



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

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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.

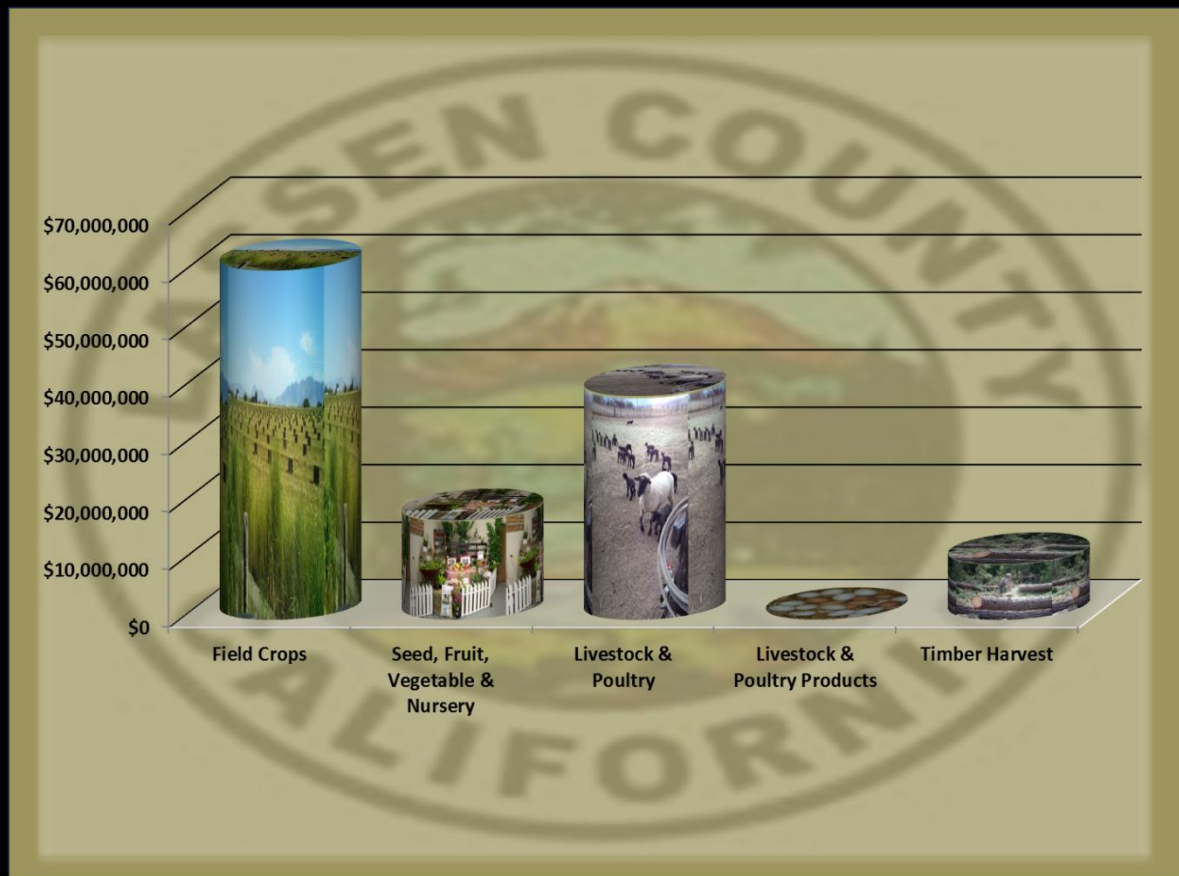
This report lists gross production and value of products and does not reflect net income to the producer. The value of agricultural products produced in Lassen County for 2015 was \$126,725,643. As occurred last year, this is a 1% increase in the overall value of Lassen County agriculture. This increase 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**

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
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



