

LASSEN COUNTY LASSEN COUNTY



The Tangeman Girls

The heart of Lassen County agriculture is the family farm or ranch. Our agriculture community is made up of many families, some are newcomers, but many have been farming and ranching in Lassen County for many generations.



The next generation at the JD Hemphill Ranch.



The Hanson boys feeding in the snow.



Three generations of the Wood Family



Branding at the 7D



The Martin family sells hay, produce, and nursery products.



The Murer Family

2009 ANNUAL CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT

JIM DONNELLY, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

Lassen County Department of Agriculture

Jim Donnelly
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Annual Crop & Livestock Report For Year 2010



**Secretary, California Department of Food and
Agriculture**

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Lassen County Board of Supervisors

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District 2
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July 1, 2010

A.G. KAWAMURA, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LASSEN COUNTY

HONORABLE DIRECTOR AND BOARD MEMBERS:

In accordance with provisions of section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, I am submitting the annual crop report of agricultural production and agricultural value in Lassen County for the 2009 calendar year.

This report is a summary estimate of the acreage, production and gross value of Lassen County agricultural products. **The values presented in this report are gross values only, and do not reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing.**

The estimated gross value of agricultural production in Lassen County for 2009 totaled \$69,324,786. This is a 24% decrease below the 2008 gross value total of \$91,424,832. It should be noted that gross value of agricultural commodities does not indicate total value to the economy. A 3X multiplying factor of dollars entering the economy would make Lassen County's agricultural production contribution total \$207,973,044.

The following are highlights of the 2009 Lassen County Crop Report

1. Hay value decreased by 45% due to a decrease in price per ton.
2. Timber decreased by 43% due to a reduction in harvest.
3. Garlic Seed, Wild Rice and Mint increased in value by more than 400% each due to an increase in acres planted.
4. Alfalfa Seed increased in value by 118% due to an increase in acreage.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the many producers, processors and agencies, both private and governmental, and to all the staff for their efforts in the compilation of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Donnelly".

Jim Donnelly, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Lassen County

Department of

Agriculture

Our Mission

The Agricultural Commissioner promotes Lassen County agricultural production by protecting it from injurious pests and 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

Jim L. Donnelly, Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer
Craig A. Hemphill, Deputy Sealer
Tina M. Hilburn, Agricultural Biologist II
Dan E. McDonald, Building and Maintenance/Weed Spray Foreman
Cheryl Lauritsen, Agricultural Biologist
Lysandra Lilburn, Seasonal
Robin Skelton-Snipes, Seasonal
Rebekah Cesmat, Seasonal
Charles Schuck, Seasonal

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PER ACRE	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
				TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Hay, Alfalfa	2009	27,000	4.50	121,500	Ton	\$116.40	\$14,142,600
	2008	26,500	4.57	121,105	Ton	\$196.80	\$23,833,661
Hay, Triticale	2009	4,500	4.50	20,250	Ton	98.00	\$1,984,500
	2008	4,000	4.00	16,000	Ton	150.00	\$2,400,000
Hay, Grain	2009	4,200	2.31	9,702	Ton	140.00	1,358,280
	2008	4,500	3.38	15,210	Ton	143.00	2,175,030
Hay, Other	2009	29,000	4.35	126,150	Ton	121.00	15,264,150
	2008	29,000	4.50	130,500	Ton	235.00	30,667,500
Barley	2009	356	2.00	712	Ton	160.00	113,920
	2008	200	1.32	264	Ton	216.25	57,090
Oats	2009	441	2.25	992	Ton	160.00	158,720
	2008	-----	-----	-----	Ton	-----	-----
Rye	2009	506	2.00	1,012	Ton	130.00	131,560
	2008	-----	-----	-----	Ton	-----	-----
Wheat	2009	500	1.75	875	Ton	175.00	153,125
	2008	700	2.40	1,680	Ton	263.00	441,840
Triticale	2009	550	1.75	963	Ton	200.00	192,600
	2008	300	2.20	660	Ton	400.00	264,000
Pasture, irrigated	2009	23,000	6.00	138,000	AUM	22.00	3,036,000
	2008	23,000	6.00	138,000	AUM	22.00	3,036,000
Pasture, Non-irrigated	2009	22,000	0.40	8,800	AUM	18.00	158,400
	2008	22,000	0.20	4,400	AUM	18.00	79,200
Pasture, Range**	2009	1,291,253	0.10	129,125	AUM	13.00	1,678,625
	2008	200,000	0.09	18,000	AUM	13.00	234,000
Aftermath (All)	2009	20,000	1.00	20,000	AUM	23.00	460,000
	2008	20,000	1.00	20,000	AUM	23.00	460,000
Straw	2009	225	1.00	225	Ton	80.00	18,000
	2008	225	1.00	225	Ton	80.00	18,000
Total	2009						\$38,850,480
	2008						\$63,666,321

