	66,773,524	18,421,542	27,347,842	129,000	11,349,943	124,021,851

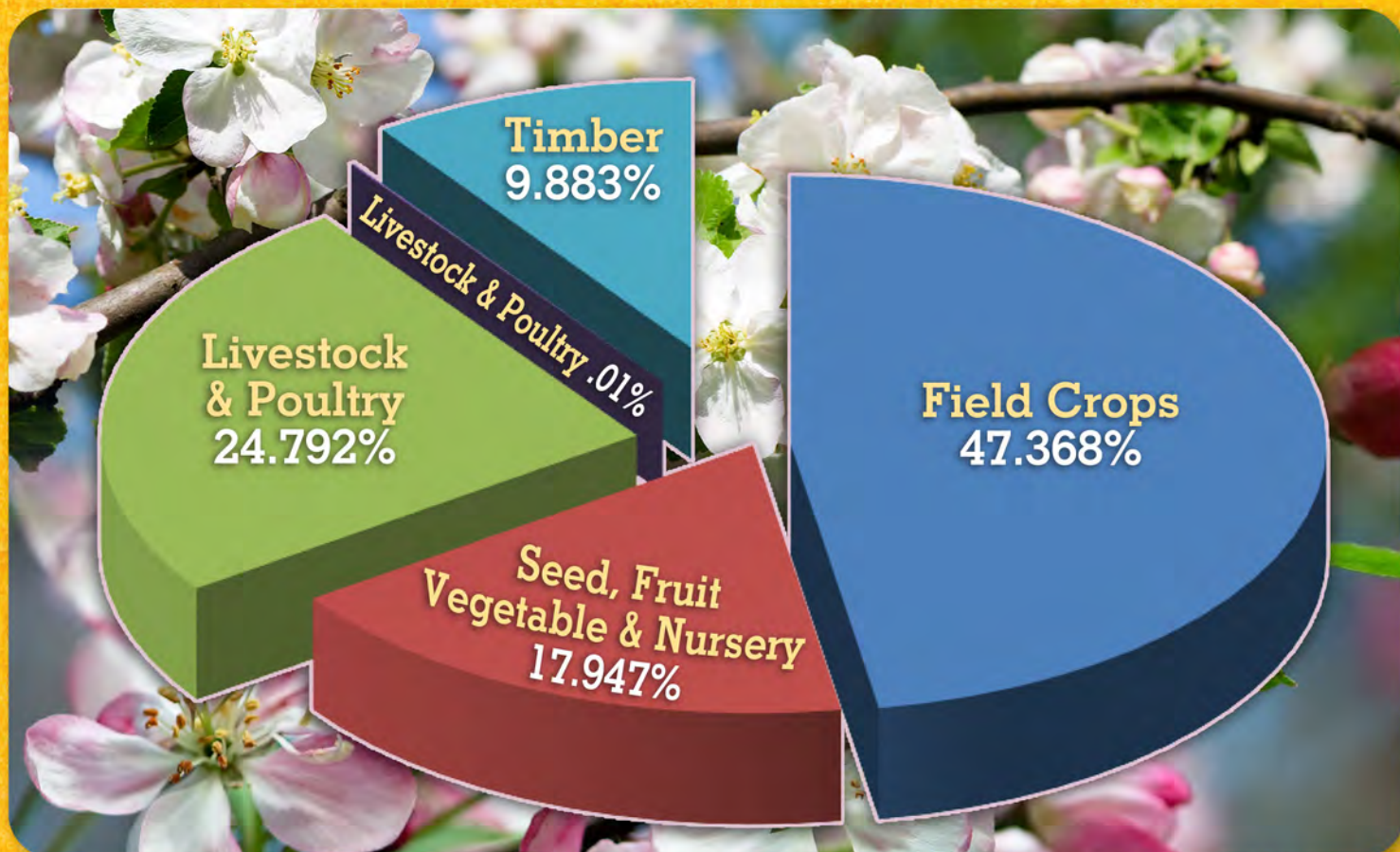
*2015 Timber Harvest and Total adjusted to include Christmas tree values