**Includes Federal Land



SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND NURSERY CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
				TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Alfalfa Seed	2009	436	825	359,700	Lbs.	\$1.75	629,475
	2008	249	683	170,067	Lbs.	\$1.70	289,114
Strawberry Plants	2009	260	312.5	81,250	PI/M*	87.50	7,109,375
	2008	262	300	78,600	PI/M*	90.00	7,074,000
Garlic Seed	2009	747	16,500	6,163	Tons	440.00	2,711,610
	2008	155	122.58	19,000	Cwt.	0.19	515,375
Mint	2009	674	80	53,920	Lbs.	18.00	970,560
	2008	136	85	11,475	Lbs.	15.00	172,125
Wild Rice	2009	835	1850	1,544,750	Lbs.	0.70	1,081,325
	2008	163	1600	260,800	Lbs.	0.70	182,560
Misc. Crops (strawberries, apples safflower, endive raspberry plants, greenhouse flowers, misc. vegetables, nuts greenhouse flowers)	2009						1,000,000
	2008						1,000,000
Total	2009						13,502,345
	2008						9,233,174



TIMBER HARVEST

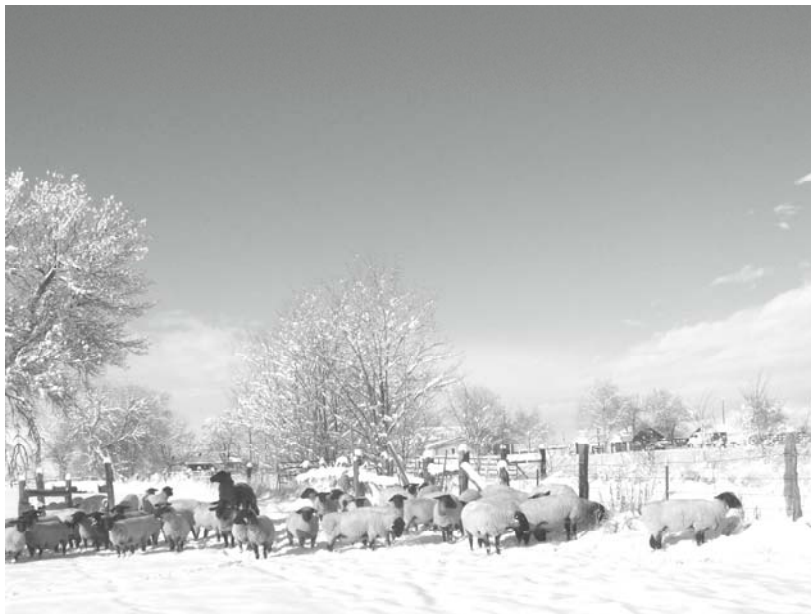
COMMODITY	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	TOTAL
Saw Timber	2009	31,015	Board Feet/mbf	\$61.20	\$1,898,056
	2008	35,450	Board Feet/mbf	\$129.66	\$4,596,595
Misc. (posts, poles cull logs, fire wood, Christmas trees, wood produced fuel chips)	2009				1,394,550
	2008				620,720
Total	2009				\$3,292,606
	2008				\$5,217,315