**2013 figures corrected for accuracy

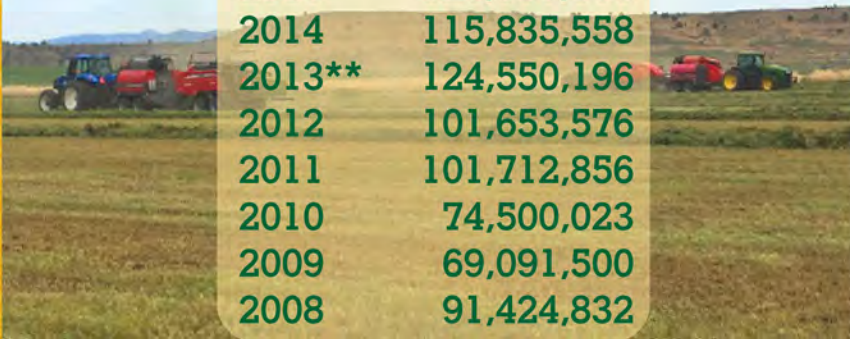
Summary Of Production Values

COMMODITY GROUP

	Gross Value		Changes In Gross Value
	2016	2017	
Field Crops	\$54,273,848	\$61,431,539	11.65%
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery	25,982,234	23,276,418	-10.41%
Livestock & Poultry	29,253,438	32,152,836	9.02%
Livestock & Poultry Products	129,000	129,000	0
Timber Harvest	11,083,367	12,701,228	12.74%



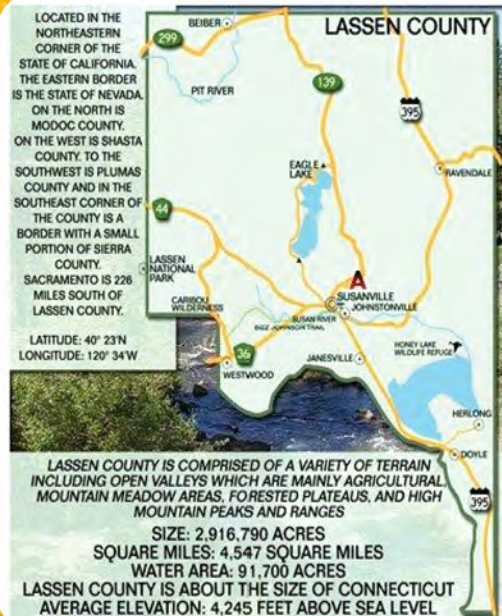
10 Year Comparison



2017	\$129,690,481
2016	120,721,887
2015*	126,790,805
2014	115,835,558
2013**	124,550,196
2012	101,653,576
2011	101,712,856
2010	74,500,023
2009	69,091,500
2008	91,424,832

*2015 FIGURES CORRECTED TO INCLUDE CHRISTMAS TREE VALUES

**2013 FIGURES CORRECTED FOR ACCURACY



Lassen County was founded in 1864 after the "Sagebrush War".
It covers 4,720 square miles of which only 179 square miles (3.8%) is water.



Top Lassen County Crops

RANK 2017	Commodity	2017 Gross Value	Rank 2016
1	All Hay	\$54,169,426	1
2	Livestock	32,152,836	2
3	Misc. Nursery Crops	20,463,904	3
4	Timber	12,701,228	4
5	Pastureland	5,893,989	5
6	Wild Rice	2,812,514	6
7	Wheat	1,118,021	7
8	Livestock Products	129,000	8

Field Crops

Crop	Year	Acres Harvested	Production Per Acre	Unit	Production Total	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Hay, Alfalfa	2017	27,586	4.00	Ton	\$110,344	\$187.00	\$20,634,328
	2016	26,378	4.32	Ton	113,953	166.42	18,964,058
Hay, Grain	2017	9,213	3.30	Ton	30,403	137.33	41,752,244
	2016	9,775	3.23	Ton	31,573	100.43	3,170,876
*Hay, Other	2017	29,250	4.87	Ton	142,448	206.11	29,359,957
	2016	29,797	4.53	Ton	134,980	178.00	24,026,440
Wheat	2017	2,600	2.40	Ton	6,240	179.17	1,118,021
	2016	2,600	1.50	Ton	3,900	285.00	1,111,500
Pasture (Irrigated)	2017	23,000	6.00	Aum	138,000	35.00	4,830,000
	2016	23,000	6.00	Aum	138,000	40.00	5,520,000
Pasture (Non-Irrigated)	2017	22,000	1.00	Aum	22,000	20.00	440,000
	2016	22,000	1.00	Aum	22,000	22.66	498,520
Pasture (Range)	2017	1,291,253	.10	Aum	129,125	1.27	163,989
	2016	1,291,253	.10	Aum	129,125	2.11	272,454
Aftermath (Stubble-all)	2017	20,000	1.00	Aum	20,000	23.00	460,000
	2016	20,000	1.00	Aum	20,000	23.00	460,000
**Misc.	2017						250,000
	2016						250,000
TOTAL	2017						\$61,431,539
	2016						\$54,273,848