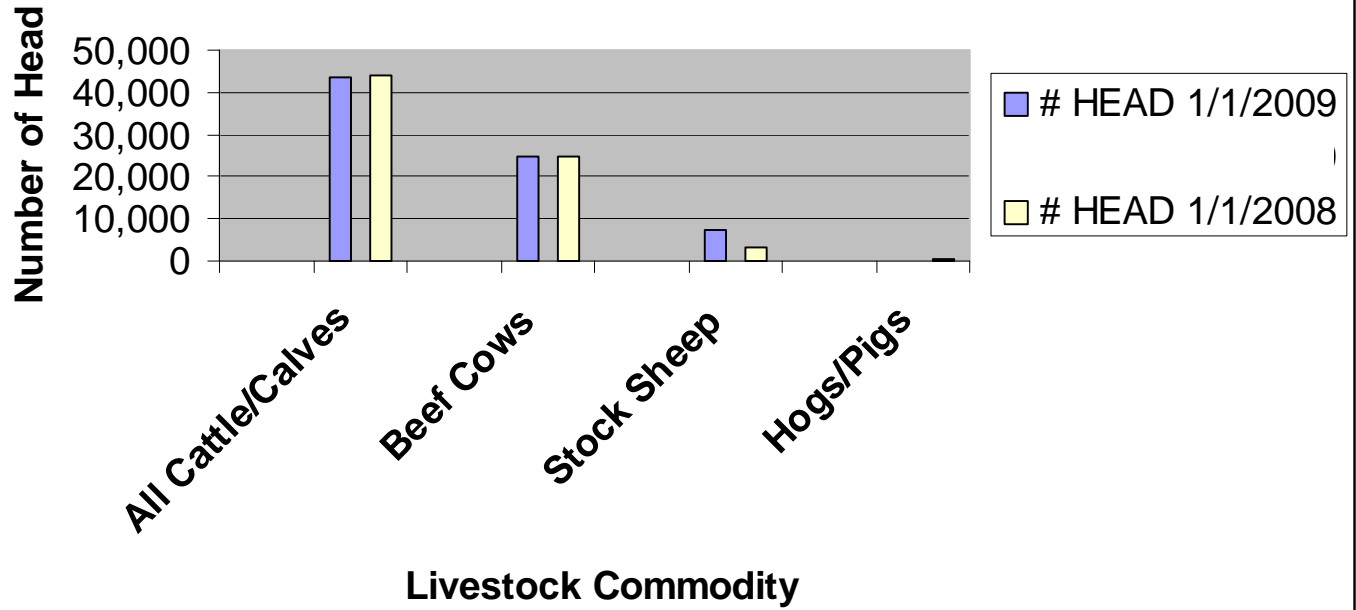
*Figures provided by Timber Tax Division, State Board of Forestry

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

COMMODITY	YEAR	NO. OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
			LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cows	2009	4,950	49,500	Cwt.	\$38.00	\$1,881,000
	2008	5,000	50,000	Cwt.	\$43.70	\$2,185,000
Calves	2009	3,950	17,775	Cwt.	101.00	1,795,275
	2008	4,000	18,000	Cwt.	102.00	1,836,000
Heifers	2009	5,841	35,046	Cwt.	87.37	3,061,969
	2008	5,900	35,400	Cwt.	85.00	3,009,000
Steers	2009	8,330	49,980	Cwt.	96.71	4,833,566
	2008	8,500	51,000	Cwt.	89.50	4,564,500
Bulls	2009	1,000	17,500	Cwt.	53.60	938,000
	2008	1,100	19,250	Cwt.	51.00	981,750
Sheep/Lambs	2009	7,500	9,975	Cwt.	99.21	989,620
	2008	4,000	5,320	Cwt.	91.30	485,716
Hogs/Pigs	2009	200	500	Cwt	43.85	21,925
	2008	800	2,168	Cwt	42.00	91,056
Misc. Livestock (bison, pheasant, goats, chickens, emu, alpaca)	2009					30,000
	2008					30,000
Total	2009					\$13,551,355
	2008					\$13,183,022



Livestock Inventory



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: PRODUCTION AND VALUE



COMMODITY	YEAR	TOTAL
Includes: wool, apiary, eggs, rabbits, emus	2009	\$128,000.00
	2008	\$125,000.00
Total	2009	\$128,000.00
	2008	\$125,000.00

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES

<u>COMMODITY GROUP</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Field Crops	38,850,480	63,666,321
Livestock - Poultry	13,551,355	13,183,022
Livestock - Poultry Products	128,000	125,000
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable, Nursery	13,501,907	9,080,074
Timber Harvest	3,292,606	5,217,315
Total	69,324,348	91,271,732