*Grass Alfalfa Mix, Fescue, Timothy Hay, Orchard Grass Hay & Meadow Grass Hay

**Includes Straw, Barley, Oats & Corn for Fodder. No Figures Available for 2015

CROPS

*Misc. Crops (Alfalfa, Seed, Apples, Belgian, Endive, Garlic Seed, Blueberries, Mint, Pumpkins, See Peas, Watermelon, Strawberries, Peaches, Misc. Vegetables & Ornamental Flowers)

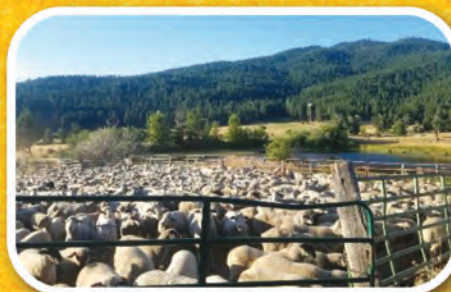
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery Crops

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production Per Acre	Unit	Production Total	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Wild Rice	2017	2,173	1,505	Lbs.	\$3,270,365	.86/Green Lb.	\$2,812,514
	2016	1,760	1,705	Lbs.	3,000,800	.93/Green Lb.	2,790,744
* Misc Crops	2017						20,463,904
	2016						23,191,490

TOTAL 2017 \$23,276,418
2016 25,982,231

Livestock & Poultry

Commodity	Year	# Of Head	Liveweight	*Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cows	2017	6,925	81,369	Cwt.	\$79.00	\$6,428,151
	2016	6,659	66,590	Cwt.	74.59	4,966,948
Calves	2017	6,297	31,485	Cwt.	144.92	4,562,806
	2016	6,055	30,275	Cwt.	131.76	3,989,034
Heifers	2017	7,204	54,030	Cwt.	139.25	7,523,677
	2016	6,927	51,953	Cwt.	136.63	7,098,338
Steers	2017	9,796	71,021	Cwt.	139.25	9,889,674
	2016	9,419	70,643	Cwt.	136.63	9,651,953
Bulls	2017	1,224	22,032	Cwt.	79.00	1,740,528
	2016	1,177	20,598	Cwt.	74.59	1,536,405
Sheep/Lambs	2017	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	162.00	1,944,000
	2016	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	162.23	1,946,760
Misc. Livestock (Pheasant, Hogs Goats, Chicken Alpacas)	2017					64,000
	2016					64,000
TOTAL	2017					\$32,152,836
	2016					29,253,438



*Cwt. = Per 100lbs.



Livestock Products

Commodity	Year	Total
Includes: Wool, Eggs, Chicks, Apiary & Rabbits	2017	\$129,000
	2016	129,000
TOTAL	2017	\$129,000
	2016	129,000



Lassen and Modoc Counties are the only two California Counties that are completely designated "Open Range". If you want the cattle to stay off your property, you must fence them out.