10-YEAR COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION VALUES

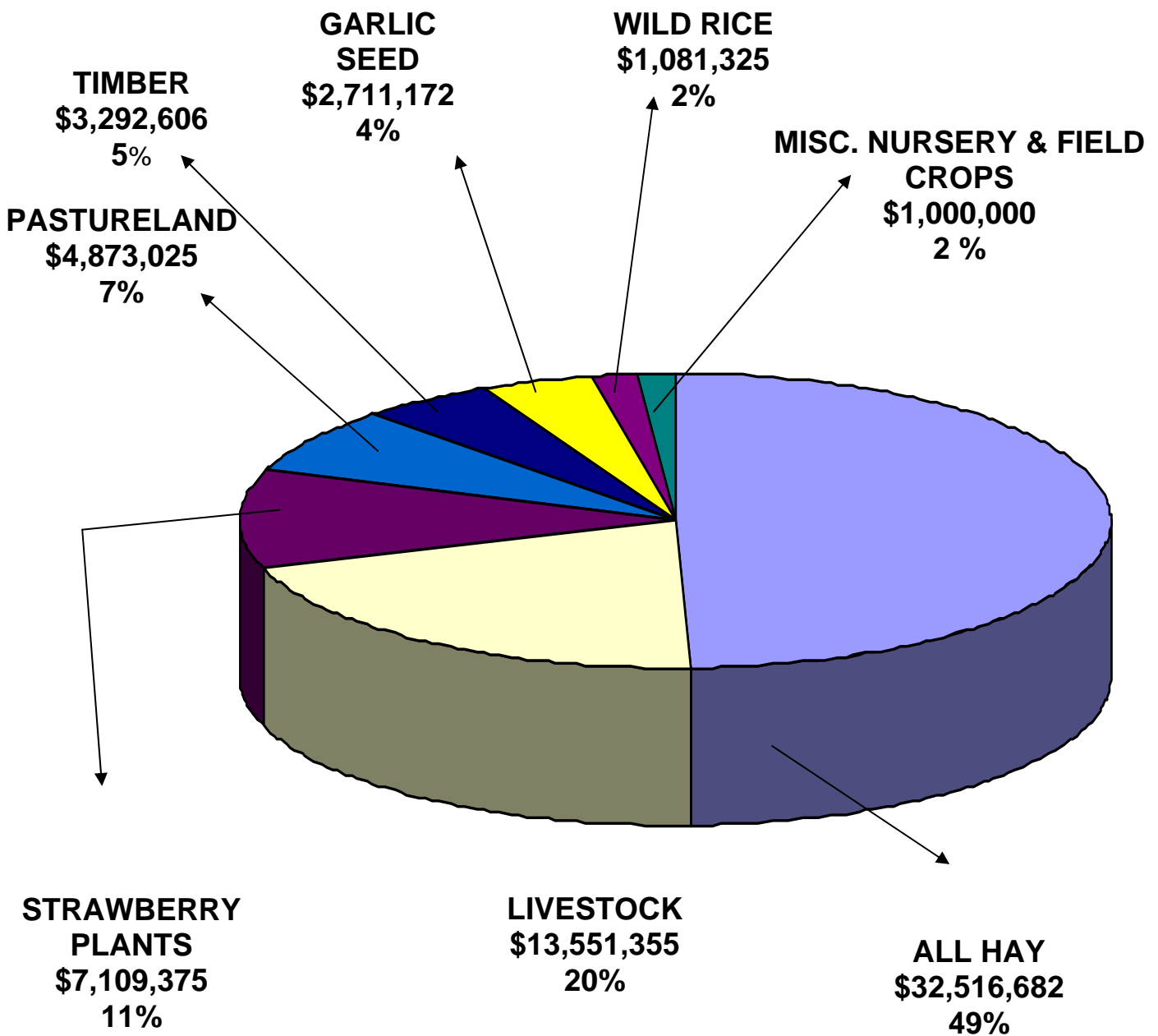
2009	\$69,324,348
2008	\$91,271,732
2007	\$65,633,696
2006	\$73,084,152
2005	\$67,549,795
2004	\$60,996,895
2003	\$55,186,474
2002	\$62,119,258
2001	\$58,858,424
2000	\$74,218,900

TOP 10 CROPS

<u>2009 RANK</u>	<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>2008 RANK</u>
1	All Hay	\$32,749,530	1
2	Livestock	\$13,551,355	3
3	Strawberry Plants	\$7,109,375	4
4	Pastureland	\$4,873,025	5
5	Timber	\$3,292,606	2
6	Garlic Seed	\$2,711,172	9
7	Wild Rice	\$1,081,325	~
8	Misc. Nursery Crops	\$1,000,000	7
9	Mint	\$970,560	6
10	Alfalfa Seed	\$629,475	10

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

Alfalfa Hay	1514.4 acres certified
Grass/Triticale Hay	300 acres certified
Grass Hay	30 acres certified
Triticale Hay	200 acres certified
Pasture & Rangeland	3500 acres certified
Endive	32.6 acres certified



MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT 2009

PEST ERADICATION

NET ACRES

Scotch thistle	Chemical	4616
Musk thistle	Chemical	1.5
Squarrose knapweed	Chemical	0.325
Spotted knapweed	Chemical/Mechanical	12.42
DalmatiAn toadflax	Chemical/Mechanical	3.13
Yellow starthistle	Chemical/Mechanical	1.9
Tall whitetop	Chemical	8.98
Short whitetop	Chemical	2.5
Diffuse knapweed	Chemical	0.5
Puncturevine	Chemical/ Biological	3.5
Rush skeletonweed	Chemical	2.5
Russian knapweed	Chemical	103
Leafy spurge	Chemical	1
Showy milkweed	Chemical	1
Purple starthistle	Chemical	2.5