Timber Harvest

Commodity	Year	Production	Unite	Value	Total
Saw Timber*	2017	\$67,128	Net MBF	\$188.67	\$12,665,478
	2016	67,519	Net MBF	163.86	11,063,779
Christmas Trees*	2017	25,536	Linear Ft.	1.40	35,750
	2016	13,992	Linear Ft.	1.40	19,588
Total**	2017				\$12,701,228
	2016				11,083,367



*Figures provided by the Timber Tax Division, California State Board of Equalization

**Figures adjusted for inclusion of Christmas tree information

Pest Exclusion

**Exotic Pests And/Or
Target Pests**

**Incoming Plant Material
Via UPS, Air, Truck or Mail**

**100 Shipments
Inspected**

Pest Detection

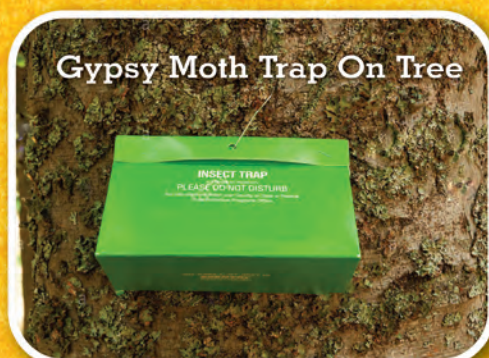
**Gypsy Moth
Japanese Beetle**



**106 Traps In Lassen County
2 Traps In Lassen County**

**None Detected
None Detected**

Gypsy Moth Trap On Tree



CDFA entomologist, Charlie Pickett, sweeping for Cereal Leaf Beetle and its biocontrol wasp.

No Gypsy Moths, but plenty of other insects.



Lassen County has a short insect trapping season. Currently, the only pests of concern are Gypsy moth and Japanese beetle. However, CDFA has been doing some Cereal Leaf Beetle surveys in Lassen County in order track the beetle and a biological control parasitic wasp as they move south out of Oregon.

Lassen County Sustainable Agriculture

2017 ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

Alfalfa Hay	1,897	Acres Certified
Other Hay	266	Acres Certified
Meadow Grass Hay	600	Acres Certified
Rye Seed	156	Acres Certified
Endive	62	Acres Certified
Quinoa	300	Acres Certified
Peas (Dried)	325	Acres Certified
Wheat	220	Acres Certified
Pasture & Rangeland	80,204	Acres Certified
Wild Rice	396	Acres Certified
Covercrop	51	Acres Certified
Cattle	1,134	Certified Organic (#of Head)