PEST EXCLUSION

Exotic Pests and/or Target Pests	Incoming plant material via UPS Air, Truck or Mail	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
Light Brown Apple Moth	75 traps in Lassen County	None Detected

Facts about Lassen County

Lassen County is located 226 miles north of Sacramento in the northeastern corner of California. Its eastern border is the state of Nevada and it is surrounded by Modoc, Shasta, Plumas and Sierra Counties. It is about the size of the state of Connecticut. The average elevation is 4,245 above sea level. The terrain varies from open valleys and mountain meadows to forested plateaus, and high mountain peaks and ranges. The average summer high is 89° and average winter daytime temperatures are in the 40's.

GENERAL FACTS

Land area: 4557 sq. mi. or 2,916,480 acres

Water area: 163.1 sq. mi.

Population density: 8 people per square mile

County population in July 2008: 34,574 (41% urban, 59% rural)

AGRICULTURE IN LASSEN COUNTY

Average size of farms: 1150 acres

The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold: 43.09%

Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 8.94%

Irrigated harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 77.57%

The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 87.59%

Average age of principal farm operators: 55 years

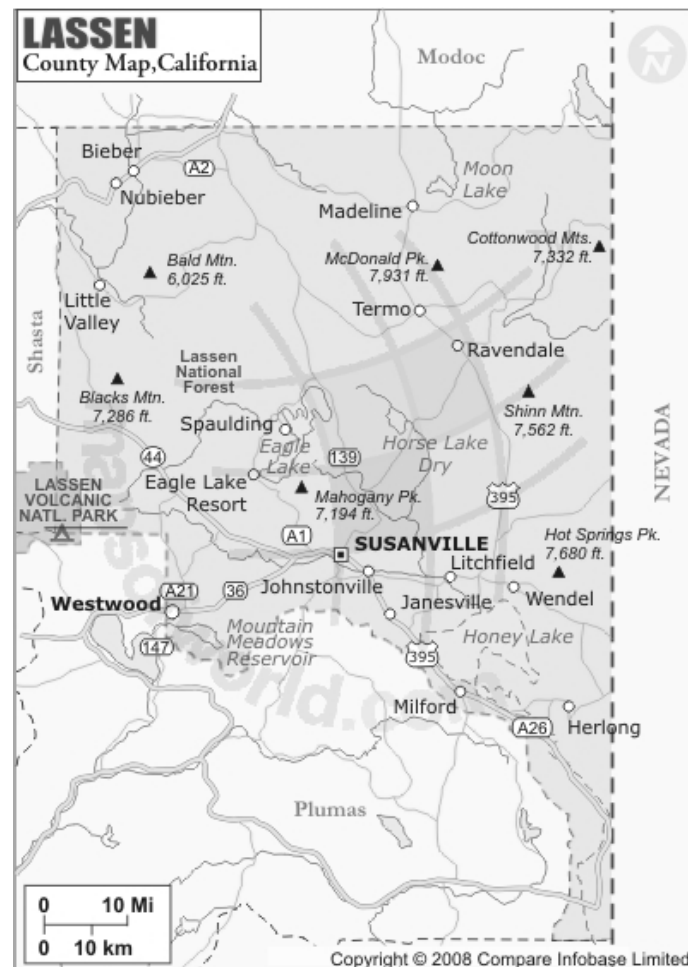
Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 10.24

Milk cows as a percentage of all cattle and calves: 0.08%

All wheat for grain: 1446 harvested acres

Vegetables: 438 harvested acres

Land in orchards: 24 acres



2009 National Environmental Stewardship Award



Ramsey, Callie, Darrell and Dallice Wood

Leavitt Lake Ranches, owned and operated by Darrell Wood, his wife Callie, son Ramsey and daughter Dallice was the recipient of the 2009 National Environmental Stewardship Award. This family has ranching in their blood, with ties dating back to the 1860's.

Like many young couples, Darrell and Callie started with little more than a vision of what they wanted in the future. Their vision, to restore ranches that had been owned by Darrell's family, was the driving force that brought them to where they are today. Little by little they began to acquire ranches and cattle, and eventually were able to buy property formerly owned by family.

Today their registered and commercial Angus herd consists of 600 mother cows, 400 yearlings. They own 3670 acres of private land, farm 600 acres of alfalfa and 900 acres of irrigated pasture. In addition, they manage 25,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management permits and lease 11,000 acres for winter and summer range.

Through a variety of practices, the Wood family has strived to protect and improve the land and the wildlife habitat upon which they make their living.