Total Organic Acres: 84,478

Total Number of Organic Farms & Ranches: 13

Total #of Cattle: 1,134

Total Value: \$3,341,907



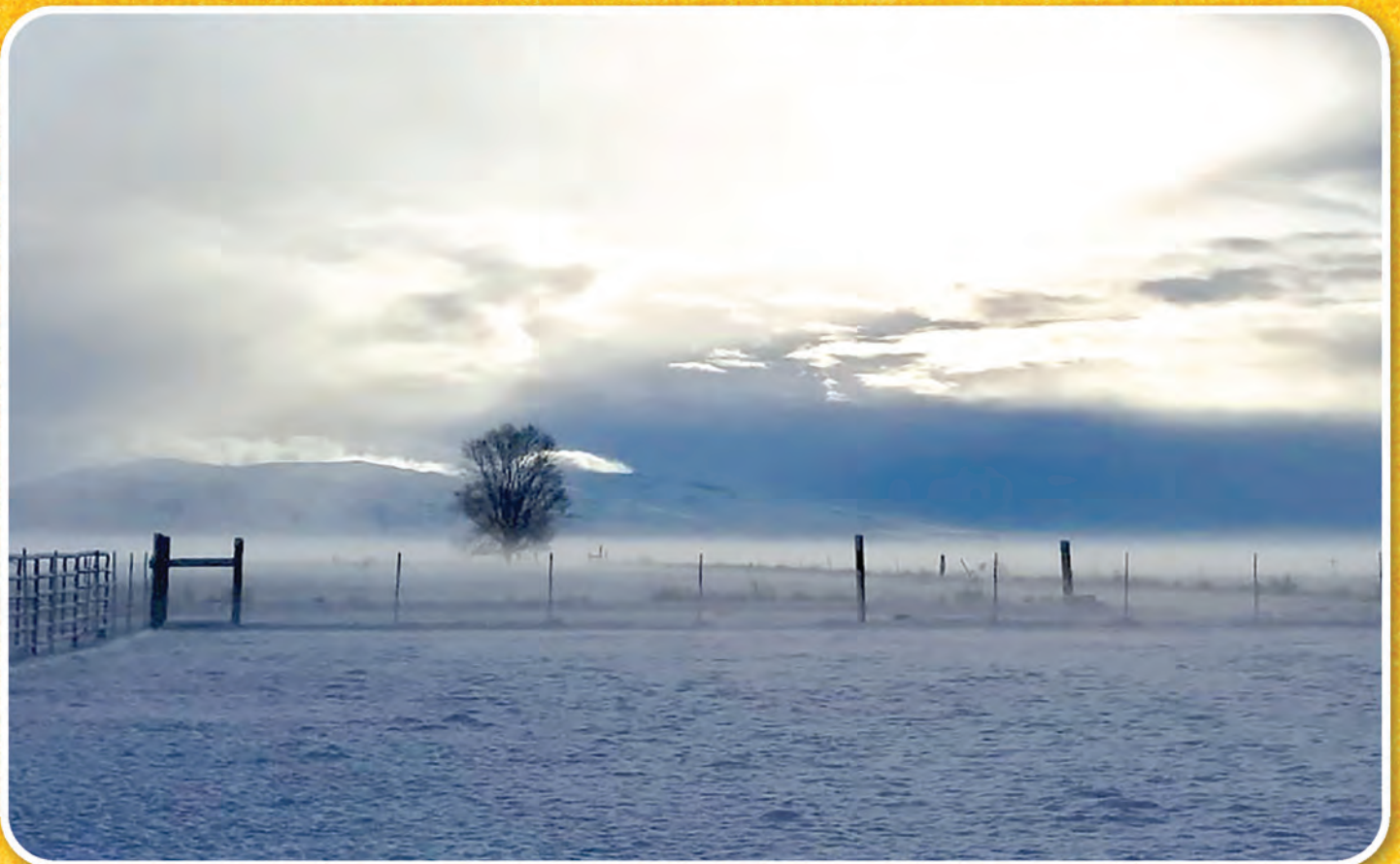
1: Harvesting organic dried peas; 2. Loading organic dried peas for shipping; 3. Organic cattle grazing on organic pasture/rangeland; 4. Grouse abundant on organic rangeland; 5. Deer sharing organic grazing ground

PEST ERADICATED	CONTROL METHOD	2017 NET ACRES	2016 NET ACRES
Scotch Thistle	Chemical/Mechanical	236.06	176.9
Dalmatian Toadflax	Chemical/Mechanical/Biological	4.05	12.91
Spotted Knapweed	Chemical/Mechanical	13.465	8.94
Diffuse Knapweed	Chemical	0	0
Squarrose Knapweed	Chemical	5.25	3.58
Leafy Spurge	Chemical	.18	.13
Rush Skeletonweed	Chemical	3.52	.13
Musk Thistle	Chemical	.36	.23
Russian Knapweed	Chemical/Biological	12.361	13.63
Yellow Starthistle	Chemical/Mechanical	56.24	37.7
Tall whitetop	Chemical	7.673	5.29
Mediterranean Sage	Chemical	4.66	12.78
Hoary Cress	Chemical	.025	0
Puncturevine	Chemical	15.98	18.23
Canada Thistle	Chemical	2.445	6.97
Wavyleaf Thistle	Chemical	0	*
Dyer's Woad	Chemical	5.54	12.05
Sulfur Cinquefoil	Chemical	0	.08
Yellowspine Wavyleaf			
Thistle Hybrid	Chemical	.41	.15
Bull Thistle	Chemical	5.495	2.84
Klamath Weed	Chemical	0	.6
Vegetation Management	Chemical	.95	0
Hemlock	Chemical	.438	0



Left to right: Scotch thistle; Scotch after being sprayed with herbicide containing blue dye; Seasonal sprayer applying herbicide in a field infested with knapweed; Biologist applying herbicide to Dalmatian toadflax; Myrtle spurge plant; Myrtle spurge flower.

Lassen County continues to fight against California A-rated noxious weeds. Scotch thistle continues to be a major problem. Yellowstar thistle, though not an A-rated weed, is becoming more wide spread therefore efforts to curb its spread have increased. Myrtle spurge, is a new problem that showed up in a landscaped area near Eagle Lake. Efforts are ongoing to prevent its spread.



Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner

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